

Armed parents get into argument on elementary school grounds in Hazelwood



HAZELWOOD, Mo. – Hazelwood school officials and police are investigating an incident involving two parents who brought firearms onto an elementary school campus and got into a dispute with one another.

The altercation occurred Monday during the morning drop-off at McNair Elementary School.

Anthony Kiekow, a spokesman for the Hazelwood School District, said the parents got into a verbal altercation. Each parent had a “visible” firearm with them at the time.

The school’s safety team and district resource officers responded immediately to quell the situation. The parents have been identified and the Hazelwood Police Department is investigating the matter. The source or reason for the dispute was not disclosed. The altercation only involved the two parents. No other students, employees, or parents were threatened or hurt. Kiekow said student safety remains the top priority.

The district does not allow weapons on school property. Missouri law prohibits bringing a weapon to campus. Violators could face criminal charges. Kiekow clarified the students will not be punished for their parents’ actions.

DAILY NEWS

OUR VIEW: Founding Our Freedom

On Sept. 17, 1787 — 234 years ago today — the Constitution was created. However, that was just the beginning for what has since become the document that has allowed student journalists like us to have the voices we have now.

The Constitution was ratified June 21, 1788, when New Hampshire became the ninth state to accept it as the official framework of the United States. In the beginning, the purpose of the constitutional convention was for delegates from each of the 13 states to amend the Articles of Confederation, but as the convention went on, an entirely new form of government was created.

However, the Constitution was missing the Bill of Rights — the first 10 amendments that guarantee civil liberties and checks on the government's powers. Among those was the First Amendment, which ensures five freedoms including the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press.

Without the First Amendment, all forms of media would not be able to publish their work to the extent they can now, and the people would get information directly from the government. The freedom of the press is crucial in a democracy where the government is accountable to the people.

The Constitution is a living document — it is ever-changing and ever-evolving. But at the heart of the Constitution is the responsibility that's implied between citizenry and the government. Student journalists are where that connection first starts, and they are the branch keeping that partnership together.

Without student journalists, we would not have journalists. Without journalists, we would not have a formal and reliable connection between citizens and government.

Multiple landmark cases heard by the U.S. Supreme Court over the centuries since our country was founded have redefined what freedom of the press and that connection between people and government means.

The Court ruled in the 1971 case *New York Times Co. v. United States* that the U.S. government could not justify prior restraint — prohibiting a newspaper from publishing certain material before the public is given a chance to see it — unless the publishing “inevitably, directly and immediately cause[s] the occurrence of an event” that jeopardizes the safety of American security forces, according to the majority opinion from former Justice William J. Brennan. This case set an important precedent for allowing newspapers to disseminate information that may hurt the reputation of government officials, making it possible for journalists to be watchdogs of authority and complete their job as communicators for the general public.

This case was a huge win for First Amendment rights advocates, but, unfortunately, the same rights don't apply to school newspapers. A 1988 Supreme Court case, *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, saw a majority opinion from former Justice Byron White that declared high school principals had the right to censor student newspapers before publication if distributing those publications under school sponsorship would be “inconsistent with 'the shared values of a civilized social order.'”

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Mehlville-Oakville Area Prep Games Coming Up This Weekend



Oakville Tigers — Boys Varsity Football

Vs. **Hazelwood West High School Wildcats**

- **When:** Friday, September 17th, 6:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Hazelwood West Football Field
- [More Info](#)

Hazelwood Area High School Athletics: The Weekend Ahead

Hazelwood West High School Wildcats — Boys Varsity Football

Vs. Oakville Tigers

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