

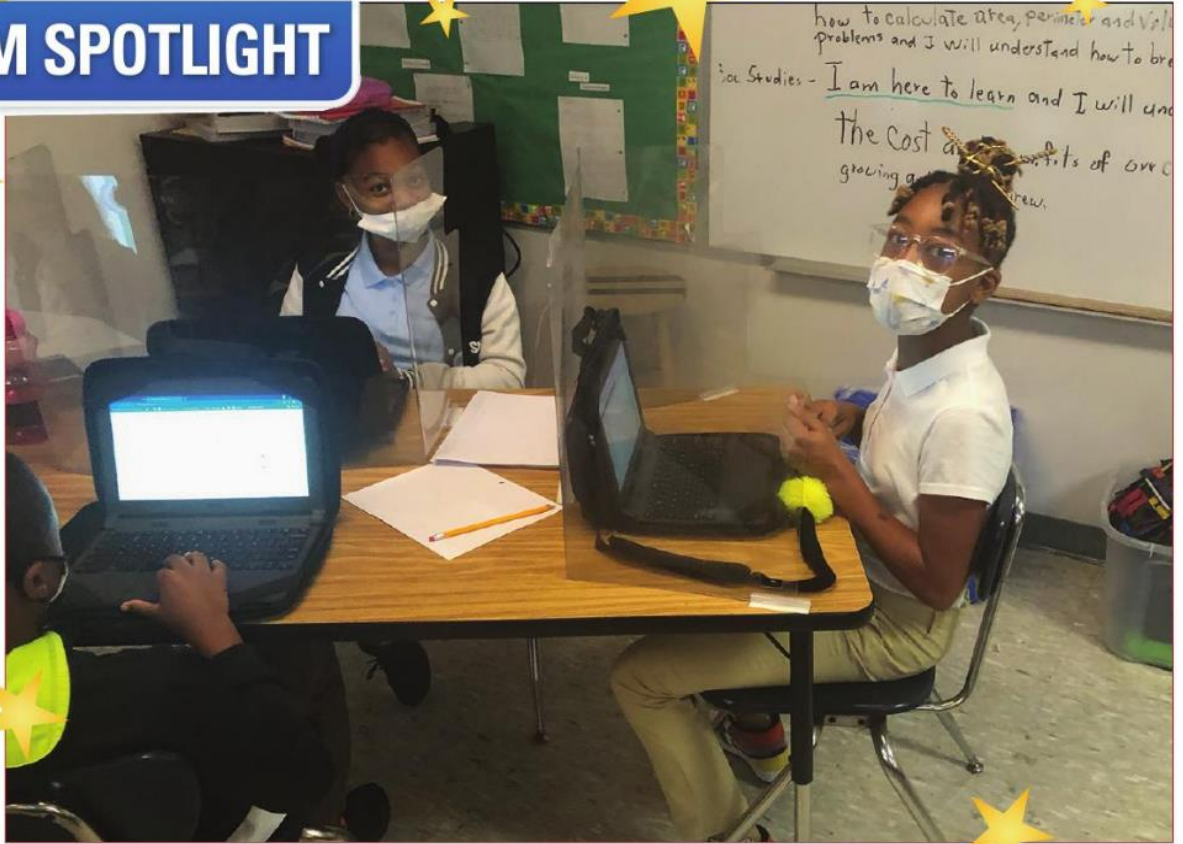
THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

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CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

At Barrington Elementary School teacher Dr. Bouchard's 5th grade students Sa'Rai Wrice, Bailyn Allen and Chrisette Estes label the water cycle in group work.

Teachers, if you are using the St. Louis American's NIE program and would like to nominate your class for a Classroom Spotlight, please email: nie@stlamerican.com.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Sports & Leisure

Hazelwood Central, East Advance Despite MSHSAA Stripping HSD Home Games

By Jim Wieners

Hazelwood Central and Hazelwood East Football teams won their way to Missouri District Semifinals but not before they were notified by the Missouri State High School Activities Association that the Hazelwood School District will not be allowed any post season home games in any sport.

MSHSAA is barring the Hazelwood School District from playing any district, sectional or state home game because of the Hazelwood District's COVID-19 spectator policy. HSD requires visiting spectators to have proof of COVID-19 vaccination (a card) or a negative test within a week, and MSHSAA opposes that.

