

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** 



Hazelwood School District to Start Back to Classroom March 29 for Pre-K through 2nd Grade

The Hazelwood School District announced the first phase of in-person school starting with Pre-K, 1st and 2nd Grade and back to classroom procedures. prospects for returning for all other students. The following was approved by the school board on Jan. 22.

Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students will return to in-person school Monday, March 29. The students will attend in-person school five days a week.

Pre-K through 2nd grade families have the option to continue participating in virtual school five days a week for the remainder of the school year.

A date for other grade levels to return to in-person school has yet to be determined.

All students and employees are required to properly wear masks, covering the nose and the mouth, the entire time they are inside HSD buildings and buses.

Mitigation techniques approved by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have been implemented in all buildings, including social distancing.

It is important to understand that no school district can offer 100% protection from exposure to COVID-19.

Employees with valid, authorized, and district-approved medical exemptions on file with the Human Resources Department may be allowed to continue to work virtually.

Hazelwood District Sports Resumes with Boys and Girls Basketball

By Jim Weiners

After COVID-19 (Coronavirus) shuts down high school sports in Missouri from Mid March to Late August in 2020, the Hazelwood School District began sports for the 2020-2021 season Jan. 21 (2021) with Hazelwood Central Boys Basketball visiting Christian Brothers College High.

Central lost to CBC 86-46 in their first game since losing to the same Cadets 74-62 in the March 11 Class Five Sectional Game at St. Charles West. In their first game this season, Central sophomore Jhordan Covington-Berry scores 11 points while junior Trevin Williams adds 10 against CBC.

Two days later, Jan. 23, the Hawks lost their second game of the season, 61-43 in a 12 noon game at The Whitfield School, 5-7 prior to playing Jan. 25 in the St. Louis Souldard neighborhood at Lift For Life Academy Charter. Senior Jai Graham leads the Hawks with 16 points while Covington-Berry adds nine, three shots from three-point range.

Unless COVID prohibits playing Hazelwood Central is in the Circle 7 Ranch Showdown, which began Jan. 25 against Lafayette at Parkway South. HAZELWOOD EAST began their season Jan. 25 in the Circle 7 Showdown against Parkway West at Parkway Central. The Showdown moves to Parkway West for games Wednesday (Jan. 27) and Friday (Jan. 29). HAZELWOOD WEST began Boys

Basketball Jan. 26 at Mehlville then hosts 5:30 games against Pattonville (Thursday, Jan.28), Oakville (Friday) and Gateway Legacy Christian Academy (Feb. 2) as well as a 7 p.m. Feb. 1 game against Hazelwood East.

HAZELWOOD SCHOOLS GIRLS BASKETBALL -- HAZELWOOD CENTRAL -- which had their 2019-2020 season end 20-8 with a seven game winning streak and cancellation of the Class Five State Semifinal and Final games following a 79-40 Quarterfinal win March 14, 2020, over Troy-Buchanan at Francis Howell Central -- opens 2020-2021 Saturday (Jan. 30) against St. Joseph's Academy in the Hall of Fame Classic. Then, according to Arbiter Live, the Hawks are to play Feb. 2-6 in the Webster (Groves) Winter Challenge before hosting Parkway North Feb. 9. All games are COVID permitting.

HAZELWOOD WEST opens 2020-2021 in the Clayton Round-Robin, which began Jan.25 against Hancock. Then the Wildcats met the host Greyhounds Wednesday and finishes the Round Robin Thursday with a 4:30 game against Parkway North. Moreover, according to Arbiter Live, West is to host Gateway Legacy Christian Academy Feb. 1 at 5:30. All games are COVID 19 permitting.

HAZELWOOD EAST, COVID permitting, opens 2020-2021 Thursday, 6 p.m. at Pattonville, according to Arbiter Live, hosts Affton, Feb. 1 at 5:45, and visits Clyde C. Miller Career Academy, Feb. 2 at 5:30.



All-virtual Hazelwood School District sets date for some students' return to buildings

The youngest students in the Hazelwood School District can choose to return to school buildings March 29, more than a year after schools first moved to virtual classes because of the pandemic.

