

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

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

31 March 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

I'd like to thank the community members who have come to a community meeting in March or sent an email to me sharing their thoughts about what they hope schooling will look like when we return from break in April. As you might expect there is a vast array of feedback. This includes:

- People who would like to be in-person learning 5 days a week.
- Others shared how important the remote only option is and asked that we be sure to keep that option available.
- Still more thought that what we are doing right now is working and why would we change with such a short period of time between April Break and the end of the year.

What is clear is no matter what decision we make some community members will be disappointed while others will be happy.

At this point we are waiting for the updated guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education and Department of Health. We anticipate this guidance will be released at the end of this week or sometime next week. Once any new guidance is released, we will review it to determine if any changes are possible and if they make sense.

I 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 your children about what they hope can happen for the rest of the year. I encourage you to join the community meeting with them on April 7 so we can ensure to collect student feedback as well (remember the community meeting google meet link and telephone number is always the same).

At the April 14, 2021 Community meeting we will share what we are thinking the plan for school will be when we return from April Break.

Covid-19 Cases in Vermont Schools

Based on the Vermont Department of Health [March 28, 2021 update to the Covid-19 Cases In Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious Document](#) there were 111 confirmed cases of Covid 19 in Vermont schools in the last 7 days. This 7 day period represents a **31% increase over the 7 days before** (85 cases) and **is more than 11% of the total (959) confirmed cases of Covid-19 in**

Vermont schools over the entire year. This is a concerning spike. As you can see from the document linked 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 31 confirmed cases of Covid 19 in Grand Isle County over the last 14 days. This is a **13% increase** over 27 cases from last week's letter.

As you can see, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools throughout Vermont and specifically in the communities of Grand Isle County are increasing.

It is important that we all follow the guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus. I urge everyone to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by following these recommendations:

- Making sure you and your child are wearing a mask.
- Making sure you and your child are washing your hands.
- Maintaining 6 ft of physical distancing.
- Staying home and keeping your child home if you or your child are sick.
- Calling your primary care provider if you or your child have symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID-19 symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. The [Vermont Department of Health's Website](#) has lots of information about best practices related to COVID-19.

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Community Meeting

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The link and telephone number for this week's community meeting are below. Tonight's meeting is an opportunity for the community to provide feedback about the new GISU report card which was just used. These resources may help the community understand the reasons for the change:

[Megan Grube the GISU Curriculum Director shared a proficiency grading presentation](#)

And

[Please see this letter for more information.](#)

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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