



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – November 21, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The Illinois State Board of Education released 2016-17 School Report Cards [here](#). Student [PARCC data](#) is included. 63% of Gower students tested at or above 'proficiency' level; State avg. of 34% ([Appendix A](#))
- 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 3-4. 100+ students from various districts participated
- Ongoing evaluation of the GM Foreign Language Program indicates that targeted outcomes of building a 'self-paced, responsive, academically challenging, and achievable' program are being met ([Appendix B](#))
- Emails for parent access to [FitnessGram](#) (K-8) were sent 10/27 for viewing of 'fitness scores' and 'progress monitoring'. This is aligned to the [Enhanced PE Standards](#) and is in its 2nd year of implementation
- College and Career Spirit Days continue for the 2017-18 school year with a focus on the Arts/Humanities. Career representatives visited Gower on October 13 and are scheduled for Dec. 8, Feb. 9, and April 20

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): 96.6% (96.6%) for our 886 (873) students; 97.0% (96.6%) for our 81 (83) Certified Staff and 96.6% (96.6%) for our 67 (64) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Student medical compliance was 98.0% (97.0%) at GW and 98.0% (97.0%) at GM by the Oct. 15th deadline
- 1st Qtr Discipline Reports indicate a decrease in student referrals at GW & an increase at GM ([Appendix C](#))
- Required staff trainings in November were led by Gower staff members and included, Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse for Mandated Reporters and a review of 2016-17 IL Report Card data
- Facilities - The district's selected architect firm, Green Associates, is working to complete final reports for facility-related projects (recommended and possible) to be used in our 10-year Master Facility Plan

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) is expected to open in Dec. - 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 is working with the District to host a series of 'Supt-Chats' for our community (See survey [link](#))
- Students & staff recognized our Veterans (11/10) with a number of class activities and an honor wall
- Parent-Teacher conferences were held on Nov. 2-3 at GW with 91% (90%) of K-4 parents attending and were held on Oct. 12 and Nov. 2 at GM with 55% (41%) of 5-8 parents attending face-to-face conferences
- "Bring Your Parents to School Day" at GW-11/14 & GM-11/17 included 260 & 180 guests respectively

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 both parties focused on data collection and analysis
- Our SLT's continue to work on student achievement goals and targeted elements of CKH and 5E
- Gower Middle Student Council hosted an after school Leadership Workshop for other teacher sponsors and students in the region on November 9th and focused on a variety of leadership activities
- After-school committee meetings continue and most recently included our INNOVATE 62, RtI, GM Math, Science Showcase/STEM Challenge, Multicultural Event Planning, Camp Invention, and Tech
- Professional Development (11/17) included staff-led training by INNOVATE 62 related to an [Innovator's Mindset](#) and focusing on teaching and learning utilizing the [SAMR](#) model--"M"--Modification

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

- Admin have completed enrollment verification for the new State Evidence Based Funding process and are building budget, staff & program models to reflect the impact of proposed property tax freeze legislation
- Gower is hosting the [WSCAE](#) Brookfield Zoo Science Fair Planning Meeting and the ESL Univ. of St. Francis Cohort Informational Meeting on 11/16 with guests from surrounding districts
- Gower was represented at the annual meeting of school officials hosted by the Village of Burr Ridge (11/10) to discuss potential economic impacts on area districts and pertinent updates/changes
- The Principal Evaluation Model for 2017-2018 has been initiated and is based on 50% Professional Practice and 50% Student Growth ([Appendix D](#))