



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – November 20, 2018 - 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 2017-18 School Report Cards [here](#). Student [PARCC data](#) is included along with new [Summative \(Tier\) Designations](#). GW and GM are 'Commendable' ([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 2-3. 100+ students from various districts participated
- Our 7th grade students participated in a [Science Behind Drugs](#) program on Nov. 9th and our 8th grade students participated in a [Teen Puberty/Health](#) program on Oct. 31st both led by Robert Crown
- [FitnessGram](#) (K-8) is aligned to [Enhanced PE Standards](#) and is in its 3rd year of implementation at Gower; parent information was shared during 11/15-16 conferences to view 'fitness scores' & 'progress monitoring'
- College & Career Spirit Days continue for the 2018-19 school year with a focus on the the Education field with career representatives visiting Gower on October 19 and scheduled for Dec. 14, Feb. 22, and April 12

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*): 96.7% (96.6%) for our 880 (886) students; 98.7% (97.0%) for our 80 (81) Certified Staff and 98.8% (96.6%) for our 62 (67) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 1st Qtr Discipline Reports indicate an increase in student referrals at GW & an increase at GM compared to previous year; quarterly reports are used for annual reporting and trend analysis ([Appendix B](#))
- Required staff trainings in November (11/13) were led by Gower staff members and included Limited English Proficiency (ELL Program) and a review of 2017-18 IL Report Card data
- Facilities Update: District officials remain directly engaged in the [Sterigenics issue](#): 'hold the date' for E.P.A. Open House/Panel Discussion at Ashton Place on Nov. 29th; ~3-9 p.m. (correspondence forthcoming)

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 of Educational Excellence is hosting a 4-part Speaker Series in 2018-19 with their second session scheduled for Dec. 4th at GM - Visit the [Gower Foundation website](#) for more information
- The Annual PTO Holiday Bazaar at GW is scheduled for Dec. 7th - Visit the [PTO website](#) to get involved
- A small group of Gower parents attended the annual YWCA-led Erin's Law presentation at GW (11/6) for an opportunity to learn more about this portion of our school curriculum/lessons (www.erinlawillinois.org)
- Parent-Teacher conferences were held on Nov. 15-16 at GW with 93% (91%) of K-4 parents attending and held on Oct. 4th and Nov. 15-16 at GM with 59% (55%) of 5-8 parents attending face-to-face conferences

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

- Gower's teaching staff continue to contribute to the profession through peer modeling/presentations and will be presenting at the Illinois Education and Technology Conference (November 14-15) in Springfield.
- 2018-19 District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Tech Team, District Process Coaches, ELL, Leadership Development, GM Math, Science Showcase/STEM Challenge planning
- Our SLTs continue to work on student achievement goals and targeted elements of CKH and 5E
- Professional Learning continues through our local, grant-funded Lunch & Learn strategy at both school campuses; recent topics include instructional strategies/tools and ways specialists can support learning

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

- Gower is approved to receive \$38,265 as part of the [IDEA Flow-Through Grant](#) - Funds will be used for professional development, instructional materials, and to offset salary (e.g. paraprofessionals)
- As part of our ongoing Bus/Transportation Plan review (adopted Feb. 2014), our morning pick-up routes have been adjusted from 8 to 7 - Bid to continue leasing program expected in Dec./Jan.
- Gower is hosting the [WSCAE](#) Brookfield Zoo Science Fair Planning Meeting (11/15) and continues to host the Univ. of St. Francis ESL Cohort initiated last year - 15 teachers (8 from Gower) finishing class 3 of 5)
- The Principal Evaluation Model for 2018-2019 has been initiated and is based on 50% Professional Practice and 50% Student Growth ([Appendix C](#))
- \$16,000 Nicor grant/boiler project rebate to be used for future energy savings projects (e.g. LED lighting)