

Ashley Gerald named Hazelwood Teacher of the Year (online story)



Ashley Gerald, first grade teacher at Lusher Elementary School – seen here with her class and Superintendent Nettie Collins-Hart – was named the 2018-2019 Hazelwood Teacher of the Year. She is a Hazelwood Central High School graduate and has taught at Lusher Elementary for the past four years; she began teaching in the Hazelwood School District in Spring 2007 and taught previously at both Grannemann and Keeven elementary schools. Katie Hernandez of Jana Elementary School and Stephani Durant of Hazelwood West High School tied for first runner-up. A Teacher of the Year is named at each school, after which an overall District Teacher of the Year and two runners-up are selected. The Teacher of the Year recipients at the other schools are Lizabeth Johnson, Amy Williams, Paris Bouchard, Jean Goldstein, Monica Warren, Stacey Anderson, Toni Grimes, Jernae Craig, William Kuhnert, Kelsey Bodie, Allison Cooke, Angela Turner, Jaimie Wilmes, Teresa Fiudo, Rachel Johnson, Molly Vatterott, Chelsea Christman, Sharene Brown, Renee Jenner, Cindy Miller, Anna Zakrzewski, Lauren Chadbourne, Joyce Pipes, Matthew Loyet, Mark Hicks, Dorothy Burford, Patrick Rocco and Cassandra Thomas.

http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/ashley-gerald-named-hazelwood-teacher-of-the-year/article_44069546-0314-11e9-9f13-a7768d98a5af.html

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Hazelwood school-based health center opens up new possibilities

By Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart

‘What more could we do for our students?’ It is a question we must ask ourselves as educators daily, and a question we strive to answer in innovative ways in the Hazelwood School District.

Our new Hazelwood East School-Based Health Center, located in Hazelwood East High/Middle School, is our most recent venture into doing more for our students. It truly was a celebration on Oct. 29 when several of our community partners joined us to cut the ribbon on the new center.

Generous contributions from the Christian Hospital Foundation support our coalitions with CareSTL Health, Health Equity Works, and Show-Me School Based Health Alliance. Each organization shared in a vision to do more, and the result is something I am confident our community can admire.

Through these partnerships, our students have access to quality healthcare in a familiar and comfortable setting. Our school-based health center is an on-site healthcare option where qualified medical professionals are hired to serve our students. It provides immunizations, behavioral health services, physicals, and referrals to other providers, all in an effort to keep students healthier. Students are more likely to attend school consistently

with fewer health-related absences.

According to a 2014 research report from Health Equity Works, childhood illness and mental health problems are two primary factors that can lead to high school dropout. Furthermore, Health Equity Works reports a study conducted in our region found that children who miss more days of school are more likely to score lower on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) test. If we fail to help keep our students in the classroom, we fail in our mission to help them achieve in our culture of high expectations.

‘Service’ is a crucial word we cannot overlook as educators; we are here to serve children and their families, and to serve as a pillar of our community. We often talk about the goal of preparing students to be college, career, and life ready, but are we doing enough to build the foundation to get them there? I believe our school-based health center will serve as a vital part of that foundation, and as such, I am immensely proud of our Hazelwood community. I am proud that so many leaders from so many organizations came together to think of the children, think of their needs, and provide a service that extends beyond a textbook.

There are nearly 2,000 school-based

health centers that operate nationwide, according to the most recent National Assembly on School-Based Health Care census. The Hazelwood East School-based Health Center is the first of its kind in our district, but the innovation behind it is not. It simply is the latest innovation in our focus on thinking bigger to implement holistic strategies that support quality education. The opening of our new school-based health center marked a wonderful day for our students, the culmination of two years of planning and preparation. With an act as simple as cutting a ribbon, we signify why we are here: to celebrate our children. I hope you will join me in this celebration as we strive to provide the very best for our community.

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart is the proud Superintendent of Schools for the Hazelwood School District serving approximately 18,000 students in the second-largest district in St. Louis County and seventh-largest district in Missouri.



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