Students in kindergarten through second grade will be in class five days a week. A return date for older students has not been set.

The move makes Ferguson-Florissant School District the only district in the region to remain fully virtual with no return date scheduled for any students. Students in Maplewood Richmond Heights schools, the third district that stayed virtual in the fall semester, will return on a hybrid (part-time) schedule Monday.

A hybrid schedule will not be an option in Hazelwood, according to a letter sent Friday to families from Superintendent Nettie Collins-Hart.

Parents of students in all grades are asked to select their choice of full-time in-person or virtual school. Students may be assigned new teachers depending on the outcome of the parent survey.

All Hazelwood staff members will return to work in buildings on March 15. Students and staff will be required to wear masks in the buildings and on school buses.

Hazelwood East's return to action; Nesbitt enrolls at Memphis



All Lawndale Thomas could do was laugh. The Hazelwood East boys basketball coach, Thomas has been back in the gym with his Spartans for just more than two weeks after the Hazelwood School District allowed athletics to resume even as the district continues remote learning. Hazelwood East played its first game of the season Monday.

[Area high school boys basketball rankings, Week 8](#)
Momentum had finally started to build for the Spartans, only to have everything stop Wednesday afternoon when the Hazelwood School District canceled after-school practices and games due to snow.

“This is a roller coaster,” Thomas said. “You have to play the cards your dealt. Things change every day and we have to roll with the punches.” The Spartans were scheduled to play Liberty in the consolation semifinals of the Parkway West Showdown on Wednesday night. That game has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday at Liberty. Every day Hazelwood East can be in the gym for practice or competition is precious. Thomas went 10 months between in-person practices with his Spartans. Now he’s tasked with trying to guide his team through a 15-game sprint of a regular season before district tournaments begin in late February. “Every day we miss it puts us further behind,” Thomas said. “I knew we’d eventually get snow. Mother Nature could derail us.” Even if Mother Nature is merciful there’s an even bigger threat to the Spartans and everyone else attempting to play through a pandemic. “I don’t even want to discuss quarantine,” Thomas said. “That knocks us back two weeks. We can’t afford to be in quarantine.” Thomas and his Spartans have waited so long to get back into action that another shutdown would be heartbreaking. Hazelwood East is doing what it can on its end to prevent that from happening. Thomas said Hazelwood East athletics director Tracy Schmidt has gone above and beyond to make sure the winter sports teams don’t cross paths and potentially contaminate one another. “Our AD has been awesome,” Thomas said. “He’s done a great job preparing winter sports.” Schmidt has also been proactive in searching out games. Hazelwood East was not originally supposed to take part in the Parkway West Showdown, but when Parkway Central was unable to compete due to a two-week quarantine, the tournament needed another team and Schmidt snapped up the open slot. “It’s an unfortunate situation of how we got into the tournament,” Thomas said. “But it’s a great opportunity. Tracy jumped on it.” Thomas is eager for the Spartans to get in as much time on the court together as possible prior to the district tournament starting. He believes if they can get in their 15 games and some practices they’ll have a shot at claiming the Class 5 District 6 championship and rolling the dice in the playoffs. The field includes Jennings, McCluer and McCluer North. Riverview Gardens is not listed and will not field a varsity basketball team this year.

https://www.stltoday.com/sports/high-school/boys-basketball/boys-basketball-notebook-snow-slows-hazelwood-east-s-return-to-action-nesbitt-enrolls-at-memphis/article_977b00a2-6115-11eb-8233-abfa36931225.html

January 27, 2021

Hazelwood Central looks to get on track after two-month COVID-19 delay



Hazelwood Central's Jai Graham

CREVE COEUR — Jai Graham looked everywhere.

