



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

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

- Our [Return to School Plan](#) is the epitome of the 'Ambitious Instruction' category as our school community is engaging in simultaneous in-person and remote learning settings for students from Pre-K-8th grade
- The IL State Board of Education released 2019-20 School Report Cards [here](#) and listed on our [district webpage](#); GW and GM are rated as 'Commendable' and listed as IL-EMPOWER [Peer Learning Partners](#)
- Teachers are utilizing the [Illinois Priority Learning Standards](#) for the 2020-21 school year which represent the most foundational/essential knowledge, skills, and competencies for all students identified by [ISBE](#)
- Our 7th grade students participated in a [Science Behind Drugs](#) program on 11/6 and led by [Candor Health](#)
- As part of the District's overall Social Emotional Learning program, students were screened using [SAEBRS](#) to assess social-emotional and behavior risks/concerns and to determine interventions/supports as needed

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*): 96.0% (*96.9%*) for our 899 (*882*) students; 96.3% (*98.3%*) for our 86 (*83*) Certified Staff and 95.3% (*98.6%*) for our 53 (*61*) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff training on November 10th was completed by our ESL teachers and focused on our English Learner Program which serves 78 students across our district and includes 22 different native languages
- The US Dept of Education and the Office of Civil Rights have issued new Title IX Rules that are in effect as of August 2020. The policy is in first reading, planned staff training for 11/24, and the website has been updated to include a new reporting email TitleIXCoord@gower62.com.
- Facilities Update: Our proposed [Campus Projects & Referendum](#) passed by a margin of 3,273 (60%) 'Yes' and 2,186 (40%) 'No' votes cast. An updated timeline and master budget report is expected in December

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

- The successful referendum indicate a willingness of our community to continue to invest in our schools
- The [Gower Foundation](#) hosted a Virtual Parent Speaker Series on 11/12 focused on Assessment and led by our Instructional Student Support Specialists
- The [PTO](#) sponsored Halloween Drive-Thru at GW was a success with more than 200 cars passing through our COVID-19 safe spooktacular on 10/30 helping make this Halloween a memorable one
- The Gower PTO and Gower 62 Food Bank Drive Thru held on 11/9 distributed groceries to 177 families
- Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Nov. 23rd from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. using the Zoom platform

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

- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Mentoring Committee, District Threat Assessment Team, ELL, Academically Talented, and GM Exploratory Committee.
- Our Nov. 24th Teacher Institute Day will focus on the following required trainings/topics: Cultural Competency, Title IX New Rules, and the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA)
- Our School Nurses have been instrumental in launching our voluntary, on-site COVID-19 testing program which includes antibody testing (staff screening) & rapid antigen testing (students/staff with symptoms)
- Our GW P.E. program is expected to be recognized for excellence in physical education and health during the upcoming virtual [IAHPERD](#) convention and awarded their 6th consecutive Blue Ribbon for Excellence

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

- Gower has received a [CLIA](#) Certificate of Waiver allowing us to carry out COVID-19 rapid antigen and antibody tests on-site for screening/diagnostic purposes - We have started testing and working to help other area school districts build a similar process and trying to partner with the local health dept. to expand
- Gower was represented in the DuPage Division [Virtual Meeting](#) for the IL Assoc. of School Boards on Nov. 4th and delivered a presentation on an *Emerging Framework on Effective School Leadership*
- Gower administrators have been working with representatives from ISBE and the DuPage ROE to help establish a COVID-19 testing (pilot) program that can be implemented in schools across the state
- Gower's [Return to School webpage](#) continues to be an important resource for our community and for other districts utilizing some form of an in-person learning model; of particular interest is our on-site, local testing