



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – May 17, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Spring [NWEA/MAP](#) testing for K-8 is complete and a full report is planned for the June Board Meeting
- The focus on grading practices continues at Gower Middle in preparation for the expansion of Standards Based Grading from 5th to 6th grade, Physical Education, and select Elective courses ([Appendix A](#))
- Preliminary 21-22 [ACCESS](#) scores for student performance in our English Learner Program indicate 11% of our students met the state requirements to exit dedicated support services (19% in 20-21; 13% in 19-20)
- Final plans are underway for our K-7 Gower Summer Learning Opportunities beginning June 6th and will be held at the Gower Middle campus. We have over 150 students enrolled across all programs.
- 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 - 4; 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 552 GW students; 95.2% for our 381 GM students; 94.6% for our 93 Certified Staff and 95.1% for our 59 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) remain at the Medium Risk Level for DuPage County and families are encouraged to cooperate with masking and testing requests when notified of [close contact](#) designation
- The [Willowbrook and Burr Ridge Chamber of Commerce](#) are planning a school supply drive in June/July to support children from Gower 62 and Burr Ridge 180; a [Gower Cares](#) Packing Event will be scheduled
- Required Staff Trainings held on May 10th were focused on Crisis Planning/Revision and led by Principals
- Facilities Update: Work for the Gower West addition is well underway. Our [Campus Project website](#) will continue to be updated throughout the summer and as progress is made

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

- Registration for 2022-23 began on April 14th - use our [registration webpage](#) to complete the process now
- Gower will hold a [Timely and Meaningful Consultation](#) meeting (5/19) for private and home-schooled students in our District as part of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([IDEA](#)) requirements
- Kindergarten Orientation on 5/3 included 75% of registered families excited to begin their journey in the fall. Parent feedback was immediate and highly complementary and appreciative. *Be What You Want to See!*
- The GM Band Concert (5/5) and Spring Musical (5/12 & 5/13) were well-attended and enjoyed by all!!!
- The Willowbrook Cherry Tree Sidewalk Project was funded as part of the [Safe Routes to School Program](#)
- The [Gower PTO](#) hosted a breakfast, a luncheon, and treats for [Teacher Appreciation Week](#) (May 2-6)

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

- 2021-22 District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Parent Student Handbook Committee, Summer School Planning, AT, Special Education, and Innovate 62
- The Parent Student Handbook Committee worked to recommend changes and build a draft for the 2022-2023 school year - A draft handbook is expected for Board review at the June Board Meeting
- Our Teachers were given the opportunity to apply to be a mentor and register for the state-approved mentor training on August 15th/16th; Gower hosts this training every 3-4 years to support our future New Teachers
- Summer committee work is being planned for K-4 Math, 6th grade/Elective course Teachers for Standards Based Grading, GM STEM, and ELL, and ISBE Equity Continuum Journey work-group

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

- GW was named as a [Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase School](#) for the 7th straight year and GM was named for the 1st year! Congratulations to both of our school campuses!
- With both schools recognized this year as Capturing Kids Hearts Showcase Schools, Gower School District has been formally recognized as the first [National CKH Showcase School District](#) in Illinois!
- 2021-22 5-Essentials data indicates overall effectiveness and improvement in targeted areas (report in June)
- Gower was invited to be a featured panelist for the 5th and final part of the [ISBE Equity Journey Continuum](#) webinar series designed for practitioners. The materials and recording for this session can be found [here](#)
- The selection process to fill our two remaining Teacher vacancies for the 2022-23 school year is on-track
- The preliminary FY23 Education Fund budget has been presented to the BOE for review
- The Gower-led [High School Transition Survey](#) administered in partnership with D86 and local K-8 districts, annually from 2015-2020, requires re-evaluation and new consensus building for any future application