The Hazelwood School District is the only one state wide to have no home games and this mainly affects Hazelwood Central and Hazelwood East Football, since all other fall sports are done (except, possibly, Hazelwood West Boys Swimming).

Therefore, **HAZELWOOD CENTRAL** took third-seeded Football to sixth-seeded Columbia-Hickman Oct. 29 to open Class Six, District Two. The Hawks return home from Mid-Missouri with a 37-14 victory over the 3-7 Kewpies as seniors Lionel Banks and Armani Turner combined for 246 yards rushing and three touchdowns (Banks scored twice).

Friday, Nov. 5, Hazelwood Central travels to Lincoln County to match 8-2 records with second-seeded Troy Buchanan in a 7 p.m. district semifinal. The winner plays Nov. 12 for the Class Six, District Two title against 9-1 Francis Howell, a 49-0 winner over 2-8 Hazelwood West, or 7-3 Wentzville-Timberland, a 50-13 winner over 4-6 Pattonville. Troy defeated 2-8 Fort Zumwalt West, 54-21.

Hazelwood Central dropped from a possible top-seed to the three seed Oct. 23 after a 35-26 loss to 9-1 Rockwood Marquette, which turns out to be the last home game of 2021. The Hawks could not overcome a 35-14 third-quarter deficit as Marquette junior quarterback Jack Ahlbrand threw three touchdowns passes and ran for another.

Hazelwood Central and Marquette are Yellow Pool Co-Champions (3-1 each).

HAZELWOOD EAST, seeded second in Class Four, District Four, was to travel Oct. 29 to St. Charles High, the seventh-seeded team. However, the 1-9 Pirates forfeited to the 5-5 Spartans due to a depleted roster thanks to injuries and contract tracing. It was to be the second of two weeks of playing teams nicknamed 'Pirates' after East lost Oct. 22 at Class Six, District Two Pattonville, 27-12, despite two touchdowns from senior Armon Hill.

Therefore, Hazelwood East will take a five-mile trip Friday to Jennings High for a 5 p.m. Class Four, District Four twilight semifinal against the third-seeded Warriors, which has a better record (7-3) than the Spartans. Hazelwood East played against two Class Five teams and three Class Six teams, defeating Hazelwood West, while Blue Pool runner up Jennings lost the season-opener 45-0 Aug. 27 to 9-0 Class Five Holt (the original Wentzville High) in an 18-minute game because Jennings could not turn on the lights. Jennings won the Class Four, District Four opener Oct. 29, 38-0 over 0-9 McCluer North, winless in two straight seasons.

McCLUER, 7-2 after a first-round bye as a top seed, will host a 1 p.m. Class Four, District Four Semifinal Saturday, Nov. 6, against fourth-seeded St. Dominic, from O'Fallon, Mo. St. Dominic is 6-4 after opening district play Oct. 29 with a 63-6 demolition of 0-8 Riverview Gardens, winless since 2018. The winner plays Jennings or Hazelwood East Nov. 13 (if McCluer wins) or Nov. 12 (if McCluer loses).

After clinching the Blue Pool title the Comets clinched the top seed in Class Four, District Four despite being demolished 76-36 at home Oct. 23 by Class Six, District One Semifinalist St. Louis University High 6-3). The game featured two senior quarterbacks, McCluer's Micheal Hopkins (474 passing yards) and SLUHs Luke Johnston (301 passing yards), with four touchdowns passes each.

Hazelwood Central Wins 3 Fall Titles

McCluer North Win Girls Volleyball

By Jim Wieners

Hazelwood Central High School wraps up the 2021 Fall Sports Season by winning three St. Louis Suburban Public High School Athletic and Activities Association division titles in three different color pools.

Football shared the Suburban Conference Yellow Pool title with Rockwood-Marquette. The 8-2 Hawks and 9-1 Mustangs were both 3-1 in Yellow Pool games after Marquette won 35-26 Oct 23 at Hazelwood Central (see related story).

Girls Tennis won the Blue Pool title with a 9-1 division record. The Hawks finished 9-2 overall, losing 5-0 in Class Three, District Two to Pattonville. Central won the Northside Classic.

Boys Swimming won the Green Pool title according to the St. Louis SPHSAAA. Results from the Oct. 26 Blue Pool Meet, at Ritenour High, were not available at press time.

