

COMMUNITY NEWS

Smart energy



Photo courtesy Hazelwood School District

The Hazelwood School District, the second-largest district in St. Louis, received \$840,000 in cash incentives from Ameren Missouri's BizSavers program.

Local school districts are taking advantage of Ameren Missouri's BizSavers program that offers financial incentives for energy efficient upgrades

By Wendy Todd

This year, several schools are starting off better and brighter thanks to Missouri's BizSavers program, an initiative by energy provider Ameren Missouri that offers financial incentives for energy efficient upgrades. It is one of the 26 offerings by Ameren Missouri which help both residential and commercial consumers reduce energy expenses. Hazelwood and Parkway school districts have benefited from this program.

The Hazelwood School District, the second-largest district in St. Louis, received \$840,000 in cash incentives from the pro-

gram. The funds allowed the district to convert to more energy efficient lighting in 33 buildings. It is reported that this switch will save the district \$685,000 annually in energy costs by reducing usage by 8.5 million kilowatt-hours (kwh). The amount of energy that will be reduced for the district is about the same amount that's typically used by over 700 homes a year. The district earned the title of Ameren Missouri BizSavers Program 2020 Energy Efficiency Champion, as they achieved the most energy savings of any other Ameren Missouri consumer last year.

Hazelwood wasn't the only district to achieve significant savings through the

Ameren program.

The Parkway School District also benefited hugely from installing energy upgrades throughout its schools, receiving over \$1.6 million in Ameren Missouri incentives. The district has completed 218 projects since 2008, including upgrading light fixtures to LEDs and replacing HVAC systems.

"There have been several HVAC projects we've conducted which yield not only greater energy savings, but also greater control of our HVAC systems. This helps to ensure we are supplying appropriate ventilation across the district," states Erik Lueders, Sustainability and Purchasing Director of

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'ENERGY' from cover

the Parkways School District. "The incentive program was a win-win because it helped fund upgrades that will reduce our costs each year, which then enables us to reinvest the money we're saving into other programs that benefit our students."

The district will save around \$1.2 million in electricity costs and over 13.5 million kWh per year. That amount of electricity can power over 1,100 homes annually.

"Through energy efficiency work, we have yielded considerable energy reductions which deliver savings to our community," states Rich Wright, Ameren Missouri's manager of energy efficiency. "This allows funds to be better allocated for educating our students, while reducing associated emissions to our envi-

ronment. Ameren Missouri has been happy to help schools improve their energy usage and save money."

Ameren is also able to help schools identify areas where energy efficiency can be improved.

"(By) working with schools of all sizes that are taking advantage of Ameren Missouri's cash incentives and the annual energy cost savings, we're able to identify numerous projects that pay for themselves quickly and provide ongoing savings for years to come," Wright said. "We're proud to help schools save money on their energy statements so they can devote even more resources to provide their students the best education possible."

These are the areas in Missouri with the most COVID-19 cases among children



JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — School districts in Missouri are starting school as COVID-19 continues to be a concern across the St. Louis area. Some schools are requiring masks in classrooms, while other districts have allowed each family to make that decision.

According to Missouri's dashboard, the data reflects COVID-19 activity among all school-aged residents, including non-public school students, in each school district's geographical boundary. The data is for ages 5 to 19.

Cases reported by school districts may differ from the numbers below because not every child in the school's boundary is enrolled in a public school.

Here are the district boundaries with the most COVID-19 cases in the state of Missouri. Several St. Louis area districts are among the highest in the state. The following numbers are based on the most recent data, which began on Aug. 12 and ended Aug. 25, 2021.

Kansas City 33 School District boundary: 168

Enrolled students last school year: 15,370

St. Louis City School District boundary: 146

Enrolled students last school year: 23,854

Springfield R-XII School District boundary: 99

Enrolled students last school year: 25,532

North Kansas City 74 School District boundary: 82

Enrolled students: 20,309

Hazelwood School District boundary: 80

Enrolled students last school year: 17,825

Football notebook: Pacific beats Borgia for first time in 26 years; tickets on sale for East St. Louis vs. De Smet

CLARIFICATION ABOUT HAZELWOOD’S SPECTATOR POLICY



In an effort to limit crowd size at home games due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Hazelwood School District has implemented a two-spectator per participant limit.

In an email shared with its community last week, the Hazelwood School District wrote, “Each student who participates in an extracurricular activity will be allowed to bring two parents/guardians to HSD events.”

Visiting teams will not be allowed to have spectators at Hazelwood School District events district spokesperson Anthony Kiekow clarified Wednesday morning after initially stating that visiting teams would be allowed two spectators per participant.

Pattonville travels to Hazelwood Central for an 11 a.m. kickoff on Saturday. No family, friends or fans of the Pirates will be allowed to attend.

Pattonville was working with Hazelwood Central to figure out a way to stream the game online so fans of both teams would be able to tune in.



Area football rankings, Week 1

STLhighschoolSPORTS.com rankings - 8/31/2021

Large schools Last Week

1. East St. Louis (1-0) 1
2. De Smet (1-0) 2
3. CBC (0-1) 3
4. Francis Howell (1-0) 6
5. Fort Zumwalt North (0-1) 5
6. Holt (1-0) 7
7. McCluer (1-0) 8
8. Edwardsville (0-1) 4
9. O'Fallon (1-0) 9
10. Chaminade (1-0) 10

On the bubble: Hazelwood Central (1-0), Ladue (1-0), Kirkwood (1-0), Mascoutah (1-0), SLUH (0-1)

STLhighschoolSPORTS.com rankings - 8/31/2021

Small schools Last Week

1. St. Mary's (1-0) 1
2. MICDS (1-0) 2
3. Lutheran North (0-1) 3
4. Cardinal Ritter (1-0) 4
5. Duchesne (1-0) 5
6. Lutheran St. Charles (0-1) 6
7. St. Dominic (1-0) 8
8. Highland (0-1) 7
9. Jefferson (1-0) NR
10. Lift For Life (0-1) 10

On the bubble: Mater Dei (1-0), Breese Central (1-0), Festus (0-1), Cahokia (0-1), John Burroughs (1-0)