

# COMMUNITY NEWS

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## **McCurdy Elementary School teacher named Hazelwood School District Teacher of the Year**

Sarah Hecht, a McCurdy Elementary School teacher, has been named the 2021-2022 Hazelwood School District Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart, Superintendent of HSD, visited McCurdy to surprise Hecht with the news on Wednesday.

“It was a wonderful surprise visit,” Hecht said, “I am happy my students got to celebrate with me.”

Hecht, who has been with the district for seven years, is a second-grade teacher.

“We are so fortunate to have Ms. Hecht in our school district,” Collins-Hart said. “Her ability to connect with students and provide innovative instruction is awe-inspiring.”

Hecht is also an HSD parent. Her children attend McCurdy, Hazelwood Northwest Middle School, and Hazelwood West High School.

Hecht earned a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in elementary education from the University of Missouri–St. Louis.



*Photo courtesy Hazelwood School District Sarah*

# Dorothy Hillebrand



Dorothy Elizabeth Hillebrand, 98 died at 1:55 p.m. on Monday, January 17, 2022 at Rivers Crossing in Alton. She was born October 4, 1923 in St. Louis, Missouri the daughter of the late George and Nellie (Bruntick) Schonhorse. She worked for many years in the Hazelwood school district as a bus driver. She married Raymond E. Hillebrand and they shared over 55 years of marriage until his death in 1995. Surviving are one daughter, Raye Wyss (Emert) of Godfrey, IL, two sons, George Hillebrand (Donna) Edwardsville and Robert E. Hillebrand of St. Jacob, IL, nine grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren. Besides her parents and husband she was preceded in death by one sister, Eleanor Allendoerfer. Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. at Gent Funeral Home in Alton followed by a mass of Christian burial at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton. Burial will be Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis, Mo. Father Paul Nguyen, OMV. Memorials may be made to the 5A's Animal Shelter in Alton. Additional information and online guest book may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)