



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – May 18, 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 K-8 PE Committee has completed their scheduled curriculum review and evaluation and has submitted a recommendation for updates to the program ([Appendix A](#))
- The Middle School ELA Committee has completed their review of materials and has submitted a recommendation for updates to the program ([Appendix B](#))
- The Academically Talented (AT) Committee has reviewed current practice/program elements and has submitted recommendations around areas of continuation and areas of improvement ([Appendix C](#))
- The 5th-8th grade Course Selection Process at GM for 2020-21 is in its final stages and illustrates a continued interest in our expanded student choice and electives program implemented in 2017 ([Appendix D](#))
- Summer Step Up and ESY are being offered remotely from June 7-July 1 at GW. Camp Invention is full and includes in person or remote options from June 21-25

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): 95.4% (93.9% Remote) for our 907 (892) students; 94.4% (Remote) for our 90 (84) Certified Staff and 93.4% (Remote) for our 51 (62) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- A number of [COVID-19 vaccine opportunities](#) have been made available to the newly eligible 12-15 year olds across our school community and will be sure to share updates regarding eligibility for those under 12
- Required staff training for May focused on the school crisis plans and was led by Gower principals
- Our GM Principal visited the 4th grade classrooms and students at GW on May 13th ahead of their 'Step Up' visit to Gower Middle on May 14th to begin the transition to middle school
- Our [COVID-19 testing](#) summer schedule is 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. every Tues. & Thurs. at Gower West (Door #1) from June 1-July 1. Please park and come in! Tests are free and available to everyone in our community!

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

- [Kindergarten Orientation](#) is scheduled for three in-person sessions (5/19-20) to welcome the Class of 2030
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week & Nurse Appreciation Week ended with the announcement of a *Recognition, Revitalization, and Retention* stipend/bonus for all district staff - 2020 is something to remember:)
- Gower will hold a [Timely and Meaningful Consultation](#) meeting (5/20) for private and home-schooled students in our District as part of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([IDEA](#)) requirements
- 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 [Gower Foundation](#) Summer Read-a-Thon fundraiser will take place from May 17-Sept. 17. Let's Read!

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

- The IL Assoc. for Health, Physical Ed., Recreation and Dance awarded a Blue Ribbon - their highest honor for excellence - to GM ([Their 3rd consecutive Blue Ribbons from IAHPERD](#))
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, 5-8 ELA, Summer Step Up Planning, AT, and Innovate 62 committees
- District administrators and the Gower Education Association co-presidents continue to have open and productive dialogue related to plans designed to ensure a safe opening of the 2021-22 school year
- Innovate 62 is recommending a change in the software program used for managing and monitoring student online activity during class from Hapara to Go Guardian Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year
- The Parent Student Handbook Committee worked virtually to recommend changes and build a draft for the 2021-2022 handbook expected for Board review at their June 22nd Board Meeting
- The [PERA Committee](#) are scheduled to meet on 5/25 to review the Professional Practice Rubric for the District Math Interventionist position as well as a review of the current District Teacher Appraisal Plan

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

- GW was named as a [Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase School](#) for the 6th straight year. Congratulations!
- The selection process to fill our (6) remaining teacher vacancies for the 2021-22 school year is on-track
- Gower's SpEd Program received the highest rating in each of the (8) measures in the [annual state review](#)
- Gower successfully completed the 188-part [DuPage ROE compliance audit](#) on May 6th (held every 4 years)
- The Board Resolution proposed for *'establishing a remote educational program'* in accordance with [IL School Code 5/10-29](#) and local district policy [6:185](#) ensures readiness/flexibility for post-crisis learning options
- The preliminary FY22 Education Fund budget has been presented to the BOE for review