



Gower School District 62
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Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – January 19, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Ambitious Instruction – *Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.*

- Registration for our 2016 summer programs is now open. Visit www.campinvention.org to register for GW Camp Invention and www.inventionproject.org to register for GM Invention Project (GM)
- Implementation of the I³ Learning Initiative continues (Year 2) and observation data suggests an increase in student collaboration, problem solving, & other [21st Century Learning Skills](#) (program review forthcoming)
- Gower staff will participate in a transition/alignment meeting with HSD86 to identify the technology skills and instructional methods necessary to help ensure an effective transition between 8th and 9th grade
- Middle of Year [NWEA/MAP](#) testing is complete (~90 min/student GW, ~120 min/student GM) and provides data to help teachers make targeted, student-based instructional decisions for the 2nd semester

Supportive Environment – *The school environment is safe, clean and conducive to student learning. Teachers have high expectations for students. Students have the support of their teachers as well as their peers.*

- Year to Date attendance rates (Previous Year): 96.3% (94.4%) for our 879 (831) students; 96.4% (96.7%) for our 80 (72) Certified Staff and 96.6% (96.8%) for our 67 (65) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 2nd Qtr. Discipline Reports indicate that our schools remain on pace to reduce the total number of student referrals from the previous school year despite an increase in referrals from the 1st Qtr. ([Appendix A](#))
- Required staff trainings (Anti-bullying) were held during Dec. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members
- Facilities Update: GM courtyard plans continue with recommendation to begin the GM Cafeteria Courtyard in 2016. Recommendation for GM Boiler Replacement Project is forthcoming ([Appendix B](#))

Involved Families and Community – *Strong relationships are built across the community to support learning.*

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) is open and we encourage all Gower parents to participate
- Please join us at the Gower Science Showcase and STEM Challenge on Tues. Feb 9th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at GM to support our K-8 “student engineers and scientists” demonstrate their problem solving skills
- The [Gower PTO](#) is working closely with the school district to launch an exciting opportunity for Gower friends & families to be a lasting part of the GM Cafeteria/LRC Courtyard Project. Details coming soon!
- Young adult author, [Kat Falls](#) will visit GM (1/29) as part of Gower’s long-standing Author’s Visit program

Collaborative Teachers and Staff – *The staff is committed to the school, receives strong professional development, and works together to improve the school.*

- Teacher In-service on Jan 27th will focus on the effective use of student performance data (MOY NWEA/MAP and PARCC) and will be led by respective School Leadership Teams
- After-school committee meetings continue and most recently included Technology, New Teacher Mentoring, GM Math, K-8 P.E. (Fitnessgram), and Innovate 62 in support of our improvement efforts
- The Calendar Committee will meet on 2/1 to finalize the 2016-17 calendar and propose a 2017-18 calendar
- Staff at GW and GM are completing the online Principal Evaluation Survey to be used as an important part of the principal’s self-assessment as well as the district’s annual evaluation plan for its school leaders

Effective Leaders – *School leaders work with staff to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.*

- Collaboration efforts with D86 continue as the first administration of the “Freshman Readiness Survey” was sent via email to over 1,000 freshmen (D86 email 11/23 and Jan. 2) across campuses (details forthcoming)
- The [PERA](#) Joint Committee will meet Feb. 10 as part of our pilot plan and to demonstrate the trial use of Gower’s PERA Model with actual teacher and student data prior to full implementation next school year
- The leadership at GW was recognized by the [DuPage ROE](#) for facilitating the newly formed Elementary School Principal Collaborative aimed at identifying and solving various instructional challenges/issues
- The district’s 5-year bus lease program will moves into Year 3 (2016-17) ahead of proposed savings schedule
- Gower remains in the highest category of financial strength (4.0/4.0) on the 2016 [ISBE Financial Profile](#)

Children at their best!