



## Gower School District 62

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### Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – September 24, 2019 - 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](#))
- GM student proficiency on the 2019 IL Science Assessment for grades 5 & 8 was 83.3% (79.1% in 2018)
- College & Career Spirit Days will continue at GW & GM throughout the school year with the 2019-20 focus on careers in vocational work and the trades
- [Public Act 101-0227](#) requires the teaching of the roles & contributions of LGBT people in history. The law takes effect July 1, 2020 and our GM Social Studies Committee will meet this fall for planning purposes
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Education Program took place on Sept. 5-6 at [White Pines Ranch](#) in Oregon, IL (95% overall student participation; 15% 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*): 97.4% (97.1%) for our 879 (866) students; 97.8% (97.8%) for our 83 (81) Certified Staff and 98.1% (98.7%) for our 60 (60) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- As required by [Public Act 101-0455](#), and in alignment with our ongoing effort to build additional student supports meeting the needs of the [Whole Child](#), our Threat Assessment Team is established and met 9/10
- Required staff trainings in September (8/27 at GM; 9/10 at GW) 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 (3 reports were submitted in 2018-19 and investigated/resolved accordingly)
- Facilities Update: Final adjustments to our bus routes have been made and we remind parents/students to revisit the Bus Stop Guidelines listed in our [Parent Student Handbook](#) - We appreciate your cooperation

**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 2019-20 with the first session scheduled for Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at GM - Visit the [Gower Foundation website](#) for more information
- Be sure to visit the [PTO website](#) to get involved in the activities they have planned throughout the school year including upcoming Fundraisers, the Book Fair, and the annual Pumpkin Fest on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>
- Parents are encouraged to participate in Bring Your Parent to School Day at Gower West on October 11
- [Public Act 101-0515](#) requires specific notification and publication requirements for school districts related to specialized services - Our new [Student Support Services](#) tab on our website meets these requirements

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

- The Gower/University of St. Francis English as a Second Language (ESL) cohort completed their program in Summer 2019 with an additional 8 Gower teachers now ESL endorsed [ESL teacher certification](#)
- Gower PE teachers/social workers and school counselor are working together to co-teach mental health/wellness lessons in K-8 P.E. classes as another proactive approach to these important topics
- The Professional Development Committee design for Institute Day (10/15) is building based: CKH training at GM and Inquiry Based Learning, Vocabulary/Writing/Research integrated into Sci. & Soc. Studies at GW
- 2019-20 District Committee work is underway and most recently involved our Tech Team, Annual Crisis Meeting, ELA, District Threat Assessment Team, Innovate 62

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

- The 2019-2020 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- [ISBE Evidence Based Funding Calculations](#) indicate Gower's 'Percent of Adequacy' for student funding was 120% in FY18, 116% in FY19, and 115% in FY20; resulting in \$598,425.63 of state funding for 2019-20
- 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](#))
- Our [IDEA Part B Consolidated Grant](#) was approved (\$174,828) to support our Early Childhood Program and our Special Needs (IEP) students to off-set program costs
- Administrators have initiated the process to meet long-term facility needs against existing/available funding