

# Hazelwood Central 48, Hazelwood East 0



Hazelwood Central tight end Jalen Watson leaps for a pass in the end zone but cannot hold onto it. Hazelwood East played football at Hazelwood Central on Saturday August 28, 2021.



Hazelwood East quarterback Mekhi Holmes (left) runs the ball as he gets some blocking from teammate Armon Hill (right) against Hazelwood Central player Amon Lee. Hazelwood East played football at Hazelwood Central on Saturday August 28, 2021.



Hazelwood East player LaDarius Williams (left) had a tough time stopping Hazelwood Central wide receiver ClayShaun Davis as he runs the ball. Hazelwood East played football at Hazelwood Central on Saturday August 28, 2021.



Hazelwood East player Jeremiah Dorsey (left) moves in to tackle Hazelwood Central wide receiver Kyle Taylor Jr., but Taylor shook off the tackle. Hazelwood East played football at Hazelwood Central on Saturday August 28, 2021



## FIRST 5: Back-to-school advice for parents, students, administrators

What can public school students say and do when it comes to expressing themselves in school this year?

### STUDENTS

You do not leave behind your First Amendment rights at the school doorway, to paraphrase [a landmark 1969 U.S. Supreme Court decision](#). But your free speech rights have limits. First and foremost: The First Amendment does not provide you an excuse to skip classes to speak, write, assemble or petition for change.

Limits on expression increase as we move from speech that occurs off-campus but impacts the school community to on-campus speech and finally into the classroom or other school-sponsored educational activities.

That 1969 case — *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* — held that students may be disciplined if their speech “materially disrupts classwork or involves substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others.” These concerns are less likely to materialize when you speak off campus.

This is why, in the most recent case involving student speech, the U.S. Supreme Court [upheld the speech rights of a student](#) who posted on social media vulgar criticisms of the school and its cheerleading squad when she failed to make the varsity team.

The court said the school offered no evidence that her comments had disrupted the educational work of the school and overturned her one-year suspension from the junior varsity cheer squad.

Noting the off-campus nature of the case, Justice Stephen G. Breyer wrote that since school officials already can regulate in-school student speech that otherwise would be protected for others, extending that wide range of authority to off-school hours “may mean the student cannot engage in that kind of speech at all.”

But don’t assume just being outside the school building or beyond the parking lot means you can speak as freely as non-students. Breyer notes exceptions such as field trips, athletic events, bullying that continues off-campus or when student speech targets an individual teacher or student.

And not all on-campus speech is treated equally. In the 1988 [Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier](#) case, the court held that a different standard applies in the context of the classroom or school-sponsored activities and a school can restrain or regulate speech that is “reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical [educational] concerns.”

Taken together, you must observe certain limits on speech. You cannot speak out on behalf of a political candidate during a math or science class; you cannot use obscene language when speaking to a school assembly; and the school [can outright censor what you write for student publications](#) done primarily as a class exercise.

## Grand jury declines to indict St. Louis man in fatal shooting at West County mall



CLAYTON — A St. Louis County jury declined to indict a St. Louis man accused of killing another in July at West County Center in Des Peres.

The grand jury’s “no true bill” Wednesday means the dismissal of charges of second-murder and armed criminal action against Jason Hill, 21. He was accused of **fatally shooting Malachi Maclin, 20, on July 3** inside a Champs store. Hill has been free on bail for several weeks.

“That’s truly a blessing,” said Hill’s lawyer Donnell Smith.

He believes the grand jury agreed with his assertion shortly after the shooting that Hill was defending himself and that the case never should have been charged.

“I was given an opportunity to view the video by the Major Case Squad, and clearly what I saw was self-defense,” Smith said. “I’m happy the grand jury saw it as I did.”

Smith said Maclin made a threatening comment and punched Hill in the face and that Hill reacted by pulling his gun and shooting him. **Maclin was transported to a hospital, where he died.**

“My client did not know him, had not known him and still does not know him,” Smith said.

He speculated that Maclin may have mistaken Hill for someone else. He said Hill was wearing a mask at the time. Hill is a 2018 graduate of Cleveland Junior Naval Academy and has no criminal record, Smith said. Hill lost his \$20-per-hour warehouse job as a result of the criminal case and hopes to get his job back now that the case is concluded.

“I’m just happy that this is over,” Smith said. Maclin’s father, Lonnie Maclin, told the Post-Dispatch last month that his son graduated in 2019 from **Hazelwood Central High School** and played baseball there. He then had a job delivering auto parts and had dreams of playing professional baseball.

# New football districts unveiled as season kicks off



The playoff path has been revealed.

The Missouri State High School Activities Association unveiled this season’s new classifications and district assignments for fall sports Friday morning. Area football teams now know who they will have to face on the road to state.

Among the most significant changes comes in Class 6 where CBC and De Smet remain paired together in District 1. They are joined by St. Louis U. High, Kirkwood, Lindbergh, Marquette, Northwest Cedar Hill and Vianney, which has played in Class 5 since the current playoff format was adopted in 2013.

After having to go through CBC and De Smet the past two years, Francis Howell and Hazelwood Central have been shifted into District 2, where they are joined by Fort Zumwalt West, Hazelwood West, Pattonville, Timberland, Troy and Hickman.

