

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

16 July 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, & Community members,

I hope your summer is going well. We know the plan for reopening schools is on everyone's mind. We continue to work on our Grand Isle Supervisory Union plan and our Community Forums scheduled for July 22, and 29; which we hope you will attend and are on track to happen (please see the end of this letter for details). This letter will preview some of what we know about reopening at this point.

Based on modeling done by the principals in each building, we have determined it is not possible to return all students full time to the buildings simultaneously and follow the step II guidance "Space seating/desks and bedding (head-to-toe positioning) to at least 6 feet apart" (Page 14 of the Strong and Healthy Start Guidance).

On Wednesday July 15, 2020, the Agency of Education released [new guidance on hybrid and remote learning possibilities](#) which are supported by VT Law and Regulations. Therefore GISU must consider a hybrid model of instruction. We have considered many hybrid options; and on July 14, 2020 we met with the Faculty and Staff of all schools to examine three different sensible hybrid schedules. I'm pleased to share that more than 70 faculty and staff members attended the meeting.

The most important goal we have is to ensure the safety of students while balancing their educational needs. We also thought it was important that any schedule we adopted was predictable to allow families to plan for work and childcare. The schedule we are planning to adopt is a hybrid schedule that divides the students into two cohorts. Students will access schooling both in person and remote learning ways. Half the students will attend in person learning on A-Days, the other half on B-Days. All students will attend school remotely on C-Day and when not participating in person. We anticipate a rotation that looks like ABCAB. This schedule will allow us to practice social distancing within the guidelines, will keep cross contamination of the cohorts to a minimum, allow for appropriate cleaning measures, provide a predictable schedule, keep the time between in person days to a minimum, allow for robust in person and remote learning and teaching. We know this schedule is not perfect however given the parameters we need to operate under it is the best choice. The other two schedules we considered but determined were less desirable than this schedule included:

1. A half day schedule where students were divided into two cohort groups and one cohort attended in the morning and the other cohort attended in the afternoon. In the end we decided this model exposes students, faculty, and staff to more opportunities each day

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to come into contact with virus, would create additional transportation issues, would lose instructional time to transitions and would require families to provide childcare everyday.

2. The other schedule was an AACBB schedule. Ultimately we were concerned that with this model students had two days of in person learning followed by five consecutive days away from in person learning.

The next step in our process is to survey families about some important parts of what our plan needs to include. We anticipate this survey being available Monday, July 20th or sooner and we will ask for a short turnaround time to complete it.

Again please know an important component of our opening plan is for the community to learn what we are planning and to provide feedback for us to consider. As a part of the planning process, we will hold Google Meet Community Forums. The first two forums will be on Wednesday, July 22, and 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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#

Thank you in advance for helping to ensure all members of the GISU learning community are curious, creative, courageous, and capable of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever changing world. We hope to see you at the end of July.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

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Grand Isle Supervisory Union

Superintendent