12 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Grand Isle Supervisory Union continues to monitor the evolving situation of COVID-19. We are following the preventative and response guidelines recommended by the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) and the Vermont Agency of Education (VT AOE). Our district’s crisis response teams, which has representation from all five schools and our leadership team, are meeting regularly to discuss new developments of COVID-19. As we look ahead to how concerns may impact the rest of the school year, we are in regular communication with leaders from other districts and state officials and are proactively planning contingency plans should they become necessary based on the guidance of VDH and/or the VT AOE.

On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, the Champlain Valley Superintendents’ Association decided to cancel or postpone all school-sponsored international travel until at least May 1, 2020, based on guidance from the CDC.

On March 11, 2020, health officials announced a second case of novel coronavirus COVID-19 in Vermont. This Chittenden County case is considered presumptive positive, pending confirmation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There are simple things you can do to keep yourself and others healthy:
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you are ill, have symptoms (fever, cough, or shortness of breath), or concerned about your health: Please call your healthcare provider.
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Unrelated to the VDH COVID 19 guidelines we have to postpone our Grand Isle County Music Festival because the three guest conductors have had to withdraw from participating at this time. The GISU music teachers are looking at calendars and trying to identify a way to reschedule the festival prior to the end of the school year. VDH is not currently making a recommendation that events or extracurricular activities be canceled, the GISU will continue to follow this guidance unless it changes.

With these situations changing rapidly, we will continue to solicit information and make subsequent decisions in the best interest of our students and employees. We will continue to update you as information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent
(802) 372-6921