



Administrative Offices
 4530 Weber Road
 St. Louis, Missouri 63123
 314-256-8601
 fax. 314-544-6315

Ronald J. Tucker, Ed.S.
 Superintendent
 rtucker@bayless.k12.mo.us

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Dear Bayless School District Families/Guardians,

This week Bayless Elementary welcomed to school the Kindergarten, First and Second Grade students of parents and guardians who chose *Option One: In-Person Learning* in August. While it is still early, the response from students, parents and faculty has been very positive.

As you know, 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 rate in St. Louis County continues to improve, local officials are now prepared to allow upper elementary and middle school students to begin returning to campus. On Tuesday, September 22, I received a subsequent communication from the Acting Director of the St. Louis County Department of Public Health, Spring Schmidt. In the letter, she states the following:
















Our recent data continues to show that trends for middle school-aged students are slowly declining and rates are relatively low in comparison to other age groups. At this time, St. Louis County Department of Health is now recommending that school district leaders begin plans for how middle school students can engage in additional forms of in-person learning.

Beginning on the following dates, Bayless Elementary and Junior High will provide “blended” instruction for the following grades:

Bayless Elementary School:	
Date:	Grades:
Thursday, October 8	Third, Fourth and Fifth Grades
Bayless Junior High School:	
Date:	Grade(s):
Thursday, October 8	Sixth Grade
Tuesday, October 13	Seventh and Eighth Grades

The “blended approach” of instruction incorporates two days of in-person instruction and three days of virtual instruction for students weekly (see graphic below).

Bayless Elementary and Bayless Junior High Blended Learning Plan

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In-Person Green Days					
In-Person Gold Days					
Virtual Academy					

Should COVID-19 conditions continue to improve in South County and the region, we hope to expand in-person instruction for BHS students. At this time, the county health department continues to recommend virtual instruction for high school students, who reportedly make up the bulk of the new youth cases.

Next week, Bayless Elementary Principal Aaron Kohler and Bayless Junior High Principal Christine Prosser will send detailed letters to the parents of their respective students, explaining which students will attend, when, daily health screening information, and other procedures that will be implemented.

We look forward to all Bayless students eventually 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 Tucker, Ed.S.
 Superintendent of Schools