



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – December 14, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The Illinois State Board of Education [released school-level](#) 2020-21 [Illinois Assessment of Readiness](#) data on Dec. 2nd as part of the [IL School Report Card](#) and found on our district's [Academic Performance](#) page
- Our English Learner Program serves the individual needs of over 80 students that represent more than 20 different native languages spoken in Gower ([Appendix A](#))
- Winter [NWEA MAP testing](#) and [FastBridge Screening](#) has been scheduled for Jan 6-14 for our K-8 students and [ACCESS testing](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 19 - Feb. 22 for our English Learners
- The District's Annual STEM Night is scheduled for Feb 10th as a virtual family STEM activity; the Science Showcase and Brookfield Zoo Science Fair have been canceled for the 2021-2022 school year
- Our [Remote Education Program](#), designed around [Edmentum](#) and aligned to the same learning standards as our In-Person program, continues for the students approved for remote learning (GW - 8; GM - 4)

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: 95.0% for our 545 GW students; 96.5% for our 379 GM students; 95.9% for our 92 Certified Staff and 96.7% for our 59 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Gower is hosting [COVID-19 testing](#) at Gower West on 12/22 & 12/29 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Testing is free, open to the public, and will include rapid antigen tests as well as saliva PCR tests (results usually in 24 hrs)
- Required staff trainings (Dec. 14) focused on Limited English Proficiency and led by Gower staff members
- Our 8th grade students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with Hinsdale High School District 86 guidance counselors on Jan. 13th to build and review their 9th grade schedule

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

- Our eLearning Practice Day on Nov. 23rd had student participation rates of 87% for GM and 80% for GW
- The [Gower PTO](#) and [Gower Foundation](#) continue to support our school community and are currently running seasonal fundraisers (Holiday Bazaar and [Wreath Sale](#)) to help support a variety of school programs
- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) opens on Jan. 11th. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Last year; 37.5% GW, 23.0% GM (state avg. 18.7%)*
- The Village of Willowbrook will hold a [Public Hearing](#) on Dec 20th at 6:30 p.m. to consider approval of a Redevelopment Plan and adoption of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan to subsidize the project
- We encourage applicants for our remaining Education Support Personnel vacancies ([Link](#) to apply)

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

- Our School Nurses continue to be instrumental in carrying out our voluntary, on-site COVID-19 testing program which includes rapid antibody testing, rapid antigen testing, and saliva-based PCR tests
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, Innovate 62, ELL, District Calendar Committee, PERA, GM Student Services team, and K-4 Math
- The Dec. 17th Early Release Day will focus on student services at GM (e.g. counselor and social worker led staff discussion on supporting transgender students); and specific math instructional strategies at GW
- The Calendar Committee met on 11/16 and 12/6 to develop a 2022-23 and 2023-24 school calendar for review by the Board of Education and subsequent approval at the Jan. 18th Board meeting ([Appendix B](#))
- Gower has been able to accommodate two student teachers (one fall and one spring) at GW and a new Hinsdale HS volunteer program (started by a Gower graduate) to help students during 10th Hour at GM

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

- Gower is well prepared for the Jan. 19th DuPage Regional Office of Education compliance visit to review our program that services students through the Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act
- Gower was represented in a partnership webinar: [Getting supportive schools right: The intersection of place, culture, and growth](#) with NWEA and UChicago Impact on Dec. 9th
- Gower administrators submitted the [Title III Language Instruction Educational Program Grant](#) which was subsequently approved by ISBE for an additional \$6,545 to support our English Learners
- Gower administrators have recommended staffing an additional Special Education Teacher to address the needs of IEP students at Gower West that have increased since the beginning of the school year
- Gower has been approved by ISBE to apply for an additional \$27,091 in Title I grant funds and \$2,003 in Title II funds, bringing the total award to \$137,502 for our FY22 Title I - IV grants
- Gower was represented at [The Learning Counsel: Regional Discussion & Webinar Series - New Leadership](#)
- Winter break marks the beginning of the annual review of current instructional programs and staffing needs in preparation for the 2022-23 school year budget by school and district administrators