



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – September 25, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [NWEA/MAP](#) Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning ([Appendix A](#))
- In Year 5 of the [i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative](#) (Innovate. Integrate. Inspire.), interactive touch screen Chromebooks are being introduced in grades 3 and 6 as part of the District's student device replacement cycle.
- Gower's Preschool for All program received the Gold Circle of Quality; the highest award from [ExceleRate Illinois](#), the state's quality recognition and improvement system for early learning & development programs
- The 8th grade Social Studies text, *Geography Alive* has been upgraded to the 2018 online version as outlined in the [Social Studies Curriculum Recommendation Board Report](#) on May 16, 2017.
- College & Career Spirit Days will continue at GW & GM throughout the school year with the 2018-19 focus on careers in education: teaching, technology, student services, building operations, and administration
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Education Program took place on Sept. 6-7 at [White Pines Ranch](#) in Oregon, IL (94% overall student participation; 17% choosing the 1-Day option)

**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% (96.2%) for our 866 (888) students; 97.8% (98.4%) for our 81 (81) Certified Staff and 98.7% (95.7%) for our 60 (65) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings in September (9/12) were completed by school nurses on the following health topics: diabetes, food allergy, and anaphylactic shock guidelines
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (2 reports were submitted in 2017-18 and investigated/resolved accordingly)
- 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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> grade Springfield Trip is scheduled for Oct. 9th. Visit the [PTO website](#) to get involved
- PK-4<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students are invited to Family Reading Night on October 18<sup>th</sup> at Gower West
- The Hinsdale High School Dist. 86 Board established new attendance boundaries from the previous 'buffer zone' area for Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South - visit use this [link](#) to find more information
- Legislative Update: [ISBE Evidence Based Funding Calculations](#) indicate Gower's 'Percent of Adequacy' for student funding was 120% in FY 18 & 116% in FY19; resulting in \$597,458.80 of state funding for 2018-19

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

- In partnership with the University of St. Francis, Gower is hosting an English as a Second Language (ESL) cohort at Gower West for 15 teachers with the goal of increasing [ESL teacher certification](#)
- Gower is working with Aurora University to host a Social Work intern for 2018-19; providing additional staff development/leadership opportunities and additional student service/support
- The District Professional Development Committee has planned the 10/12 and 10/31 Early Release Days to be focused on teacher-led professional learning stations (Innovate 62 and Teacher Volunteers)
- 2018-19 District Committee work is underway and most recently involved our Tech Team, Annual Crisis Meeting, ELL, Mentoring, and Innovate 62

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

- The 2018-2019 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- The current administrative framework utilized for student placement and resulting class size meets our teaching and learning priorities and accounts for local and state budgetary guidelines ([Appendix B](#))
- Gower received \$38,265 in an IDEA Flow-Through Grant to support our Early Childhood Program and our special needs (IEP) students with instructional materials, professional development, and other supports
- The 5 Essentials Survey is scheduled for statewide implementation (Nov 15 - Jan 18) for grades 6-12 and now includes an option for all districts to survey their 4th and 5th grade students - *Gower led the way!!!*