

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

16 September 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

We have had a very successful first week of hybrid learning. There were minor hiccups- like the health screenings taking a little longer than expected- however, all things considered, things went smoothly and we expect as time goes on to continue ironing out any wrinkles. I'd like to thank the faculty, staff, administration, students, parents, guardians, caregivers, and community for all the work we have done together to make this work. Our hard work and planning over the summer really paid off. When I talk to superintendents from other communities it is clear to me that the sense of community in the Islands is as strong or stronger than anywhere in Vermont. The passion and commitment everyone has shown for ensuring that students, faculty, staff, and the community are as safe as possible while balancing the educational needs of all students is inspiring. I appreciate that I get to be a part of this community.

Community Meeting

Tonight's Community meeting will focus on asking you: What worked during the first week? What challenges were there? As well as an opportunity to ask questions. The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below.

Wednesday, September 9, 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#

If you are interested in viewing any of the three meetings which reviewed the GISU Strong and Healthy Start Reopening Plan the links to the Google Meet recordings are available [here](#).

If you would like to review the [GISU Reopening Plan](#) as well as any of the school-specific plans for the [Alburgh Community Education Center](#), the [Grand Isle School Campus](#), the [North Hero School Campus](#), or the [Folsom School](#), please click on the links. Please reach out to your classroom teacher or principal for school-specific questions or me for supervisory union questions at any time. We are always happy to help!

UVM Preservice Educator Partnership

It is official, the GISU and UVM Education Department are partnering to provide more opportunities for GISU students to be supported in their remote learning and to provide opportunities for UVM preservice educators (mostly college juniors) to observe veteran teachers as well as practice instructional techniques with students. Approximately 60 UVM preservice educators will work in pairs in partnership with GISU Teachers who volunteered to support the project. The UVM preservice educators will support students and teachers in a variety of ways like: holding office hours, checking in with students and providing support when teachers are instructing in person, delivering small group instruction or

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

extension activities as directed by the teacher, collaborating to create engaging content, support remote learners by logging on to the class with them as well as support learners who are in person, and many more. In addition to the 60 UVM students we will be working with a team of UVM faculty who are experts in their field to refine and enhance our remote learning opportunities. To the best of my knowledge, this program is unique and a very innovative way of supporting elementary and middle school students as well as providing opportunities for college students to prepare for their student teaching experiences in their senior year. If your classroom teacher is participating in the program they will likely communicate directly with their class. We are also working with a small group of UVM preservice educators who are sophomores on a more infrequent basis. More to come on that project as it develops.

2020-2021 Calendar

You'll recall that there is legislation being considered in Montpelier to reduce the mandatory number of student days from 175 to 170. If this passes our [2020-2021 GISU calendar](#) will not need to be adjusted to meet the mandatory number of student days. It appears that the legislation has the support to pass and I'll keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Reopening article in the Islander

This week's Islander features a nice article about the reopening of school. If you like to read it you can find it [here](#).

What Can Parents Expect

This is a short three-page reopening flyer from the Vermont Department of Health titled [What Can Parents Expect](#). It has a lot of helpful information including on page 3 "What will happen is there is a case of COVID-19 in schools."

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 in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Clark

Michael J. Clark
Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Superintendent