



Bayless School District

Dear Parents & Guardians,

This summer, our school district is excited to offer **Summer Journey**, a **free** summer learning program for all students. Summer Journey is designed to be **fun, engaging, and meaningful**, giving students a positive and enriching summer experience.

Students will participate in **over 60 hours of learning** throughout the summer. This time allows students to review important skills they've already learned and build confidence as they prepare for the upcoming school year. Academic classes focus on reading, language arts, math, and science or social studies. These classes are **hands-on, interactive, and theme-based**, so learning feels active and enjoyable—not like a traditional school day. There is **no homework, no tests, and no grades**.

Summer Journey also includes enrichment **courses**, which give students opportunities to explore, create, and discover through fun, hands-on experiences. These courses may include activities such as building and launching rockets, cooking, performing skits, or participating in fitness and sports-based learning. Journey courses are designed to spark curiosity, teamwork, and creativity while keeping students excited about coming to school each day.

If you are the parent of a child who will be entering Kindergarten in fall 2026, I strongly encourage you to consider enrolling your child in **Summer Journey**. We have noticed that when these young students meet their teachers, fellow students, and our staff during the summer, they are eager to return in the fall and find that "first day of school" experience to be a positive one. Our Kindergarten curriculum includes a week-long "Welcome to School" segment that helps students learn about their classroom and school, practice typical classroom routines, and participate in fun activities that celebrate starting school off right.

Finally, **Summer Journey** offers an enticing incentive program for students. Students will be eligible to receive **daily** rewards if they come to school, exhibit a positive attitude and behavior, and work to improve their achievement. At the end of the program, some lucky students will also win **Grand Prizes**, which will be awarded on the final day. And, as in past years, all our students who demonstrate outstanding attendance will be rewarded with **Attendance Recognition** gift cards, ranging from \$50 for "near perfect" attendance to \$100 for "perfect attendance."

Who should attend **Summer Journey**? Everyone. Simply put, it's good for kids. Look at the information enclosed. You'll be glad you did!

Sincerely,

Amelia Ruzicka
Superintendent

Bayless School District Summer Journey Course Offerings

All Academic Courses (Language Arts, Mathematics, Reading, Science and/or Social Studies) are offered during morning sessions. All Journey Courses are offered during afternoon sessions. Students participate in Journey courses for blocks of time, enabling every student to participate in every Journey course.

Summer Journey Location(s):

- Bayless Elementary School K-5
- Bayless Junior High School 6-8

Kindergarten (Students Entering K)

Animals All Around

Join us to explore the captivating world of animals! In this course, students dive into various habitats, discovering species and behaviors through hands-on activities like creating animal masks, nature walks, and imaginative play. The course emphasizes literacy with animal-themed stories, fosters creativity through art projects, and incorporates music and movement to mimic animal behaviors. Students also explore basic science concepts, such as life cycles and conservation, while practicing counting and math skills with animal-themed materials.

Nooks, Nests, and Burrows

Ready to be a zoologist? This course takes students on an exciting journey through the animal kingdom, exploring bugs, reptiles, and aquatic creatures in habitats like Australia, the Everglades, and the Sonoran Desert. After a short rest, young adventurers engage in imaginative play, song, and dance, including an “animal orchestra” and storytelling. Each day concludes with center activities that develop artistic, gross-motor, literacy, and social skills, making learning a fun, hands-on experience.

Primary (Students Entering 1st-3rd Grade)

Journey Courses

BrickLAB Zoo	Balance and Breathe	Adventure Days
Creatures, Critters, and Creativity	Abacadabra Academy	Misson Controll

Elementary (Students Entering 4th-5th Grade)

Journey Courses

Readers’ Theater	Lifetime Sports Junior	Rockers Junior
BrickLAB: Famous Architecture Around the World	Simple Machines	Retro Recreation

Intermediate (Students Entering 6th-8th Grade)

Journey Courses

BrickLAB: Genetics	Podcasting	Mixed Media
Survivor Camp	Game Show!	
Drone Designers: Exploring STEAM Careers		

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Summer Journey program?

