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**Ronald J. Tucker, Ed.S.**

Superintendent  
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Dear Bayless Community,

I want to provide you a brief update regarding our decision-making processes as we work to determine the best return to instruction this fall as we deal with a pandemic. I also wish to thank you for your patience as we work together through this most unusual time.

As I noted in my July 20 letter, Bayless is offering parents a choice in how their student(s) will receive instruction *when it is safe to return to in-person learning*. Over the past week, the St. Louis County Department of Health and the St. Louis County Executive have continued urging schools to be cautious in returning to in-person education as the new school approaches.

As an educator, 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.

Last week, Bayless parents were given the opportunity to enroll their student(s) in the online Virtual Academy. Bayless is now extending the All Virtual application deadline until Wednesday, August 5. To date, the results show that over 40% of our parents have chosen the Virtual Academy for their student(s).

Due to the upward spike of COVID cases in St. Louis County and recommendations from St. Louis County, this is what we know regarding the start of this school year:

- Bayless is considering our staffing options and possibility of an A/B Cohort model if/when in-person attendance is advisable under County rules. An A/B Cohort model will allow half of our students to attend school on alternating days, with one day each week dedicated to online learning.
- Bayless School District officials are now considering the merits of beginning the school year with the *Virtual Learning Model* for all students.
- A final decision will be made regarding which method of instruction will be used to begin the school year in the near future.

Once again, I thank you for your patience as we work through this incredibly difficult time. We will be reaching out soon.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Tucker