



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – December 19, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our English Learner Program serves the individual needs of students that represent 21 different native languages spoken in the Gower Community ([Appendix A](#))
- Gower students participated in the international “Hour of Code” program during the week of Dec 4-8 to generate more experience around computer coding and a digital environment (www.hourofcode.com)
- Middle of Year NWEA/MAP benchmark testing in ELA & Math will take place 1/16-1/20 for K-8th grade
- The District’s Annual Science Showcase and STEM Challenge (grades 4-8) is scheduled for Feb 8th at GM
- Camp Invention will return to GW as a summer learning opportunity for our students (gr. K-4); June 18-22

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% (96.2%) for our 886 (881) students; 96.8% (96.7%) for our 79 (83) Certified Staff and 96.6% (97.0%) for our 68 (66) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Our 8th graders students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with Hinsdale High School District 86 guidance counselors on Jan. 18th to build and review their freshman schedule
- Required staff trainings in December (Limited English Proficiency Program) were led by Gower staff members and included best instructional practices for working with English Learners
- Facilities - The district’s architect firm continues to work to complete final reports for facility-related projects (recommended and possible) to be used in our Master Facility Plan (details forthcoming)

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) is open until Jan 31st! We encourage all Gower parents to participate. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and need your help to meet it! (40% avg. last year)
- The PTO/Dist. ‘Supt-Chats’ have received some interest with our first dates set for 1/17 & 18 (Survey [link](#))
- The annual Gower PTO Holiday Bazaar at GW (12/8) was well-attended as was the annual Pancakes with Santa Breakfast hosted by the Burr Ridge/Willowbrook Kiwanis Club at Gower West (12/2)
- The GM Chorus and the GM Band (gr. 5-8) performed in front of a full crowd for the annual Winter Band Concert at GM on 12/14 - reminding us once again of the importance of the performing arts
- Nearly 250 GM students and parents enjoyed a private early evening showing of [Wonder](#) at the Hollywood Theater in Woodridge (12/1). Our 3rd & 4th gr. students traveled to Elmhurst to watch the movie (11/21)
- DuPage Regional Office of Education hosted a STEM event for our girls and their parents on Dec. 1st at Argonne National Lab in Lemont. Each DuPage District was allowed to register 3 girls in 7th and 8th grade.

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

- The Board of Education and the Gower Education Association report that they are “on-track” in terms of the [Collective Bargaining Timeline](#) with a preliminary meeting to discuss key [CBA](#) issues scheduled Jan. 11
- The District Calendar Committee includes administrators, teachers and parents and is scheduled to meet Jan. 10 to make a recommendation for the final 2018-19 calendar and a draft for 2019-20 ([link](#) to calendars)
- After-school committee meetings continue to meet and most recently included Gower Reads Together, District RtI, K-8 Science, Camp Invention, and the Tech Committee
- Professional Development (12/22) will include staff-led training by INNOVATE 62 related to an [Innovator’s Mindset](#) and focusing on teaching and learning utilizing the [SAMR](#) model--“R”--Redefinition

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

- The District’s Special Education and Support Services Program Transition is complete ([Appendix B](#))
- GW was selected by the [Flippen Group](#) as a 2017-18 Capturing Kids’ Hearts Showcase School. #Threepeat!
- Gower continues to lead collaboration efforts with D86 and area feeder districts to implement the 3rd Annual “Freshman Readiness Survey” in Hinsdale High Schools (expected to begin after winter break)
- Title I, Title II, and Title IV grant funds have been approved for a total of \$107,674 and (\$7,268 higher than anticipated). The District awaits approval of the [Title III](#) (\$31,817) grant.
- School and district administrators will meet over winter break to review curriculum and instructional programs as well as accompanying budgetary and staffing needs in preparation for the 2018-19 school year