

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

11 August 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians & Community members,

Over the last three Wednesday evenings the GISU has reviewed and received feedback about our Strong and Healthy Reopening Plan with the community. Each of the sessions had eighty or more community members in attendance. The current draft of our plan is available [here](#). The plan is being formatted and reviewed for grammatical editing on 8/11 and 8/12. When this process is complete it will be posted to the COVID-19 Communications section of the GISU website. The GISU Strong and Healthy Reopening Plan will be updated regularly to reflect new and changing guidance as well as best practices. This Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. (and every Wednesday that we are in a Hybrid or Remote learning environment), we will hold our Community Google Meet open to any member of the community who wishes to attend. This week's meeting will review recent COVID-19 updates and will focus on questions from the community. To access the Google Meet please see the information below:

Wednesday August 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

[Join with Google Meet](#)

meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi · Up to 250 participants

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/yzd-szwo-tqi

Phone Numbers

(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](#).

Local schools are communicating with families through email communications using our Blackboard Connect System. If you are not receiving emails we encourage you to check your spam folder as some filters sometimes put our mailings there and/or reach out to their local school to ensure we have your preferred email listed.

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Important Information from the [GISU Strong and Healthy Reopening Plan](#):

All the decisions we are making must meet the following criteria:

- Must be SAFE
- Collaborative
- Follow VT AOE and VT Department of Health Guidance
 - Flexible and responsive to guidance as it evolves
- Translates between in person and remote instruction
- Follows the same parameters as the Continuity of Learning Plan (Safe/Ethical/Equitable)
 - Student-friendly/ Learner-centered
 - Support emotional health & social-emotional learning
 - Developmentally appropriate for students
 - Educationally viable/feasible
 - Supportive of teachers and their social-emotional health
 - Teacher health & safety
 - Fair and equitable for students on IEPs & 504 plans
 - Accommodations & modifications appropriately for students as needed
 - Be mindful of student health needs as well.
 - Ensuring access and equity for all students.
 - Keeping students safe and healthy
- Communication (Two way)

The Plan is divided into the following five sections:

- **Safe and Healthy Environments** –based on guidance developed in cooperation with the Department of Health, the VT AOE, school nurses and the other educational organizations;
 - **Maintaining Operations** – strategies designed to keep schools open for in-person instruction;
 - **Learning and Instruction Team** –improving the ability to provide remote learning as a contingency to in-person instruction;
 - **Social and Emotional Health** – systems to support the social and emotional needs of students and staff;
 - **Leadership, Policy and Funding** – local school board policies, procedures, budgeting strategies and communications strategies.
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- ★ GISU will open in a Hybrid Schedule following the ABCAB format.
 - ★ GISU will provide a Remote only Learning opportunity for families who want this option.
 - ★ Families will be able to transition between the GISU Hybrid Learning Opportunity and the GISU Remote only opportunity.

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- ★ Families should have received what cohort you child has been assigned. If you do not have this information please reach out to your local school.
- ★ Based on the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Agency of Education Guidance all students, faculty, and staff will be required to wear a cloth face covering when inside the building. Students should come to school with two cloth masks. Please help your child practice wearing a cloth mask now. If you believe your student can not wear a cloth mask/facial covering, please contact our District School Nurse, Emily Dousevicz at edousevicz@gisu.org. Masks/Facial coverings will be provided by the school for students who can not provide their own.
- ★ Per Governor Scott's order the First Student Day of the 2020-2021 school year will be 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 what you do 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