McCLUER NORTH won Class Four, District Six Girls Volleyball Oct. 21-25, defeating host Riverview Gardens 25-7, 25-20, 25-4 and top-seeded Hazelwood East 25-10, 25-6, 25-1. The Stars finished 10-7-1 after losing 25-8, 25-21, 25-12 Oct 28 to Westminster Christian Academy

Fall Softball Stars won the Blue Pool tile with an 8-0 record and finished 10-6 -- Class Four, District Three Runners Up to Incarnate Word Academy.

HAZELWOOD EAST won Blue Pool Girls Volleyball with an 11-0 record and was 18-11-1 overall as Class Four, District Six Runners Up.

Prep in Class One, District Three.

McCLUER, is the Blue Pool Football Champions (5-0, 7-2 overall) and hosts St. Dominic Saturday, Nov. 6, 1 p.m. in the Class Four, District Four semifinals (see related story).

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Hazelwood School District extends Thanksgiving break for self-care

ST. LOUIS – The Hazelwood School District will have an extended break during Thanksgiving so students and staff can focus on self-care and family. The district will be closed from November 22 to November 26. Those days will not be made up later.

[Top story: Maps of the curious caves running under St. Louis neighborhoods](#)

Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart sent out an email saying as the district navigates one of the most challenging times in the history of education, it recognizes that stress levels throughout the district are an area of concern.

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Supt. Collins-Hart said, “as I visit schools and converse with members of our community, it is clear that time is the resource all of us need right now. Time to rest and renew.”

The superintendent says the Board of Education and Administration care deeply about the mental health and wellbeing of the learning community. She also says students, staff, faculty, and parents worked tirelessly to persevere in the face of unthinkable challenges.

[Trending: Will St. Louis see snow this month? NOAA prediction offers a clue](#)

The district also provided a wealth of [self-care resources](#) on its website.

Recently, several other area districts have had self-care days for students and staff.



'We see you. We hear you.' | Hazelwood School District extends Thanksgiving break for self-care

HAZELWOOD, Mo. (KMOV.com) – The Hazelwood School District is extending their Thanksgiving break for self-care.

Thursday morning, the district announced they would be closed the entire week of Thanksgiving. The missed days will not be made up.

[In a letter posted on the district's website](#), Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart explained the stress levels seen throughout the district are of concern. She also wanted members of the community to know, "We see you. We hear you."

In the letter, Dr. Collins-Hart expressed her hope that a longer break would help make a "stronger, healthier and more committed learning community." She also stated the extended break will give everyone an opportunity to focus on their self-care and family.



3 St. Louis area school districts closing for entire week of Thanksgiving

ST. LOUIS — St. Louis Public Schools, the Hazelwood School District, and the Ferguson-Florissant School District will be closed for the entire week of Thanksgiving this year.

All three schools attributed the decision to giving students extra time off because of the stress this school year has brought.

Note: The video above is about Ritenour School District closing schools for a mental health day on Nov. 1, 2021.

Hazelwood School District made the [announcement on Facebook](#) Thursday. The district said schools will be closed from Nov. 22 through Nov. 26. The days will not be made up later in the school year.

Hazelwood said the Board of Education and Administration wanted to make the mental health of students, staff and parents a priority.

"The extended break will give all of us an opportunity to focus on self-care and family. A wealth of self-care resources can be found on the [district website](#)," said Hazelwood Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart.

"Time is the resource all of us need right now," the district wrote in the Facebook post.

On its [Facebook page](#), [St. Louis Public Schools](#) posted new dates for the closing of the district for the week of Thanksgiving.

The information was posted on Oct. 29 to give families enough time to plan for the extended break. Schools will be closed from Monday, Nov. 22 through Friday, Nov. 26.

"My hope is these extra couple of days will allow everyone to take a little extra time for themselves and their families. Family is, after all, much of what Thanksgiving is all about," said Kelvin Adams, St. Louis Public Schools superintendent.

The [Ferguson-Florissant School District website](#) posted about the decision to use the entire week of Thanksgiving to offer an extended break to students and staff. The school board and administration voted unanimously for Nov. 22 and 23 to be used as self-care days.

"As we have navigated the start of this school year together, we can all agree this has been one of the most difficult years that students and staff have experienced in our lifetime," said the Ferguson-Florissant School District Superintendent. "These unprecedented challenges have caused significant additional stress on our entire school community."

The school district said it wants to focus on the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.