



## Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – January 18, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Mid-year [NWEA MAP](#) testing is underway with growth and progress reports expected in February
- In February, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> gr. students are receiving instruction in mental health and depression awareness through P.E. based on programming from [Erika's Lighthouse](#) and led by Gower Staff
- GM student course selection will begin 2/4 and will include a variety of options aimed at maximizing student choice and expanding the student curriculum experience throughout middle school
- 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 - 5; GM - 3)

**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: 93.0% for our 545 GW students; 96.1% for our 379 GM students; 95.4% for our 93 Certified Staff and 96.1% for our 59 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- [COVID-19 testing](#) over winter break resulted in 400+ community members being tested and helped to identify positive cases and reduce further spread prior to school starting on January 4<sup>th</sup>
- Required staff trainings (Jan. 11) focused on Bullying/Anti-Violence Prevention/Peer Counseling, Anti-Violence Resolution; and Suicide for GM led by Social Workers
- Each of our nine Bus Drivers have completed their annual [Recertification Course](#) (Jan. 12)
- Facilities Update: Final bid packages for construction at GW are scheduled for Board action (1/18) to keep our referendum project on schedule. The [Campus Projects](#) webpage will be updated as progress is made

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) opened on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 Student Council's Hearts at Work and the Gower Foundation's fundraising efforts resulted in a \$2510 donation to the Gower Cares Closet, providing school supplies, clothing, and other items to families in need
- Bring Your Parent to School Day scheduled for Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at GM has been canceled for the 2021-22 school year. GW canceled their event (Oct. 8) and we look forward to hosting these events again next school year
- Save the Date for our Virtual STEM Night (2/10 at 7:00 pm) for students in K-8; more details to come
- 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, Tech Team, Summer School Planning Committee, and GM Student Services
- The January 28<sup>th</sup> Early Release Day will focus on a Mid-Year Check on i3 Goals by Grade Level, specific math instructional strategies at GW and specific questioning strategies at GM.
- District Threat Assessment work continues with GM subcommittee focus on updated protocols/procedures for at risk students (self-harm/suicide prevention/mental health) as part of the Student Services Program
- Gower's certified Crisis Prevention & Intervention ([CPI](#)) trainers have completed all staff trainings to support de-escalation of behavior and keeping students/staff safe per the ISBE requirements
- Gower is well prepared for the Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> DuPage Regional Office of Education compliance visit to review our program that services students through the Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act

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

- The District received additional grant allocations for the [IDEA Consolidated Grant for Preschool](#) (\$580) and the [IDEA Flow Through Grant](#) (\$8,189) for a new total of \$188,388 for the 2021-22 school year
- Gower was awarded a \$50,000 matching funds [School Maintenance & Project Grant](#) by ISBE
- Gower has been awarded a public assistance [FEMA grant](#) in the amount of \$16,000 to offset the costs of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other pandemic related expenses
- Gower administrators are working directly with ISBE officials to help design an efficient renewal process for schools that have formally adopted an [eLearning](#) program (Gower built the initial approval process in 2019)
- Gower administrators are working directly with ISBE officials to ensure clear formatting and reporting strategies for the annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) that are consistent with other states and survey partners
- The administrative review process of the curriculum design, organization of instruction, current class size and bell schedule is underway for 2022-23 staffing/program recommendations expected in Feb/March