

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

14 April 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

I am very proud of the work our teachers, support staff, administrators, students, parents, and community members are doing. The work everyone is doing supports each other to ensure that all members of the GISU learning community are curious, creative, courageous, and capable of pursuing their aspirations in a diverse and ever-changing world is impressive. I'm thankful to be a part of such a thoughtful community. This week's community letter summarizes some of the important things we have accomplished in less than a month. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and flexibility.

April Break:

Based on the [guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education](#) we will follow our approved calendar for the remainder of the year. This means that we do have an April vacation the week of April 20th. Secretary French specifically cited, "Since teachers are contracted to work a finite number of instructional days each school year, it is important to follow April vacations as scheduled in order to preserve the potential option for implementing in-person instruction for students later this spring if the public health conditions relative to COVID-19 support such a decision". GISU will continue to have food deliveries and will follow our regular two days per week schedule.

GISU Facebook Page:

GISU has revived our [Grand Isle Supervisory Union Facebook page](#). In addition to sending information through our school-specific channels, we will share and reshare information using this page. We hope you will like our page the next time you visit Facebook and invite you to share and comment on our posts.

Continuity of Learning Plan Update:

The GISU [Continuity of Learning Plan](#) was submitted to the Vermont Agency of Education last week. Our plan is a detailed document that addresses all aspects of transitioning to a remote learning and teaching environment. We have also created a [Continuity of Learning at a Glance](#), which is a parent and community-friendly document, that boils our 40-page Continuity of Learning Plan down to a one-page document. This document shares our commitment to maintaining a connection to the school, learning, and supports for our students. Both of these documents are available at www.gisu.org in the [Superintendent COVID 19 Communications](#) section.

Free WiFi Update:

Making sure students have access to the internet is one of our priorities. Our GISU IT department has been working hard to make the internet more accessible to the community throughout the Islands. As I mentioned last week, they have already made access to our WIFI available to the

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community by installing an access point to the Grand Isle School parking lot. Community members can now drive into the Grand Isle School school parking lot and receive a strong WIFI connection without leaving their car. This is the same filtered high-speed WIFI that the community previously was able to access in the building. We continue to work on a similar setup at the Alburgh Community Education Center and hope to have it working soon. This Wednesday (April 15) we are partnering with Microsoft and the Vermont Department of Public Service to install internet hot spots at the Isle La Motte, North Hero, and Folsom Schools. There are many more free hotspots listed on the [state's website for free access points](#). We will continue to look for more opportunities to provide access for students and community members.

Community Google Hangout:

As a reminder, every Wednesday evening- for the remainder of the year- I've scheduled an opportunity to talk with community members who have questions, concerns, or just want to talk via a Superintendent/Community Google Hangout. The next Hangout is Wednesday, April 15, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The direct link is [here \(meet.google.com/mfk-tgru-jsb\)](https://meet.google.com/mfk-tgru-jsb) for the video conference or by phone, (US)+1 720-443-4755 PIN: 833 988 352#. I hope you will consider joining me (There is capacity for up to 250 participants). The next Community Hangout will be April 29, 2020.

Maintenance of Learning Survey:

We are interested in getting some formal feedback from our community about how we did during the maintenance of learning phase of the school dismissal. Please remember during the maintenance of learning phase, the Governor's order directed schools to provide learning opportunities to maintain what students had already learned. The second part of the order held schools responsible to prepare for continuity of learning (i.e. new learning) and submit a Continuity of Learning Plan to the VTAOE. The third part of the order was to provide meal delivery for children throughout the school district. Please take three minutes and complete [this brief survey](#).

Once again I have to share how proud I am of our faculty, staff, students, and community. It is amazing how much has happened in such a short period of time! We appreciate your flexibility. We will get through this together. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out anytime.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent