

Our County  
D. Gary Davis  
County Mayor

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

The utterance of the three words “Back To School” has always brought extreme joy to some children (and parents). These same three words have also brought fear and trepidation to some children (and parents). This year will be no different in the emotions, but the causes of these emotions are drastically different.

I have family members who work within the school systems and I also have grandchildren who will once again be entering the school grounds, and buildings this next week. I have tried my best to help in encouraging the adherence to the 4 steps that we have all heard from the CDC, the Tennessee Department of Health, and our local Bradley County Health Department as well as local physicians. Looking at the sheer volume of work that has been done within our local County & City public schools as well as our private and home school locations, I am encouraged that this school year will once again resume as planned. Once opened, I also am encouraged that continual monitoring will continue to ensure that this process will continue safely.

I have visited both the Bradley County and the Cleveland City school websites for information and procedures that have been outlined for this upcoming school year. Both have information that is well thought out and informative. The Bradley County Schools 2020 – 2021 School Year Reentry Plan is a magnificent work of 50 pages that highlights the care, diligence, and the thoughtful approach to navigating their path through uncharted territory.

There will always be MANY “Monday Morning Quarterbacks” that seem to ALWAYS appear at the appropriate time to criticize, question, and seek to cause mayhem wherever they go. These same individuals are also rarely if ever, seen at the locations of the actual work that needs to be done. The majority of our community’s educators are “called” into the ministry (so to speak) of the profession known as teaching. Like every occupation, they need the paycheck and wish that it could be more, but they show up for work each day for something way more important than money. They show up to make a difference in the lives of our children and grandchildren. If you are reading this article today, and you can do so, you should call, text or e-mail your second or third-grade teacher and thank them for their efforts to give you the skills necessary to view 26 different items, correlate them into words and

then combine them in a sequence to understand an expressed thought. Reading is, fundamental!

This week a shipment of approximately 750,000 face masks & a PPE kit for each classroom that will be distributed to our local City and County schools. This alone is just one of the many things that we never could have imagined this time last year. I, nor anyone else, knows what we will be facing this time next year. But I also know that with help from above, an unbreakable trust in each other and the ability to work together, in turning problems into solutions, there is nothing that will stop our progress. We are Bradley County, Tennessee at its best!