



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – March 17, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [Illinois Assessment of Readiness - IAR](#) testing will begin April 7th for students in grades 3-8
- The [Illinois Science Assessment](#) will occur on April 22nd for 5th and 8th grade students; our 2019 results indicate that 93% of 5th grade and 75% of 8th grade students are proficient ([Appendix A](#))
- The GM Foreign Language Curriculum Committee is finalizing their recommendation and expect to complete it by April; K-8 ELA Curriculum Committee recommendation is expected in May
- Summer 2020 offerings will be expanded to include a Level II virtual Art Club for grades 3-5 led by GW Art Staff and for grades 6-8 led by GM Art staff; more information to be sent home in school virtual backpacks

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*): 95.7% (95.8%) for our 888 (887) students; 96.2% (96.4%) for our 84 (80) Certified Staff and 96.9% (97.1%) for our 62 (60) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- [Board Policy](#) 4:180-Pandemic Preparedness was reviewed to ensure proper readiness in Gower as the COVID-19 issue continues to evolve - District communication can be found in our [Community Newsletter](#)
- Required staff trainings held during March faculty meetings were focused on local school issues, IAR testing, and pandemic preparedness and led by school principals
- GM is adding a new club for our 5th-8th grade students - GowerPRIDE was developed from staff and student feedback and will emphasize a caring and inclusive school environment. Use [this link](#) to learn more
- Facilities Update: Early drafts of the proposed addition at GW, developed from our Campus Facility and Projects Survey, are available for review along with the Prototype Classroom Furniture design ([Appendix B](#))

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

- Kindergarten Registration for 2020-21 was held on 3/7 at GW; Student count of 58 similar to last year (-2)
- The [Gower PTO](#) Fun Fair resulted in a packed house at Gower Middle on 3/6
- The last installment of the 2019-20 [Gower Foundation Speaker Series](#), *Using Assessments as a Teaching and Learning Tool*, is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on April 28th at GM
- Gower celebrated its diversity at the 5th annual Multicultural Night on February 28th at GW. Learning about other cultures, visiting countries with passports, and a variety of foods were enjoyed by participants
- The March 17th Campus Projects & Referendum Committee meeting has been canceled and will be scheduled for a later date - Please visit our [Campus Project and Referendum webpage](#) for more information

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

- The March 24th Learn and Lead is focused on mental health and led by the DuPage chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness; presentation is called, “Ending the Silence”
- The Professional Development Committee developed a survey for teachers to complete during the March 10th Faculty Meeting to indicate their learning needs for Summer 2020 as well as delivery model.
- Teachers on the K-8 ELA Curriculum Committee are considering “pilot” lessons/unit of a new series to gather student feedback and finalize recommendation; parent information will be sent accordingly
- After-school committee meetings continue and most recently included K-8 ELL, Foreign Language, K-8 ELA, Professional Development, K-8 STEM, and Innovate 62
- Early Release Day (3/27) will consist of professional learning in supporting English Learners in the area of writing, in using an online professional network for teachers, and in using the new student database

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

- The Gower Admin Team has coordinated efforts with local school districts and public health partners to ensure regular communication across the Gower Community in relation to the COVID-19 issue
- The 2019-20 Non-Tenured Teacher Evaluation Cycle is complete and met the March 1st state deadline
- A preliminary staffing plan was presented to the Board for the 2020-21 school year and includes an emphasis on aligning resources to our classrooms through restructuring of district positions ([Appendix C](#))
- Gower received notification of approval for the matching state School Maintenance Project Grant (\$50,000)
- Gower was recognized by the UIC College of Education for our state-wide influence on the 5Essentials Survey and eLearning and presented at the UIC Aspiring Superintendents Program (Feb. 6)