



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – August 20, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Over 400 students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs for the fifth year in a row! Evidence of achieving the goal of expanding program offerings set in 2016 ([Appendix A](#))
- 2019-20 marks the 6 year anniversary of our [i³ Learning Initiative](#) (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) that has reshaped our district learning environment through the responsible incorporation of technology
- Our curriculum review cycle has been updated and reflects a rolling 5-year timeline ([Appendix B](#))
- The [Middlebury Interactive Language Program](#) enters Year 3, continuing to offer Spanish, French, German, and Mandarin as language options. Our two-year review indicates program goals were met ([Appendix C](#))
- [NWEA/MAP](#) testing in ELA and Math for grades K-8 is scheduled to begin the week of Aug. 26
- 50% of Gower K students demonstrated 'Readiness' by the 40th day of school on all developmental areas included in the 2018 KIDS observation protocol (62% previous year). [ISBE](#) has shared the full data set [here](#)

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.*

- Enrollment on Aug. 16th is 505 at GW, including 81 K students (92 & 79 previous two years), and 363 at GM, (493/486 GW & 394/397 GM at the start of the previous two school years) - Day 1 attendance = 97%
- Our annual Crisis Response Meeting is scheduled for August 20th and will include district stakeholders as well as representatives from Willowbrook Police Dept., Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- The [Capturing Kids' Hearts](#) process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate and [Social Emotional Learning](#) framework remains a focus for ongoing improvement efforts & teacher training
- The 2nd year of Advisory at GM will focus on adjustments based on staff & student feedback collected
- The GM HVAC Project (Rooftop Unit Replacement) is complete along with GW LED Lighting Project (Phase 1) - GW LRC Furniture upgrades and SMART Board replacement projects were also completed

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

- [5-Essentials Survey Data](#) indicates overall improvement and improvement in targeted areas for 2018-19 and was used to help set 2019-20 goals - [ISBE](#) has shared the participating public school data [here](#) ([Appendix D](#))
- 5th Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 6th & Kindergarten/New Student Orientation was held on Aug. 8th
- The annual Gower School District's Back to School Open House & Meet and Greet was held on Aug. 14th and attended by hundreds of Gower families
- Save the dates for our 2019-20 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 22nd at GW and Aug 28th at GM
- The 2019-20 [Parent-Student Handbook](#) has been posted on the district website under the Parent Info tab
- The Gower Foundation for Excellence in Education is planning a *School Topics* speaker series for 2019-20

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

- Our Summer Professional Development (*Continuing Education Vacation*) included 50+ teachers across a variety of programs including an option for [Google Certified Educator](#) testing (Level I & Level II)
- New Teacher I³-Week and Orientation was held Aug. 7-9 and our Back to School Teacher Institute Days were held Aug. 13-14 for certified staff and Aug. 15th for ESP - We're off to another great start!
- GW and GM School Leadership Teams met this summer to review 2018-19 data sets as a regular part of our ongoing planning and continuous improvement process (Plan-Do-Check-Act)
- The District Professional Development Committee kicked off Year 2 of: #GowerLEARNS - Laugh, Engage, Affirm, Reflect, Nurture, Share as part Teacher Institute Day

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

- Hiring is completed for all of our teacher/certified vacancies 6.5 and 5.0 of our 6.0 ESP (Education Support Personnel) vacancies for the start of the school year; ([Link](#) to apply for remaining vacancies)
- 2018-19 End of Year financial reports indicate a surplus of \$221,605 with the deficit projection across all district funds of \$248,277 not realized due to cost-cutting/savings measures and early tax payments received
- The 2019-20 district budget will be available for public viewing from 8/23 to the Board meeting on 9/24
- [Public Act 101-0012](#) preserves the flexibility for eLearning in school districts that complete the approval process - Gower's implementation/approval process serve as a model for the DuPage Region and beyond