

Forward Through Ferguson tackles segregation, inequity in education

‘Still Separate, Still Unequal’ addresses root causes, calls for action

American staff

A new report released by Forward Through Ferguson details the resurgence of segregation in St. Louis-area public schools and outlines key root causes of the student achievement gap.

“Still Separate, Still Unequal” asserts that past efforts to address achievement gaps largely failed because they did not engage with the sources of the outcome disparities: the structure of our education system. The report asserts that our education system is doing exactly what it was built to do: affording better opportunities to white, wealthy students at the expense of poor, Black students.

The St. Louis region’s education funding landscape is highly uneven, Forward Through Ferguson reports, and it’s not an accident. Majority-white districts spent over \$2,000 more per student and received \$1700 more in funding per student than majority-Black districts. The largest funding gap between individual districts was about \$14,000 more per student.

Funding education through property taxes is inequitable, Forward Through Ferguson argues. Majority-white district communities have almost twice the property wealth and household incomes than majority-Black districts, who must tax themselves at a higher rate to try to make up the difference.



Nettie Collins-Hart, superintendent of Hazelwood School District.

Federal, state, and local policies and practices led to de jure and then de facto segregation in our region and schools, Forward Through Ferguson argues. Today, St. Louis-area public schools are almost as segregated as 60 years ago before meaningful integration took place, with 78% of public school students attending a racially concentrated district.

Racialized differences in funding contribute to differences in education environment, Forward Through Ferguson reports. For example, teachers and administrators at majority-Black districts are paid on average about \$6,000 and \$15,000 less, respectively, than majority-white districts. For example, 1 in 4 Black students doesn’t have access to AP or calculus classes.

“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 been long resolved,” said Nettie Collins-Hart, superintendent of Hazelwood School District.

“In many regards, we appear to be worse off than we were when I was a student in the ‘70s. I witnessed and benefited from the fights for

school desegregation and racial equity in schools. 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 school children are not having this same conversation and fighting these same battles in our schools, and in our nation.”

In addition to partnering and building capacity, Forward Through Ferguson is calling on education advocates, public officials, and business leaders to join in several next steps, including:

- Continue to grow understanding and tell the story of structural inequities in the St. Louis regional landscape
- Collaboratively redefine regional indicators of a quality education, and
- Establish the Education Design and Finance task force as recommended by the Ferguson Commission to grow a community-wide mandate for policy and system action on education in the St. Louis region and state of Missouri.

“The Brentwood School District is committed to partnering with Forward Through Ferguson and regional school districts in efforts to re-design systems to equitably support all students,” said Brian Lane, superintendent of Brentwood School District.

For more information on “Still Separate, Still Unequal,” visit stillunequal.org. A printed version of the tool will be carried by both the St. Louis County and St. Louis City library systems.

Forward Through Ferguson is hosting an information session on October 8 at 6 p.m. Registration for this event can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/730655167662107>.

JOIN THE HSD TEAM!

OPEN POSITIONS

- Bus Drivers (paid training for drivers)
- Diesel Mechanics
- Custodians
- Nurses
- Kitchen Helpers
- Kitchen Managers
- Building Aides
- Teacher's Assistants
- Teacher Clerks
- Building Secretaries

Employee eligible holidays, vacation days, and benefits vary for each position.

For more information and to apply for these positions, visit www.hazelwoodschoos.org.



ABOUT HSD

Hazelwood School District (HSD) is located in suburban St. Louis, Missouri and is the second largest district in St. Louis County. HSD is fully accredited by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Home to more than 17,500 students, the district has 20 elementary schools, six middle schools, and three high schools, plus separate campuses for early childhood education, gifted, and individualized (alternative) learning.

Hazelwood
School
District

"A Culture of High Expectations and Excellence!"



ST. LOUIS AMERICAN NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

The St. Louis American's award winning NIE program provides newspapers and resources to more than 8,000 teachers and students each week throughout the school year, at no charge.

Questions or comments? Contact Cathy Sewell
csewell@stlamerican.com or 618-910-9551



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

The Stayton family enjoys using the e-edition of The St. Louis American's NIE STEM page to conduct science lessons at home. Sean and Shaniya Stayton are working together to complete an experiment found using the newspaper's STEM series. The activity demonstrates how to use shaving cream and cornstarch to make fake snow.

Teachers and parents, 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.



WHS 9th grader

Salute to excellent educators – virtually



2020 St. Louis American Foundation Excellence in Education Awardees (left to right): John E. Thomas, Dr. Craig A. Waddell, Sheryl Denise Rogers, LaShanda R. Boone, Rhonda Stovall, Shantana Goodwin-Payne, and Ramona Miller (not pictured Dr. Karen I. Hall).



