



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – June 22, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our End-of-Year (EOY) student performance data on NWEA/MAP indicates exceptional achievement levels despite the challenges of the 2020-21 school year. Typical growth goals were not met and will remain in place district-wide for the 2021-22 school year and to help set a post-pandemic benchmark ([Appendix A](#))
- [SB0654](#) (Student Play Time) requires 30 min. of playtime in gr. K-5 and awaits the Governor's signature.
- [SB 0818](#) (Sex Education) allows schools to adapt their local curriculum to meet the specific needs of their community. Gower Middle will continue to utilize [Candor Health Education](#) to provide the following programs: [Teen Puberty](#) (5<sup>th</sup>), [Life Begins](#) (6<sup>th</sup>), [Science Behind Drugs](#) (7<sup>th</sup>), and [Teen Sexual Health](#) (8<sup>th</sup>)
- [HB0024](#) (Sexing) requires inclusion of age-appropriate discussion about sexting as part of a school's sex education curriculum (gr. 6-8).
- Gower Middle will continue the writing intervention program launched in 2020-21 for 5th-8th grade students as an additional student support and part of the overall Response to Intervention program.
- Summer Step Up, Extended School Year, STEM League, Jazz Band, Junior Jazz Band, Stitch Your Way, and Camp Invention are all underway on-site. Virtual 4<sup>th</sup> grade Band Camp, Art Challenge, and Virtual Art and Nature are underway and provide additional learning opportunities for our students remotely.

**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*): 95.3% (*Remote*) for our 907 (892) students; 94.5% (*Remote*) for our 90 (84) Certified Staff and 93.4% (*Remote*) for our 51 (62) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- COVID-19 vaccine opportunities are available through [DuPage County](#) and [other options](#) for our 12-15 year olds and will be sure to share updates regarding eligibility for those under 12 when available
- Each of our school campuses are on schedule for full reopening for the [2021-22 school year](#) on August 20<sup>th</sup> and our Admin. Team awaits updated [IDPH/ISBE](#) guidelines to address [Phase 5](#) of the [Restore IL Plan](#)
- In accordance with the [Student Online Privacy Protection Act](#) (effective July 1, 2021) parents can make student privacy related requests/inquiries by emailing [DataPrivacyOfficer@gower62.com](mailto:DataPrivacyOfficer@gower62.com)
- Our [COVID-19 testing](#) summer schedule is 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. every Tues. & Thurs. at Gower West (Door #1) through July 1. Please park and come in! Tests are free and available to everyone in our community!
- [Facilities Update](#): GM projects are underway and on-schedule and planning for our GW addition continues

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

- The preliminary [5-Essentials Survey Data](#) indicates a 'well-organized' district and will be used to help set annual goals - [ISBE](#) is expected to release the participating school data [here](#) on June 30<sup>th</sup> ([Appendix B](#))
- Electronic registration for returning students is well underway for GW and GM through PowerSchool
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities/programs
- Plans for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation scheduled for Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> are underway (detailed information to follow)

**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, ELA committees, Summer Step Up Planning, and PERA committees
- The Parent Student Handbook Committee completed a draft for the 2021-22 Handbook ([Appendix C](#))
- The Professional Development Committee launched the Virtual Summer 2021 #Consider the 3PDs: Focus on Digital Learning Tools; Virtual Book Club, *Fish in a Tree*; & SMART and Google I & II Certification.
- New Teacher Orientation is scheduled for Aug. 11-13 & Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 17 & 18
- The Gower Remote Educational Program Committee met June 16<sup>th</sup> to draft qualifications for short and long-term requests/needs, blended learning models (asynchronous and synchronous), and F.A.Q.s

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

- The selection process to fill 2 of our 6 current teacher vacancies for 2021-22 continues (*1 offer pending*)
- The tentative 2021-22 school budget is scheduled for BOE review at the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Gower staff continue to work with representatives from the Burr Ridge Park District to ensure after-school options are available to Gower West families to support the new bell schedule (7:45 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.)
- District [Federal Grant Plans](#) for FY22 will be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup> according to ISBE requirements
- Gower's Return to School approach for the 2020-21 school year was featured with Butler SD53 in the May 2021 *School Business Affairs (SBA) ASBO International's* monthly magazine
- Gower was a panelist for the statewide IDPH K-12 Testing Webinar held on June 10<sup>th</sup>