



Gower School District 62

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Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – September 21, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our curriculum review cycle has been updated and reflects a rolling 5-year timeline ([Appendix A](#))
- [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
- Individual student performance data in reading and math (NWEA/MAP, Fastbridge) and SEL data collected (SAEBRS) are being utilized as part of our school-based Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Newly adopted ELA curriculum (grades K-8) has been implemented on schedule with print and online materials available for various modes of instruction (in-person and short-term remote)
- The Math Interventionist, Math Specialist, and Primary Instructional Support Assistant are providing additional math support in classrooms and specific math interventions for students as needed
- 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 - 5)

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: 95.9.% for our 538 GW students; 96.9% for our 378 GM students; 97.5% for our 92 Certified Staff and 97.1% 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
- Required staff trainings in September were completed (9/14) by school nurses on the following health topics: asthma, diabetes, food allergy, anaphylactic shock guidelines, and COVID-19 updates
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (1 report was submitted in 2019-2020, 0 reports submitted in 2020-2021)
- [Facilities Update](#): Referendum project planning is on-schedule with overall project budget being finalized

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

- Gower will host our 2nd annual Northern Illinois Food Bank Mobile Event on 9/30 from 4-5:30 pm at GW
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities/programs
- The GW 4th grade team held a Family Trivia Night on 9/15 virtually on Facebook Live
- Our annual Bring Your Parent to School Day at GW is postponed until further notice (GM tentative Jan. 28)
- 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.*

- Newly adopted ELA curriculum (grades K-8) is being implemented with professional development during the August and October Institute Days to learn the various components of the new series.
- New teachers will participate in the Capturing Kids' Hearts Training on September 16 and 17 in Lombard
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our GW ELL team, Technology, PERA Committee, GM FACS, and Special Education Teams.
- The District's [PERA Committee](#) will meet on September 21st to discuss updates and possible adjustments to the Professional Appraisal Plan based on [Public Act 102-0252](#) signed into law on Aug. 6th
- Our Early Dismissal/School Improvement Day on 9/24 is school-based and focused on beginning-of year student data review and support at GW and advisory program training (*Character Strong*) at GM

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

- The final 2021-2022 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- Gower continues to be a leader in on-site COVID-19 diagnostic testing and has [consistently advocated](#) for a [Test-to-Stay](#) approach as a modified quarantine which has finally been [approved for use](#) in DuPage County
- The current administrative framework utilized for student placement and class size meets our teaching and learning priorities and accounts for local and state budgetary guidelines ([Appendix B](#))
- [ISBE Evidence Based Funding Calculations](#) indicate Gower's 'Percent of Adequacy' for student funding was 118% in FY22 resulting in \$599,290.32 of state funding for 2021-22 (FY21 funding was \$598,425.63)
- Our [IDEA Part B Consolidated Grant](#) was approved (\$179,619) to support our Early Childhood Program and our Special Needs (IEP) students to off-set program costs
- Our [American Rescue Plan \(ESSER III\) Grant](#) was approved (\$607,602) to address the impact of COVID-19 and help sustain the safe operation of schools