

## HELP HAZELWOOD GET HEALTHY!



*The Help Hazelwood Get Healthy campaign encourages everyone to wear masks, wash their hands, and practice social distancing. Since March, the zip codes Hazelwood School District serves have been ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Medical research shows there is a connection between the overall health of a community and the level of health in school settings within that community.*

Hazelwood  
School  
District 

## Echols, Hazelwood West grad, adapts well to college life at Webster University

By Danielle Brown  
Of The St. Louis American

Jessica Echols graduated in May 2020 from Hazelwood West High School with a 3.76 GPA and a 26 ACT score. She is among the prominent students who recently received a Webster University Donald M. Suggs Scholarship for distinguished academic achievement.

"When I received the call that I got accepted I was overjoyed," Echols said. "I remember talking to my mom before I got the call and just being very stressed about it, Echols said in a recent interview.

"Once I answered the phone I immediately started freaking out. I said, 'Oh my gosh I need to call my mom and tell her the good news'."

The scholarship was named in honor of Suggs, publisher and executive editor of the St. Louis American newspaper, to recognize high-achieving college freshmen from under-represented minority communities interested in higher education.

In October, The St. Louis American Foundation hosted its two-night virtual Salute to Excellence in Education and Scholarship & Awards Gala granting \$1.95 million in scholarship and education grants to remarkable students and educators.

Normally the ceremony is hosted in-person; the format was changed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

During the event, it was announced that the foundation's partnership with Webster for the Donald M. Suggs Scholarship now offers 10 incoming students more than \$1 million in full-ride funds annually.

Echols' initial plan was to attend the University of Missouri-St. Louis, however, she changed her mind once her choir teacher and



Jessica Echols is among the prominent students who recently received a Webster University Donald M. Suggs Scholarship for distinguished academic achievement.

college is going well. She finds her classes to be challenging, but manageable, especially with her degree-related courses.

"My classes are going pretty well, Echols said. "Currently, the only non-related music course I have is psychology, it helps me with my reading and writing; it's also helpful with me learning more about myself, breaking procrastination habits, and managing my time better," she said.

"My degree-related courses are more challenging, but I see a lot of improvement with my violin lessons and my stage presence."

Declaring instrumental performance as a desired major came naturally for Echols because she has been involved with music since she was 3 years old. She got into singing, dancing, and playing the violin in elementary and middle school, but her high school years solidified a stronger inter-

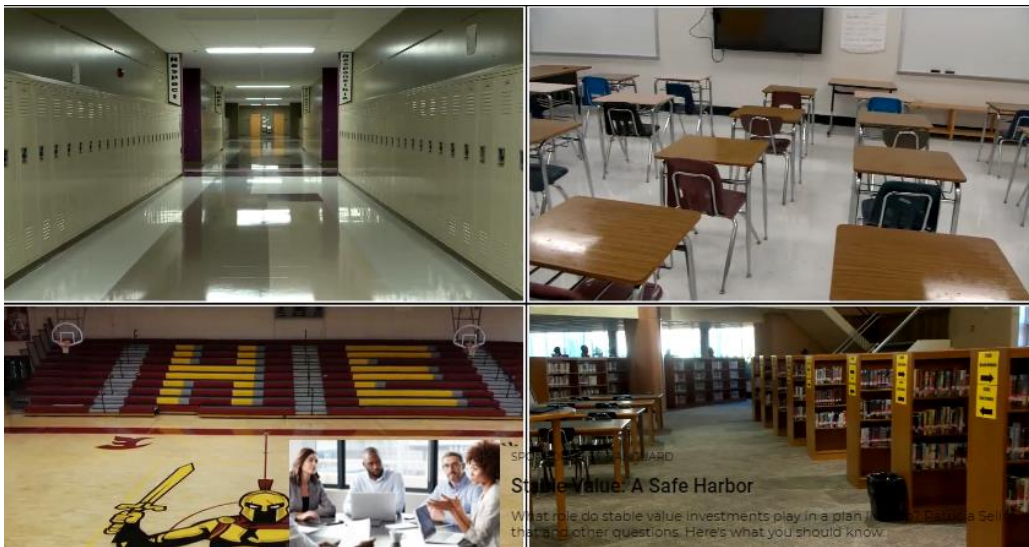
orchestra teacher recommended Webster's music program.

"I went and checked it out and it was really amazing, so I was like 'yup, that's my school'," Echols said.

Echols said her transition from high school to

*See Echols, B8*

# Hazelwood School District high school students release PSA to fight COVID



ST. LOUIS – Hazelwood School District high school students are working to get rid of the spread of COVID-19 by spreading health and safety tips in a new public service announcement. The “Mask, Wash, Distance” PSA is part of the school district’s [Help Hazelwood Get Healthy](#) campaign.

**[Top story: Outpouring of support for Fenton woman after landlord removed her front door](#)**

“The key to returning to face-to-face learning for all students without constant interruption is improving the health of the entire community,” Hazelwood said.

The video highlights the importance of wearing a mask, social distancing and washing hands. The [Help Hazelwood Get Healthy](#) campaign began in November with a drive-thru resource event where 4,000 resource kits were given out. The kits came with thermometers, disposable masks, information about COVID-19, and a community resource guide.

The school district said the zip codes they serve have experienced some of the highest infection rates in Missouri.

PSA video link: <https://bit.ly/3miSWgd>



# Help Hazelwood Get Healthy: Hazelwood students release PSA to combat COVID-19



HAZELWOOD, Mo. (KMOV.com)-- Students from Hazelwood Central, East and West were featured in a new PSA to combat the spread of COVID-19. The Hazelwood School District's (HSD) *Help Hazelwood Get Healthy* campaign details how important it is to continue to wear a mask, wash hands and social distance during the pandemic. The district said the zip codes they serve has experienced some of the highest infection rates in the state. Anthony Kiekow from HSD said the health of a community impacts the level of health in school settings. "Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the zip codes HSD serves have experienced some of the highest infection rates in the state. As a result, school buildings were forced to close," said Kiekow. The key to returning to face-to-face learning for all students without constant interruption is improving the health of the entire community. With that in mind, HSD is encouraging the community to [Help Hazelwood Get Healthy](#) by wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing their hands."

[https://www.kmov.com/news/help-hazelwood-get-healthy-hazelwood-students-release-psa-to-combat-covid-19/article\\_7fefaf9a-3fa1-11eb-8558-bfb8628c7b52.html](https://www.kmov.com/news/help-hazelwood-get-healthy-hazelwood-students-release-psa-to-combat-covid-19/article_7fefaf9a-3fa1-11eb-8558-bfb8628c7b52.html)

December 16, 2020

# 'Mask, distance, wash' | Hazelwood School District addresses COVID-19 in PSA video



HAZELWOOD, Mo. — Students across the Hazelwood School District are featured in a new public service announcement aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19 in their community.

“Mask, Wash, Distance” is part of the district’s [Help Hazelwood Get Healthy](#) public health campaign. It encourages everyone in the area to wear masks, practice social distancing and wash their hands.

Since the beginning of COVID-19, the zip codes the district serves have experienced some of the highest infection rates in the state, Hazelwood spokesperson Anthony Kiekow said in a press release.

“The key to returning to face-to-face learning for all students without constant interruption is improving the health of the entire community,” the release stated.

The campaign started with a drive-thru resource event in November. During the event, the district distributed 4,000 resource kits. The kits included thermometers, disposable masks, information about COVID-19 and a community resource guide.

[Click here](#) to view the PSA video.