
October 1, 2020

Mustang News

Alburghschool.org

Welcome to the 2020 - 2021 School Year! We look forward to another exciting year. Keep up to date on school events by following us on Facebook, the school webpage and Front Porch Forum.

October 1, 2020

Hello ACEC Community!

The school year has started out well under the circumstances we are living with now. Faculty/staff, students and parents/guardians have done a wonderful job at supporting the new procedures that we have in place to keep our community safe. As guidance changes, we will need to continue to be collaborative, communicate and be flexible to continue our success.

Parents/guardians and faculty/staff continue to build their partnerships to support the learning opportunities for our students. This school year we will be focusing on what students need to know in each grade level. Teachers have worked together to identify targets. Our teachers will be using Common formative assessments across the Grand Isle Supervisory Union to measure educational growth of our students.

Students learn best with routines and look forward to these routines when at school. As parents/guardians you can best support your student(s) at home by having an established routine. If possible, create a learning environment at home by identifying a dedicated workspace. If possible, this space should be consistent and outside of their bedroom. Keep only supplies needed for learning. School Chromebooks should be used for remote learning. If your student(s) have their own personal Chromebooks, they can be used. Phones and iPads are difficult for students to use during remote learning. Have a plan that allows for students to take breaks, move around, and get food and drink. If you are needing assistance with Google Classroom, logging in, passwords and how to submit completed work please reach out to your student's teachers or you may contact Meghan Bellevance-Library Media Specialist at mbellavance@gisu.org or by calling the school.



Upcoming Events

School Picture Days

Cohort A – October 5

Cohort B – October 6

100% Remote Students – please call to set up a time on either day

NO SCHOOL

October 9th – in-service day

October 12th – Indigenous People's Day

Students will have Synchronous Learning (is distance learning that happens in real time during live sessions) and Asynchronous Learning (is distance learning that happens apart from the class when students' complete tasks at their own pace). There are expectations when our students are participating in Synchronous Learning. Each classroom teacher, interventionist, unified arts, and special education staff have reviewed these expectations with your student(s). If you need more information on what the expectations are please contact your student(s) teacher(s).

As many of you are aware, Governor Scott, Dr. Levine and Secretary French announced new guidance for schools as they can now move to a level 3. Level 3 does not mean "normal". What does this mean for ACEC currently? The playground is now open after school hours but is not cleaned. Students started rotating class to class for core academic subjects on 9/29. Students are continuing to stay within their individual pods (PreK, primary, intermediate, and middle school). The food program will continue to deliver food to individual classrooms. Health screenings will continue at drop off and bus stops with parent/guardian or and adult over the age of 18 and no visitors will be allowed in the school building. Superintendent Clark continues to hold Community Forums each Wednesday to give the community updates and answer questions/concerns. The links to these are posted on our Facebook page and on Alburghschool.org website.

We are Alburgh Strong and with continued collaboration, communication, and flexibility we will get through this. Great job to all for a positive start to the new school year.

Take care and be well!
Ms. Beth

Classroom News

Preschool News:

Hello Everyone! As we continue to build community, structure and communication, the children have begun to settle into the classroom environment. I want to thank you all for the conversations that are happening at home regarding the expectations of masks and hand washing as the children have shown a tremendous amount of flexibility when it comes to these expectations in our current state. The children's presence in the classroom has become more apparent as documentation of the children's work is beginning to be showcased around the classroom. The classroom has also become more of the children's environment with having the children's portraits in the classroom as well as we have begun the instruction of our Ohana, or family style wall that represents the children and their people when they are at home. As we continue to build communities and relationships we have begun to draw parallels between both cohorts, relaying to children that while they see a few sets of children on their days there is an extension of their community that arrives the opposite days. These conversations have begun to spark interest in one another, adding a stronger sense of community for the children that goes beyond the immediate people they see. Via the children's school emails, I have invited the children to google classroom so that

you all can have access to those materials if you choose to use them. Via state regulations children are required to attend 10 hours of preschool, which they are meeting in person however on Wednesdays if you are looking for additional material google classroom is available for your use. I have also invited everyone to Class Dojo, with the intent to use this platform to share weekly updates of what is happening within our classroom and share individual artifacts of your children's work with you. If you have any questions feel free to reach out via email khislop@gisu.org or by phone, (802) 662-0779. I look forward to speaking and keeping in touch with all of you throughout the school year!

Best,
Kira Hislop

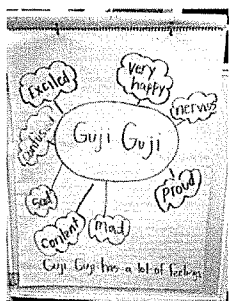
Happy Fall **Kindergarten Families,**

First and foremost, I want to say how proud I am of all my students, in person and remote. Not a day goes by that I am not humbled by their little expressions of cheers and happiness in the classroom. As new learners to the BIG school, they are responsible and respectful to teachers and to one another. They have been doing a FANTASTIC job wearing their masks and have taken all our changes in stride!

