

Support for virtual school parenting

Blake Justice Washington, 5, a first grader at Jana Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District, raised her hand to get the attention of her teacher Miss Moeller while being helped by her mother Gloria Washington on Monday, October 12.



Photo by Wiley Price

North County mother goes online to organize group for fellow parents

By Danielle Brown
Of The St. Louis American

Like many parents, Gloria Washington has come to grips with what many are calling the new normal due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. As of July, Hazelwood School District has operated in a 100% virtual school mode. Washington's daughter Blake Washington is a first grader at Jana Elementary in the dis-

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The transition from traditional classes to online-only has its challenges for Gloria and Blake. The systems don't always properly work, an internet connection isn't always there, and Blake, whom Gloria describes as a social butterfly, genuinely misses her fellow classmates.

After voicing her frustrations via Facebook to other parents, Gloria decided to create The

Support Lounge Facebook Group and Like pages with her good friend Rhonda Couch. The group allows parents and teachers to join in discussions on how to adjust to virtual school and provide tips and resources.

"I started this group because I realized after talking to other parents that it wasn't just me stressed about virtual school," Gloria said.

See PARENTING, A6

FRONT PAGE STORY VERSION

FULL STORY http://www.stlamerican.com/edition/page-a01/page_95ea1ec6-228c-5651-bdfb-4396b38f9aea.html

October 15, 2020

Support for virtual school parenting - North County mother goes online to organize group for fellow parents



Blake Washington, first grader at Jana Elementary School, logged into her virtual learning system.



Gloria Washington, mother of Blake Washington, a first grader at Jana Elementary School, created The Support Lounge Facebook Group to tackle how to adjust to virtual learning.

Like many parents, Gloria Washington has come to grips with what many are calling the new normal due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. As of July, Hazelwood School District has enforced its schools to operate on a 100% virtual school mode. Washington's daughter Blake Washington is a first grader at Jana Elementary in the district. The transition from traditional classes to online-only has its challenges for Gloria and Blake. The systems don't always properly work, an internet connection isn't always there, and Blake, whom Gloria describes as a social butterfly, genuinely misses her fellow classmates.

After voicing her frustrations via Facebook to other parents, Gloria decided to create The Support Lounge Facebook Group and Like pages with her good friend Rhonda Couch. The group allows parents and teachers to join in discussions on how to adjust to virtual school and provide tips and resources.

"I started this group because I realized after talking to other parents that it wasn't just me stressed about virtual school," Gloria said.

"After sharing my frustrations on Facebook, I came across a video with someone saying we need to stop complaining about virtual school and remain positive around the children. I agreed that it was important to stay positive in front of the children, but I still felt there was a need to vent. The next day I posted that I was starting a support group for parents dealing with the same stress and, boom, The Support Lounge was born."

FOLLOW THIS LINK FOR THE FULL STORY http://www.stlamerican.com/your_health_matters/health_news/support-for-virtual-school-parenting---north-county-mother-goes-online-to-organize-group/article_b7ab0f4e-0dc2-11eb-9435-7b46943a7060.html

Hazelwood Schools Still Virtual; Return To Classroom Depends on COVID Metrics

The Hazelwood School Board will meet again this month on Tuesday, Oct. 20 when the school board can present an update on virtual learning which has been in place since the beginning of the new school year.

The Board of Education reached a consensus to have all students continue attending school virtually until metrics related to COVID-19 are favorable to transition to a hybrid model of instruction. The metrics will be discussed at each upcoming board meeting. The Board reaffirmed its decision not to have students participate in athletics until there is a transition to in-person instruction. Many fall sports could return in the Spring.

One of the metrics that will determine when the transition is implemented, will be the COVID-19 infection case rate. The district continues to follow the data from the primary zip codes served (63031, 63033, 63034, 63136, 63138, and 63042).

As of Oct. 5, the infection case rate in those zip codes ranged

from 20.07 to 35 cases per 1,000 residents. The infection case rate measures how many people have been infected per 1,000 residents in a specific zip code. In comparison, the average rate throughout St. Louis County is 17.7 cases per 1,000 residents. The rates in each of our primary zip codes have risen by more than 18% during the month of September.

The school board acknowledged it can't stop transmission, but can help slow the spread of COVID-19 by evolving together. The key to returning to face-to-face instruction is improving the overall health of our entire community and the Hazelwood District will do their part.

For more information from the St. Louis County Department of Public Health regarding infection rates, digital equity initiatives, and parent resources visit <https://stlcorona.com/resources/resources-parents/>.

Information from this story was provided by the Hazelwood school district.



Saint Louis Public School students to return to in-person classes starting next week

The district will welcome back the youngest students first

ST. LOUIS — Students in Saint Louis Public Schools will be able to return to in-person learning next week, starting with the district's youngest students.

On Monday, Oct. 19, students in grades PreK-grade 2 will be able to return, a district spokesperson confirmed. One week later, on Oct. 27, students in grades 3-5 may return.

Some districts in St. Louis County, including Rockwood, Mehlville and Lindbergh, have already reopened their elementary campuses. Other districts, like Parkway, Kirkwood and Ladue, have announced plans to reopen later this month.

However, other districts, like Hazelwood and Ferguson-Florissant, will continue with virtual learning.

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<https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/education/saint-louis-public-school-students-in-person-classes/63-214e5679-21fd-4e22-a147-72b2e844ac31>

St. Louis

M A G A Z I N E

Forward Through Ferguson is building a task force to tackle the 'redesign of education funding.' Here's what its latest report found

8 takeaways from the “Still Separate. Still Unequal” report



Among the points the “Still Separate. Still Unequal” report makes:

- Federal, state, and local policies and practices led to de jure and then de facto segregation in the St. Louis region and St. Louis areas schools.
- St. Louis–area public schools are almost as segregated as 60 years ago, with 78 percent of public school students attending a racially concentrated district.
- Missouri provides what the authors call “very little state-level funding for education.” They note that as a percentage of total revenue, only one other state, New Hampshire, provides less.
- Funding education through property taxes is inequitable.
- Due to “the vast difference in property wealth in the St. Louis region,” the median assessed value of property in majority White districts is \$181,890, compared to \$97,751 in predominantly Black districts.
- To make up for their lower property values, majority-Black districts tend to have higher tax levy ceilings than majority-white districts. But even with higher taxes, majority-Black districts “don’t come close to raising what White wealthy districts can raise at the local level.”
- Teachers and administrators in majority-Black districts are paid less than in majority-white districts.
- 1 in 4 Black students do not have access to Accelerated Placement or calculus classes.

In a prepared statement, Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart, superintendent of the Hazelwood School District, said, in part, of “Still Separate. Still Unequal”: “I want to commend Forward Through Ferguson for the timely and important work that you are doing surrounding issues of racial equity in schools. While I am pleased that this significant work is being done, it saddens me that we are still addressing many of the same issues that we thought had long been resolved. “However, I am encouraged that awareness, advocacy, and action are again at the forefront, and this time, we must take measures to ensure that 30 years from now, my grandchildren and other schoolchildren are not having this same conversation and fighting these same battles in our schools and in our nation.”

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<https://www.stlmag.com/news/forward-through-ferguson-still-separate-still-unequal/>

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