

# 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](http://www.gisu.org)

3 August 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

This Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m., we will hold our Community Google Meet and will focus on the final three sections of our reopening plan:

- **Learning and Instruction Team** –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.

The written draft of these sections is available at [this link](#) (sections G, H, I, and J). 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.

All the decisions we are making must meet the following criteria:

- 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

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- 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 the Wednesday, July 29, 2020, Community Meeting we reviewed:

- **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;

and

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

A recording of that meeting is available on the GISU website [here](#).

With all of this in mind, the leads for the Social Emotional Learning, Learning Instruction Team, Leadership/Policy/Funding, and I look forward to reviewing those sections of the plan with you Wednesday, August 5, 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](https://meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi)

[Join by phone](#)

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

## **School Start Date Delayed Until at Least September 8, 2020 by Governor Scott**

Last week Governor Scott announced that he would be making an executive order that public schools in Vermont not start with students until at least September 8, 2020. The Governor indicated he is making this decision to allow more time for schools to plan and prepare for a safe start. This [WCAX story](#) did a nice job explaining the Governor's decision. At GISU we are

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looking at what this decision specifically means and how it will impact the approved GISU calendar. I expect there will be more details to come in the next couple of weeks.

GISU will continue to have a weekly Superintendent's Meeting every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m., like we 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 us 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.

Sincerely,

*Michael J. Clark*

Michael J. Clark  
Grand Isle Supervisory Union  
Superintendent