



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – April 27, 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
- The Illinois Science Assessment will be administered to all 5th and 8th grade students on 4/30
- The PE Blue Ribbon site visit occurred at GM on 4/8; results from [IAHPERD](#) are anticipated in May
- The K-4 English Language Arts Curriculum Committee recommends a new curricular series to be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year ([Appendix A](#))
- The Gower Middle STEM Curriculum Committee recommends enhancing the 6th and 7th grade programs by partnering with [TinkRworks](#) ([Appendix B](#))

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*): 95.5% (93.5%) for our 906 (892) students; 94.7% (*Remote*) for our 90 (84) Certified Staff and 93.4% (*Remote*) for our 51 (62) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff training for April focused on attention deficit disorders and was led by Gower staff
- Our [on-site COVID-19 testing](#) continued over spring break (4/1, 4/3, and 4/5) and included 40+ tests and our after school testing schedule will continue through the end of the school year (GW-Tues.; GM-Thurs.)
- Facilities Update: School-based design teams continue 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](#) closed with parent participation rates of 40% at GW and 29% for GM for a district rate of 36%, meeting our standing goal of 35%. Thank you! We await the data set for a full report
- The [Gower PTO](#) and Gower 62 ELL Team are co-sponsoring a multicultural cookbook to celebrate our diversity; cookbooks are on sale through the PTO using this [link](#) or complete [this form](#) to order.
- The PTO Spring Book Fair began online on 4/19 at efairs/follettbookfairs.com and the code is WR7K7
- Anderson's Bookshop offered GW a free virtual event on Earth Day, 4/22. All grade levels heard from the author and illustrator of the picture book *We Are Water Protectors*, winner of the 2021 Caldecott Award
- The [Gower Foundation](#) is planning a 2021 Summer Read-a-Thon; more details to come in May.

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

- Gower hosted staff from LaGrange D102 on 4/6 to support their expanding Return to School Plan
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, K-4 ELA, K-8 PE, GM Exploratory, Professional Development, Parent Student Handbook, District Mentoring
- The Gower Professional Development Committee is offering a variety of virtual summer learning opportunities for staff including SMART Certification, Google Certification, a book club, and microcredentials from existing partners such as Discovery Education and Defined Learning
- 4/30 Early Release professional learning will focus on planning and professional development in the areas of English Language Arts and grading practices (standards-based grading expands to 5th grade)
- Professional development is being planned for all staff on the ISBE [Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards](#) during the August Institute Days.

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

- District administrators revised the Staffing Plan for the 2021-22 school year with an ongoing commitment to maximize student supports and meet district fiscal goals ([Appendix C](#))
- Gower presented at: [Lessons from the Field: Safely Reopening and Sustaining In-Person Instruction](#), hosted by the U.S. Dept. of Ed., and the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments on 3/31
- Gower presented with Butler School District at: [COVID-19 Response](#); Community of Practice hosted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) School Fieldwork Unit on 4/8
- Gower presented at the 56th Annual [IASA Conference](#): *An Emerging Framework for Effective Leadership* (4/7)
- Gower was a contributor to the ISBE *Return to In-Person: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic* guidance document expected to be published the week of April 26th - *Community Problems Require Community Solutions* :)
- Preliminary FY22 budgets have been presented to the Board of Education for O & M and Transportation
- Allocation of the 2020 tax levy extension was filed with the [DuPage County Clerk's Office](#) and the \$14,237,797 comprises 86% of the 2021-22 school year total revenue expected