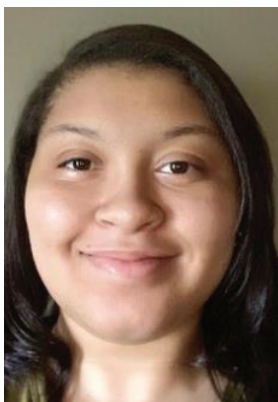


Hazelwood East High School Student Participates in National Youth Entrepreneurship Program

Micah, a 16-year-old Hazelwood East student, pitched a business idea at the annual Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge. Her business idea, Cavy Pads, is a product that provides owners of guinea pigs and other small animals stylish, affordable, and animal-safe cage bedding. Through the program, Micah won \$500 to launch her business.



Hazelwood West High School Student Receives Drum Major Scholarship

Angam, a senior at Hazelwood West High School, was awarded the Christian Hospital Foundation Drum Major Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving student who plans to enter a career in healthcare. Angam's scholarship essay, "Drum Major Instinct," detailed her commitment to service and dreams of revolutionizing the healthcare industry.



Hazelwood Central High School Football Star Commits to University of Maryland

Kyle, a senior at Hazelwood Central High School, has signed a letter of intent to be a student-athlete at the University of Maryland. After a noteworthy high school career that included being named one of the top 30 senior football players to watch by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the star offensive tackle is set to play football for the Maryland Terrapins in the fall of 2021.



Hazelwood School District

"A Culture of High Expectations and Excellence!"

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- Black Jack
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- Dellwood
- Ferguson
- Florissant
- Hazelwood
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Hazelwood School District


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Florissant, Missouri 63031

(314) 953-5000

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From the Desk of the Superintendent

After more than a year, Hazelwood School District students will begin returning to the classroom on March 29, 2021. The return of face-to-face instruction represents an exciting step toward the unique learning experience offered within HSD buildings.

Since March of 2020, the district has been evolving together to meet the academic, social/emotional, and health needs of our school community. From the teacher workgroups that created this year's revised curriculum to the staff members who have kept buildings operating, we have pulled together in the worst of times to support our students and each other. Our students have navigated a once-in-a-century pandemic, our parents have provided never-ending support, and our school community has shown an incredible level of strength, creativity, and compassion.

Despite the constraints of the pandemic, HSD has found safe ways to serve and celebrate. Throughout the school year, the district has held dozens of drive-thru resource events that provided the community with food resources, school supplies, personal protective equipment, and a variety of crucial services. In February of 2021, the district held a virtual PTA Founders' Day celebration. The event gave the district a chance to celebrate the PTA, Teachers of the Year, and Support Staff of

the Year. The event also raised more than \$18,000 for the PTA Council Scholarship Fund, which benefits HSD high school seniors.

While we know that some students and faculty have struggled with virtual instruction, this experience has helped the district develop curriculum that will allow HSD to continue to offer virtual learning options, even when the pandemic is over. The district's ability to deliver virtual instruction will help prepare our students to operate in a world that relies more and more on virtual connections each day.

In addition to virtual learning, the district also revamped building and transportation safety procedures that will serve our school community well long after the pandemic is over. While each of us wishes we could erase the damage caused by the pandemic, I find comfort knowing that our school community has continued to put the needs of students first. I am looking forward to welcoming HSD students, faculty, and staff back to our school buildings. Thank you for all you do to promote our culture of high expectations and excellence!

Sincerely,

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart
Superintendent



Hazelwood News is a publication of the Communications and Public Relations Department of the Hazelwood School District.

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Meet the School Board Candidates Election Day: April 6, 2021

Three Hazelwood School District Board of Education seats are open in the April 6, 2021, election. Two three-year seats and one two-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. At the time of print for this newsletter, we did not receive a photo nor biography from Ronald Reed.

Filed for 3-year Expired Seats



Sparkl West-Pruitt
(Incumbent)

and Concert Director.

