



Administrative Offices
4950 Heege Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63123
314-256-8601
fax. 314-544-6315

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

August 6, 2021

Dear Bayless School District Parents/Guardians,

I hope you and your families are continuing to enjoy the summer so far and have made some great memories. As back-to-school sales get underway, I am writing you today so you know what to expect when school begins on August 24.

I am thrilled we will begin this school year with daily in-person instruction. As you recall, last school year daily in-person instruction was delayed and many extracurricular opportunities were postponed and/or cancelled due to COVID-19.

Over the last 18 months, together we have learned how to implement safe mitigating procedures to prevent the spread of the virus within our schools. Due to the characteristics of the current *Delta* variant, the Bayless School District Board of Education approved my recommendation to require all employees, students and visitors to wear masks while inside buildings on campus, until the County's transmission rate returns to lower-risk levels.

Bayless plans to resume instruction as it had in May. I want school to be as normal as possible this year. By requiring masks initially during this current COVID spike, BSD will be able to continue to follow the *Modified Quarantine* guidelines. This means if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 and a *close contact* are both wearing masks appropriately during the time of exposure in the school setting, the *close contact* may not have to quarantine.

Scientists from the *Centers for Disease Control* (CDC) announced new information about the ability of the *Delta Variant* to spread among vaccinated people. The CDC recommends indoor masks for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status. In the next few days, you will receive specific information from your student's principal regarding processes and procedures the Bayless school community will follow this year.

Last school year, the Bayless community responded well to the pandemic by demonstrating its ability to adapt and take personal responsibility for the health and safety of everyone. We need do the same again this school year. If recent history is an indication, I am confident our community will rise to this occasion again as we work together to create greater opportunities for all of our students.

With great enthusiasm,



Ronald J. Tucker