

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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14 October 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

Fall is certainly here. I hope families are getting an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors with the fantastic weather. It will not be long and winter will be here. I'm pleased to share that our students, faculty, and staff continue to do well with our new routines, procedures, and practices related to keeping our schools safe for everyone. It is really important that we stay vigilant as it appears cases of the virus are increasing. No doubt you heard in either the [news](#) or from the Governor's press conference yesterday that there are currently five Vermont Schools which have cases of COVID in them. These include South Burlington High School, Williston Central School, Essex Elementary, as well as schools in Windsor and Manchester. So far the really good news is the routines, procedures, and practices these schools implemented (which are similar to what we have implemented) have prevented transmission from happening within those schools. My thoughts are with these communities and I'm hopeful they will continue to experience good news given the current situation.

Last week I shared with you that the GISU and our member districts have created a plan that has options to return students to more in-person learning. The complexity of this plan is amplified by the fact that we operate four different schools with four different configurations. The plan we have developed at each of the schools to return K-2 to more in-person learning is below:

The date that we will return more in-person learners:			
Alburgh	Folsom	Grand Isle	North Hero
10/19-K		10/19-2	10/19-K
10/26-1	10/26-K-2	10/26-1	10/26-1
10/26-2		11/2-K	10/26-2

There will still be a remote option ([Details are available here](#)).

The daily schedule will stay the same ([Details are available here](#)).

The Plan for Grades 3, 4, 5, 6 Coming by November 2, 2020 for each school?

Last week the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Agency of Education produced additional [Interim Guidance](#) which added sixth grade students to K-5 reduction in guidelines of social distancing from six feet to three feet. Even applying the adjusted social distancing guidelines of three feet it is likely that some of our classrooms may not be able to return to more in-person learning, with all

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students, and meet this requirement in all of our schools. Additionally, our grades are configured in different ways in different buildings which has the potential to impact the fifth grade. We are carefully exploring our options for grades 3, 4, 5, 6 and are looking for creative solutions when necessary. Each school will share a plan for bringing back more students to in-person learning in grades 3, 4, 5, 6 no later than November 2, 2020.

While we continue to look for ways to have more in-person learning for grades 7 & 8, given the current social distancing guidelines it is looking unlikely ([Details are available here](#)).

We know that for some people this plan will be just right, for others there will be a desire to go faster. The current cases in Vermont Schools highlight why it is so important that we continue to go at a pace which ensures the safest environment for students, faculty, staff, and the community. We thank you for your understanding and flexibility. I hope you appreciate our transparent approach.

Community Meeting

Tonight's Community Meeting will be a general update. As usual there will be a time for community members to ask questions and share their experiences. The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below.

Wednesday, October 14, 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#

**Please note tonight's Community meeting will be recorded and posted to the COVID 19 communications section of the GISU website

Travel Reminder: WHEN TO QUARANTINE

As families start to plan for the holidays and any weekend travels, please remember: **Anyone who travels outside of Vermont must follow the Department of Health's guidance around quarantine before returning to school.** Please review the [cross state travel map](#) to determine quarantine requirements based on the area you visited. This map is updated weekly on Tuesdays (formally Fridays) and is populated with raw data from Johns Hopkins University. The Department of Health also has a [FAQ page](#) with answers to many popular questions about traveling or hosting

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out-of-state visitors in your home. More information is available on the [Vermont Department of Health's COVID-19 travel site](#).

Flu Clinics:

In case you missed it, last week information went home to families about flu clinics for students. If you did not see the specifics I encourage you to reach out directly to your school's health or main office. Currently the dates for the clinics are below. It is important to know that in order for students to participate parents or guardians will have needed to complete and return the paperwork ASAP.

Alburgh: Monday: 10/19 (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.), Tuesday 10/20 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

North Hero: Tuesday: 10/20 (9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.), Thursday 10/22 (12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Grand Isle: Tuesday: 10/20 (10:30 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.), Thursday 10/22 (1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)

Folsom: Tuesday: 10/27 (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.), Thursday 10/29 (12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

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 of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent