



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – January 19, 2021 - 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 has engaged in simultaneous in-person and remote learning settings for our PK-8th students since Aug. 21st
- Mid-year [NWEA MAP](#) testing is underway with growth and progress reports expected in February
- Our [Academic Performance](#) webpage is the district's official source of student academic performance and growth - unofficial ratings/rankings can be found at sites such as [Niche](#), [GreatSchools](#) & [School Digger](#)
- Gower West earned the Preschool for All Gold Rating again this year; and continues to meet the eligibility requirements for the [ExceleRate Illinois](#) Gold Circle of Quality
- Camp Invention is expected to return to GW as a summer learning opportunity for our students (gr. K-5); June 21-25 with an in person and remote learning options; registration is open at www.campinvention.org

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): 96.3% (96.1%) for our 898 (887) students; 94.5% (96.2%) for our 90 (84) Certified Staff and 92.2% (97.0%) for our 52 (62) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff training on 1/12 was completed by school social workers on Bullying/Anti-Violence Prevention/Peer Counseling. [Tip 62](#) is our anonymous bullying prevention link
- On 12/18, teachers were able to meet as grade level teams and departments through Zoom to accomplish specific instructional planning tasks and goals for the second semester
- Facilities Update: School-based design teams have started the process of planning new/renovated spaces with our architects and the [Campus Projects & Referendum](#) webpage will be updated as progress is made

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) will open on Feb. 3rd and we encourage all Gower parents to participate. Our standing goal is 35% parent participation and need your help to meet it
- The [Gower PTO](#) and Gower 62 ELL Team are co-sponsoring a multicultural cookbook to celebrate our diversity; contributions for the cookbook are being accepted online through Jan. 29th
- The [Gower Foundation](#) is planning to screen the documentary [Like](#) on 2/11 @ 7 pm; more details to come!
- Save the Date for our virtual Family STEM Night on February 25th at 7:00 pm; more details to come!
- With the success of our Winter Break COVID-19 testing, our [on-site testing](#) has been expanded to Tues. (GW 4-6 pm) and Thurs. (GM 4-6 pm). Please continue to do YOUR part so we can do OUR part.

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 Special Education teams, Innovate 62, and the District Calendar Committee.
- Gower expects to host visitors from Evanston SD65 (Jan. 22) to review our [Return to School](#) approach
- Gower was represented as a guest panelist for the [Network of Hispanic Administrators in Education](#) on Jan. 13th to help support the return to school approach in the Chicago Public Schools
- The District Calendar Committee met Jan. 19th to develop a draft calendar and expects to make a recommendation for the 2021-22 school year for Board review in Feb. and final approval in March
- Gower has been able to accommodate four student teachers from Elmhurst College (Pre-K, Self-Contained, 2nd, 3rd) and one from Montana State University (Middle School Spanish)

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

- Gower will receive an additional \$210,000 for the second Cares Act allotment, which will be used to continue to support our [Return to School](#) program including on-site testing and vaccine efforts
- Gower was represented as a co-presenter in a webinar hosted by [IASB](#) (Jan. 14) to share our locally developed COVID-19 testing program to help other school districts interested in building one of their own
- GW was nominated as a '[Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase School](#)' for the 6th straight year
- Gower administrators have initiated the annual review of current instructional programs and staffing needs in preparation for the 2020-21 school year budget by school and district administrators
- The District expects to receive the highest Financial Profile Designation from the IL State Board as evidence of effective stewardship of taxpayer resources. Once verified, the 2020 Profiles will be posted [here](#)