

Hazelwood School District honored for campaign targeting COVID-19



The Hazelwood School District was among the first area districts to create a campaign to combat the spread of COVID-19, and its action earned it a Community Development Leadership Award. The district launched its Help Hazelwood Get Healthy Committee in October 2020, and it was honored during the annual North County, Inc. Breakfast on Friday, Sept. 17. The campaign promoted lifesaving COVID-19 mitigation strategies, and more than 600 employees and community partners, and 250 students were vaccinated at campaign events. Its foundation was based on the basics: encouraging people to wear masks, wash their hands and practice social distancing.

“The campaign being recognized by North County Inc., is wonderful, but what excites me the most, is the positive impact the campaign has had on the health of our community members,” said Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart, Hazelwood School District superintendent. District staff distributed more than 5,000 Help Hazelwood Get Healthy kits to district families during a drive-thru campaign kick-off. The kits included masks, thermometers, hand sanitizer, and a pamphlet with information about COVID-19 symptoms and testing. Last school year, Hazelwood School District students attended school 100% virtually, as COVID-19 infection rates were climbing throughout North St. Louis County. “Rather than simply wait for COVID-19 infection rates to decline, we wanted to take a leadership role in the effort, so we launched the campaign,” Anthony Kiekow, the district’s director of communications and public relations, said. A series of advertisements, featuring the campaign logo, encouraged people to wear masks, wash their hands, and practice social distancing have appeared in local media outlets. Billboards sharing the same message were secured along Interstate 270 in North County.

“Through our Help Hazelwood Get Healthy resource events, social media contests, public service announcement videos, and COVID-19 vaccination clinics, approximately 6,000 HSD community members have participated in at least one element of the campaign,” Kiekow said. Students from East, Central and West high schools are featured in a Help Hazelwood Get Healthy video. “Vaccine education is one of the biggest challenges related to COVID-19,” Kiekow said. The committee added COVID-19 vaccine education to the campaign last February, after vaccines were becoming available. “We filmed an in-depth interview with Washington University School of Medicine’s Dr. Matifadza Hlatshwayo Davis, an infectious disease physician,” Kiekow said. “We walked our community through the vaccine development process and addressed some of the specific concerns people of color have about the vaccine. The video was shared with the community in the spring, and it is periodically posted on our district Facebook page,” Kiekow said. “Our hope is that the interview helps people in our community separate fact from fiction.”

Carey Davis has his Hawks flying high in prep sky



Former Hazelwood Central standout and NFL player Carey Davis has returned to his alma mater as the Hawks' head coach and his team is sporting a 4-0 record headed into a match with 4-0 Kirkwood

The Hazelwood Central football program is on the upswing under the direction of former Hawks' standout Carey Davis. The Hawks have been perennially successful, and Davis has his team sporting a 4-0 record. Central topped a ranked Eureka Wildcats squad two weeks ago on the road, and Seckman last weekend in a battle of 3-0 teams. The offense is led by senior quarterback Bryson Brown, who has passed for 531 yards and five touchdowns. Senior running back Lionel Banks has rushed for 499 yards and five touchdowns while senior Jamarion Price has rushed for 392 yards and a team-high eight touchdowns. In the 46-13 victory over Seckman, Banks rushed for 121 yards and three touchdowns, while Price rushed for 141 yards and two touchdowns. Senior Armani Turner has 173 yards receiving and 119 yards rushing along with two touchdowns. He had a 64-yard touchdown reception against Seckman. Hazelwood Central's defense is led by junior Jayden Trotter, who has a team-high 40 tackles and one interception. Senior defensive back Eric Brown has a team-high five interceptions. Senior Calvin Geans anchors the play on the defensive line. On Friday night, Sept. 24, the Hawks will face the biggest test of the season against host 4-0 Kirkwood.

You can go home again.

A group of former area prep football standouts have returned to their respective alma maters as head coaches after playing in the National Football League. They are enjoying plenty of success. Davis at Hazelwood Central, Jeremy Maclin at Kirkwood and William Franklin at Vashon have led their teams to 4-0 records. All three were collegiate standouts who played in the NFL, and the trio is eager to pass along knowledge and experience to the younger generation. Davis played at the University of Illinois after his career at Hazelwood Central. He spent several seasons in the NFL and won a Super Bowl ring with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Maclin and Franklin were both collegiate standouts and teammates at the University of Missouri before matriculating to the NFL.

NCI Awards Community Leaders For Making a Difference in North County

North County Incorporated (NCI) recognized local leaders for their contributions to the North County region at its 44th Annual Leadership Breakfast held on Sept. 17, both virtually and in-person at the Marriott St. Louis Airport. More than 550 business, civic, and community leaders attend this celebration annually.

"It is a privilege to be able to honor the many dedicated people, businesses and organizations in North County working to improve our community, better the lives of others, and advance the local economy," said NCI President and CEO, Rebecca Zoll. **2021 NCI Leadership Award Honorees**

Business Development Leadership Award

- Greater North County Chamber of Commerce, under leadership of Venus Martz, President
- Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562 Training Center
- SSM Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center

Community Development Leadership Award

- Frank Bell, executive director, Elevate St. Louis
- Dr. Debbie Kerber, owner, Resler-Kerber Optometry, Inc.
- Help Hazelwood Get Healthy Committee, Hazelwood School District

Diversity & Inclusion Leadership Award

- Ritenour High School Game Changers, Ritenour School District
- Patricia Parker, professor, University of Missouri-St. Louis
- Geoffrey Soyantet, founder & President, Vitendo 4 Africa
- St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley

Elmer Belsha Leadership Award

- Fletcher Wells II, vice president & director, St. John's Bank & Trust

Excellence in Partnership Award

- U.S. Bank Foundation
- North County Small Business Accelerator Partners:

Lynette Sledge Watson, Small Business Development Center
Karl Gunther, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Public Service Leadership Award

- Dr. Jeffrey Bonner, president & CEO, Saint Louis Zoo
- Brian Scott Ebert, retired board member, Ferguson-Florissant School District
- Patty Gould, director of School-Business Partnerships & Community Education, Pattonville School District
- Debbie Kricensky, Neighborhood Service Resources Coordinator, St. Louis County
- Keith Schildroth, councilman Ward 5, City of Florissant
- Chief Eddie Simmons, Jr., City of Pagedale Police Department

Special Recognition Leadership Award
· Gina Siebe, president, Historic Florissant, Inc.

NCI's 44th Annual Leadership Breakfast Platinum sponsors to date include:

Nogwer Materials; SSM Health DePaul Hospital; St. Louis County; St. Louis Economic Development Partnership; US Bank. Premier sponsors: Christian Hospital; City of Florissant; City of Hazelwood; Enterprise Holdings; Ferguson-Florissant School District; Mercy Health; Millstone Weber; Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 562; Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Center; University of Missouri-St. Louis. Corporate sponsors: Bi-State Development; Greater North County Chamber of Commerce; Hazelwood School District; St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley.

HSD IS HIRING!

Bus Drivers

Pay Range: \$15.15-\$22.80 / Per Hour

Child Nutrition

Pay Range: \$13.15-\$19.30 / Per Hour

Custodians

Pay Range: \$13.77-\$21.89 / Per Hour

Building Aides

Pay Range: \$13.13-\$16.01 / Per Hour

Teacher Assistants

Pay Range: \$14.65-\$17.85 / Per Hour

Clerical

Pay Range: \$13.06-\$24.38 / Per Hour

Safety Monitors

Pay Range: \$12.12-\$13.24 / Per Hour

Nurses

Pay Range: \$31,352.00-\$50,811.00 / Per Year

Employee Benefits

- ✓ District Paid Medical, Dental, & Life Insurance
- ✓ Holiday & Vacation Days
- ✓ Tuition Reimbursement
- ✓ Employee Assistance Program



To apply, visit www.hazelwoodschoools.org.

Jazell Thomas Named Missouri School Counselor Association Advocate of Year

Jazell Thomas, coordinator of Counseling and Social Work for the Hazelwood School District (HSD), has been awarded the 2020-2021 Advocate of the Year by the Missouri School Counselor Association. While the award is for last year, the announcement was delayed by the pandemic, so Thomas will receive the award later this month.

"There is no one more deserving of this award," said Nettie Collins-Hart, Superintendent of HSD. "Mrs. Thomas has been instrumental to the scope of counseling services

and community resources our district is able to provide."

In her role, Thomas guides the district's school counselors, social workers, and home school communicators. From developing self-care strategies for the entire district to comforting community members during a difficult time, Thomas fills a crucial role that helps HSD serve stakeholders.

"I am thankful to receive this wonderful honor," Thomas said. "More importantly, I am thankful to have an amazing, dedicated team by my side."



Jazell Thomas

Thomas, a Hazelwood East High School graduate, has worked in the Hazelwood School District since 1998 when she began as a counselor at Grannemann Elementary School.

Alumni Greats Coaching, 4-0 Hazelwood Central and Kirkwood Meet Friday in SNC

By Jim Wieners

Hazelwood Central Alumnus Carey Davis and Kirkwood Alumnus Jeremy Maclin spent their football playing careers through high school, college and the National Football League. Now Davis and Maclin returned to their high schools as head coaches.

This Friday, Sept. 24, these two alums from their high schools are coaching what is to be their biggest game to date so far. Davis takes Hazelwood Central and their 4-0 record to Kirkwood's Ernest L. Lyons Memorial Field for a 7 p.m. Suburban Conference Yellow Pool game against Maclin's 4-0 Pioneers, 1-0 in Yellow Pool.

After opening the Fall, 2021, season with a home shutout of 2-2 Hazelwood East, Davis' Hawks dealt 3-3 Pattonville (41-13), 3-1 Eureka (25-20) and 3-1 Seckman (46-13) their first loss of the season.

After Friday Hazelwood Central have no more zero-loss teams left on their schedule and that includes a visit to Hazelwood West Oct. 2 at 12 noon. A win over Kirkwood could assure the Hawks, which have Yellow Pool wins over Pattonville and Eureka, of no worse than a share of the Yellow Pool title with only the Oct. 23 home game, 12 noon, against Marquette (Rockwood School District) left.

Seniors including Jamarion Price, Lionel Banks and Bryson Brown lead Davis' offensive punch for the Hawks. Price leads the Hawks in scoring with eight touchdowns on 392 yards rushing in 39 carries while Banks leads in rushing yardage with 499 on 57 carries and five touchdowns, three against Seckman. Brown played in three games as the Hawk quarterback completing nearly 48 percent of his passes (33/69) for 531 yards and five touchdowns. On defense, junior Jayden Trotter leads the Hawks with 23 total tackles including 19 solo and three of them for lost yardage while senior Eric Brown leads in pass interceptions with four.

McCLUER returns home Saturday, Sept. 25, for a 1 p.m. Blue Pool game against Affton (0-3 prior to Sept. 20 against 0-3 Clayton) before making a return visit to Gateway STEM Oct. 1, 6 p.m. against the Jaguars. That is four weeks after losing 42-38 to 3-1 Soldan International Studies. The Comets (2-0 Blue Pool, 3-1 overall) scores a lot of points in Blue Pool wins over visiting Clayton (54-14) and at 1-3 University City (80-38).

Prior to the University City game, senior Michael Hopkins completed 70 percent of his passes (21/30) for 397 yards and five touchdowns, and those numbers would have blown up with the Comets' 80 points against U. City. Add those stats not available from the U. City game, as of Sept. 19, and senior Kameron Gillespie would have more than six touchdowns (three receiving, two rushing and a return) and junior Al-mani Jimerson would have more than 30 total tackles (15 solo, 15 assisted) including 10 for yardage lost and four quarterback sacks.

HAZELWOOD EAST plays three Green Pool games the next three Fridays, all 7 p.m. in the Parkway School District including Sept. 24 at 0-4 Parkway Central, (0-2 Green Pool) Oct. 1 at Parkway North and Oct. 8 at Parkway West. In Green pool games, the Spartans (2-1 Green Pool, 2-2 overall) won over two Suburban (XII) North Conference rivals, 54-0 Riverview Gardens (0-3, 0-3) and 20-14 over McCluer North (0-2, 0-4), before losing to 3-0, 4-0 Summit (37-8).

HAZELWOOD WEST visits 1-3 Lafayette Friday, 7 p.m. in a battle of 1-1 Red Pool teams before the Wildcats host Hazelwood Central Oct. 2. Hazelwood West (2-2) split a pair of Red pool game, losing to 2-0, 3-1 Ladue Horton Watkins 59-22 while defeating 0-2, 0-4 Ritenour 28-21, before losing 55-26 to 2-2 Oakville. Senior Romano Gines has seven touchdowns scored while Senior Ja'Tarius McKinney has eight touchdown passes.



Hazelwood Central Alumnus **Carey Davis** (left) and Kirkwood Alumnus **Jeremy Maclin** (right) spent their football playing careers through high school, college and the National Football League. Now Davis and Maclin returned to their high schools as head coaches and will

Hazelwood District Outlines New COVID Guidelines For Attending School Events

The Hazelwood School District has consistently reviewed COVID-19 community transmission levels, vaccination levels, and additional metrics when considering mitigation strategies. "We want our students and community to fully participate in all aspects of the HSD school experience. We miss the high levels of engagement in our athletics, activities, and school events," a statement from the district COVID information site.

The statement continued:

"Unfortunately, the footprints of our schools lie in areas that are still experiencing high transmission rates, low vaccination rates, as well as low testing numbers. Mitigations in place at the school level and at district activities are intentionally robust to account for the high levels of community transmission. Ultimately, our goal is to keep students in classrooms during the school day, which is where they are educated most effectively."

The district has started the year with strong layers of mitigation, as transmission levels drop, the removal or lessening of some mitigation layers may occur.

At this time, two spectators are allowed per student athlete, cheerleader, and band member. However, effective immediately, additional spectators who show valid proof of COVID-19 vaccination will also be allowed to attend outdoor and indoor athletic events.

Additional details are provide ::

HSD team spectators and visiting team spectators are allowed to attend outdoor and indoor HSD athletic and extracurricular events with proof of COVID-19 vaccination by showing their vaccination card.

Each student who participates in the activity is still allowed to bring two parents/guardians to HSD events, regardless of those individuals' vaccination status. Those names must be provided in advance, as is the current practice.

All spectators who are NOT one of the participating students' parents/guardians on the list, must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination in order to attend the event.

All student spectators must show BOTH their COVID-19 vaccination card AND their photo ID.

All spectators are asked to wear a face mask for outdoor events.

All spectators are required to wear a face mask for indoor events.

Spectators not on the pre-approved list for indoor activities must also show proof of vaccination in order to attend the event.

If a spectator arrives without a face mask, the district will provide one.