



Gower School District 62  
7700 Clarendon Hills Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527  
(P) 630-986-5383 (F) 630-323-3074  
[www.gower62.com](http://www.gower62.com)



## Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – November 17, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- The GM Industrial Technology/STEM Program was named the [2015 TEAI/ITEEA Middle School Program of the Year](#) by the Technology Education Association of Illinois
- GM served as the host site for the annual [WSCAE Civic Action Weekend](#) in partnership with Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development on Nov 6-7. 90+ students from various districts participated
- Gower students will participate in the international "Hour of Code" program during the week of Dec 7-13 to generate more experience around computer coding and a digital environment ([www.hourofcode.com](http://www.hourofcode.com))
- The Illinois State Board of Education released partial 2014-2015 School Report Cards - found by using this [link](#). The IL School Report Card website will be updated to include student performance on the [PARCC](#)
- For the first time, Gower students will have the opportunity to compete in the [Illinois Science Olympiad](#) this spring with a K-5 Team as well as a 6-8 Team. Good Luck Gladiators on your inaugural year! #gower62

**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*): 96.8% (96.9%) for our 874 (829) students; 96.8% (98.3%) for our 80 (72) Certified Staff and 96.6% (98.1%) for our 64 (64) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr Discipline Reports indicate a decrease in student referrals at GW and GM ([Appendix A](#))
- CPR training was held on 11/10 for our coaches and various staff and led by our Certified School Nurse
- Required staff trainings (Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act) were held during Oct. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members
- Facilities Update: Electrical upgrades are scheduled to be completed at GM cafeteria and GM courtyard plans continue. Capital improvements under review include: Boilers (GM), Art room, exterior doors (GW)

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

- Our District Child Assault Prevention Parent Night was held at GW (Oct 26<sup>th</sup>) and attended by ~25 parents
- Parent-Teacher conferences were held on Oct. 29-30 with 89% (89%) of GW parents and 50% (32%) of GM parents attended face-to-face conferences with several families opting for email/phone conferences
- The GW and GM Chorus is scheduled to perform at the Burr Ridge Village Center Jingle Mingle on 11/14
- 150+ families and 20+ staff attended the GW McTeacher Night fundraiser in Westmont on 11/12☺
- Students & staff saluted our Veterans (11/11) with an assembly, class activities, honor wall, and food drive
- "Bring Your Parents to School Day" is scheduled for Nov. 17 at GW and Nov. 19 at GM

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

- Gower West has been recognized by the Flippen Group along with 10 other school campuses nationwide as a nominee for the 2015-2016 [Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase Schools Award](#)
- Our after-school committee meetings continue and most recently included the FACS, IT, Music, Science, Technology and Innovate 62 Committee in support of our 2015-16 school/district improvement efforts
- Professional Development (11/19) will include staff-led training related to technology integration and application of digital learning tools (i<sup>3</sup>) and is modeled after our LMS ([Schoology](#)) and the [flipped classroom](#)

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

- Gower has received a Federal Title I Grant (\$89,655) in support of our diverse learners at GW as well as a Federal Title II Grant (\$15,154) in support of Teacher Quality ([Appendix B](#))
- Ongoing collaboration with the University of Chicago has resulted in a commitment to include our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the annual 5-Essentials Survey this school year; important to our improvement efforts
- Ongoing development of our K-12 academic performance model now includes a "Freshman Readiness Survey" expected to be administered to our 2015 graduates this month per ongoing collaboration with D86

*Children at their best!*