



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – January 15, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [ACCESS](#) testing for K-8 English Learners will occur 1/23 – 2/26 to measure English language proficiency
- GM student course selection will begin 1/28 and is expected to include the same variety of courses offered this year. Advisory has been a valuable addition to GM for grades 5-8 and will continue in 2019-20
- Ongoing evaluation of the GM Foreign Language Program continues and indicates a high level of student proficiency (avg. grade is 83%) - Details from teacher and student feedback will be reported in Feb/March
- The District's Annual Science Showcase (gr. 4-8) and STEM Challenge (gr. K-8) is scheduled for Feb 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Registration for our 2019 Camp Invention summer program for K-5 is now open - Visit this [link](#) to register

**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% (95.9%) for our 873 (889) students; 96.7% (96.9%) for our 80 (81) Certified Staff and 97.0% (96.3%) for our 61 (68) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr discipline reports indicate that GW & GM are on-pace to reach year end school goals ([Appendix A](#))
- Required staff trainings (Anti-bullying, Violence Prevention, and Suicide Prevention) were held during Jan. faculty meetings and led by Gower staff members – [Tip 62](#) is our anonymous bullying prevention link
- Topics for survey-based paraprofessional training are set for 2/15 (Supporting Academic Achievement for Paraeducators) and 3/22 (Improving Behavior and Learning for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders)
- Facilities - The GW Main Office Floor Project was completed over Winter Break along with an expansion of our school security camera system - Current year expenditures are \$145,000 or 53% of allotted budget

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) is open until Feb 15<sup>th</sup>! We encourage all Gower parents to participate. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and need your help to meet it! (We are currently at ~ 20%)
- Save the Date for the District's Multicultural Night on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> at Gower Middle - more details to follow
- Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> Early Release schedule will allow teachers to host parent conferences on an as-needed basis
- The [Gower Foundation Speaker Series](#) for February 12 will focus on the topic of Bullying in Schools
- Gower's first eLearning Day is Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> and is the make-up day for the Emergency Day used on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>
- Gower entered the [Follett Challenge](#) to earn additional funds to update our library collections. Please vote for our entry using this [link](#) - Voting takes place from Jan. 21-25; each email address may vote once per day

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

- Grade Level and Teacher Teams have been working to prepare for the Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> e-Learning Day with e-Learning Modules made available to students on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> - Kudos to our staff for their work & support!
- The District Calendar Committee includes administrators, teachers and parents and will meet in late Jan./early Feb. to make a recommendation for the final 2019-20 calendar and a draft for 2020-21
- After-school committee meetings continue and most recently included Co-Teaching Collaboration Meeting, Tech Committee, and Innovate 62 in support of school/district improvement efforts
- In December, several teachers participated in a virtual professional development series called [Ditch Summit](#)
- Teachers and Support Staff will have the opportunity to participate directly in the Principal Eval process through an online survey tool targeting specific Professional Standards for Educational Leaders ([PSEL](#))

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

- The administrative review process of the curriculum design, organization of instruction, current class size and bell schedule is underway for 2019-20 staffing/program recommendations expected in Feb/March
- The District has been awarded the highest Financial Profile Designation with a perfect score of 4.0 - After a short verification process, the 2019 Financial Profile will be posted on the IL State Board website ([link](#))
- Two Gower Physical Education teachers, one at each building were recently approved by ISBE to teach [Adaptive P.E.](#) effective for the 2019-2020 as part of our overall special education program
- Gower Admin are coordinating a site visit later this month for a neighboring school district to learn more about our Middlebury Interactive Foreign Language Program at Gower Middle
- Gower e-Learning Day plans have been shared with a number of area districts for potential use/expansion