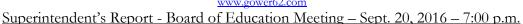


Gower School District 62

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

- 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 (Report forthcoming)
- Our 6th grade Outdoor Education Program is scheduled for Sept. 22-23 at White Pines Ranch in Oregon, IL
- 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. 4-5 for select 8th graders
- The Illuminate Parent Portal is available for GM parents to monitor student grades and progress
- Gower continues to use Schoology as the Learning Management System (LMS) for teachers and students to connect and interact in classes digitally. Schoology has replaced the Homework Hotline at GM

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% (97.5%) for our 870 (857) students; 98.4% (99.8%) for our 83 (80) Certified Staff and 96.6% (99.8%) for our 63 (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 (4 reports were submitted in 2015-16 and investigated/resolved accordingly)
- Classroom Contracts are established on an annual basis in each of our classrooms as a component of our deliberate and ongoing strategy to build productive learning environments through positive relationships
- Required staff trainings (Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, Child/Domestic Abuse) are scheduled for Sept. 20 faculty meetings and led by Gower staff members
- Facilities Update: The GM Courtyard Renovation Project is complete. GW Door Replacement project is underway, and the GW Drainage/GM Boiler Projects are being scheduled for 2017 (Appendix A)

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

- The Back to School Bash and Open House (8/17), along with our Curriculum Nights at GW (8/23) and GM (8/25) were well attended and informal feedback collected from parents and teachers was positive
- Parents of students from PK-8 grade will be invited to join the YWCA on Oct. 24th at Gower West for an opportunity to learn more about Erin's Law and its impact on school curriculum (www.erinslawillinois.org)
- Parent feedback collected from the annual 5-Essentials Survey is based on a 46% participation rate at GW and 26% at GM (state avg. of 16.3%) and is used in our improvement planning process (Appendix B)
- Legislative Update: ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) became federal law in Dec. 2015 and updates regarding state and local school district impact are being monitored closely (link for general information)

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. 14th focused on Student Learning Objective (SLO) development as part of the district's Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) plan (link for more information)
- 2016-17 District Committee work is underway involving teachers from both campuses
- Teacher Institute on Oct. 11th will focus on maximizing differentiated instruction, curriculum alignment and classroom strategies related to i³ Learning and individual student performance data
- The District Professional Development Committee has developed a list of agenda items/topics for the 2016-17 school year based on teacher survey data: differentiation strategies, infusing technology (i³), and NWEA/MAP data reporting/analysis

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

- The 2016-2017 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- District Policy 7:190-Student Discipline, is being updated to reflect requirements of Senate Bill 100/P.A. 099-0456 and Policy 7:10-Equal Educational Opportunities is also being revised with minimal change
- Gower received five scholarships (\$2,750) for new staff to be trained in Capturing Kids' Hearts Sept. 29-30
- Gower will participate in the IASA conference (9/28-30), along with Dist. U-46 (Elgin) and Dist. 204 (Indian Prairie) to lead a panel discussion related to best practices for using the 5-Essentials framework