



## Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – September 22, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- The [i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative](#) (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) is off and running in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of implementation completing a 1:1 deployment of iPads (K-2) and Chromebooks (3-8) to enhance student learning
- This is our first year of Full-Day Kindergarten and we are excited about the additional learning opportunities for our youngest students afforded by the increased instructional time/expanded program
- NWEA/MAP Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning as in previous years
- Preliminary, state-level [PARCC](#) data was released by [ISBE](#) on 9/16. School-level data is expected this fall
- Gower Middle will serve as the West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence (WSCAE) host site for Northwestern University's "Civic Education Weekend" scheduled for Nov. 6-7 for select 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Education Program is scheduled for Sept. 24-25 at [White Pines Ranch](#) in Oregon, IL

**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*): 97.5% (97.8%) for our 857 (831) students; 99.8% (98.4%) for our 80 (72) Certified Staff and 99.8% (97.4%) for our 62 (62) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (6 reports were submitted in 2014-2015 and investigated/resolved accordingly)
- Classroom Contracts are established on an annual basis in each of our classrooms as a component of our deliberate strategy to build productive learning environments through positive relationships
- Facilities Update: Plans for the development of the GM cafeteria Courtyard are underway and work related to the Illinois Clean Energy grant awarded to upgrade select lighting at GW and GM will begin early this fall

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

- Curriculum Nights/i<sup>3</sup> Parent Presentations at GW (8/26) and GM (9/2) were well attended and informal feedback collected from parents and teachers was positive
- Gower administrators are working closely with the Willowbrook/Burr Ridge Police Depts. to hold an active shooter drill at GM on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> as part of our Teacher's Institute agenda/Emergency Management Plan
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents are encouraged to utilize the online [Illuminate Parent Portal](#) to access student grades. Information regarding online access for Gower West parents is forthcoming later this school year
- Parents of students from PK-8 grade will be invited to join the YWCA on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> at Gower West for an opportunity to learn more about Erin's Law and its impact on school curriculum ([www.erinlawillinois.org](http://www.erinlawillinois.org))

**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 Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> will focus on differentiated instructional tool usage (STRIDE Academy)
- 2015-16 District Committee work is underway involving teachers from both campuses and utilizing new elements of the recently adopted 2015-18 [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#) ([Appendix A](#))
- Our College & Career Spirit Day Program (Focus: Community) begins district-wide on 9/18 ([Appendix B](#))
- Teacher Institute on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> will focus on campus safety (GM), ongoing curriculum alignment/classroom strategies related to i<sup>3</sup> Learning, and differentiated departmental/subject area breakout sessions

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

- The 2015-2016 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- District administrators are working to update various Board policies for increased clarity and program sustainability (Field Trip [Policy](#) 6:240, Community Resource Persons and Volunteers [Policy](#) 6:250)
- School and District administrators began the first of a series of inter-rater reliability classroom observations as part of the [Gower PERA plan](#) being piloted this year at both school campuses