



St. Louis Mosaic Project

For Immediate Release

Contact: Suzanne Sierra
Senior Program Manager
St. Louis Mosaic Project
ssierra@worldtradecenter-stl.com

Contact: Kelly Klocke, ED. S.
Federal Programs Coordinator, Assistant
Principal-- Bayless School District
kklocke@bayless.k12.mo.us

Bayless School District becomes 108th Member for the St. Louis Mosaic Project Ambassador School program

St. Louis, MO (February 21 2022) - The St. Louis Mosaic Project is proud to announce Bayless School District (BSD) as its 108th member of the *Mosaic Ambassador School Program*.

Since its founding in 1868, BSD strives to build the character of its students by providing a nurturing learning environment where all children can reach their potential. This focus has led each of the BSD schools to be repeatedly recognized as National Schools of Character. While the BSD is one of the smaller districts in St. Louis County with approximately 1,700 students, it is one of the most diverse. With students originating from all over the world and of whom speak 30 different languages, 44% of BSD students participate or have graduated from their ELL program. The District has been classified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as one for the most diverse school districts in the state of Missouri. The BSD has continuously adapted to serve its school community by making sure all students know they belong. This has been especially true in recent years as the district has become more diverse with 38% of families requiring interpreter services, mostly from Bosnia, Vietnam, and Arabic-speaking countries.

Inclusion and belonging is a way of life at BSD where its diversity is seen as a strength. To this end, BSD holds *International School Nights*, participates in an EL certification program with UMSL, provides Ethnic Studies Programs, creates an internationally-friendly tone by including murals and national flags to which students can relate. BSD partners with the International Institute of St. Louis and other agencies important to its international students.

The BSD is looking forward to participating in the Ambassador School community and its efforts to welcome foreign-born families and students to St. Louis.

About the St. Louis Mosaic Project:

The St. Louis Mosaic Project began in 2013 under the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership and the World Trade Center-St. Louis. Its goals are to make St. Louis the fastest growing US major metropolitan area for immigration by 2025 and to increase the foreign-born regional population by 25,000. Mosaic is a public/private partnership supported by a 32-member steering committee composed of a diverse mix of regional business, civic, economic development, faith, agency and academic leaders. For more information, visit www.stlmosaicproject.com.

For more information about the Bayless School District, please visit <http://www.baylessk12.org>.