



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – November 15, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our 7th gr students participated in a [Substance Abuse Prevention](#) program on 11/18 through Candor Health
- Ten of our 7th and 8th gr. students represented Gower at the 1st Annual [WSCAE Leadership Conference](#) held on 11/4 at the Hodgkins Park District; students presented ideas on how to make GM even better!
- The Illinois State Board of Education released the [2021-22 School Report Cards](#) on 10/27 and they have been linked to the district's [Academic Performance](#) webpage
- 2021-22 ISBE Report Cards include student [IAR](#), School [5Essentials Data](#), and [District Equity Data](#) along with school-based [Annual Summative Designations](#) - GW and GM are both 'Commendable' ([Appendix A](#))
- Gower Middle staff have initiated a review of the master schedule to investigate teaching and learning options for ongoing school improvement efforts. A recommendation for Board adoption is forthcoming

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: 94.0% (95.0%) for our 559 GW students; 95.5% (96.6%) for our 375 GM students; 94.8% (96.2%) for our 94 Certified Staff and 96.2% (97.0%) for our 59 Non-Certified Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required staff training in November is being completed on 11/15 at GW and 11/16 at GM and focused on our English Language Learner program and specific strategies to support our EL students
- Gower paraprofessionals will receive additional training on 11/18 through the LaGrange Area Department of Special Education ([LADSE](#)) on best practice behavior strategies and data collection
- In partnership with Pleasantdale SD 107 & LADSE, eligible students from Gower have the opportunity to participate on a joint Special Olympics Team - This is the 2nd year of this program
- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are at Medium Risk for DuPage County. Families are encouraged to cooperate when notified of *exposure*. COVID-19 testing (along with Flu, Strep, & RSV) is available at both schools free of charge - Visit our [COVID-19 information webpage](#) for more information
- Facilities Update: Visit our [Campus Project website](#) to track progress which is on-schedule for Spring 2023

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

- GW and GM have virtual Parent Teacher Conferences on Nov. 21st from 8 am to 8 pm - parents can sign up for conferences through Pick a Time - Directions have been sent out by school principals
- Gower Middle hosted an Honor Flight for Veterans 5K on 10/20 at the Burr Ridge Park District; on 11/11, both schools had Veterans Day Assemblies that included visits by our veterans to Social Studies classes
- Nov. 22nd [eLearning Day \(Practice Run\)](#) - Students are **not** in person. eLearning activities/assignments will be posted no later than 8:30 a.m. Teachers are "e"vailable for guidance and assistance from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
- The Gower PTO Holiday Bazaar is being planned for early Dec. at Gower West; information forthcoming
- The Willowbrook-Burr Ridge Kiwanis Club is hosting 'Pancakes with Santa' on 12/3 in the GW cafeteria
- Visit the [Gower PTO](#) and [Gower Foundation](#) websites for information on ongoing activities and programs

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, MTSS, Innovate 62, ELL, Music/Band and K-4 Math
- Our November 22nd Institute Day will be an eLearning Day and include required trainings on Title IX, Bloodborne Pathogens, Sexual Harassment, Gang Awareness, and Student Records
- The Nov. 22nd 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 afternoon Professional Learning on 11/18 is district-based and focused on Integrating Technology into the Classroom and led by Innovate 62 committee members

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

- Gower will receive \$9,200 as part of the consortium grant with Hinsdale District 86 to support our English Language Learner program - ISBE approved the grant on 10/18
- Our School Maintenance Project Grant for the 2022-23 school year for \$50,000 was approved by ISBE
- Our annual financial audit for the 2021-22 school year is expected to conclude in Nov. - report forthcoming
- Gower was represented in the keynote address - [An Emerging Framework for Effective Leadership](#) - delivered at the DuPage Division Fall Meeting for the Illinois Association of School Boards on Nov. 2nd
- Gower was represented as a featured panelist with NWEA and UChicago Impact on a nationally broadcast, live webinar, [NWEA and the 5Essentials: Unlocking the Essential Elements of School Improvement](#) held on Nov. 3rd