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Gamma Omega Chapter, through the Ivy Alliance Foundation, presented its

36th Annual FASHIONETTA™ Scholarship Cotillion



First runner-up, Miss Maya Nicole Owens. Maya is the daughter of Eugene and Debra Owens. Maya is a 2020 honor graduate of Hazelwood Central High School and will attend Hampton University to major in Political Science with a minor in Criminal Justice. Her career goal is to become a Lawyer.

2020 CHS Alum



Healthcare Careers

Nichol J. Reeves,

MSN ANP-C



Where do you work? I am an assistant professor for Saint Louis University and an adult nurse practitioner for Dr. Jerome Williams.

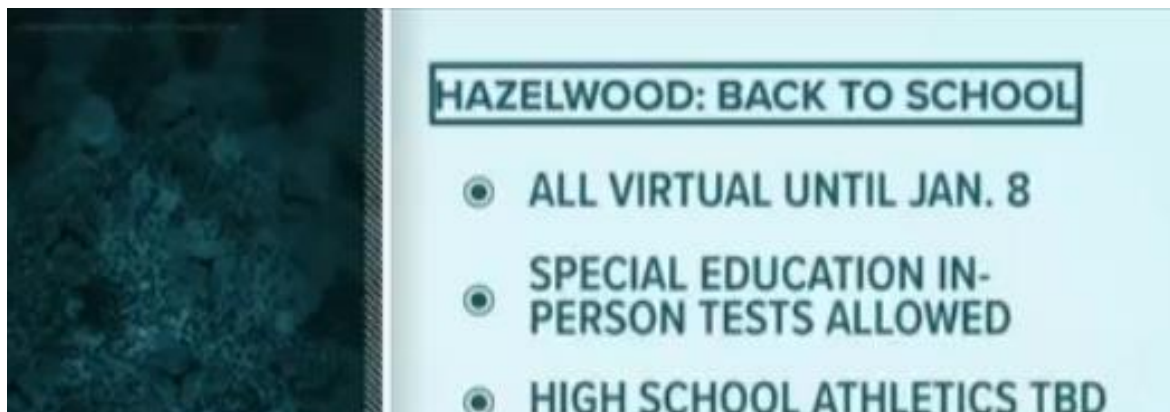
Where did you go to school? I graduated from Hazelwood East High School and then earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Southern Illinois University,

Edwardsville, a Master of Science Nursing Adult Nurse Practitioner from Goldfarb School of Nursing, and I'm currently pursuing a PhD in Education of Higher Education and Administration from Saint Louis University.

What does an assistant professor do? My job consists of teaching undergraduate students about the importance of nutrition and how it affects various disease processes. I work with students in the clinical setting to learn hands-on nursing skills.

EHS Alum

St. Louis County school district votes to stay virtual through 2020



HAZELWOOD, Mo. — Hallways will stay quiet and empty through 2020 inside buildings in the Hazelwood School District. The school board voted Tuesday night to continue 100% virtual learning for all students through the end of the first semester, which runs through Jan. 8, 2021. Some in-person testing will be allowed for special education services and assessments for specialized programming.

The school board also approved “a slow reemergence” of in-person high school football sports and activities. The district plans to send a more detailed update on that development as soon as possible.

Board members said COVID-19 numbers in the primary ZIP codes covered by the school district played a big role in their decisions. The [Hazelwood School District’s website](#) shows most schools fall in five different ZIP codes: 63031, 63033, 63034, 63042 and 63138.

The St. Louis County health department’s [latest in-depth analysis](#) – released last Friday – showed 63042 and 63034 had the third and fourth most youth cases per 100,000 people over the previous two weeks, which came out to 13 youth cases in the 63042 ZIP code and 10 youth cases in the 63034 ZIP code. The 63138 ZIP code reported zero youth cases.

Below is a look at the youth cases over the last 14 days in Hazelwood’s primary ZIP codes, along with the youth population and rate of youth cases per 100,000 people over the same time period.

ZIP code, number of youth cases, youth population and rate:

- 63031: 26 cases, 14,652 youth population, 177.5 rate
- 63033: 16 cases, 12,636 youth population, 126.6 rate
- 63034: 10 cases, 4,150 youth population, 241 rate
- 63042: 13 cases, 4,885 youth population, 266.1 rate
- 63138: 0 cases, 6,222 youth population, 0 rate