Sparkl moved to Florissant from Atlanta, GA in 2012 to become the Promotions Director at WFUN & WHHL, as well as, KMJM and Hallelujah 1600. Throughout her life and career, she has lived in Japan, Egypt, Germany, Arizona, Tennessee and Georgia. She has been very involved in each community which she has lived. Sparkl obtained an Associated degree in Artist Management from the Music Business Institute in Atlanta, GA. Her Bachelor's degree from Georgia Institute of Technology in Communications. She holds several accomplished certifications and currently in school to obtain her Missouri Real Estate License. Sparkl is married with two children; one is a student in the Hazelwood School District.

Affiliations and Memberships

- American Business Women's Association (ABWA)
- Christian Women's Empowerment Network (CWEN)
- Parent Teachers Association (PTA)
- St. Louis County NAACP
- Red Cross - Charles Drew Partners
- Sickle Cell Association - St. Louis
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women St. Louis Metropolitan Chapter (NCBW)
- St. Louis Zoo
- Westside Missionary Baptist Church
- Roadies of Color International
- Grammy Foundation

Volunteer Experience

- PTA (President Local Units and HSD Council)
- Jamestown, Russell, Townsend, East Middle & High School - more time than others. At some time or another, I have volunteered and been in every school in the district.

Sparkl West-Pruitt has been in live music entertainment for 30 years. She owns her own company Infinity West, Inc. that manages and promotes national recording artist around the world. Prior to owning her own company she toured with several national recording artist as a Promoter Representative



Betsy Rachel
(Incumbent)

I have lived in North County since 2001, and in the Hazelwood School District since 2007. I was elected to Hazelwood's Board of Education in 2018 after helping to form and co-chair a parent advocacy group in response to budget cuts to band & orchestra programs, PE, field trips, and custodial services were announced in 2016. Our group successfully petitioned voters within our community for a state audit of HSD. As a member of the board I've 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 13 years, and are blessed with two sons who are currently students in Hazelwood. 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. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I enjoyed opportunities to volunteer at my sons' schools and at our local church.

I'm seeking re-election so I can continue to promote transparency and advocate for stakeholders.



Diane Livingston
(Incumbent)

Diane Livingston resides in Black Jack with her husband of 47 years. They have two children that attended Hazelwood schools k-12, are both

graduates of Missouri universities and still reside within the school district. Her son has three small children, two of which presently attend HSD schools. She and her husband have been small business owners in North County and in historic downtown St. Charles since 1987.

Mrs. Livingston has a Master's degree in Education and retired from HSD after a 17 year career as a high school math teacher and full time HNEA teacher union president. She participated on many district steering committees, presented leadership programs at state and national conferences, worked with DESE on teacher training and certification and received numerous awards for her leadership in state and local organizations including MNEA, Scouts and HSD.

In 2018, Mrs. Livingston was elected to the Hazelwood School Board and has been an actively, informed advocate on behalf of the district's students, parents and staff. She is currently Vice President of the board and served one year as its Treasurer. Last year she earned her Advanced Board Member Certification from MSBA. She is also President of the Florissant Valley Kiwanis Club and serves on the Board of Directors for Heritage House.



Meet the School Board Candidates (continued)

Election Day: April 6, 2021

Filed for 2-year Unexpired Seat



My name is Sylvester Taylor II, my wife and I have lived in the Hazelwood School District for 26 years. We have raised or 3 daughters in the school district.

Sylvester Taylor II

I have been a member of The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for 31 years, where I currently serve as Recording Secretary.

The last 20 years have just been amazing. In 2001 I was elected as a Board of Director for the Black Jack Fire District. I served there until 2010 when I was elected to The House of Representative 80th District. Where I served on the committees of Local Government, Agriculture Business, Workforce Development & Financial Institutions.

In my personal life, I am Chairman of The Electrical workers Minority Caucus. It is made up of a group of men & women making a difference in their union & in the community. We started a mentoring Program at the Division of Youth Services. The program is to help at risk youth find jobs in organized labor when they enter the workforce. In 2004 We started a coat drive for children homes & schools. Currently to date we have given out over 10, 500 coats to area kids & 800 coats to a center called the hope house, which is a shelter for battered women.

