



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – November 16, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a [Science Behind Drugs](#) on 11/5 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a [Teen Sexual Health](#) program on 11/12 and led by [Candor Health](#)
- 2020-21 [ACCESS](#) scores were released on 11/8 as a measure of student performance in our English Learner Program; 19% of our students met the state requirements to exit dedicated support services (13% in 19-20)
- The Illinois State Board of Education released annual [IL School Report Cards](#) on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> which can also be accessed through the district's [Academic Performance](#) webpage
- 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; 96.6% for our 380 GM students; 96.2% for our 92 Certified Staff and 97.0% for our 56 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- COVID-19 vaccines are encouraged and opportunities are available through [DuPage County](#) and [other options](#) as well as clinics held at Gower West on 11/11 and again on 12/3 including the 5-11 age group
- 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
- As part of the District's overall Social Emotional Learning program, students are screened ([SEB](#)) to assess social-emotional and behavior risks/concerns and to determine interventions/supports as needed
- Required staff trainings in October were completed (10/5) by staff on Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento, Domestic and Sexual Violence at GW; and Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse Training for GM
- Paraprofessional training on 11/19 through LADSE will focus on student behavior/effective interventions

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

- Gower Middle School teamed up with Honor Flight Chicago again this year to help raise money for an all-student funded flight to honor our veterans and as part of our annual recognition of Veterans Day
- The [Gower Foundation](#) is hosting their next [Parent Speaker Series](#) via Zoom on 12/9 entitled *Helping kids find, build and maintain confidence in their formative years*
- The Holiday Bazaar is being planned for early Dec. at Gower West; visit the [Gower PTO](#) website for details
- Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>: [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
- 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, MTSS, GM FACS, ELL, STEM Night Planning, and District Calendar Committee
- Our November 23<sup>rd</sup> Institute Day will be an eLearning Day and include required trainings on Title IX, Bloodborne Pathogens, and Sexual Harassment
- The Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> e-Learning practice day provides a unique training opportunity to ensure staff preparedness for the potential use of [e-Learning Days](#) in lieu of Emergency Days with the winter months approaching
- Our GM P.E. program is expected to be recognized during the upcoming [IAHPERD](#) convention on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> as they are awarded their 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Blue Ribbon for Excellence

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

- The final report from our annual financial audit completed in Sept. by an independent auditor shows that the district is in compliance with all financial reporting requirements by the [IL State Board of Education](#)
- The current project budget (\$16M) and timeline (Spring 2023 completion) for GW campus expansion are in final form as reported to the Board of Education and posted on our [Facility Update webpage](#)
- Gower was represented as part of the School CEO podcast series: [Prerequisites for Effective Leadership](#)
- As a member of the Joint Review Board for the proposed Willowbrook Redevelopment Corridor ([TRF](#)), Gower administration voted in favor of the proposal [scheduled](#) for a village public hearing on Dec. 20
- Reports of [illegal passing](#) of our stopped school buses have increased and we continue to work with our local police to ensure safe passage to and from school. *Drive Safe! And if you See Something; Say Something!*