The Hazelwood Central senior searched high and low for an open gym as his team sat idle in November and December, grounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. "I'd find something in O'Fallon or St. Peters — anywhere there was a place to play for a few hours," Graham recalled. Central sophomore Jhordan Covington-Berry went old school in search for some action. "A driveway, playground," he said. "I just wanted to get out there." Those days are over. The Hawks are back playing again after a two-month absence. Central, in just its second game of this truncated boys basketball season, dropped a 61-43 decision to Whitfield on Saturday afternoon in a non-league contest at Whitfield. The lopsided score did little to dampen the enthusiasm of Central coach Brandon Gilmore, who was happy just to be screaming and yelling instructions from the sidelines again. "Right now, anytime we can play a game — that's a good thing," Gilmore said. "Sure, there's a lot we need to work on. But we're out there and that's what's most important." Many teams throughout the area were able to keep a somewhat normal schedule, opening practice in early November as planned. But the Hazelwood School District, out of safety concerns, waited two months before giving its athletic teams the green light to begin practicing Jan. 4. Gilmore got the required workout sessions out of the way and then hit the ground running with a season-opening 86-46 loss at powerful CBC on Thursday. Less than 48 hours later, the Hawks were at it again. "It was hard not playing while a lot of teams were out there," said Graham, who led the Hawks with 16 points Saturday.

https://www.stltoday.com/sports/high-school/boys-basketball/hazelwood-central-looks-to-get-on-track-after-two-month-covid-19-delay/article_bfb25da2-5db6-11eb-a21e-a7ed790196cf.html

January 23, 2021

Girls basketball notebook: Williams, Hazelwood West enjoy strong opening; Peterson steps up



[Na'Lani Williams](#) has been waiting a long time for this.

Like the rest of her [Hazelwood West](#) teammates, the Wildcats' 63-32 season-opening win over Hancock as part of the Clayton Tournament was more about being relieved than it was feeling as the junior forward usually does in her first time out each season, Williams said. [Area high school girls basketball rankings, Week 8](#) Williams' relief showed as she tallied a career high in both points and rebounds with 20 and 19, respectively. "Normally, I'm nervous about the first game," Williams said. "(Monday) felt different, I've been so excited to get the season started that I was ready mentally. I'm proud of myself and my team. We pushed through and came out on top." The start came this late because of the Hazelwood School District's restrictions on interscholastic competitions due to the coronavirus pandemic. After averaging 4.7 points and 8.8 rebounds last season as the Wildcats finished 12-10, Williams said she aims to take advantage of the limited time she'll have on the court this season.

https://www.stltoday.com/sports/high-school/girls-basketball/girls-basketball-notebook-williams-hazelwood-west-enjoy-strong-opening-peterson-steps-up-game-for-sullivan/article_4e708024-60c2-11eb-9d78-ff45730c7fed.html

January 27, 2021



Some St. Louis area winter sports restart after COVID sidelined the season



Ferguson-Florissant, Ritenour, and Hazelwood school districts are also returning to practices or games this week.

The varsity team lost their matchup against Eureka Wildcats 61-52. Their junior varsity team also played against the wildcats, but Eureka's freshman team is out because of COVID-19.

"We couldn't wait one day longer for our students to get back into a routine and it helps our kids get drafted college it helps them to get back into a healthier shape," McCoy said.

Students in the Eureka School District have been playing since winter sports started, but Thursday night was the first-time spectators were allowed inside the gym to watch on the home court since the pandemic. Each student gets two spectator tickets. Each guest is asked to check-in using a QR code in case they need to contact them for any contact tracing purposes. "It's their responsibility to make sure they are healthy coming in, then they scan in so if they have any issues, we can contact trace them that way," Cleveland said. David Seymour's daughter is a cheerleader on the Eureka squad. He said he is just happy to watch his student back in action again. "It's a little more of an inconvenient, got to get here a little bit early, but other than that, I just want to be here, so whatever it takes to get to a game, me and my wife will do whatever it takes," he said. Across the river, Republican Illinois Representative Darin LaHood wrote a letter to Illinois Governor JB Pritzker asking him to reverse the decision and allow students to return to sports in the state. Governor Pritzker is crushing the dreams of these kids. Now, one year may not seem like a long time," he said. "But one year to a sophomore, junior, senior is a lifetime. "