My adult life has been about service in my neighborhood, service in my city & service in my school district and my church (New Salem M. B. Church, where Michael Franks I is the Pastor).

I am running for the Hazelwood School Board because it seemed like a perfect fit to help as many children as possible. I am running to help bridge the gap between virtual learning & in-school learning. I am running for the Hazelwood School Board to give our young children all the resources for their next level & to help the young adults with resources for their next step in life. I am running to give our teachers all the resources that I can to help reach our children.



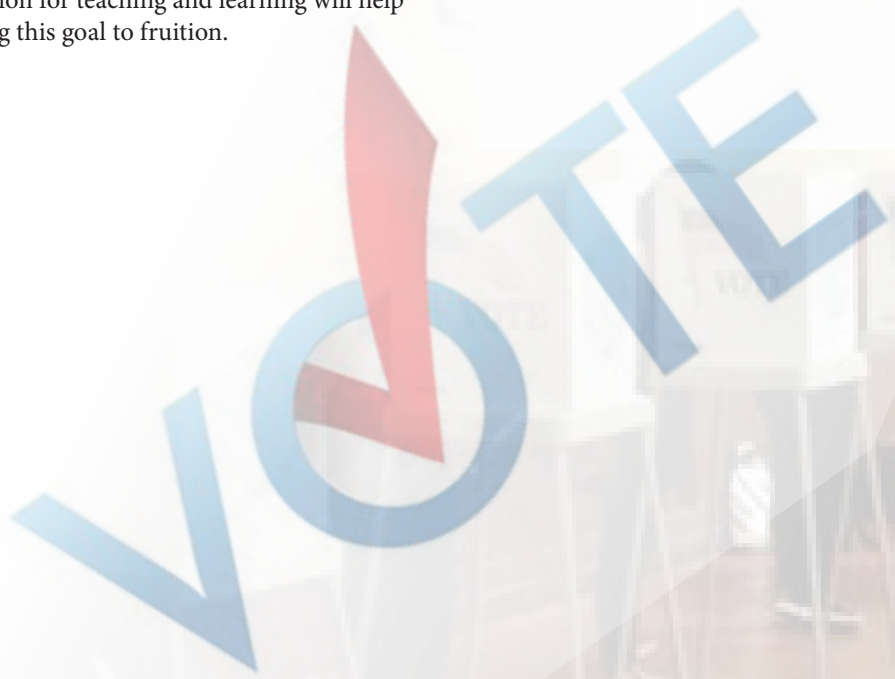
I have lived in North St. Louis County for more than thirty years. My wife and I have three sons who attended and graduated from the Hazelwood School District.

Aaron Craig

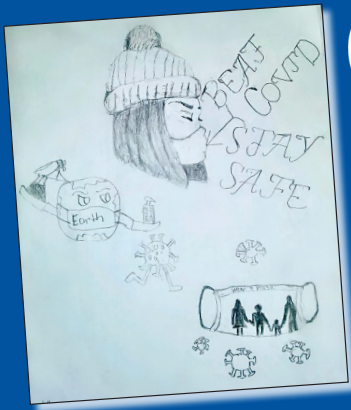
I am a retired school teacher and administrator. I am passionate about education. I earned a bachelor's, masters and Education Specialist degrees from The University of Missouri-St. Louis.

I want to become a board of education member to help the Hazelwood School District prepare students for productive citizenship in the twenty-first century.

I believe my experience, education and passion for teaching and learning will help bring this goal to fruition.



HELP HAZELWOOD GET HEALTHY!



