

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

26 August 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

It is great to have the faculty and staff back from the summer. Our first inservice day of the 2020-2021 school year was Thursday August 20, 2020. We focused on reviewing the [GISU Reopening Plan](#) as well as learning about tools and techniques to enhance learning and teaching in hybrid and remote learning environments. Teachers and support staff are working hard between now and September 8, 2020 to:

- Learn about and refine the local protocols to keep students, faculty and staff safe,
- Create and refine curriculum and lesson plans to be effective in for both in-person and remote learners in synchronous and asynchronous environments,
- Design and create online videos of classroom expectations and procedures,
- Prepare classrooms and the school environment for the upcoming year,
- Attend IEP and 504 meetings,
- Hold digital meet and greets.

With all of the new expectations you can imagine this is a lot of work. If you would like to send along words of encouragement all of our employees emails are built using the employees first initial followed by last name @gisu.org (i.e. my address is mclark@gisu.org). I'm proud of the work we are doing and appreciate the dedication of our faculty, staff and administration.

The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below. I'll be sharing a little how inservice went, sharing and congratulating our two UVM Outstanding Teachers, and will have time to answer any questions community members may have.

Wednesday August 26, 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#

If you are interested in viewing any of the three meetings which reviewed the GISU Strong and Healthy Start Reopening Plan the links to the Google Meet recordings are available [here](#).

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Congratulations to our UVM Outstanding Teachers Andrew Riegler and Susan Trowbridge!

We announced our two UVM Outstanding Teachers of the Year on Thursday August 20, 2020 at the GISU inservice.

“Andrew Riegler, or "Rigs" as the students affectionately call him, is a passionate, engaging foundational constant within Folsom. He is always engaged in supporting students and colleagues alike. His enthusiasm and commitment to meeting the needs of every child is obvious to those around him and he uses every opportunity to support. During lunch, Andrew isn't found in a quiet space or in the teacher's lounge - he is eating alongside kids, being a mentor, and developing positive and meaningful relationships with students - well beyond the expectations or requirements of teacher contracts. If one wanders into the gymnasium during PE Class, Andrew will be found actively engaging with every activity asked of kids. He joins, invites, and includes everyone at their level and is authentically enthusiastic in helping all students succeed. He is genuine, welcoming, supportive, and inclusive of all students - advocating for those potentially marginalized. He is just an amazing colleague and teacher!”

and

“Susan Trowbridge is a treasure! Susan came to the Alburgh School two years ago but she has made her mark in this short time. She brought to us a wealth of experience in the area of English Language arts as well as a breadth of life experience. Susan is calm, flexible, and knowledgeable. She is easily inspired and inquisitive to new ideas and practices and she has the unique ability to quietly make change where change is needed. She has an arsenal of techniques and practices to meet the varying needs of students. Susan has a wonderful ability to make connections with students. She garners their attention and respect. Students love her and are so excited to see her every day. Susan often invites students to her classroom for special projects or to help them with work or if they just need someone to talk with them. The students know this about her and she is able to build very strong relationships with all students. She makes them feel special and her students make significant gains. Susan gives of her time to help out in any way possible whether it is with teachers, parents, administration, or students. I highly recommend Susan Trowbridge for Outstanding Teacher of the Year. We are blessed to work beside her each day.”

Franklin and Grand Isle Counties Superintendent's ReOpening PSA (In case you missed it last week.)

The four Franklin County Superintendents and I worked together to create [this PSA about reopening of school](#) and some important things to remember. It was fun to put together and I hope you enjoy it. It's also clear I probably should not try for an acting career anytime soon!

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Reminders.....

Facemasks Will Be Required

Based on the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Agency of Education Guidance all students, faculty, and staff will be required to wear a cloth face covering when inside the building. Students should come to school with two cloth masks. Please help your child practice wearing a cloth mask now. If you believe your student can not wear a cloth mask/facial covering, please contact our District School Nurse, Emily Dousevicz at edousevicz@gisu.org.

Masks/Facial coverings will be provided by the school for students who can not provide their own.

First Day for Students

Per Governor Scott's order the First Student Day of the 2020-2021 school year will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Please be aware that depending on actions taken by the Vermont Legislature our 2020-2021 school calendar may need to change. We will keep you up to date as we have more information.

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 in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent