

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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

24 March 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

Throughout March I've been having conversations with different stakeholders about returning as many students to in-person learning as possible while keeping students, faculty, staff, and the community safe. I've highlighted that we do this by following the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Agency of Education Guidelines; and that **the number one limiting guideline which currently holds us back from having more students participating in-person learning is spacing guidelines.** I've devoted the Weekly Community Meeting time to hearing from the community about this important topic and tonight will be the fourth meeting I've devoted to this topic. So far, feedback from the community has been pretty light and I'd love to have more feedback from parents. **Please keep in mind it is not possible to make any changes unless and until the VDH and VT AOE guidelines change.**

I would also like to hear directly from students on this important topic and plan to devote the April 7, 2021 Community meeting to providing a forum for students to share directly with me. I hope you will spend some time between now and then talking with you children about what they hope can happen for the rest of the year and then join the community meeting with them on April 7 (remember the community meeting google meet link and telephone number is always the same).

Covid-19 Cases in Vermont Schools

Based on the Vermont Department of Health [March 21, 2021 update to the Covid-19 Cases In Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious Document](#) there were 85 confirmed cases of Covid 19 in Vermont schools in the last 7 days. This 7 day period represents more than 10% of the total (846) confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Vermont schools over the entire year. This is a concerning spike. As you can see from the document above, there have been significant increases in the number of confirmed cases in school districts around us. While GISU has had relatively few cases of learning community members being infectious while at school, we are aware of students who have tested positive for Covid-19 while not being infectious in school. Please remember in keeping with our procedures and for medical privacy reasons we only notify the community of confirmed cases when a learning community member was infectious at school. However, we always follow our routines, procedures, and practices to keep students, faculty, staff, and the community safe.

Covid-19 Cases in Grand Isle County

Confirmed Covid-19 case totals continue to be on the high end of what Grand Isle County has experienced over the last year. Based on today's [Vermont Department of Health Covid-19 Dashboard](#) there were 27 confirmed cases of Covid 19 in Grand Isle County over the last 14 days. It is important that we all follow the guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus.

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Reminder

Another important thing the GISU is working on is a proficiency based report card. At our February 3, 2021 Community Meeting, [Megan Grube the GISU Curriculum Director shared a proficiency grading presentation](#). Our new report card is a proficiency based report card and tells about the most important learning for a grade and the students most recent progress. This is different from averaging across multiple assignments. Think of this like your driver's test; your successful parallel parking on with the test instructor is what counts; it doesn't matter if you had 20 or 200 unsuccessful practice attempts with your driver's education instructor. [Please see this letter for more information](#). We will devote next week's, March 31, 2021, Community Meeting to getting feedback about the GISU new report card.

Community Meeting

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The link and telephone number for this week's community meeting are below. I plan to talk about vaccinations, guidelines, and implications of possibly changing our education model. There will be a time in the meeting for community members to share their perspective and hopes, as well as to ask questions.

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi

Join by phone

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

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