<https://fox2now.com/news/missouri/some-st-louis-area-winter-sports-restart-after-covid-sidelined-the-season/>

January 21, 2021

After months of being sidelined, the Hawks are back on the court



HAZELWOOD, Mo. — When you step foot on the Hazelwood Central campus, you'll notice a lot of empty space in the parking lots and practically no one inside the school. "It's weird, it's no kids here, it's empty," said Hazelwood Central head basketball coach Brandon Gilmore. That's because last summer, the Hazelwood School District switched from in-person learning to virtual, deflating many hoop dreams for the Hawks. "This school year hasn't been the same, kind of sucks because it's my senior year," Jai Graham said. While the chances of adding some banners to the walls in the gym or some more plaques in their trophy cases seemed slim, the team never gave up hope. "I never thought that we weren't going to play," Gilmore said. "I knew that we were going to play eventually so I just tried to stay mentally ready." It's a good thing coach Gilmore had that thought because just a few weeks ago the Hazelwood School District gave the green light to resume sports. This means the gym that sat quietly for months is now filled with life and optimism. "They were excited, their parents were excited, everybody was excited," Gilmore said reflecting on when he got the news. "I was excited, it made my household a whole lot easier that's for sure." With one problem now behind them, the Hawks had to focus on their next obstacle, a lack of practice time and replacing five players who transferred during the pandemic. "To me, it is what it is, it's just business," said Graham the only senior remaining on the team. Graham said he knew this year would be tough with a bunch of young guys, but he knew they would give it their all to live up to the Central standard. "They fight hard, they play hard no matter how big they are," Graham said speaking on the underclassmen. In just a few short weeks of practice, the Hawks held their first game against CBC on Jan. 21. They ended up losing that game by 40 points. But as Graham and Gilmore explained, the young Hawks aren't ducking any competition moving forward. "We just going to be figuring stuff out on the fly," said Gilmore. "We just trying to compete, happy we're in the gym, just going to compete and play hard and go from there."

<https://www.ksdk.com/article/sports/after-months-of-being-sidelined-the-hawks-are-back-on-the-court/63-0e3e9fe3-ef94-4717-9a8e-cb9d69fe21be>

January 23, 2021



More Equitable School Funding – A Commercial Property Tax Pool

Forward Through Ferguson is studying the inequities in public school funding in St. Louis City and County. Merging school districts to merge tax bases and to increase resources to under-resourced children is an even bigger hill to climb than merging municipalities or individual local government functions like policing or courts. Using distance and price floors on housing and transportation as a tool to resegregate schools has been implemented time and time again in the St. Louis region since *Brown*.

A clever, albeit unsavory, strategy employed by municipalities has been to leverage common infrastructure assets and labor markets to lure non-resident shoppers to fund their cities with sales taxes and not levy a property tax. This leaves room for higher property taxes for schools. This has set up positive self-reinforcing feedback loops – Sort, exclude, leverage fragmentation, repeat. The loops fortify disparities year after year.

So how to implement more equitable school funding locally? Merging school districts would combine the tax bases, but predominately Black schools could still be ignored by the unified school district. Ensuring interest in resourcing all schools would require a lot of busing to even out the racial makeup of individual schools. That wastes a lot of time, diverts money outside of the classroom, pollutes, etc. And is probably politically unviable. We saw what happened last time – hundreds of thousands of people moved out of the city of St. Louis. Merging the entire property tax base may be politically impossible as well. Maybe merging the commercial tax base would have a chance (at least more possible). After all, workers and shoppers cross boundary lines all the time. Some municipalities depend on it. Why should only the Clayton School District derive revenue from the commercial district that draws from the entire region? It is third among districts in portion of assessed value from commercial property. Merging just the commercial tax base would also leave the residential tax base to the individual school districts to tax as they see fit. [CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW FOR THE COMPLETE STORY.](https://nextstl.com/2021/01/more-equitable-school-funding-a-commercial-property-tax-pool/)

<https://nextstl.com/2021/01/more-equitable-school-funding-a-commercial-property-tax-pool/>

January 25, 2021