



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – October 16, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Ongoing evaluation of the redesigned GM [Foreign Language Program](#) indicates that expected outcomes, particularly increased student choice & advanced high school course placement are being met ([Appendix A](#))
- The Illinois State Board of Education is expected to release final 2017-18 PARCC assessment data and individual district/school reports as part of the [IL School Report Card](#) on Oct. 31st
- GW & GM parents are encouraged to use the [Parent Portal](#) to monitor student progress - parent info [link](#)
- Our 5th grade students and families participated in a [Health/Puberty Program](#) led by Robert Crown (10/10)
- As part of the District's overall Social Emotional Learning program, students were screened using [SAEBRS](#) to assess social-emotional and behavior risks/concerns and to determine interventions/supports as needed

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% (96.6%) for our 874 (891) students; 98.4% (98.3%) for our 81 (81) Certified Staff and 98.9% (98.3%) for our 61 (66) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Student medical compliance is 96.6% (98.0%) at GW and 98.0% (98.0%) at GM for the Oct. 15th deadline
- An additional CPR training will be held in November at the Darien-Woodridge Fire Department for coaches/staff not trained previously or as part of our summer training
- Required staff trainings in October (10/16) were led by Gower staff members and included Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, Child/Domestic Abuse
- Facilities Update: District officials remain engaged in the [Sterigenics issue](#) and encourage members of the Gower Community to visit the Willowbrook website directly at www.willowbrook.il.org for updates

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

- The Gower Foundation of Educational Excellence is hosting a 4-part Speaker Series in 2018-19 with the first session scheduled for Oct. 25th at GM - Visit the [Gower Foundation website](#) for more information
- The Annual PTO Pumpkin Fest at GW is scheduled for Oct. 26th - Visit the [PTO website](#) to get involved
- PK-4th grade parents and students are invited to Family Reading Night on October 18th at Gower West
- Parents of students from PK-8 grade will be invited to join the YWCA on Nov. 6th at Gower West for an opportunity to learn more about Erin's Law and its impact on school curriculum (www.erinlawillinois.org)
- "Bring Your Parents to School Day" was held on October 12th at Gower Middle and is scheduled for October 19th at Gower West - this event continues to be shaped by participant feedback
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Thurs., Nov. 15th from 4:00-8:00 pm and Fri., Nov. 16th from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 pm at Gower West and Gower Middle (Fri., Nov 16th is a non-attendance day for students)

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

- Gower's Professional Development Committee and Innovate 62 members will contribute to the profession and share our local work/achievements through presenting at area conferences including the Association of Illinois School Library Educators Conference (November 1-3) in Tinley Park.
- Members of the Gower Special Education staff led the Oct. 9th Institute Day to train their teacher colleagues in conflict management, de-escalating behaviors, and effective tools to work with students
- Early Release Day on October 31st will provide teachers an opportunity to choose among learning stations led by Gower experts in areas such as vocabulary/writing instruction, strategies for working with English Learners, digital learning tools, and differentiation strategies
- 2018-19 District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Tech Team, K-8 ELA, District Process Coaches

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

- Gower received grant approval for the following federal grant allotments to supplement our educational programs: [Title I](#) (\$70,116), [Title II](#) (\$17,580), [Title III](#) (\$17,170), and [Title IV](#) (\$10,000)
- The district's 10-Year Bus/Transportation Plan (adopted Feb. 2014) includes a 5-year administrator review (current routes, fees, ridership qualifications, etc) in preparation for a scheduled recommendation this year
- Gower schools will receive a final 'Tier Designation' on Oct 31st based on a number of [Accountability Measures](#) as part of the 2018 ISBE Report Card and the state's [Support and Accountability \(ESSA\) Plan](#)