



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – Dec. 20, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Middle of Year [NWEA/MAP](#) testing in ELA and Math begins on 1/17 for 5-8 students and 1/18 for K-4
- Our English Learner Program serves the individual needs of students that represent 15 different native languages spoken in the Gower Community ([Appendix A](#))
- The Science Showcase and STEM Challenge (grades 4-8) is scheduled for Feb 9th at GM
- K-8 Social Studies Committee is working to develop new units aligned to revised standards using an Inquiry Design Model ([C3 Framework – College Career and Civic Life](#))
- Camp Invention will return to GW as a summer learning opportunity for our students (gr. K-4); June 19-23

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*): 96.2% (96.6%) for our 881 (880) students; 96.7% (96.6%) for our 83 (80) Certified Staff and 97.0% (96.6%) for our 66 (65) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings (Limited English Proficiency Program, Bullying) were held during Nov. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members
- Our 8th graders students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with Hinsdale High School District 86 guidance counselors on Jan. 14th to build and review their freshman schedule
- Facilities Update: The GM Boiler projects bid process is underway for work being scheduled at the end of the school year. GW Drainage project continues to be reviewed.

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) will close on Jan. 30th and we encourage all Gower parents to participate. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and need your help to meet it! (~36% last year)
- We hosted 230+ visitors at GW (11/15) and nearly 200 at GM (11/18) for “Bring Your Parents to School Day”. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Mark your calendars for next year 11/14, GW & 11/17, GM
- The GM Jazz Band and Choir performed for residents of King Bruwaert House in Burr Ridge on 12/6
- The GW/GM Chorus (gr. 3-8) performed in front of a large crowd at GM (12/13) and the GM Band (gr. 5-8) hosted another full crowd for the annual Winter Band Concert at GM on 12/15
- The annual Gower PTO Holiday Bazaar at GW (12/9) was well-attended as was the annual Pancakes with Santa Breakfast hosted by the Burr Ridge/Willowbrook [Kiwanis Club](#) at Gower West (12/3)

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

- Faculty meetings continue to alternate between process coach groups (CKH) and i3 Learning Groups (Innovate 62 Committee) as the monthly focus to help sustain both of these important initiatives
- Our after-school committee meetings continue and most recently included the K-8 Art, INNOVATE62, English Language Learners, K-8 English Language Arts, and Technology in support of our 2016-17 school/district improvement efforts
- Professional Development (12/21) will include virtual learning opportunities related to differentiation with a focus on performance tasks and digital tools as well as training in Special Education related to Autism
- Gower staff hosted a site visits for Hinsdale CCSD 181 on 11/28 to collect data about our i³ initiative and also hosted Lemont-Bromberek SD113A on 12/14 for a site visit to observe our Early Childhood program

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

- Plans to replace our current, server-based point of sale (POS) software used in our school cafeterias with a web-based solution are near complete. Deployment of [Mealtime](#) is expected 1/9 ([Appendix B](#))
- Collaboration efforts with D86 continue as the “Freshman Readiness Survey” is expected to be implemented in Hinsdale High Schools after winter break
- School and district administrators will meet over winter break to review curriculum, instructional program, and staffing needs in preparation for the 2017-18 school year and begin the recommendation process
- District staff are preparing for the [ROE compliance visit](#) scheduled for Jan. 19-20