

## Hazelwood School District begins bus route consolidation due to bus driver shortage



HAZELWOOD, Mo. (KMOV.com) -- Starting Wednesday, the Hazelwood School District will have new bus routes. This is in response to the nationwide bus driver shortage.

School spokesperson Anthony Kiekow told News 4 the district is consolidating several of their routes. Forty-six of their 96 routes are impacted by the revisions. Kiekow said the revisions will change daily pick up and drop off times for families. However, it will result in shorter and more consistent wait times for students.

News 4 has been staying on top of the impact of the bus driver shortage. In Granite City, the district is still only able to offer bus service for kindergarten through 4th graders, and special education students. That's expected to last until at least Oct. 1, because training for new drivers can take several weeks. The district contracts with Illinois Central. Across the state, bus drivers with that company say they are strained.

"It's been very hectic this year. Sometimes I just feel like my best is not good enough," said Monika Flakes, a driver with the company. "I got drivers doing three, or four routes at a time."

Another issue for bus companies across Illinois is the Governor's order requiring school personnel to now be vaccinated or get tested weekly. The Granite City School District said it expects challenges, but hopes to maintain it's current staff and get more drivers up to speed next month.

This week, News 4 also talked with St. Louis County Public Schools about their bus driver shortage. The district is doubling up on routes and using taxi cabs and security officers to get some kids to school.

"We're comfortable that we will continue to be able to make things work. It's just not that smooth of a process as we would normally see, and it's not going to be until this shortage subsides," said George Sell, Communications Director with the school.

Districts keep pushing to hire bus drivers. In Hazelwood, the pay range is \$17 to \$23 an hour.

## Tina White Lauded for Excellence in Entrepreneurship

Ms. White applies years of expertise to her work with Linna & Co., QA Studio Fix, B'Relevant Styles Salon and Quality Assurance Homecare Services



O'FALLON, MO, September 22, 2021 /24-7PressRelease/ -- Tina White has been included in Marquis Who's Who. As in all Marquis Who's Who biographical volumes, individuals profiled are selected on the basis of current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process.

Inspired by both her parents, her father worked for GMAC and mother worked for Rocktenn for many years, while also fostering numerous businesses. Ms. White decided to follow in their footsteps. After graduating from Hazelwood East High School, she attended the University of Missouri-St. Louis, earning a bachelor's degree in social work. She furthered her expertise with a master's degree in business and health management from the University of Phoenix. During the early years of her career, Ms. White gained valuable professional expertise as the director of community health programs for Grace Hill Health Centers, currently known as Affinia Healthcare, for 10 years.

Backed by her managerial experience, Ms. White currently excels as the owner of several businesses and institutions, including Linna & Co., QA Studio Fix and B'Relevant Styles Salon. Additionally, she has worked as the owner and chief executive officer of Quality Assurance Homecare Services for nearly a decade. Throughout her career, Ms. White has also devoted herself to women's ministry and spoken at events regarding entrepreneurship and how to declutter your mind.

Driven to expand upon her professional skill set, Ms. White is pursuing a real estate broker license through Real Estate Express. Alongside her primary responsibilities, she dedicates her time and resources to the Florissant Chamber of Commerce. In a career that has been filled with highlights, she is incredibly proud of sustaining all of her businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking toward the future, Ms. White intends to establish a winery and an event space next to her strip mall called The House of QA.

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