

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

4 November 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

GISU continues to not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in any member district schools. According to the [Vermont Department of Health's School Based COVID-19 website](#) there were 11 new cases of COVID-19 in Vermont schools last week. Overall there have been a total of 39 cases in Vermont schools. At GISU, we continue to work hard to have effective routines, processes, and procedures to keep the virus out of the school; as well as to prevent transmission in case an asymptomatic case does make it into the schools. All students, faculty, staff, community, and administrators continue to stay focused and not let their guards down. Please join me in thanking the Faculty, Staff, Administration, Students, and Community for their hard work.

Leah Costello is a Pediatrician at Timber Lane Pediatrics and has been working with the Champlain Valley School District (CVSD) on their reopening plan. Last week Leah shared [this letter](#) with the CVSD community. It is a powerful letter that talks about how parents and families can help schools so we can stay open and continue to work with students in an in-person environment. This week the Vermont Department of Health published [this toolkit](#) regarding Holiday Travel for Schools. I encourage you to visit the toolkit as well as [Vermont Department of Health's COVID-19 travel site](#) before planning any travel. Here is the [cross state travel map](#) please be aware non-essential travel to almost any county outside of Vermont requires the traveler to quarantine.

The [Winter Sports Guidance](#) was released yesterday. The administrative team and I will be reviewing the guidance at our weekly meeting on Thursday. I anticipate sharing more information about winter sports next week.

The GISU Member School Districts have received very few applications for Free and Reduced meals. Based on a waiver from the USDA that allows all families to receive free meals for all of the 2020-2021 school year, it is imperative that if families think they may qualify for free or reduced meals they complete an application. In addition to receiving meals, our free and reduced membership has an impact on grants we are eligible to apply for and receive. Free and reduced counts are also used in the weighing formula which is used in the formula to calculate our Average Daily Membership (ADM). ADM has a major impact on the local school tax rate. If our free and reduced numbers decrease, our ADM will also decrease and the result will be an increase in the local tax rate. If you have any questions about if you qualify for Free or Reduced lunches please reach out directly to your local school who can provide you with information and an application. We know families are very busy and we thank you in advance for your help with this.

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

Community Meeting

Tonight's Community Meeting will be a general discussion, a conversation about free and reduced meal applications, and will talk about travel. 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, November 4, 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

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