

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

224 US Route 2 Grand Isle, Vermont 05458

P.O. Box 54 Grand Isle, Vermont 05458

Phone: 802-372-6921 Fax: 802-372-4898 Web Site: www.gisu.org

27 July 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

There is a lot of talk regarding the reopening of schools across the nation, throughout the state, and within the Grand Isle Supervisory Union. In the more than 25 years I've been in education I don't believe I've seen a more controversial issue which has caused more division. The commitments GISU has made is that the plan we develop MUST:

- Must be SAFE
- Collaborative
- Follow VT AOE and VT Department of Health Guidance
 - Flexible and responsive to guidance as it evolves
- Translates between in person and remote instruction
- Follows the same parameters as the Continuity of Learning Plan (Safe/Ethical/Equitable)
 - Student-friendly/ Learner-centered
 - Support emotional health & social-emotional learning
 - Developmentally appropriate for students
 - Educationally viable/feasible
 - Supportive of teachers and their social-emotional health
 - Teacher health & safety
 - Fair and equitable for students on IEPs & 504 plans
 - Accommodations & modifications appropriately for students as needed
 - Be mindful of student health needs as well.
 - Ensuring access and equity for all students.
 - Keeping students safe and healthy
- Communication (Two way)

At last week's Community Meeting we provided a high level overview of how the GISU Reopening plan is being developed. How stakeholders had and or will have input. How the plan will be communicated. We reviewed the ABCAB schedule and the rationale for our choice to follow that model. The results of the GISU Family Survey was shared. We also answered specific questions for the more than 90 participants who attended.

At this Wednesday's, July 29, 2020, 6:00 p.m. Community Meeting we will review, in depth, two of the five specific areas of the plan. These two areas are:

- **Safe and Healthy Environments** –based on guidance developed in cooperation with the Department of Health, the VT AOE, school nurses and the other educational organizations;

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and

- **Maintaining Operations** – strategies designed to keep schools open for in-person instruction;

On Wednesday August 5, 2020 the Community Meeting will focus on the remaining three areas of our plan:

- **Continuity of Learning** –improving the ability to provide remote learning as a contingency to in-person instruction;
- **Social and Emotional Health** – systems to support the social and emotional needs of students and staff;
- **Leadership, Policy and Funding** – local school board policies, procedures, budgeting strategies and communications strategies.

A draft of the Safe and Healthy Environments as well as the Maintaining Operations sections of the GISU Opening plan are available [here](#). Please keep in mind this work is in draft form and is subject to change based on feedback from stakeholders and/or changes to guidance from the VT AOE and/or VT Department of Health. In addition, the final plan will likely be organized in a somewhat different format and will be edited to have a similar voice throughout the document (please remember there are five faculty and staff committees doing this work). It is also important to remember, the GISU plan is developed at a high level in order to allow some degree of flexibility for individual schools to create the best plans for them locally while also creating a level of similarity and equity across the entire Grand Isle Supervisory Union.

With all of this in mind, the leads for the Safe and Healthy Environments and Maintaining Operations Committees and I look forward to reviewing those sections of the plan with you Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with the Google Meet information below:

The Google Meet information for these forums is below. We hope you will join us.

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi

[Join by phone](#)

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

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I am committed to continuing a weekly Superintendent's Meeting every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m., like I did during the dismissal in the spring, for at least as long as the GISU is in a Hybrid or Remote learning environment and hope you will consider joining me regularly.

Thank you for what you do to support the GISU mission to ensure all members of the Grand Isle Supervisory Union Learning Community are curious, creative, courageous, and capable in a diverse and ever-changing world. I appreciate being a part of the Island Community which supports one another. Nowhere else is the statement "We are in this together" more true than it is here, in Grand Isle County.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent