

March 2024

Hazelwood School District Teacher of the Year

Latricia Singleton-Clark, family and consumer science teacher at Hazelwood East High School, is the 2023-2024 Hazelwood School District Teacher of the Year. She is now in her 10th year teaching in the Hazelwood School District, with all of those years spent at East High.

Mrs. Singleton-Clark participated in the Aspiring Leadership Preparation System Cohort 8, whose graduation was in November, and was voted volleyball coach of the year in 2019. When she is not teaching, Singleton-Clark enjoys baking, party planning, and interior design.

"I wanted to be an educator," Singleton-Clark explains. "I had teachers who shaped my future, and I wanted to impact my students like my teachers impacted me."

"We are fortunate to have Ms. Singleton-Clark in our school district," said Hazelwood School District Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart. "Her ability to connect and inspire students is something all educators should strive to do. Thank you for your commitment to our students, and congratulations on being named Hazelwood School District's Teacher of the Year."

Congratulations to all of our schools' Teachers of the Year on their achievement, and thank you for raising your voices for HSD!



HSD Teachers Receive The Presidential Awards For Excellence In Mathematics And Science Teaching Nomination

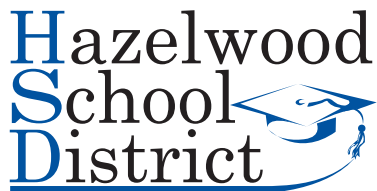
Three Hazelwood School District teachers have been nominated to receive the Presidential Awards For Excellence In Mathematics And Science Teaching (PAEMST). Arrowpoint second-grade teacher LaWesha Bush, Cold Water fourth-grade teacher Stephanie Knight, and Twillman third-grade teacher Tonji Stringfellow are excitedly anticipating feedback from PAEMST coordinators about their recent notable nominations.

"I am so excited to be nominated for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching," exclaimed Stringfellow. "I love teaching science. This nomination is an outstanding opportunity to show the world



how our students can engage in STEM where math and science integrate at high levels."

"The Presidential Awards" continued on page 4



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Hazelwood School District Community,

I continue to be inspired by the great things happening in HSD. Our commitment to high expectations and excellence continues to shine through the many achievements our students and schools have accomplished throughout the school year.

In March, we celebrate Women's History Month by making a conscious effort to spotlight women's voices and accomplishments in our stories and newsletter. Women's history is an important part of the Hazelwood School District, and we take pride in celebrating the contributions of women today and throughout history. Be sure to look for features from our students, schools, and staff members recognizing the barrier-breaking achievements of women in history.

Beginning in April, students will take the state-required Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) and End-of-Course (EOC) tests. In line with our culture of high expectations and excellence, our goal is to continue improving our state test scores and *Be the Best on the Test!* In order to provide additional support and boost our students' confidence, the district is again hosting Saturday State Testing

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Prep Sessions to help students prepare for the upcoming state tests. These virtual sessions are open to all HSD students in grades 3 through 8 and are available via Google Meet into early April. Parents, please encourage your students to sign up and register by visiting our website, hazelwoodschooldistrict.org.

On the topic of registration, it's time for students to register for the 2024-2025 school year. The Tyler SIS Parent Portal will be available for this school year through summer school; however, Tyler SIS will no longer be available after June 30, 2024. Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will be managed through Infinite Campus. Infinite Campus online registration for grades Pre-K - 5th for the 2024-2025 school year is now open.

As we begin the registration process, I want to highlight one of the many exciting programs we offer, the Hazelwood Connect Elementary Virtual Academy. This program is open to students in grades 1-5. Students in the program are 100% virtual at home while being taught by a certified Hazelwood School District teacher using HSD curriculum onsite in the district. Registration forms are accessible in Infinite Campus.

Finally, I want to thank our students and parents for choosing the Hazelwood School District. Our district remains a shining example of the progress we can make when people work together toward a common goal. HSD staff and schools remain dedicated to providing exceptional customer service and support to our most important customers, our students and families.

We are passionate about maintaining an environment that will help our students be the best that they can be. HSD continues to be a great place to learn--for ALL students, and the support of our parents and community is critical in accomplishing this goal.

Thank you for raising your collective voices and continuing to promote our success stories! The investments we are making now will produce the next generation of leaders who will raise their voices for HSD.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart

Hazelwood School District Superintendent

HSD News is a news magazine created by the district's Communications and Public Relations Department.

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Central High Freshmen Participate In Nationally Acclaimed Singing Program

Isaac Parker and Micah West are only freshmen at Central High, but on the stage, they are already making a name for themselves as they are literally raising their voices for HSD.

In Fall 2023, the two students were a part of 20 locally selected participants in the Opera Theatre of St. Louis' Bayer Fund Artists-in-Training Program. The nationally acclaimed program identifies, coaches, and encourages promising young high school singers both on and offstage by instilling confidence and lifelong lessons in goal-setting, hard work, and perseverance.

HSD encourages students to get involved in co-curricular and extracurricular activities, clubs, and other programs. Studies show that students engaged in after-school activities have better attitudes toward school, higher school attendance rates, less disciplinary action, increased social and emotional development, and better performance in school.

"These two students represented Hazelwood School District with excellence. They worked hard to prepare and succeed! I am one proud vocal music teacher," boasted Toni Towns, choir director at Central High.

The program culminates with a winter recital performed on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis. HSD is proud of these two students for their hard work and determination and looks forward to their future success on the stage and in the classroom.



West High's Penda Diop Awarded Four-Year Scholarship Through College Match Program

West High's Penda Diop was recently awarded a full four-year scholarship to the University of Chicago through the QuestBridge National College Match program.

"I am excited to attend the University of Chicago and would like to study chemical engineering and possibly earn a degree in business management," exclaimed Penda, a senior at West High.

The application process gives students space to tell their unique story. In the fall, QuestBridge selects top applicants as finalists, and Match Scholarship recipients are granted early admission to one of QuestBridge's college partners with a four-year scholarship worth over \$200,000.

"The Hazelwood West community is very proud of Penda Diop," said Dr. Demetrius Adams, building principal at West High. "We look forward to hearing about all her future success."

"The diverse student body of West High has made me more open-minded and given me multiple experiences and perspectives on life," Penda reflected. "I advise anyone who sees an opportunity to take it because even if it may take a while, the potential reward will be greater."

The Hazelwood School District is excited to see the many things Penda Diop will accomplish as she pursues a higher education at the University of Chicago and raises her voice for HSD!



"HSD Teachers Receive The Presidential Awards For Excellence In Mathematics And Science Teaching Nomination" continued from cover

The PAEMST award is the highest honor the United States government gives specifically to K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers. Award recipients represent the best of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) education, delivering content knowledge of their subjects, energizing to motivate, engage, and enable student success.

"I love the science units," expressed Knight. "Some of my students have said they will attend college and become engineers just because of learning this. I am excited for this nomination. It is nice to receive recognition for the job that we do."

"I am my biggest critic," explained Bush. "To see that someone else saw such high standards in me and felt that I was worthy of being nominated for a presidential award

makes me feel truly honored. It lets me know I am on the right track and doing what needs to be done for my students to excel."

A total of 110 awards are given each year (two awardees per state/jurisdiction and one from each of the U.S. jurisdictions). Each Presidential Awardee receives a certificate signed by the President of the United States, a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation, and an all-expenses paid trip to a recognition event, which includes an award ceremony.

The Hazelwood School District is proud of each teacher's nomination and how they continue to raise their voices in STEM education for our students and HSD.

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5K • 1 Mile • Color Blast • 1/2 Mile (ages 7 & 8) • 1/4 Mile (6 & under)
7 am Registration • 8:30 am - 5K • 9 am - 1 Mile
9:30 am - 1/4 & 1/2 Mile • 10:15 am - Color Blast

Race Registration: \$6

Color Blast: \$8

T-shirt (100% cotton): \$10

T-shirt (2X - 3X): \$15

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until May 6th!!**

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Course offerings include Information Technology, Broadcasting, Theater, Spanish, French, Fashion, Construction, and more. Students also can earn health care or IT/coding certifications through their studies.



For more information, visit
www.hazelwoodschoools.org/ems



East High Introduces The Future Spartan Leadership Program

East High's commitment to the Hazelwood School District's vision of developing culturally aware critical thinkers prepared to lead with 21st-century skills in an ever-evolving global society is demonstrated through its newest male mentoring program, the Future Spartan Leaders (FSL).

Introduced by Interim Principal Elizabeth Havey, FSL commits to nurturing the potential within each student, equipping them with the tools and mindset needed to become influential leaders in their academic journey and beyond.

"Future Spartan Leaders is a new initiative at East that will help cultivate the leadership qualities our students already possess," emphasized Havey.

East High FSL members meet for 70 minutes every other Tuesday, guided by their mentor, Corey Schonhorst.

"Going into the program, we first talked about mental health, a big category for young men and women," detailed East High junior Tyrone Gill. "It was a scary topic because most did not know about it. We learned how to express ourselves and how to

react, not just react to emotions. To be a leader, you must have the right mindset and lead positively without being disruptive or hurtful. You have to guide people in the right way."

"It is good to better yourself as a person no matter how good you think you are or think you might be; there is always room for improvement," expressed East High sophomore David Carpenter. "By the end of the FSL program, I hope to become a better man and help and lead others."

Through mentorships, workshops, and hands-on experiences, FSL instills the values of integrity, resilience, and collaboration while preparing students to navigate the complexities of the future with confidence and a strong sense of purpose. As a result, the program not only shapes the leaders of tomorrow but also contributes to developing a positive and empowering school community.

The Hazelwood School District is proud to hear the Future Spartan Leaders raise their voices in leadership while guiding their school community as positive role models.

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Tuesday - Friday

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Hazelwood
School
District

Larimore Introduces IXL Learning, Increasing Academic Engagement

Larimore Elementary enters the new year with IXL Learning, an educational real-time personalized diagnostic assessment tool allowing students to practice grade-level skills through friendly competitions.

Each week, kindergarten through fifth-grade students log into the IXL Leaderboard, win peer challenges, and accumulate points to participate in Fun Fridays. Students use their points to buy candy and prizes from the school store.

“The leaderboard is fun, and I get to beat people,” exclaimed fourth-grade student Leah Covington. “I like to see who can get a higher score. It has a lot of math, and I love math!”

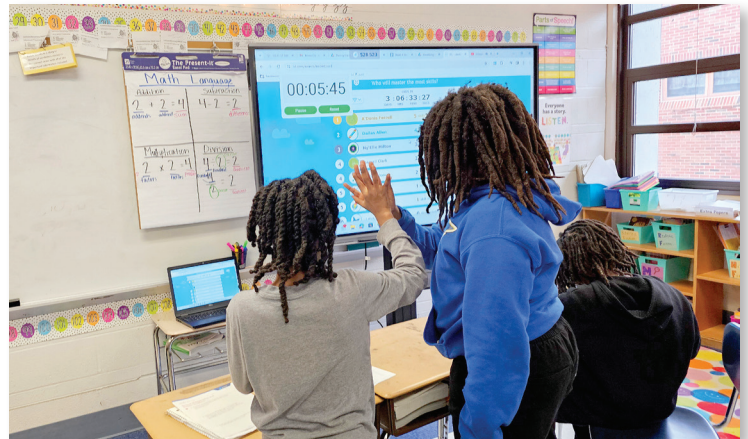
The students’ regimen consists of spending 10 - 20 minutes on the IXL Leaderboard daily, which includes math, language arts, science, social studies, and Spanish.

“Students get really excited and really competitive,” explained fourth-grade teacher Hadley Bouyoukos. “The leaderboard has been a great way to introduce a variety of classroom

competitions. It has been a great tool to meet the students where they are.”

“For me, the goal of the leaderboard is student growth, to show growth in a fun way,” detailed Dr. Tonya Ryan, Larimore’s assistant principal, who introduced the program to the school. “The movement is based on the individual skills the students need.”

The Hazelwood School District is excited for Larimore to increase academic engagement and help students raise their voices for HSD!



Brown Elementary Introduces A Sensory Classroom

Brown Elementary has been steadfast about achieving the Hazelwood NOW Strategic Plan’s second goal of differentiating and expanding student resources and services by introducing its new sensory classroom.

After creating a teachers’ calm-down space, building principal, Melanie Davison, envisioned incorporating a calm-down room

to meet the sensory needs of students to improve self-regulation.

“I had this idea to create a calm-down room for kids,” explained Davison. “It has all different types of sensory items. When you walk in the door, you feel sequins where there is movement, a grass wall, a slide with rollers, a trampoline, a swing, a bubble machine, a softened floor, and much more. It is an amazing place for students to meet their sensory needs!”

“Our students love the sensory room,” exclaimed Brown’s behavioral interventionist, Wyvonne Grzyb. “It provides a calm, sensory-enriched environment where students can experience various stimuli to help them reset and refocus. The students use their senses to explore various textures, sights, and sounds. This room is an extraordinary addition to our school.”

The Hazelwood School District looks forward to Brown’s sensory classroom meeting students’ needs, which will positively impact academic achievement through social and emotional learning.



20 Hazelwood School District Students Compete In The 2024 DECA State Competition

The Hazelwood School District celebrates the success of 20 students who were chosen as winners in the 2024 DECA State Competition.

East High's 14 winners were Nydeye Diagne, Asia Andrisse, Saniya Scott, Ravyn Farrow, Daja Perry, Jameicka Jordan, Maliakah Fultz, Ibrahim Bah, Angelo Robinson, Tyreq Harris, Geonna Brown, Brandi Clark, Zainab Bah, and Tyra Williams. In addition, West High's six winners were Zauri Smith, Nikiya Wesley, Jamar Pierce, Shelby Florea, Vanessa Choy, and Isabella Adkins. All 20 students have qualified for the annual Missouri DECA State Career Development Conference held in Kansas City, MO, in March.

During the DECA District Conference, business and industry professionals who served as competitive events judges evaluated DECA members. Participating students problem-solved realistic



workplace topics and were required to present their solutions in a role-play with a judge. Before the on-site competition, the students completed an industry-based 100-question exam.

DECA is an international association of high school students studying marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Missouri DECA ranks seventh in the nation in membership, with more than 6,500 members and 180 chapters statewide.

Jury's Cassandra Payton Selected As March's #TeacherProud Tuesday

Cassandra Payton is in her eighth year at Jury Elementary, where she teaches the 4th grade, and is known as a go-getter who carries many roles within the school. This hard work has led to her being named HSD's #TeacherProud Tuesday recipient for March.

"When I think of the epitome of what it means to be a teacher, Mrs. Payton succeeds at it completely," detailed Rika W., a parent at Jury, in her nomination. "Her role in the school is a powerhouse; it really does shape what our school culture should be for every teacher."

Her dedication and top-of-the-line customer service to HSD students, parents, and the community is evident as she received not one, not two, but three nominations for the #TeacherProud Tuesday award.

"Ms. Payton works hard to build great relationships with her students and families," boasted Darion Murdock, principal at Jury Elementary, in his nomination. "In addition to her duties as a classroom teacher, she also works as an NEA building rep,

cheerleading coach, and PTA member. Her hard work and effort make Jury a better place for students and staff."

"I am extremely passionate and excited to be a part of the amazing things being accomplished at Jury and within the Hazelwood School District," exclaimed Mrs. Payton. "I am determined to show students the power that exists within themselves. This recognition is one of the highest received because of what it represents: affirmation that the work of teachers matters!"

Congratulations to all teachers nominated for HSD's #TeacherProud Tuesday in March. Visit www.hazelwoodschoools.org/teacherproud to nominate an HSD educator for #TeacherProud Tuesday.



Celebrating Women's History Month: Female Wrestling Takes Center Stage in HSD

Female wrestling continues to be among the fastest-growing sports in the country, with 46% growth from 2022 to 2023 in high school sports. The growth in Hazelwood School District has followed suit, with last year being the first year where all three high schools featured girl wrestlers.

This year, the number of girls in wrestling exploded from five last season to 24 this season, and West High leads the way with 13 female wrestlers and a female assistant coach.

"Back when I was in high school and college, girls wrestling was not as big as it is now," details Monique Goris, West High's girls' wrestling assistant coach. "Only six states at the time had a girls' wrestling program at the high school level, and hearing about girls in the sport of wrestling was not common. Seeing how much girls' wrestling has grown is mind-blowing, and as the first female coach at Hazelwood West, I am proud to be a part of this growth."

Last year, West High sent HSD's lone girl representative to the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) State Championships. This year, each high school had a wrestler qualify with East High sending Tamara Dixon and Persephone Morrison; West High sending Tamia Coleman-Hawkins, and Central High sending Carrington Reed.

"It's more dynamic wrestling than the boys at this point," explained Deronne Carson, Central High's wrestling head coach. "Last year's district matches for the girls were way more dynamic, and these girls are tough. The mental toughness is there with them. You don't have to talk about that

at all and can focus on the techniques."

Many focus on the physical aspect of wrestling, but it's the mental aspect that these student-athletes want to hone in on.

"There have been many days at practice that I've cried because of how hard it is, but once you get through it, it is so rewarding," stated Carrington Reed, Central High junior wrestler. "You have to be strong mentally to push through, and those experiences can help you in life overall."

The community aspect around girls' wrestling has caught the attention of coaches and players.

"At many of our tournaments, the girls' wrestling matches have had more spectators," East High's wrestling coach, Roderick Allen, said. "In a recent tournament, one of our girls wrestled for first place and had nearly 30 family members come out in support."

"This is my first year, and it's honestly one of the best sports I've ever played," exclaimed Tamia Coleman-Hawkins, a junior wrestler at West High. "It feels really good to be a part of such a fast-growing sport, and it's like we are a part of one giant family."

The Hazelwood School District is proud of our girl wrestlers for being on the ground level of such an explosive and exciting sport. We look forward to hearing about the success of our girls' wrestling programs as they raise their voices and empower future generations in HSD.





West High Girls' Swim Win 3rd Straight Suburban Conference Green Pool Championship

The West High girls' swim team came into the season with a lot of experience, including seven seniors and back-to-back Suburban Conference Green Pool championships. That experience helped the Wildcats win the Green Pool conference for the third year in a row!

The team won seven races at the conference swim meet, winning overall by 125 points.

"This was the first year where we felt like we were the targets, that the other teams were aiming to beat us," detailed Molly Berendzen, a senior swimmer at West High. "All of us really meshed together, and honestly, that community is my favorite part of my time here at West."

With the success of the Wildcats swim team, the school has seen exponential growth within the program, which is something that has made this group of seniors proud.

"It's empowering to have other female students come up to me and talk about wanting to join the swim team and other sports because they see us putting ourselves out there," exclaimed Anna Millikan, a senior swimmer at West High. "Women's sports are definitely growing, and it's inspiring because I love seeing women come out and show off their strengths."

The Hazelwood School District is proud of the West High swim team for winning a third straight conference championship. We look forward to cheering them on to four in a row next season!

Celebrating Women's History Month: Girls In Gaming

HSD's competitive Esports program, although predominantly male-dominated, is seeing an increase in girls interested in gaming.

"It is no different than anything else," expressed East High senior Kayla Jones. "The majority of my friend group are guys. It is not outside of my comfort zone. I calm the boys down and mediate when they get too hyped while playing."

Each HSD high school has an active Esports program. Of the 28 students in East High's program, two are girls. There are 17 boys in Central High's Esports program, and West High has 82 Esports students, including two girls.

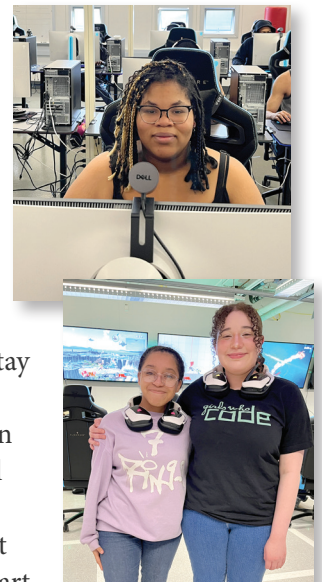
"We work hard to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. I'm so happy we're starting to see more female representation in Esports, and I hope their participation encourages other female students to join our teams," exclaimed West High's Esports coach, Monica Licklider.

West High senior, Maleah Moore, is excited to be a part of the

Esports program and speaks highly of the program to other girls at their school.

"I like the feeling of community and competition," explained Moore. "Esports is a sport equivalent to football that requires strategy, communication, and teamwork. We are not social rejects or people who stay on the computer 24/7. We are people who have good grades, are involved in other school activities, and are not all introverted; we communicate. I have never felt like I resonated with a sport more, and I want other girls to be a part of Esports."

The Hazelwood School District is excited to continue developing students' academic, social and emotional skills through Esports!



Central High Student-Athletes Team Up and Mentor Barrington Elementary Student-Athletes

Central High's student-athletes recently teamed up with students from Barrington Elementary to mentor and encourage the next generation of student-athletes in the Hazelwood School District.

The Barrington Bulldogs cheer team attended a recent Central High girls' basketball game and had the opportunity to get first-hand experience of what it takes to be a cheerleader at the high school level.

"We all have someone we looked up to, someone who encouraged us and gave us advice that has stuck with us into adulthood as we worked toward the things we are passionate about," detailed Carolyn Burbridge, Barrington's Special School District's K-5 resource teacher and cheer coach. "Giving these kids a chance at meeting a mentor in elementary school is giving them a chance to meet a mentor that could potentially change the course of the pursuit of their dreams and goals."

The Hazelwood School District strives to provide academic, socioemotional, and behavioral support for all students, and having these students involved in extracurricular activities along with the mentorship on display helps accomplish that goal.

"I often tell our young students that what they are doing today will help propel them into the places they want to be later," expressed Lacesha Jeffers, Barrington's PTA vice president,

volunteer cheer coach, and former Hazelwood Central color guard member. "It was nice that our students were able to talk with the Central High student-athletes and ask a few questions, and for the high school students to know that how they carry themselves is important and has an impact on younger students."

Beyond cheer, peer-to-peer collaboration helps both elementary and high school students feel empowered to accomplish their goals.

"It was definitely a great experience for my girls to see that they always have someone counting on them to show up and show out," exclaimed Nae Green, Central High's cheer coach. "I think having a mentor is something everyone should have, not just kids or teens, but adults as well. It's always good to have someone who can help guide you and figure out life!"

The Barrington Bulldogs girls' basketball team was also in attendance to watch their high school peers in action and play a sport in which they aspire to continue.

The Hazelwood School District is proud of these student-athletes who took the time to collaborate and show the power of mentorship within our district by raising their voices for HSD!



Celebrating Women's History Month: Girls Take Drone Pilot Certification Program To New Heights

Hazelwood School District girls continue to excel in the drone pilot certification program, a one-year course regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration standards that prepares students ages 16 and older for Flying Part 107 licensure.

"I think it is important to expose students to what is close to them," expressed East High's drone pilot certification, journalism, and English teacher Haleigh Goff. "There is a major international airport right down the road. This certification program is a good introduction to the transportation industry. The drone industry is multifaceted and used in almost every single industry because of the photography and videography aspects. This exposure has a huge impact on our students' career opportunities. It is rewarding to see our young ladies get into this program and excel in a predominately male-dominated industry."

"Elise excelled in my yearlong drone pilot certification program," expressed Central High social studies and drone pilot certification teacher Dr. Bryan Hindrichs. "Elise was a leading pilot and completed the program with excellent marks, and the only student from her class to take and pass the FAA Part 107 drone pilot's license test. Now Elise works alongside me to provide Central High athletics and activities with drone video and photographs."

Westberg wants to encourage more girls to step outside their comfort zone.

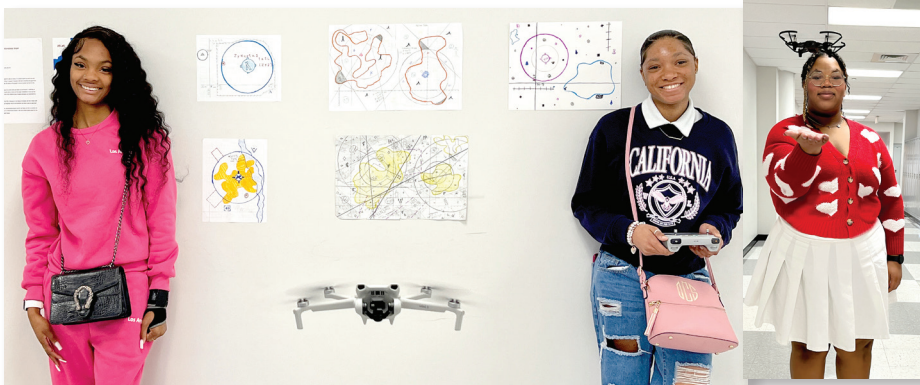
"I wish girls did not feel so boxed in," expressed Westberg. "I think they should feel free to try new things out. Many of our STEM classes have more boys than girls, which can deter some people. It puts a little pressure on you to do well, but I think girls need to feel more free to reach out into new areas of study to open more opportunities."

The Hazelwood School District is committed to providing hands-on experience through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), developing critical thinkers prepared to lead with 21st-century skills. We are proud of all students who continue to promote and participate in STEM.

Of East High's 28 students in the drone program, 10 are girls. West High has 22 boys in its drone program, and Central High has nine students with one girl in the drone program.

"It is more than just picking up a controller and flying a plane around," said East High senior Saniya Scott. "We are learning about sectional aviation charts, symbols, and runways."

West High senior Laura Westberg and Central High senior Elise Greene are the only girls currently in the Hazelwood School District holding Flying Part 107 licensures. Since the program's inception, HSD has had 13 students earn their licenses.



The key to achieving the campaign goal is participation from all stakeholders. The information explains specific ways each stakeholder group can support the campaign.



The No Guns in School campaign specifically targets guns and mobilizes students, parents, and the community to partner with the district to achieve one goal: No Guns in School. **Did you know that a student who brings a gun to school will be suspended for up to 180 days? Additionally, barring extenuating circumstances, the student will be expelled, which means they will not be able to attend any public school in the state of Missouri.**

Celebrating Women's History Month: Elementary Girls Soar in STEM through iSCORE

Grannemann Elementary girls are enthusiastic about the Institute for STEM Collaboration, Outreach, Research and Education (iSCORE), an afterschool program held two nights a week, which introduces students to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through fun and unique experiments.

"We all work well together," explained 4th-grade student Makiah Morton. "It is pretty great! When we made slime, we had to put the ingredients in, mix it, and share. iSCORE is the best. It's the most fun thing you can do after school!"

The Hazelwood School District is committed to developing real-world skills, providing hands-on experience, and making STEM more tangible while showcasing its value beyond the classroom. iSCORE is relatively new in the St. Louis area. Founder and Director, Dr. Christa Jackson, appreciates the opportunity to work with the Hazelwood School District to introduce more girls and people of color to various hands-on STEM learning experiences.

"It is wonderful working with the students, the teachers, and district leaders in Hazelwood," expressed Dr. Jackson. "The goal of iSCORE is to broaden the STEM community and to deepen our scholars' STEM literacy skills, sense of STEM belonging, and STEM environment. We want them to see the utility and adaptability of STEM that not only focuses on science concepts and content, but mathematics. It is an integrated process."



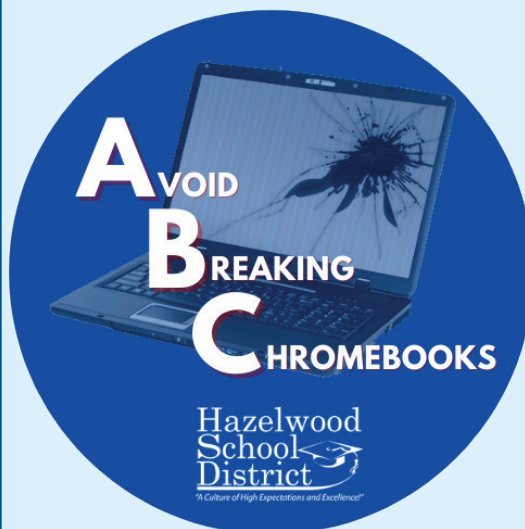
HSD PROUD PASS

The HSD Proud Activities and Athletics Pass is one way the Hazelwood School District says thank you for your support of our schools. It allows active HSD Hero Readers, active HSD Ambassadors, and district residents aged 60 and over free access to high school and middle school events. HSD Proud Pass holders may receive one free food item and one free drink per event.

For more information visit www.hazelwoodschoools.org



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Pay Range: \$39,000-\$83,496 / Per Year

School Safety Officer

Pay Range: \$17.12-\$23.74 / Per Hour

Teacher

Pay Range: \$47,000-\$89,914 / Per Year

Teacher Assistants

Pay Range: \$16.68-\$20.33 / Per Hour

Employee Benefits

- ✓ District Paid Medical, Dental, & Life Insurance
- ✓ Holiday & Vacation Days
- ✓ Tuition Reimbursement
- ✓ Employee Assistance Program
- ✓ Tuition-based early childhood classrooms in every elementary school! The cost is \$100 per child, per week, including pre/post care for HSD staff.

