

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

2 September 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

The mornings are getting a little more brisk and it is starting to feel like it's time for school to start. We have worked all summer long planning to safely welcome students back in the building as well as ensuring we have robust learning opportunities for our remote and hybrid students on their remote days. We have our personal protective equipment and our new practices and protocols in place. I invite you 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 reach out to your classroom teacher or principal for school-specific questions or me for supervisory union questions any time. We are always happy to help!

The access to the Superintendent's weekly Community Meeting is available below. I'll be sharing news about the exciting opportunity the GISU has with UVM and it's preservice teachers described later in this letter. I'll also have a question and answer session for any questions people may have.

Wednesday, September 2, 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](#).

UVM Preservice Teacher Remote Support Opportunity

The Grand Isle Supervisory Union has been presented with a unique opportunity to support remote learning (for both hybrid and remote only students) through a partnership with The University of Vermont and their pool of pre-service teachers. This opportunity has the potential to offer any

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

classroom a pair of pre-service teachers to work remotely, in a synchronous way, with students Monday through Thursday from 8:00-11:30 (and to potentially volunteer in the afternoons and on Fridays).

Currently, 90 GISU member district students have identified themselves as starting the year in a fully remote way. The addition of a pair of UVM pre-service teachers has the potential to more immediately support students and families, supporting students as well as reducing teacher workload. While not exhaustive, and dependent on teacher comfort, examples of the kinds of supports the pre-service teachers could provide include:

- Hold office hours
- Be assigned a caseload of students to check in with (academic or social-emotional or both)
- Deliver small group instruction or extension as directed by the teacher
- Collaborate in content creation
- Support remote learners on their synchronous days by logging on to the class with them as well as support learners who are in person.
- Create review materials and extension activities;
- Provide small group instruction to reteach or fill in gaps;
- Spend time with an assigned student or a small group for tutoring or remedial learning;
- Develop short, content-focused videos on essential topics for review and to fill gaps during times spent in online instruction;
- Monitor small groups, either in person or in breakout rooms;

The preservice teachers are all juniors and seniors in UVM's educator preparatory programs. We will be working with Barbara Burrington, UVM's Director of Field Study, and her team of UVM faculty members who would be responsible for supervising the pre-service teachers. Megan Grube will head up this project on the GISU side.

We are very excited about the possibilities and are working with teachers to maximize this opportunity. I'll keep you informed as updates become available.

GISU Health Office

Important Information:

Daily Health Screenings: All GISU students/families and staff should monitor their health daily for COVID-19 exposure and possible symptoms. All GISU students and staff will be screened upon entry

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

to all school buildings. The Daily Health Screening/Check will include having their temperature taken and answering a few questions about COVID-19 symptoms and exposure.

GISU Exclusion/Inclusion Policy:

Students (and staff) will be excluded from in-person school activities and require immediate pick-up at school if they exhibit any of the symptoms consistent with COVID-19 High Risk Symptoms.

COVID-19 symptoms include the following: (Cough, Fever (100.4 or greater), Shortness of Breath, Chills, Fatigue, Muscle Pain or Body Aches, Headache, Sore Throat, Loss of Taste or Smell, Congestion or Runny Nose, Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea - diarrhea is defined as frequent loose or watery stools compared to child's normal pattern)

Other exclusion signs and symptoms that may or may not be related to COVID-19: (active vomiting, diarrhea, and/or abdominal pain, nasal congestion and/or yellow drainage, sore throat, Unexplained muscle or body aches, headaches, or fatigue, fever or chills (temp greater than 100.4), rash - undiagnosed or untreated skin condition)

Students should be excluded from school until they are no longer considered contagious. Students and staff with fever greater than 100.4°F and no specific diagnosis should remain at home until they have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications (e.g., Advil, Tylenol). A physician's note may be requested for re-entry.

COVID-19 Response:

The GiSU Health Team is working closely with the Vermont Department of Health and local healthcare providers to follow the COVID-19 Pediatric Flowchart which outlines triage and response. The team will identify high risk COVID-19 cases based on symptoms, close contacts and high-risk travel and will respond appropriately. Based on this flowchart, they may require follow-up with your healthcare provider before your student may return to school.

Student Health Forms:

If you have not already done so, please fill out your student's 2020-2021 Health Form and return to the Health Office. If you have any questions, please contact the health office as soon as possible.

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

Medications:

Please contact the Health Office to schedule a time to drop off all student medication including inhalers, epi-pens and other prescription medications. In addition, please contact your healthcare providers to fax all medication orders to the school office. As a reminder, parents/guardians are not permitted in the school buildings.

Face Coverings/Mask Use:

All students are required to wear face masks and should come to school each morning wearing a mask beginning the first day of school.

There will be an ample supply of disposable masks available at school for those who forget or need a clean mask.

Cloth masks should be labeled washed frequently. Students should have a spare mask in their backpack in case the one they arrive at school wearing becomes wet or soiled.

There are a few students who for medical or mental health reasons cannot physically wear a mask. In these cases, we will need a signed form from the health care or mental health provider on file in the health office. We want to do everything we can to assist your child in wearing a facial covering in school. This protects your child and those around them.

GISU DISTRICT NURSE
Emily Dousevicz, RN
edousevicz@gisu.org

ALBURGH Health Assistant
Kim Fitzgerald
kfitzgerald@gisu.org

NORTH HERO
Joann Tier (Emily Dousevicz)
jtierr@gisu.org
edousevicz@gisu.org

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION

CURIOUS | CREATIVE | COURAGEOUS | CAPABLE

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

GRAND ISLE Health Assistant
Julie Elkins
jelkins@gisu.org

FOLSOM Health Assistant
Jenny Brownell
jbrownell@gisu.org

Reminders.....

First Day for Students

Per Governor Scott's order the First Student Day of the 2020-2021 school year will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Please be aware that depending on actions taken by the Vermont Legislature our 2020-2021 school calendar may need to change. We will keep you up to date as we have more information.

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