



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – December 17, 2019 - 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 9-13) through a variety of activities; Use this [link](#) to learn more
- Middle of Year NWEA/MAP benchmark testing in ELA & Math will take place 1/8-1/22 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 4<sup>th</sup> at GM
- Camp Invention will return to GW as a summer learning opportunity for our students (gr. K-5); June 15-19

**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*): 96.6% (96.4%) for our 885 (879) students; 96.5% (96.7%) for our 83 (80) Certified Staff and 97.4% (97.2%) for our 61 (61) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings (Dec. 10) focused on Limited English Proficiency and led by Gower staff members
- Our partnership with the [Assistance League](#) provided winter apparel to nearly 30 of our students
- 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: Our [2018 Facility Assessment Report](#) and preliminary [GW Campus Facility and Project Survey](#) data are being used by our architects for early project scope and work design - Survey for GM in Jan.

**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! - 29.6% last year; 34.2% GW 24.9% GM
- Parents of students from PK-8 grade joined the YWCA on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gower West for an opportunity to learn more about Erin's Law and its impact on school curriculum ([www.erinlawillinois.org](http://www.erinlawillinois.org))
- English Learner Parent Night was Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> to provide opportunities for family engagement and increased awareness of the Teaching and Learning Model of this particular student support program
- 6<sup>th</sup> Gr. students prepared food at Feed My Starving Children on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> as part of a service learning project
- 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 12/12 - reminding us once again of the importance of the performing arts
- We encourage our GM parents to attend our Bring Your Parent to School Day scheduled for Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>
- Parent-Teacher conferences were held on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> with 94% (93%) of K-4 parents attending and 59% (59%) 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 staff have been invited by the [DuPage ROE](#) to participate in an eLearning Panel Discussion on 1/28
- Learn & Lead - New monthly teacher PD opportunity for teachers: Sept. - The Reading Life, by John Schu; Oct. - Leadership Case Studies; Nov. - Documentary, screening Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope; Dec. - Using Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies in the Classroom
- Early Release Day Plan for Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> includes Assessment Overview (GW)/Digital Tool Review-Peardeck (GM), Innovate 62 Goals aligned to [ISTE Standards](#), and Mindfulness Strategies to Help Students
- 2019-20 District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Tech Team, Academically Talented, GM Spanish, and District Threat Assessment Team Committees

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

- Gower has been approved by ISBE to apply for an additional \$18,385 in Title I grant funds and \$2,589 in Title II funds, bringing the total award to \$135,840 for our FY20 Title I - IV grants
- Our eLearning Practice Day on Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> had student participation rates of 91% for GM and 85% for GW
- Gower continues to lead collaboration efforts with D86 and area feeder districts to implement the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Freshman Readiness Survey" in Hinsdale High Schools (expected to begin after winter break)
- GW was nominated as a '[Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase School](#)' for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year
- Winter break marks the beginning of the annual review of current instructional programs and staffing needs in preparation for the 2020-21 school year budget by school and district administrators