This year we welcomed a new Special Educator, Ms. Dawn. It has been such a pleasure having her in the classroom, creating new friendships with all the kiddos!

In math, we are working on counting forwards to 20, we have had a lot of practice as we count to 20 when we wash our hands, ordering numbers 1-10 and writing numbers. We also started our shapes unit and are having lots of fun finding different shapes in the classroom.

In literacy, kindergarten students are doing a lot of work around their names and the names of their classmates. We read our class name chart every morning, learning letters and names of everyone. Last week we read an amazing story, Guji Guji by Chih-Yuan Chen, and had a beautiful class discussion about feelings and emotions! Below are the students with their Guji Guji crocodile finger puppets!



Greetings from the primary wing!

The primary team is so happy to be back teaching all our children both remotely, and in person. Whether we are learning in a classroom or through a computer and paper packets, we are still all together and one community.

The primary team has had a few exciting changes this fall. Miss Burke is now the grades 1 and 2 Math teacher. Mr. Flax is teaching Math Intervention. Ms. Butts has become the grades 1 and 2 Writing and Science teacher. Mrs. Giroux continues to teach ELA grades 1 and 2. Mrs. Trowbridge continues as our Literacy Interventionist.

We are happy to talk and help through class dojo, email or our Google Voice numbers.

Ms. Burke 395-1172 Leah Butts 395-1152 Jeremy Flax 395-1206

Ms. Giroux 393-4665 Ms. Trowbridge 778-0930

Since school resumed in September, we have all been learning how to thrive in our new way of life. The primary team wants to express how very proud we are of our students. They have shown resilience and grit and humor! Every day the primary teachers see our youngest learners showing so much patience and compassion for each other. We are also so appreciative of all the work our families have put into teaching their children how to wear masks and socially distance. The students are excelling at keeping themselves and others healthy.

As a community, we will never forget the Fall of 2020. But beyond the challenges and the difficulties that we will see in the history books: our primary team will remember how very resilient, kind, and generous our families and children were during this time.

Let's have a wonderful year!

NEWS FROM THE INCREDIBLE INTERMEDIATE TEAM



**Mrs Barrett ~ Mr Herz ~ Ms Dobson ~ Ms. Wells-Brunet ~ Mrs. Ehle
Ms Cramer ~ Mrs Aubin ~ Mrs. Newhard
Mrs. Arnold ~ Mrs. Lavallee ~ Ms. Griz ~ Ms. Prefontaine**

It has been great welcoming the students back, be that in person or via their chromebooks. We are beginning to see a rhythm to our days, and we cannot thank you enough for your kind words of encouragement and patience as we navigate a return to school during this global pandemic. Working together, supporting each other, and communicating often will make the year a success.

READING/SOCIAL STUDIES

We are pleased to say that the entire intermediate student body has completed the Lexia reading calibration! Lexia is a research proven program adopted by our district that provides differentiated literacy

instruction for students of all abilities, targeting gaps as they emerge and providing teachers with direct feedback as they plan for instruction. Remind your child to read every day for 30 minutes and record their reading in their white **Reader's Workshop** binder. As I mentioned in my 1st letter and email, I collect those when they return to school on their in person days, and fully remote students can either email me a picture of their work or drop the hard copies off at school once a week. Don't forget our whole class google meet every Wednesday Morning at 9:00! edobson@gisu.org or at 802-265-0172.

MATH

802-391-4406

Math is off to a good start. Grades 3,4, and 5 have taken the math placement test to see what skills need to be reviewed. 3rd graders are working with place value and addition, 4th grade is learning to read very large numbers and regrouping. 5th grade is starting to use decimals on the place value chart. There is a great website for math manipulatives called "toy theater.com". This will help students on all their assignments. Only fully remote students log in for their math lessons on their cohort days. 5th grade hybrid learners join a morning meeting on Wednesdays as well as remote learners.

sbarrett@gisu.org

WRITING/SCIENCE

Awesome start in Science so far. 3rd graders have been learning the difference between climate and weather, we have had discussions about polar bears and The Greenhouse Effect. Fourth grade learned how to use maps and add layers of volcanoes, earthquakes, and plates to see where (and soon why) all these things happen. 5th graders have jumped into conservation of natural resources, and they visited "Recycle City" on-line to see how different businesses in the community help (or hurt) the environment.

Narrative writing pieces have covered the gamut. I have read picture book ready short pieces about a friendship between a kid and an elephant, summer experiences at beach, and a turtle named Sunday. You can reach me at kherz@gisu.org or 802-395-1901.

