

September 14, 2020

Dear Bayless School District Families/Guardians,

In previous communications I shared, “I strongly believe there is no adequate substitute for in-person education of a child. However, we must also carefully consider guidance provided to us by our local health officials and the County Executive.”

As the COVID-19 virus rates in St. Louis County begin to show signs of slowing, local officials are now prepared to allow younger school-aged students to begin returning to campus. On Wednesday, September 9, I received a communication from Acting Director of the St. Louis County Department of Public Health Spring Schmidt. In the letter, she stated the following:

*St. Louis County has continued to monitor community transmission in our jurisdiction as well as the positive cases among our youth in order to refine our recommendations for our school partners. We have seen some modest decline in community transmission, which is encouraging. Our most recent reporting shows there is a distinct data threshold on cases that take place in early adolescence and the cases above that line are significantly higher than the cases that are younger. After much discussion, we believe that threshold offers the opportunity for districts and school leaders to explore options for in-person learning for elementary school students.*

Beginning on Thursday, September 24, Bayless Elementary School will begin instructing Kindergartners, First and Second Grade students on campus using the “blended approach,” which will incorporate two days of in-person instruction and three days of virtual instruction per week (see graphic below).

Should COVID-19 conditions continue to improve in South County and the region, we hope to expand in-person instruction for other BSD students as soon as possible. The county health department continues to recommend virtual instruction for junior high and high school students, who reportedly make up the bulk of the new youth cases in St. Louis County.

Tomorrow, Bayless Elementary Principal Aaron Kohler will send a detailed letter to K-2 parents, explaining which students will attend and when, daily health screenings and other procedures that will be implemented.

**Bayless K-2 Blended Plan**  
Effective September 24, 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>K-2 In-Person Green Days</b>					
<b>K-2 In-Person Gold Days</b>					
<b>K-2 Virtual Academy</b>					

We look forward to students returning to campus. BSD will take every precaution to keep your children and our faculty/staff safe as we resume in-person learning.

Sincerely,  
Ronald J. Tucker