



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – October 19, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [NWEA/MAP](#) Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning ([Appendix A](#))
- Individual student IAR (spring 2021) and NWEA/MAP (fall 2021) scores have been sent home to parents
- The Illinois State Board of Education is expected to release the [IL School Report Card](#) on Oct. 29th which will not include 2020-21 IAR student performance data given statewide COVID-19 challenges last year
- Our 5th grade students and families participated in our annual [Health/Puberty Program](#) led by Candor Health Education (formally Robert Crown); held virtually this year on October 14th
- 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 - 9; 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: 96.0% for our 544 GW students; 96.8% for our 381 GM students; 96.9% for our 92 Certified Staff and 96.8% for our 55 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- COVID-19 vaccines are encouraged and opportunities are available through [DuPage County](#) and [other options](#) for our 12-15 year olds and we will share updates regarding eligibility for those <12 when available
- Our [COVID-19 diagnostic and screening testing](#) efforts continue with daily on-site testing available to staff, students, parents, family and community members and serves as an important and proactive mitigation layer
- Student medical compliance is 96.5% (GW) & 97.0% (GM) prior to the 10/15 deadline (97%/100% 2020)
- Required staff trainings in October were completed (10/5) by staff on Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento, Domestic and Sexual Violence at GM; and Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse Training for GW
- [Facilities Update](#): Overall project budget and timeline for GW campus expansion are being finalized

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

- GW & GM parents are encouraged to use the [Parent Portal](#) to monitor student progress
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities/programs
- Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Nov. 22nd from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Parents will be able to sign up through an online program, Pick-a-Time - watch for more information to be shared by our schools
- Nov. 23rd: [eLearning Day \(Practice Run\)](#) - Students are **not** in session. eLearning activities/assignments will be posted no later than 8:30 a.m. Teachers are "e"available for guidance and assistance from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities/programs
- 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.*

- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, MTSS, K-4 Math, and District Mentoring Committees.
- Our October 12th Institute Day included a variety of sessions to meet the needs of our staff including using data to guide instruction, professional development for new ELA implementation, P.E. OPEN Resources, Nonviolent Crisis Prevention for Special Education staff, and inquiry learning.
- The District [PERA Committee](#) met on 9/21 and reached consensus on adjustments to the Professional Appraisal Plan to account for [Public Act 102-0252](#) and to include more options for Teacher evaluation
- Gower hosted the 2nd annual Northern Illinois Food Bank Event on 9/30 and provided food resources for 60+ families and over 200 people and remaining food was distributed at the District 180 food pantry

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

- The [2021-2022 District Budget](#) was formally adopted by the Board of Education on September 21, 2021
- ISBE has completed its annual review of Special Education programs in the state and has determined that Gower acquired the highest rating level possible with an [LEA Determination Matrix](#) score of 100%
- In partnership with Pleasantdale SD 107 & LADSE, our eligible students have the opportunity to participate on a joint Special Olympics Team, and those participating will compete in basketball as the first sport
- Gower will receive \$108,028 for 2021-2022 in the ESEA as Amended Grant: Title I (\$79,780), Title II (\$18,248), and Title IV (\$10,000)
- Gower entered into an inter-governmental agreement with the Village of Willowbrook to apply for a state grant to subsidize the cost of adding a sidewalk on the west side of our GW campus (Cherry Tree Ln.)