MATH INTERVENTION

Ms. Wells - Brunet has begun connecting with students and families working remotely, to offer support. If you are concerned about your child needing additional math support, please contact Ms. Brunet at swellsbrunet@gisu.org 802-395-1880

LITERACY INTERVENTION

I have begun one-on-one interventions for students who need extra help in reading. This year, for the most part, I am holding virtual interventions. Students I work with have been invited to my Google Classrooms, which are called *Literacy Intervention*. I have separate classrooms for each grade: 3, 4, and 5. Students connect with me at a pre-arranged time via Google Meet. (There is a link they can click on to get to the Meet at the top of each of my Google Classroom pages). I will likely be adding more students to my caseload once we finish the first round of reading assessments next month. I will be in touch with parents and families as needs arise. In the meantime, you can reach me by calling/texting (802) 395-1837, or emailing me at mehle@gisu.org.

GUIDANCE

802-448-0632

Welcome back! **Fourth grade** students are busy learning about how to recognize and regulate their emotions. (I will be working with **Fifth grade** in October and **Third grade** in November). We are all choosing a signal to stop our bodies when in high gear, learning how to name our emotions, and then using tools (breathing, counting, positive self-talk) to help our bodies calm down so our brains can think. Look for letters coming home to parents explaining the Second Step program we are using this year. Please call or email me at any time with any questions or help you may have/need at krcramer@gisu.org

Physical Education

All students are receiving physical education lessons two times a week. For most students this is done remotely. Grades 3-8 in google classroom, Grades K-2 in class dojo. Some students have PE in-person please see the schedule below. This will rotate month to month.

September: In-Person

1st Purple, 3rd, 6A (Mr. Ruch)

October: In-Person

1st Orange, 4th, 6B (Mr. Morton)

Students who have in-person pe classes do not need to complete any remote/online activities for the month that they have PE class at school. They should bring sneakers, a water bottle, and a sweatshirt/jacket as the weather grows cooler.

Remote Learning Expectations:

- Log into the physical education classroom or look for PE lessons on class dojo at least twice a week.
- Complete the assigned activities both active and written. Remember to turn in.
- Contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Email- lnewhard@gisu.org / School- (802) 796-3573 x112

Google Phone- (802) 466-2203

Grades 3-8: Complete 60 minutes of some type of physical activity most days a week and share your log. The log is found in google classroom in assignments. Aim for 60 minutes five or more days a week.

MUSTANG MUSIC NEWS

We have been enjoying the outdoors in music class so far this year! PreK and 1st graders have been singing and participating in movement activities with gusto! The 8th grade classes have been writing their own compositions and practicing barrel drumming in the field. Our remote learners are composing, building percussion instruments and taking instrumental music lessons on Google Meet.

If your 5th-8th graders would like to take up a band instrument, but renting isn't possible, please be in touch. I have repaired some older school instruments, and these are available to interested students and families!

As music questions, requests or concerns arise, please contact me at mbjella@gisu.org or 802-395-1161 (google voice).

Best wishes! Mr. Bjella

Hello from the library!

It's been great seeing student faces these past couple weeks as I've visited classrooms providing support for any and all technology needs. As always, if your student is having any trouble logging on to their chromebook or accessing their Google Classroom sites, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Students are still not allowed to visit the library, but I remain cautiously optimistic that that might change in the future. In the meantime, I've been regularly visiting the Kindergarten class and have been working with intermediate and middle school students on how to request physical books from the library.

A reminder that all intermediate students have access to EPIC to practice their reading at home - it's a great resource and the class code is sbh8628 for students in grades 3, 4 and 5. I've also been promoting the VT Schools Shared Digital Library to middle school students - they received info this week on how to get ebooks and audiobooks from home.

If you have any questions or requests, please reach out.

Ms. Bellavance
School Librarian
Google Voice: 802.391.9160
Email: mbellavance@gisu.org

Art News

Things are looking quite different this year for art. Some key changes are:

- Students will have art on a monthly rotation (see schedule below for Trimester 1)
- Students will not be provided an art shirt/smock or apron
- Students will have projects as well as small assignments on Google Classroom for grades 3-5
- Students in grades K-2 will have assignments posted on Class Dojo

Emails will be sent to students who have missing work throughout the month to try to stay on top of assignments. I highly encourage parents to accept Google Classroom & Class Dojo invites so you can be aware of what is being asked of your child(ren). Please email me (saubin@gisu.org) if you didn't get an invite and would like to be included.

Remote work & all pictures of work should be submitted through the assignment (both in Class Dojo and Google Classroom) in order to keep things organized.

