



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



Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – October 20, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- K-8 NWEA/MAP Beginning of Year student performance data demonstrates growth across the district in both reading and math and indicates a positive 3-year trend. ([Appendix A](#))
- Our K-8 students continue to log after-school hours on the adaptive, game-based learning platform, [STRIDE Academy](#), continuing to push the boundaries of teaching & learning
- K-8 Teachers are working to incorporate the [NGSS](#) into their instruction. The Gower Science Curriculum Committee led a K-4 NGSS curriculum alignment presentation on 10/13 focusing on core ideas/strategies.

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*): 97.1% (97.8%) for our 872 (829) students; 97.2% (97.5%) for our 80 (72) Certified Staff and 97.0% (97.4%) for our 62 (64) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Student medical compliance was 97.0% (94.0%) at GW and 99.3% (97.9%) at GM by the Oct. 15th deadline. No students have been excluded to date & our nurses continue to work to maintain our static goal of 97%+
- Required staff trainings (Anaphylactic Shock & Allergies, Diabetes and Student Chronic Health Conditions) were held during Sept. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by our own registered nurses
- Facilities Update: Work related to the Illinois Clean Energy grant awarded to upgrade select lighting at GW and GM is complete. Salad bar stations are being added to our cafeterias to expand food choice/selection

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

- Family Reading Night was held on 10/15 at GW and was well-attended by our families & staff (~200+)
- GM will host Illinois House of Representatives Republican Leader Jim Durkin as part of the Principal for a Day program on Oct. 19 and to showcase the work of our students and staff
- Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for Oct. 29-30. Sign-up info was sent home by schools on 10/14
- The GW/PTO Boosterthon Fun Run fundraiser (9/30) was a success in raising enough funding to install two, age-appropriate rock-climbing walls in the Gower West gym.
- Our GM band and flag line were selected to perform at the Burr Ridge bridge dedication ceremony on 10/3
- “Bring Your Parents to School Day” is scheduled for Nov. 17 at Gower West and Nov. 19 at Gower Middle. Details are forthcoming and have been shaped by feedback collected from last year’s event.

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

- Principals and School Leadership Teams are finalizing school improvement plans using parent feedback collected with the 5-Essentials Survey, student performance data, and student/staff [CKH](#) survey data
- Teachers used a portion of the 10/13 Institute Day to develop their SLO (Student Learning Objective), a student growth element in our teacher evaluation plan, and an important step in implementing PERA
- The Social Studies Committee met on 10/19 to review proposed ISBE Social Science learning standards and begin the process of local curriculum alignment/gap analysis. Proposed standards can be found at this [link](#)

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

- Gower has received an English Language Learner (Title III) Grant in the amount of \$17,915 from the Illinois State Board of Education to be used across grades K-8 in support of our diverse learners
- District admin participated in a student performance, alignment & feeder articulation meeting hosted by HS District 86 (10/5) and continue to work toward developing a K-12 academic performance model
- Gower was represented at the annual meeting of school officials hosted by the Village of Burr Ridge (10/14) to discuss potential economic impact(s) on area districts given various legislative scenarios
- The Principal Evaluation Model for 2015-2016 has been initiated and is based on 50% Professional Practice and 50% Student Growth ([Appendix B](#))

Children at their best!