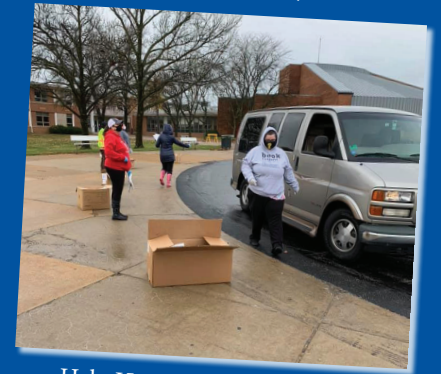
Khamya, Armstrong Elementary School



Ta'Liah, Jury Elementary School



Help Hazelwood Get Healthy kit assembly



Help Hazelwood Get Healthy kit distribution

HSD Launches Public Health Campaign

In the fall of 2020, Hazelwood School District launched the Help Hazelwood Get Healthy public health campaign. The campaign is aimed at encouraging everyone who lives in the area to wear masks, practice social distancing, and wash their hands. With a strategic focus on community engagement, the campaign started with a free drive-thru resource event at Hazelwood Central High School. HSD nursing staff distributed more than 5,000 Help Hazelwood Get Healthy resource kits to families. The kits included masks, thermometers, and COVID-19 information.

Additional campaign elements included public service announcement videos featuring students, billboards on each side of the district, and a Help Hazelwood Get Healthy contest for students and employees. Through the contest, the district collected videos, poems, and posters with healthy messages that will be shared throughout the school year on social media.

Two of the best submissions came from elementary school students Khamya and Ta'Liah. Khamya created a poster that encouraged people to defeat COVID-19. Ta'Liah created a video that explained the importance of hand sanitizer.

While the foundation of the campaign will continue to encourage people to wear masks, wash their hands, and practice social distancing, COVID-19 vaccine education will become a major focus.

“The district is committed to sharing accurate information about the vaccine with the community to help people make educated decisions,” Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart, Superintendent of HSD said. “COVID-19 is a tough enemy, but we can defeat it together.”

For more information about how you can Help Hazelwood Get Healthy, visit www.hazelwoodschoools.org.



Three HSD Schools Selected to Participate in UMSL's Literacy Program

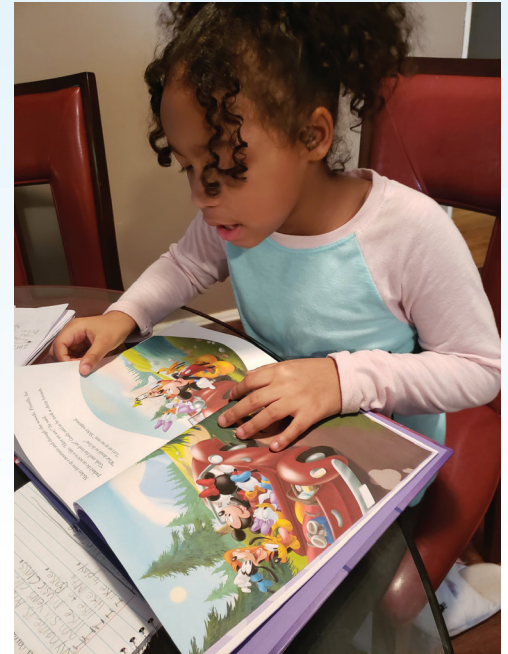
The University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL) recently received a \$5.1 million grant that will go toward improving literacy in select St. Louis-area schools.

As part of the grant, three Hazelwood schools began working with UMSL in February to improve literacy – Grannemann Elementary School, Hazelwood East High School, and Hazelwood Southeast Middle School.

Literacy is crucial in a student's life and is essential for educational and social development. It not only empowers students in reading, writing, and

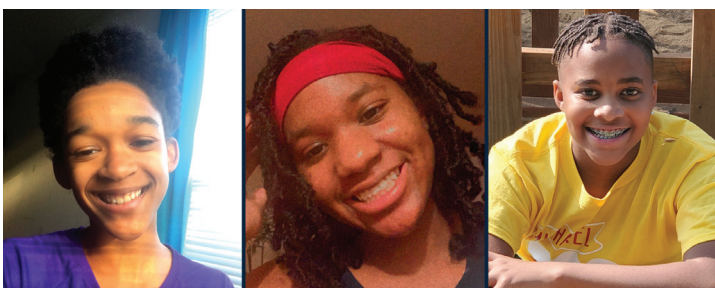
communication skills, but it also enhances career opportunities in the future.