Art Schedule for Trimester 1

| <u>September</u> | <u>October (starting Oct 5)</u> | <u>November</u> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kindergarten | Second Grade | First Grade "Orange" Group |
| Fifth Grade | | Fourth Grade |
| Seventh Grade | Eight Grade | Sixth Grade "A" Cohort |

Please refer to my page on the school website for more information. www.alburghschool.org

Middle School Math Happenings

Happy October! The Fall trimester has 6th and 7th grade math building off previous lessons from last year in fractions, ratios, and proportions. In 6th grade, we are specifically focused on "ratios" and things like how to scale them up, or down, using multiplication and division. This is a great opportunity for 6th graders to work on their multiplication facts, data table building, skip counting, and other math skills they will need. Over the next several weeks, we will dive into topics like unit rates, equivalent ratios, rates, converting unit rates, and graphing with rates. In 7th grade, students are working on recognizing and analyzing "proportional relationships". To do so, we are using Dreambox and Math Games to help review previous lessons on fractions and ratios. They have also spent some time reviewing how to find unit rates, reducing fractions, and changing fractions into mixed numbers. In the upcoming lessons on proportional relationships, we will be going over fractions and algebra, solving ratio problems using algebra, and using graphs to analyze proportional relationships. This year in 8th grade, we started off in Functions, something totally new and different. Building up to our first lesson in functions, students spent time reviewing things like how to square numbers, graphing, coordinates, and solving equations for missing variables. Over the next several weeks, we will be going through Rate of Change, Linear and Nonlinear, Functions, Scatter Plots, and several other topics.

Students should continually check in Google Classroom every day to make sure they are doing the work that has been assigned. On remote days, students are required to check in via Google Classroom. Sometimes I will require students to stream in on remote days. Wednesdays are for catch up and extra help. I am live from 11-12 using the link in the Wednesday Google math class. Please check in as needed. Wednesday is not required, but highly recommended. Parents, if you would like access to your child's Google Classroom to see what is going on, please email me and I will add you.

Middle School ELA Trimester Overview:

Trimester 1 will be focused on narrative reading and writing for all three grades, with specific content and standards in each grade.

6th Graders just completed a quick review of the elements of a story, read and analyzed the short story "Priscilla and the Wimps." We are now beginning a unit on Greek Mythology, starting with a story of the Greek creation myth, and a research project about different Greek gods, goddesses and monsters. Afterwards we will read Percy Jackson and the Lightning thief, learn about characterization, and practice supporting reasoning with evidence. We'll end the trimester by writing our own Hero's Journey with the framework we learn from Percy Jackson and other classic myths.

7th Graders this week are finishing reading Jack London's classic short story "To Build a Fire". We are learning about characterization, analyzing the main character of this story and how the author reveals his character traits. Then, we'll read Lois Lowry's *The Giver*, learn about the 'world building' of fantasy settings, different types of conflict, and how to create a powerful plot arc.

8th Graders will finish Jack London's classic short story "To Build a Fire", analyzing the interaction between setting and character, and making judgments about the character based on the story's outcome. Next, they will analyze short stories that focus on each of the elements of literature (plot, character, conflict, theme, setting) and how they influence each other. We'll also examine the writer's craft, and practice crafting our own elements and micro-stories.

Middle School Social Studies.

6th Grade:

We are looking at US geography as well as talking about the upcoming election. Mostly, though, locating states. I find that 6th grade students come to middle school and need an easy transition. We'll work on that.

7th Grade:

We have reviewed last year's unit on slavery, and are now heading into a deep study of the American Civil War (5-7 weeks.) At the same time we are paying much attention to the November elections and have had some great discussions already.

8th Grade:

In 8th Grade we study a difficult 40 years of history. High schools do not teach it, but we do. It encompasses WWI, the 1920's, The Great Depression, WWII, and the Holocaust. In that order. Currently we are studying the 1920's.

Eric Morton

Middle School Science

All grades started the year off with the scientific method, with a focus on independent and dependent variables.

The 6th grade curriculum moving forward will concentrate on the difference between living and nonliving things. We will examine cells and investigate the differences between animal and plant cells.

7th and 8th grade have started an ecology unit. After a review of energy transfer between organisms, we will study ecosystems, resources, and invasive species.

Please remind students to check in on google classroom on "off days". There will always be an assignment for science. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Be safe.

Mr. Wolynech



Alburgh Community Education Center

45 Champlain Street • Alburgh, VT • 05440

phone 802.796.3573 fax 802.796.3068

Beth Hemingway-Principal

FLU Clinic coming to school:

Flu clinic for students, staff and community:

When: Monday, Oct 19 10am-1pm

Tuesday, Oct 20 9am-12pm

Where: Alburgh Community Educational Center

Please note registration is required,

Registration forms available at school,

To request, please contact the health office at 796-4530

Questions you may contact Kim Fitzgerald 796-4530