The Bayless School District Summer Journey is an extended learning summer program operated by Bayless School District and Catapult Learning to provide a world-class educational experience to district students.

What does the program cost to parents?

The programming is free to all students.

When will the program be held?

The Bayless School District Summer Journey operates from May 29, 2026 to June 30, 2026 from 8:00am-3:00pm.

**Dates may change based on the number of days missed due to inclement weather. Changes will be announced.*

Must my child be in attendance every hour of the program to receive credit for the Summer Journey program?

No. We understand students may have vacations or camps planned. While prizes for good attendance are available to students, a child's occasional absence should not deter parents from enrolling their children in the program.

Will transportation be provided to and from the program?

Yes, transportation will be provided for those student families who qualify for transportation during the regular school year. However, bus routes will be limited and may vary from routes during the regular school year. Transportation information will be sent to those families who require transportation as soon as the plan becomes available.

What will my child(ren) do each day?

In the morning, Summer Journey students attend engaging academic classes where they may read interesting adventure stories, play language arts games, and/or use technology to solve math mysteries. A typical schedule would include four morning classes of Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science or Social Studies.

After lunch, students will explore a variety of fun-filled courses that rotate for those enrolled in the program.

How does the incentive program work?

Many students will win daily incentives for their efforts through a daily drawing, or some similar format established by the summer site. Your student is also eligible to receive one of the following incentives for their Summer Journey attendance:

- Perfect attendance = \$100 gift card
- Up to one day missed = \$75 gift card
- Up to two days missed = \$50 gift card

Will breakfast and lunch be served every day?

Yes, the District has applied for a special state grant whereby ALL students would receive a free breakfast and lunch daily. In the event the grant is not approved, breakfast and lunch will be served using the same systems that are currently in place.

How do I enroll my child for Summer Journey?

Simply fill out the enrollment form found in the front pocket of this brochure and return it to your child's school.



STUDENT INCENTIVES

Attendance

Student incentives are dependent on actual full-day attendance in the Summer Journey program.

\$100 Gift Card

Perfect Attendance

\$75 Gift Card

Up To One Day Missed

\$50 Gift Card

Over One Day, Up To Two Days Missed

Gift cards can be used in the local stores or malls.

Daily Incentives

Daily incentives will be awarded to students based on good attitude and achievement as determined by each site.

Bayless School District

Enrollment Information Enclosed

The Bayless School District Summer Journey operates from May 29, 2026 to June 30, 2026 from 8:00am-3:00pm.

Don't Delay—Enroll NOW in this FREE Program!



I. Student Information - (please print)

Please use **student's legal name** and **current year school** information

Date: _____

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Current Grade Level: _____

Student Address (include physical address if using P.O. Box for mail):

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/ Guardian: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Phone: _____

Emergency Cell Phone: _____

Ethnicity: (circle one) Asian/Pacific Islander American Indian

Gender: (circle one) Male Female

Birth Date: _____

Bus Route: _____

Bus Stop: _____ Bus Time: _____

Current School: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

II. Transportation

Bus Transportation

Will your child be riding the bus? Yes _____ No _____

Transportation Address (if different from above):

Other Transportation

Walk _____ Car _____ Picked up by: _____

Daycare: _____

Other: _____

III. Health Information

Health problems or concerns: Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please describe: _____

Is your child currently taking medication at school?

Yes _____ No _____

Name of Drug(s): _____

Is your child allergic to anything? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please identify: _____

Will your child need medication during Summer Journey?

Yes* _____ No _____

Name of Drug: _____

*If yes, child must have a medical form on site.

Name and phone number of physician(s):

Hospital Preference: _____

In case of accident or serious illness, I request school personnel to contact me, alternate authorized persons, or the named physician. If it is impossible to contact me, authorized persons, or the physician, the school personnel may make emergency arrangements as necessary to care for my child. Yes _____ No _____

IV. Photo Release

I will allow any pictures taken of my child during participation in Summer Journey to be used for advertising and promotional purposes. Yes _____ No _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Date: _____