During the program, UMSL literacy experts will coach educators on culturally relevant practices associated with the science of reading, including phonics instruction, reading practices to develop fluency and the development of vocabulary, and a focus on improving comprehension. Participating schools will also be provided with literacy instruction resources.



Three Hazelwood North Middle School Students Place in the 2020 Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. ~ Alpha Zeta Chapter National Essay Competition

Three extraordinary Hazelwood North Middle School students placed in the 2020 Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. ~ Alpha Zeta Chapter National Essay Competition. Pictured left to right: Sapphire, 7th grade, placed 1st; Shanya, 8th grade, placed 2nd; and Michael, 8th grade, placed 3rd. Students who participated in the contest had to write an essay about how social media impacts teenagers. The students were recognized for their insightful work during a virtual event.



Hazelwood East Middle School 8th Grade Center Accepting Applications

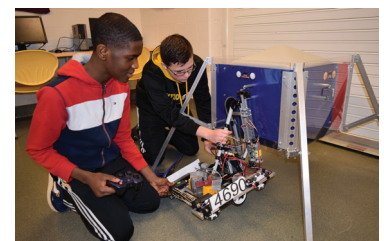
Located at Hazelwood East High School, the 8th Grade Center offers students a variety of unique classes.

Course offerings include Information Technology, Broadcasting, Theater, Spanish, French, Fashion, Construction, and more.

Students also can earn healthcare or IT/coding certifications through their studies.

Applications are now being accepted.

Visit bit.ly/EastMiddleSchool for more information.



Top Teachers and Staff of the 2020-2021 School Year Honored

Hazelwood School District is fortunate to have extraordinary teachers and support staff. Each school year, the district celebrates the Teachers of the Year, Support Staff of the Year, and District-Level Teacher of the Year. In February, HSD named Dr. Kelly Taylor the 2020-2021 District-Level Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Taylor, a Hazelwood West High School science teacher, has been with HSD since 2016. Teachers of the Year, Support Staff of the Year, and Dr. Taylor were honored during the PTA Founders' Day virtual event in February. Below is the complete list of honorees.



Dr. Kelly Taylor,
District-Level Teacher of the Year

Teachers of the Year honorees:

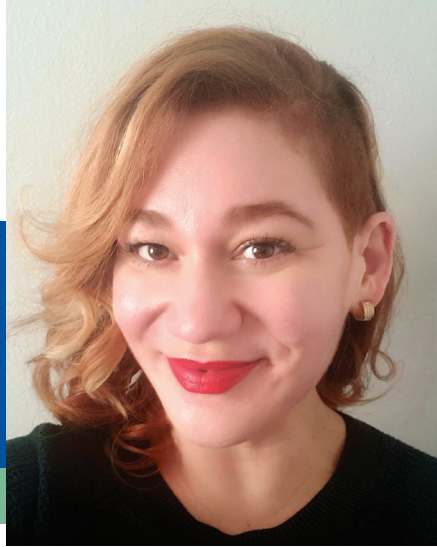
Early Childhood Education - Amy Allen
 English Learners - Cara Gerberding
 Armstrong Elementary School - Tracy Jones
 Arrowpoint Elementary School - Lesley Covington
 Barrington Elementary School - Jernae Craig
 Brown Elementary School - Brandi McKenna
 Cold Water Elementary School - Julie Fischer
 Garrett Elementary School - Misty Borgsmiller
 Grannemann Elementary School - Jermelody Collins
 Jamestown Elementary School - Cynthia Hei
 Jana Elementary School - Christine Sullivan
 Jury Elementary School - Kimberly Logan
 Keeven Elementary School - Kimberly Kiffmeyer
 Larimore Elementary School - Meredith Lecrone
 Lawson Elementary School - Carolyn Allen
 Lusher Elementary School - Tawnya Chilton -
 2nd Runner up
 McCurdy Elementary School - Johnna Connors