No area teams will have significant travel during the district tournaments. In the recent past both Lindbergh and Kirkwood made the trek to Joplin, while Troy bussed to Liberty in suburban Kansas City.

Another significant change is Holt has dropped from Class 6 into Class 5. After being put into a field that included Howell, CBC and De Smet, the Indians will compete in District 4 with reigning Class 4 champion Helias as well as Liberty, Washington, Battle and Capital City.

"We were pretty sure it was going to happen looking at the numbers," Holt coach Ethan Place said. "That district (last season) was one of the toughest you could ever be in, top to bottom."

North St. Louis County and St. Charles County make up the District 4 field as it includes Hazelwood East, Jennings, McCluer, McCluer North, Riverview Gardens, St. Charles and St. Dominic.

# Hazelwood Schools Wanted Diversity Training for SROs, Police Refused



Ten hours of training in diversity, equity and inclusion remained a sticking point between **Hazelwood School District** and three local police departments as students returned to the classroom this week. The district added the training requirement to a long-standing contract, and now the police departments have refused to provide school resource officers for the 2021-2022 school year.

The officers — normally provided by the Hazelwood, Florissant and St. Louis County police departments — won't be returning for at least the beginning of the school year, something parents say the district and department will come to regret.

Hazelwood School District parent Lynda Pearson, who had five kids attend schools in the district, says there were fights almost daily at the high school when her daughter, a 2020 grad, went there. She thinks the district "100 percent needs" the resource officers.

"The school is not unreasonable requiring additional training for the SROs," Pearson tells the *RFT*.

Serving more than 17,000 students as of the **2019-2020 school year**, the Hazelwood School District is one of the most diverse in the state. The mother says she would like to know why the department would refuse the training.

In a **letter obtained by KSDK**, chiefs of the three police departments — Gregg Hall, Tim Fagan and the now-retired Mary Barton — write that they "believe our officers receive training that is more than adequate and addresses the critical matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion."

The chiefs explained the officers must obtain 24 hours of "continuing education" that achieves Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements yearly. A spokesperson for the St. Louis County Police Department said Hazelwood School District's training does not meet the POST standards.

"The St. Louis County Police Department is committed to training relative to diversity, equity and inclusion. Our officers will continue to receive specific and developed training in these critical areas that is Missouri P.O.S.T. approved," the spokesperson wrote in an email to the *RFT*. "Unfortunately, Hazelwood School District's required training does not meet that criteria. We recognize the value of the School Resource Officer Program and hope to maintain a positive and productive relationship with the Hazelwood School District in order to get our officers back in their schools in the future."

## High school football begins with new coaches at De Smet Jesuit, Parkway Central, Principia

### De Smet Jesuit

Carl Reed Jr. will lead the power Spartans program. Reed inherits a nationally ranked program that earned two consecutive trips to the state championship in 2019 and 2020, winning the title in 2019.

"I am excited for the opportunity to continue a tradition of excellence at De Smet Jesuit," said Reed. "We will be a first-class program on the field, in the classroom, and in the community. To this end, our program will be committed to ensuring that every student-athlete who desires to play at the collegiate level will have the opportunity to pursue his dreams."

Reed, 39, comes to De Smet Jesuit from Lutheran North High, where he has served as head football coach and assistant athletic director since 2015. Under his leadership, the Crusaders won the 2019 Missouri Class 2 state championship, five district championships, and three Metro League championships.

"Carl Reed is a proven winner who is dedicated to the formation of young men," said Daniel Zepp, President of De Smet Jesuit High School. "Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an ability to build and sustain a championship culture. He is a man of high character who inspires his players to excel in the classroom and on the playing field, and he knows what it takes to prepare student-athletes to compete at the next level."

Reed has proven success giving his players the foundation they need to continue their education and athletic careers in college. Since he arrived at Lutheran North in 2015, all seniors who have sought athletic scholarships (approximately 40) have received one, including seven from Division I schools. Before his tenure at Lutheran North, Reed was head football coach at Hazelwood West High School and University City High School.

As a player, Reed was a part of Hazelwood Central High School's 1996 state championship team. De Smet Athletics Director John Pukala was Reed's high school coach at Hazelwood Central. Reed was named the "Newcomer of the Year" at Austin Peay State University following a standout freshman season.

Reed replaced 2008 alumnus Robert Steeples, who accepted the position of Assistant Special Teams Coach, working with defensive backs, for the Minnesota Vikings.

"On behalf of an extremely grateful and proud De Smet Jesuit community, I would like to congratulate Coach Steeples for this tremendous NFL opportunity and express our deepest appreciation for his transformational impact on our students and our football program," Zepp said "Moving forward, we will continue to build upon the culture of excellence that defines De Smet Jesuit football."

In his five years as head coach for the Spartans, Steeples moved his team from a 2-8 record in his first season to a state championship title in 2019. In the last three years under Steeples' leadership, the Spartans compiled a record of 29-4, with 20 consecutive wins. Their peak national ranking was 8.

"I am blessed and humbled to have been the leader of such great young men and to have had the opportunity to work alongside the best coaches and faculty here at De Smet Jesuit," said Steeples. "I will carry this team with me into the NFL, and I will smile watching the Spartans continue to earn success together at De Smet Jesuit."