



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – August 17, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Nearly 250 students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs
- 2021-22 marks the 8 year anniversary of our [i³ Learning Initiative](#) (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) that has reshaped our district learning environment through the responsible incorporation of technology
- The GM STEM Program alignment has been adjusted to move *Drones* to 6th gr. and *Sensor Bot* to 7th gr.
- [NWEA/MAP](#) testing in ELA and Math for grades K-8 is scheduled to begin the week of Aug. 30
- [SB0654](#) (Student Play Time) requires 30 min. of play time in gr. K-5 and awaits the Governor's signature
- [HB0376](#) was signed into law on July 9 as [Public Act 102-0044](#) and, beginning with the 2022-23 school year, requires inclusion of a unit of instruction studying the events of Asian American History and contributions

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.*

- Enrollment on Aug. 12th is 522 at GW, including 112 K students (78 & 85 previous two years), and 380 at GM, (521/522 GW & 363/364 GM at the start of the previous two school years)
- 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 annual Crisis Response Meeting is scheduled for August 26th and will include district stakeholders as well as representatives from Willowbrook Police Dept., Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- The [Capturing Kids' Hearts](#) process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate and [Social Emotional Learning](#) framework remains a focus for ongoing improvement efforts & teacher training
- 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
- Our [COVID-19 diagnostic and screening testing](#) efforts continue with Community-wide screening available from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Aug. 18th at GM and Aug. 19th at GW - Simply park and come in through Door #1! 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.*

- 5th Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 11th & New Student/Bus Orientation at GW was held on Aug. 12th
- The annual Gower Back to School Meet and Greet is scheduled for Aug. 18th from 4-7 p.m. at GW and GM
- Save the dates for our 2020-21 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 26th at GW and Sept. 2nd at GM
- The 2021-22 [Parent-Student Handbook](#) has been posted on the district website under the Parent Info tab
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities/programs
- The Gower Foundation's Summer Read-a-Thon ends 9/17; [Click here](#) to help us reach the 62K minute goal

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

- Our Virtual Summer 2021 professional learning program for certified staff included 40+ teachers across a variety of programs including an option for [Google Certified Educator](#) testing (Level I & Level II)
- New Teacher Orientation was held Aug. 11-13 & Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 17 & 18 with our annual ESP Institute scheduled for Aug. 19th
- District Committee work continued throughout the summer and involved our ELA, GM Social Studies, GM 5th-6th grade Standards Based Grading, Math Intervention, Technology, and School Leadership Teams
- The District's [PERA Committee](#) will meet in Sept. to discuss updates and possible adjustments to the Professional Appraisal Plan based on [Public Act 102-0252](#) signed into law on Aug. 6th

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

- Hiring is completed for the 10.0 certified teacher vacancies and we encourage applicants for our remaining ESP (Education Support Personnel) vacancies; ([Link](#) to apply for remaining vacancies)
- Our school campuses are prepared for the [2021-22 school year](#) and our [Return to School webpage](#) and reopening plan continues to be updated for alignment to all local, state, and federal orders and mandates
- Our [Community Relations \(8:110\)](#) and [Equal Educational Opportunities \(7:10\)](#) policies help ensure that all proposed programs, curriculum, and practices consider and remove any disparities or barriers that may exist, promote equity and cultural competency, and maximize involvement across our community
- 2020-21 End of Year financial reports indicate a surplus across district operating funds of \$116,815 compared to the proposed budget surplus projection of \$107,164 - evidence of solid fiscal management
- The 2021-22 district budget will be available for public viewing from 8/18 to the Board meeting on 9/21