McNair Elementary School - Jamie Fader
 Russell Elementary School - Dr. Izetta Wiggs
 Townsend Elementary School - Joe Steiner
 Twillman Elementary School - Linda May-Doyle -
 1st Runner up
 Walker Elementary School - Steven Wehmeyer
 Hazelwood Central Middle School - Melissa Kaufman
 Hazelwood East Middle School - Chandria Howard
 Hazelwood North Middle School - Katie Kunkler
 Hazelwood Northwest Middle School - Ann Brumm
 Hazelwood Southeast Middle School - Katie Lillard
 Hazelwood West Middle School - Dr. Kasey Sindel
 Hazelwood Central High School - Tricia Gervich
 Hazelwood East High School - Haleigh Goff
 Hazelwood West High School - Dr. Kelly Taylor - District-
 Level Teacher of the Year
 Hazelwood Opportunity Center - Shanell Davis-Phipps

Support Staff of the Year honorees:

Child Nutrition - Susan Steinbruegge
 Clerical - Leslie Thompson
 Clerical - Rebecca Thompson
 Clerical - Heather Sheahan
 Counselor - Jennifer Huling
 Custodial - Kevin Huke
 Custodial - Jamie Lafferty
 Maintenance - Adrian Ellis

Nurse - Shavaughn Davis
 Professional/Technical - Chris Erbs
 School Safety - Danielle Johnson
 Social Worker - Kenneth Mayo
 Teacher Assistant/Building Aide - Glenn Ellis
 Teacher Assistant/Building Aide - Elizabeth Havern
 Transportation - Virgieann Murray



Kolby Sharpe



Monique Hines-Smith

HSD Educator & Parent Win NCCU Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratory Contest

Kolby Sharpe, a Townsend Elementary School teaching assistant, and Monique Hines-Smith, a Lusher Elementary School parent, were among the winners of the 2020 North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice (NCCU) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratory Contest.

Sharpe and Hines-Smith wrote and presented original speeches that celebrated Dr. King's dream. Reflecting on Dr. King's quote, "Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of education," Sharpe's speech stated that history books should be revamped to reflect more positive and accurate information about Black people.

An HSD employee since January 2020 and in the educational field since 2001, Sharpe also wrote that she believes every school needs therapists, counselors, and psychologists to help with the development of intelligence and character.

"I am incredibly humbled that my work resonated with so many people," Sharpe said. "It is our duty to teach and raise

our youth in a well-rounded manner."

Hines-Smith's speech stated that love, compassion, and truth are necessary to create a morally conscious generation that develops both intelligence and character.

"We can each do our part in preserving Dr. King's iconic legacy. I am honored and filled with pride to have been selected as one of the contest winners," Hines-Smith said. "I encourage my children to seek out new challenges, so participating in this contest was an excellent way to model that message."

**"Intelligence plus character -
that is the goal of true education."**

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HSD Creates Ground-Breaking Homework and Social/Emotional Support Line



The Homework and Social/Emotional Support Line is a resource for homework help and access to general social/emotional needs. Teachers and social/emotional staff are available to assist students and parents with basic questions and connect families with other resources as needed. The

line will offer families fast responses to important questions via phone and email. The service is another example of the district's commitment to serve the unique needs of all students. Visit www.hazelwoodschoools.org for more information about the support line.

Learn About the COVID-19 Vaccine & Help Hazelwood Get Healthy!



**HELP HAZELWOOD
GET HEALTHY!**



As part of Hazelwood School District's *Help Hazelwood Get Healthy* public campaign, a wealth of information about the COVID-19 vaccine has been placed on the district's website. The goal is to help people make educated healthcare decisions. To Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and pre-registration options, visit www.hazelwoodschoools.org.

Hazelwood Central High School Students Participate in the Bake for Good Program

Through King Arthur Baking Company's Bake for Good outreach program, a Hazelwood Central High School teacher provided baking kits for 82 students to bake at home.

Sarah Sullins, who teaches family and consumer science, used the program to connect with students during virtual learning.

Each baking kit included flour, yeast, a recipe booklet, and a dough scraper. Sullins also provided measuring cups and spoons for students. With the baking kits, students learned how to make yeast dough, cinnamon rolls, pizza, dinner rolls, challah bread, garlic knots, butter braids, and pretzels.



"I'm proud of my students because they used this opportunity to challenge themselves and do something new and different," Sullins said. "Taking a class like this virtually has improved students' confidence, work ethic, and independence. They really enjoyed it and exceeded their own expectations."

As part of the program, students are encouraged to share their homemade bread with a neighbor or first responder. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, students shared their creations with their family.

"I enjoyed this lab a lot, and I'm glad I tried it," said David, a Hazelwood Central High School student. "This was my first time making bread, and it's been something I've wanted to try for a while."

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& LET'S BE
FRIENDS!**



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FOLLOW US TO STAY CONNECTED AND INFORMED!



Cheryl D.
Latham



Diane
Livingston



Betsy
Rachel



Dr. Zella
Williams



Margo
McNeil



Sparkl
West-Pruitt



Dr. Brenda C.
Youngblood

A Message from the Board

In 2020, the Hazelwood School District Board of Education began to develop a vision for addressing long-standing race, equity, and inclusion issues in our learning community. Our region is no stranger to the pain caused by systemic racism and the destructive consequences of inaction. For too long, school districts have accepted the status quo of rampant inequity. From curriculum to discipline, the unique needs of minorities have been disregarded. With that in mind, the Board began the intentional work of creating a Statement of Solidarity.

The Statement of Solidarity was finalized in June of 2020. It includes concrete action steps aimed at creating an inclusive, equitable, and safe environment for all students. For the Board, this effort is personal. We have seen the tears, heard the cries, and felt the pain of our students.

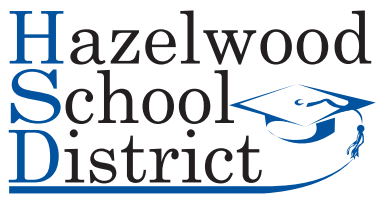
In July of 2020, the district hosted an emotional student-led virtual panel that drove home the need for strategic and swift action. “Breaking the Silence: HSD Student Voices on Racial Justice and Equality” gave a diverse group of students a platform to share their experiences in HSD schools and the surrounding community. The topics included the role of

school resource officers and making the curriculum more inclusive. The Board listened, along with the rest of the HSD community, and learned vital information that will help inform future decisions.

Since the student-led panel, the Board has established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workgroup charged with creating the district’s first policy on racial equity and inclusion. The goal is to create a policy that empowers the superintendent, faculty, and staff to do the work necessary to eradicate any traces of systemic racism and inequality in our learning community. Additional panels and community feedback opportunities will continue to play a key role in our efforts to operationalize the Statement of Solidarity.

For the Board, the ground-breaking Statement of Solidarity is much more than words in a document. It is the answer to a call to action to create positive change. The Statement of Solidarity will serve as a blueprint for our school district to make equity the norm in all HSD buildings and classrooms.

To read the Statement of Solidarity, please visit www.hazelwoodschools.org.



"A Culture of High Expectations and Excellence!"

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TIME SENSITIVE
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Please deliver
March 15-20, 2021



email your senior
pics and videos

info@hazelwoodschoos.org

include your name and your school in your email



Parent University

Parent University offers Hazelwood School District families key resources to help navigate educational challenges and opportunities. Through Parent U workshops, events, videos, resources, and programs, parents receive the tools they need to support their children.

Studies show that the most successful students are those with parents who are involved in the education process. Parent U was created to help parents learn how they can support their children's academic efforts. Additional information about Parent U can be found at www.hazelwoodschoos.org. Additionally, follow the HSD Parent University Facebook