Hazelwood
School
District

"A Culture of High Expectations and Excellence"

To apply, visit hazelwoodschoools.org

PBIS Program Helps Set The Expectations At Walker Elementary

The Hazelwood School District's stated goal of improving individual student success by providing academic, socio-emotional, and behavioral support is a critical part of the Hazelwood NOW Strategic Plan. It's also a goal that Walker Elementary has taken very seriously over the last 10 years, implementing its Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program at the beginning of each school year.

"With our PBIS program, our goal is to make the school a positive learning environment for students," detailed Dr. Bethany Pendino, instructional coach at Walker Elementary. "It involves identifying and teaching our expectations, and we like to recognize and reward students for meeting and exceeding those expectations."

The program provides an opportunity to celebrate students who meet the expectations of being respectful, responsible, and kind with incentives like "Paws for Applause" certificates, positive office referrals, and referral-free events. During the first week of school, Walker's building principal, Dr. John Koeneker, Dr. Pendino, and staff kick it off with the initial PBIS Bootcamp.

"We want our students to know and understand what they are supposed to do here at Walker," Dr. Koeneker



explains. "The old adage is if they don't know how to read, we will teach them how to read. If they don't know how to do math, we will teach them how to do math, and if they don't know what the expectations are at school, we want to teach them what those expectations are."

During those first few weeks of school, Walker's staff identify student leaders who will make up the PBIS committee. Those students help set expectations for their peers.

"My favorite part about being on the committee is that I get to lead students from different grades," said Kaylee Richardson, a 4th-grade student and PBIS committee member. "Some of the students are from my grade, but others are not, and I get to become friends with them and set expectations by telling them what to do."

After winter break, the committee hosts the student-led PBIS Bootcamp. During the presentation, students discuss scenarios and exhibit respectful, responsible, and kind behavior.

"They talked about how if you are respectful, responsible, and kind, then other people will treat you the same way," stated Owen Pugh, a 3rd-grade student at Walker.

The Hazelwood School District is proud of all the Walker Elementary students for setting the expectations for future students to follow in their footsteps and raise their voices for HSD.



Tutoring & Social/Emotional Support Line

The Tutoring and Social/Emotional Support Line is a resource for tutoring, homework help, and access to general social/emotional needs.

Teachers and social/emotional staff will be able to assist students and parents with both tutoring and homework help, and will be able to connect families with other resources as needed.

Call the Tutoring or Social/Emotional Hotline: 314-953-5140
Hours: Monday - Thursday 6pm - 8pm, Saturday 10am - 12pm

Scan the QR code to sign up for the Tutoring or Social Emotional Hotline.





Meet the School Board Candidates **Election Day: April 2, 2024**

Three Hazelwood School District Board of Education seats are open in the April 2, 2024, election. Two three-year seats and one one-year seat will be filled. The five candidates are listed in the order of when they filed. Biographies were written by the candidates, and they were not edited by the Communications and Public Relations Department.

Filed for 3-year Expired Seats



Andrea Gregory

Andrea R. Gregory as a 1977 graduate of Hazelwood Central, my husband of 43 years and I decided to return to the Hazelwood School District (HSD) upon our move to Missouri.

We lived in Huntsville, AL for 28 years, where I worked as an Army Aviation Logistics Chief. Retiring in 2018 with over 38 years of service, I worked on numerous helicopter systems, providing program oversight, training, contract management, and funding development and distribution.

Prior to joining the HSD Board of Education, I was a member of Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) for many years. I volunteered with both the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts. I was an active volunteer with the Young Marines, which has a partnership with the U.S. Marine Corp. They are dedicated to helping kids between the ages of 8-18 become focused on leadership, self-discipline, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Additionally, I worked as a Court Appointed Juvenile Advocate (CAJA). As a sworn-in representative of the court, I advocated for abused, abandoned, and neglected children by speaking up for them and helping them to have what every child deserves: a safe and happy childhood.

I have an MBA in International Business, from Webster University. I am a proud lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

I believe in Community Service and will advocate that all students have access, opportunity, and resources to reach their highest potential in the Hazelwood School District.



Vernisia White

Vernisia White is a lifelong advocate for education and will bring a fresh preservative to the Hazelwood School Board

of Education. Her belief that with innovative education all students can learn, be successful and with Vernisia's commitment of collaborative efforts sets her apart.

Vernisia's passion for education began when she started her own family. Becoming an advocate not only for her children but all children and parents, being that voice to ensure that the goals created for our children's education are attainable and realistic.

As a Wholistic Lifestyle Coach, Vernisia has worked with adolescents by providing support and guidance. By volunteering at several local elementary & high schools in the St. Louis area she helped support the community. Vernisia, created relationships with some of the young women while being involved with Period Purses Annual Drive and Volunteer with St. Louis Area Foodbank.

Vernisia's vision and goal is to bring innovative educational solutions to the Hazelwood School Board of Education. Her focus is student's educational competencies from early childhood to development an academic mindset. Instead of waiting to an issue arises, she believes that the school board should be proactive for long-term student success.



Stephen Lewis

Stephen H. Lewis is running for a seat on the Hazelwood Board of Education. Stephen believes that excellent student outcomes begin with an environment that attracts the best teachers and staff.

A former high school science teacher, Stephen is currently a software engineer with Hunter Engineering. He has been an engineer, engineering manager, and product owner in defense, aerospace, and medical fields. He is a certified Project Management Professional and a Professional Scrum Product Owner. His work experience will translate into keeping the board focused on its goals and using metrics to evaluate progress.

Stephen has degrees in physics from the University of Texas at Austin and Washington University. He has two patents for medical devices and is co-author of several scientific papers in ultrasound physics.

Stephen and his family have lived in the Hazelwood School district since 1994 and his daughters graduated from Central and West High Schools. A long time PTA member, Stephen has volunteered in the district as a class parent and chaperone. He has built equipment for the West and Central bands and worked at many band and robotics competitions. He has volunteered as a soccer and volleyball coach and delivered many car loads of Girl Scout Cookies.

A long-time member of St Andrew UMC, Stephen has been a church musician, playing in multiple praise bands, managing sound and video ministry and leading handbell choirs at multiple churches. He currently is a member of ReBELLion Handbell choir, and the Northwinds Concert band.

Filed for 1-year Unexpired Seat



**Elizabeth
"Betsy" Rachel**

worked to be a good steward of our resources and to promote transparency.

I was born and raised in Jerseyville, a rural Illinois community north of St. Louis. Both of my parents were teachers, and impressed upon me the importance of providing quality public education for all children. My husband, Jeff, and I have been happily married for 16 years, and are blessed with two sons who are currently students in Hazelwood schools. We love living in North County and are grateful for the opportunity to raise our family in a community with such rich diversity.

I earned my Bachelor's degree from Maryville University, and my Master's in Social Work from St. Louis University. I currently hold my Clinical Social Work license with the state of Missouri, and have several years of professional experience. In recent years I have been blessed to be a stay-at-home-mom.

I'm seeking re-election so I can continue to promote transparency and advocate for stakeholders. I believe I bring experience and stability of leadership to our school board.



Michael McCollum

Mike McCollum has been a resident in Hazelwood School District since 1997. He resides in Florissant with his wife of 25 years and four children (youngest currently in HSD). As a lifelong union member Mike values the hard work and sacrifices union members give so we can receive a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. Mike was a member of Ford Motor Co. UAW local 325, Anheuser Busch Teamster Local 6, GKN Aerospace I.A.M.A.W. Lodge 837 and currently Ameren IBEW Local 1439.

Mike is the son of a retired St. Louis Public School English Teacher (33 years) at Vashon High School O'Fallon Tech High School, Visual Performance Arts School and father who worked as a resource officer at Beaumont High School. His life experience has shown Mike the value teachers bring to our society and the importance of education for our students.

In 2020 Mike McCollum won his first election as Democrat Committeeman for Lewis Clark Township. He acts as a liaison for the people in his district, gaining them access to resources, getting their voices heard and issues solved in the community.

Currently, Mike is volunteering his time to bring Debate Teams for high school students within Hazelwood District. Mike is a very devoted and involved parent in academics and believes this skill set will enhance students' vocabulary, articulation, and problem-solving abilities to create the next generation of leaders.

Mike is running for the 1-year BOE, Director position to be a team member assisting with the governance of HSD for a great education for our students.

**Summer School
registration opens
on March 18 in
Tyler SIS!**

Back to school

**Registration for the 2024-2025 school year
will be done through Infinite Campus!**

**2024-2025 registration opens on
March 11 for all returning students
and new students grades PK - 5.**

**New student registration for grades
6 - 12 opens June 3!**

For more information, visit www.hazelwoodschoools.org

Board of Education



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Latham**



**Sylvester
Taylor II**



**Sparkl A.
West-Pruitt**



**Robert
Birdsong**



**Andrea R.
Gregory**



**Diane
Livingston**



**Betsy
Rachel**

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

FLORISSANT GOLF CLUB

50 COUNTRY CLUB LN., FLORISSANT, MO

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE

SIGN-UP DEADLINE FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

SHOTGUN START: 8:00A.M.

COST \$125/GOLFER

This includes 18-holes of golf, cart,
continental breakfast, lunch, and gift bag!

Become an HSD Foundation Sponsor: Several
packages available, ranging from \$500-\$10,000



Scan to Sign-Up or go to: www.hazelwoodschoools.org/GolfRegistration



*Charity
Golf Tournament*