

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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802-372-6921 • P.O. BOX 54, GRAND ISLE, VT 05458 • WWW.GISU.ORG

7 October 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

Last week I shared with you that the GISU and our member districts were working on a plan that had options to return students to more in-person learning. I shared the complexity of developing this plan as we operate four different schools with four different configurations. This week, I'm pleased to share that we have developed our plan at each of the schools to return K-2 to more in-person learning. Each of the buildings will follow a slightly different schedule; however all schools will have an option to have all of K-2 back no later than November 2, 2020. Below are the dates to return more in-person for each campus:

The date that we will return more in-person learners:			
Alburgh	Folsom	Grand Isle	North Hero
10/19-K	10/26-K-2	10/19-2	10/19-K
10/26-1		10/26-1	10/26-1
10/26-2		11/2-K	10/26-2

There will still be a remote option.

For students and families who need or want a fully remote option it will continue to be available. Once the grade level shifts from a two day a week in-person hybrid learning to a four day a week in-person hybrid learning, students and families will need to choose between the four day a week in-person learning or fully remote learning option (the two day a week in person learning option will no longer be available).

The daily schedule will stay the same.

All of our teachers will continue to teach both the in-person and the remote only students in their classes. In order to support this model we will continue to have a modified schedule on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays. All students will be taught remotely on Wednesdays.

What about grades 3, 4, 5?

Grades 3, 4, and 5 become more complicated. Even applying the adjusted social distancing guidelines of three feet it is likely that some of our classrooms may not be able to return to more in-person learning, with all students, and meet this requirement in all of our schools. Additionally, our grades are configured in different ways in different buildings which has the potential to impact the fifth grade. We are carefully exploring our options for grades 3, 4, and 5 and are looking for creative solutions when

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necessary. Each school will share a plan for bringing back more students to in-person learning in grades 3, 4, 5 no later than November 2, 2020.

What about grades 6, 7, 8?

Grades 6, 7, and 8 do not have adjusted social distancing guidelines at this time. As a result, the 6 foot social distancing requirement remains; and with that requirement in place it is unlikely that we will be able to change the way we operate these grades in a significant way at this time. Further complications include configurations where grades 5 and 6 are taught by the same or a rotation of teachers. While we will continue to examine options at these levels, the community should be aware there are significant challenges in following the guidelines and safety returning these students to more in-person learning.

We know that for some people this plan will be just right, for others there will be a desire to go faster. I hope everyone will agree we need to go at a pace which creates the safest environment for students, faculty, staff, and the community. We are starting to create more in-person learning opportunities for our students who have been identified as needing it the most at a pace which is comparable to most of the other supervisory unions and districts in the Champlain Valley.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility. I hope you appreciate our transparent approach.

Community Meeting

Tonight's Community Meeting will focus on how we are doing with the reopening, our K-2 plan for more in-person learning opportunities, as well as what is going on for grades 3, 4, and 5. As usual there will be a time for community members to ask questions and share their experiences. The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below.

Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 573-349-3062 PIN: 810 989 343#

**Please note tonight's Community meeting will be recorded and posted to the COVID 19 communications section of the GISU website

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From the Vermont Department of Health

COVID-19 Information for Families Return to School Following Illness

What to know if your child gets sick, and when they can return to school. See the [pediatric flow chart \(link is external\)](#) referenced in this document.

The purpose of this tool is to help families and child care programs in figuring out when sick children can return to school or may need a test for this coronavirus. The guidance was developed by the VT Department of Health in collaboration with public health and health care professionals using proven public health principles at a time when community transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 illness in Vermont is extremely low. *It may be revised in response to changing local and state circumstances.*

Travel Reminder: WHEN TO QUARANTINE

In preparation for the upcoming holiday weekend to celebrate Indigenous People's Day, please remember: **Anyone who travels outside of Vermont must follow the Department of Health's guidance around quarantine before returning to school.** Please review the [cross state travel map](#) to determine quarantine requirements based on the area you visited. This map is updated weekly on Tuesdays (formally Fridays) and is populated with raw data from Johns Hopkins University. The Department of Health also has a [FAQ page](#) with answers to many popular questions about traveling or hosting out-of-state visitors in your home. More information is available on the [Vermont Department of Health's COVID-19 travel site](#).

Thank you for working with us to support the GISU mission to ensure all members of the Grand Isle Supervisory Union Learning Community are curious, creative, courageous, and capable of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent