



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – December 18, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Students at GW and GM participated in the Hour of Code that took place during Computer Science Education Week (Dec 3-7) through a variety of activities; Use this [link](#) to learn more
- Middle of Year NWEA/MAP benchmark testing in ELA & Math will take place 1/9-1/23 for K-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Our English Learner Program serves the individual needs of students that represent 28 different native languages spoken in Gower ([Appendix A](#))
- The District's Annual Science Showcase and STEM Challenge (grades 4-8) is scheduled for Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at GM
- Camp Invention will return to GW as a summer learning opportunity for our students (gr. K-5); June 17-21

**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*): 96.4% (96.2%) for our 879 (886) students; 96.7% (96.8%) for our 80 (79) Certified Staff and 97.2% (96.6%) for our 61 (68) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings in Dec. were focused on Mental Health Issue Identification and Course of Action
- Paraprofessionals are being surveyed to identify additional training needs to support special education students; trainings are being planned for Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>
- Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with Hinsdale High School District 86 guidance counselors on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> to build and review their freshman schedule
- Facilities Update: District officials re-route buses impacted by Sterigenics data released on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> ([update](#))

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) is open and we encourage all Gower parents to participate. Our standing goal is 35% parent participation and need your help to meet it! - 32.3% last year; 24.4% GM, 40.1% GW
- The Gower Foundation held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker Series event on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> - The topic, '21st Century Learning' was well-received and provided some great tips for parents - Visit the [Foundation website](#) for more info.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Gr. students prepare food at Feed my Starving Children on 12/6 as part of a service learning project
- The annual Gower PTO Holiday Bazaar at GW (12/7) was well-attended as was the annual Pancakes with Santa Breakfast hosted by the Burr Ridge/Willowbrook Kiwanis Club at Gower West (12/1)
- 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 12/13 - reminding us once again of the importance of the performing arts
- Student registration/sign-ups for the District's Science Showcase went out in mid-Nov. and are due back to science teachers by Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> - this is also an opportunity for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade students to compete at Regionals

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

- 2018-19 District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Tech Team, Innovate 62, Professional Development, K-8 ELA, District RtI, and Foreign Language
- Professional Learning continues through our local, grant-funded Lunch & Learn strategy at both school campuses; recent topics include instructional strategies/tools to engage students
- The Professional Development Committee planned the learning activities on 12/21 - teachers choose from five educational documentaries to reflect on key themes and best practices applicable to #GowerLEARNS
- Gower submitted a grant application, the Follett Challenge, showcasing our library program - parents, students, and community members will be able to vote in support of our application 1/21-1/25

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

- District admin. recommends Jan. 21 as the make up day for Nov. 26. This would be an eLearning Day; Students would be engaged remotely at home and have access to Teacher support/guidance ([Appendix B](#))
- District administration plans to recommend a new CD classroom at GM to grow with IEP students that are transitioning from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade; more details to follow in Preliminary Staffing Plan (~Feb)
- Gower continues to lead collaboration efforts with D86 and area feeder districts to implement the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Freshman Readiness Survey" in Hinsdale High Schools (expected to begin after winter break)
- GW is nominated by the [Flippen Group](#) as a '18-19 Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase School for the 4<sup>th</sup> yr.
- 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 2019-20 school year