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Ronald J. Tucker, Ed.S.

Superintendent
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Dear Bayless Community,

It is with a heavy heart that I announce Bayless School District will begin instruction this school year in a fully virtual format. In addition, the starting date of school has changed to Monday, August 31, 2020. These changes are the result of my recommendations, which the Bayless Board of Education approved on Wednesday, August 5.

As I shared in my previous letters, the alarming rate of positive COVID-19 cases in the St. Louis area has prompted St. Louis County Department of Health to take actions and make recommendations related to schools. St. Louis County school leaders received a letter from the St. Louis County Department of Health on July 30. The letter, in part, stated:

Given the fact that most St. Louis County schools begin their school year in a few weeks, it is unlikely that the spread of the virus will be sufficiently controlled in order for nearly 300,000 students and 25,000 teachers to attend school full-time without the risk of significant outbreaks. Therefore, it is the strong recommendation of the Department of Public Health that all schools start the semester in as virtual of an environment as possible to protect students, staff, and families.

We understand the disappointment felt by those of you who anticipated and chose the in-person education option. BSD administrators and teams of teachers worked tirelessly over the past weeks in an attempt to make that happen. We understand that the very best place for students to learn and grow is in an in-person classroom setting with a highly qualified teacher and the social support of friends.

While this news is disheartening for all of us, our teachers and principals remain committed to ensure that Bayless provides its students with the best educational experience possible under the circumstances. Principals will share more building-specific information, as well as a registration form, by the end of the day on Friday, August 7.

You will receive a registration form from your child's principal containing critical information to help us plan. While some of the information may appear to have been requested before, given the changing circumstances, updated information will be very important as we work to provide your student(s) with the best educational experience possible.

In this most difficult time, I am reminded that Bayless has the best students, families and staff. As we navigate this pandemic, your patience and understanding is recognized and appreciated.

Sincerely,
Ronald J. Tucker