

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

26 May 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, & Community members,

For Educators, Memorial Day Weekend marks an important time for educators. The weather in Vermont is starting to get a lot nicer; and students start getting excited about being able to be outside and some well deserved time away from school for the summer. Educators begin to help start the transition into next year for students. It is a time of celebration, a time to look forward, but also a time to look back. We know this year's transition is going to be different and we are working on ways to help it be memorable. I can imagine that learning from home is becoming more challenging and I want you to know it's a normal part of the yearly cycle of school. I also want to remind you of something I shared at the very start of the Governor's Dismissal; **The most important thing you can do is make sure your children feel safe and loved.** There are only 12 days left in this school year, the feelings your child has about learning during this time is much more important than what they learn. I, for one, hope that the last two and a half months are unique and although it is possible if a spike of the virus happens we may be back in dismissal, for now, let's hope it doesn't. What stories will your children tell their children about this time in their lives? I'll bet it will be that goofy fun thing you did or the time you took to teach them something you are passionate about. I make the same promise to you today as I did at the start: We have awesome teachers in the Grand Isle Supervisory Union who know there will be gaps in knowledge and skills as a result of this dismissal. Our teachers are ready to fill in those gaps when students return; we have been doing that for years. What we have a much harder time helping to fix is when a student is struggling to learn because they don't feel safe or maybe loved. Take today to help create the memory you child will carry with them about this time in their life. I promise we are in this together. Thank you for your hard work.

End of the year

Schools across Vermont have been directed to follow their calendar. For us this means the last student day is June 11, 2020. We did have three snow days; however because we still have 175 days of school our school boards have the ability to waive the snow day make up and each of the local boards have done so. I believe you will see the volume of work start to decrease over the next couple of weeks. During the week of June 8, we will be holding conferences between students, parents, and teachers to talk about the learning over the dismissal. I anticipate you will be contacted by your individual schools with more details soon.

Summer Programs

The GISU Leadership team has considered all of the guidance from the Agency of Education and the Vermont Department of Health; including guidance on what it takes to open a program

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with health and safety first and foremost. At this time, we believe that the level of health risk combined with the lack of available personal protective equipment and potentially cleaning supplies prevents us from making decisions that can ensure student and staff safety. As it relates to potential summer programming, plans need to be in place immediately despite the fact that guidance and health dynamics continue to shift. Additionally, we are unable to acquire appropriate PPE for students and staff in order to ensure the safety of individuals under all circumstances. For these reasons we do not plan to offer in-person summer programming (we are still considering remote options for tutoring and extended school year services). We believe access to the buildings by the public will also need to continue to be limited at least until less restrictive guidance is in place. We remain committed to the food program and are looking for options to be able to continue.

We know that the summer program is a valued part of what we provide to our communities and regret that we are unable to provide these services for the reasons above. We believe that it is best for us to concentrate our energy and resources to safely opening school in the fall; as well as preparing for temporary dismissal(s) should they become necessary next school year.

Community Google Hangout:

Every Wednesday evening- for the remainder of the school 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. **This week's Hangout is Wednesday, May 27, 2020, beginning at 6:00 p.m.** The information to join the meeting is below:

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/zjt-wtrn-gxt

[Join by phone](#)

+1 267-406-0736 PIN: 522 195 497#

The next Community Hangout will be June 3, 2020.

Important Reminders From Nurse Emily

Testing for Covid-19: Covid-19 testing is now available for all Vermont adults and children who exhibit even mild symptoms. Contact your primary care doctor for a referral to get tested. If you don't have a primary MD, call 2-1-1 for referral.

Schedule Pediatrician Appointments!: The local pediatrician offices have been working diligently to make it safe for routine appointments with your child's doctor. Now is a great time to

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call and schedule those annual physicals which are important for routine screening, immunizations needed for school, and sports physicals.

Masks: Slow the spread of Covid-19 by wearing a mask when in public places. It's important to still maintain 6 feet of distance from others, even when wearing a mask. The CDC recommends everyone (over the age of 2) wear masks in public locations. Wearing masks helps prevent the spread from people who don't know they are contagious, as many people who have Covid-19 do not look or feel ill.

Social Distancing (Physical Distancing):

"I'll protect you, you protect me."

- Stay home as much as possible, go out only for essentials.
- Wear a face covering when you go out around others.
- Keep 6 feet away from others.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent