

## Local boys basketball teams win championships



**Tevin Gowins**



**Donovan Howard**

The Southwest Illinois Jets Orange won championships at the Gateway All-American Tournament in the 15U and 16U age division. The members of the Jets 16U team are; Dawson Algee (O'Fallon), NJ Benson (Mt. Vernon), Caleb Burton (O'Fallon), Camren Edwards (Alton), **Tevin Gowins (Hazelwood Central)**, Brylan Phillips (Decatur MacArthur), Mekhi Phillips (Lanphier), Lemond Shaw (DuBourg), Jamauri Winfrey (Peoria Richwoods).

The members of the Jets 15U Orange team include: Kemonte Rivers (Alton), **Donovan Howard (Hazelwood Central)**, Kellen Scott (Pickneyville), Kirk Howard (Alton), Jordan Lumpkins (Trinity Catholic), Kendall Lavender (Alton Marquette), Dwayne Chatman Jr. (O'Fallon), Bryant Moore (Confluence Academy).

[http://www.stlamerican.com/sports/sports\\_columnists/in\\_the\\_clutch/vashon-s-jimmy-mckinney-hired-as-boys-basketball-coach-at-kirkwood/article\\_bd2733fc-d21d-11ea-9208-3772fe9ac025.html](http://www.stlamerican.com/sports/sports_columnists/in_the_clutch/vashon-s-jimmy-mckinney-hired-as-boys-basketball-coach-at-kirkwood/article_bd2733fc-d21d-11ea-9208-3772fe9ac025.html)

## In-person or online learning? Parents share how they're making the tough decision with their kids

Whether or not to return to in-person classes this fall was an easy choice for Christi Tennyson and her daughter: Her daughter would be attending her eighth-grade year of school online this fall.

On July 20, most of the region's schools [announced how they will reopen](#). The majority—including Tennyson's home district, Francis Howell—are offering families a choice: either in-person or virtual. The in-person options include a traditional five-day week or a hybrid with a rotating schedule, with the possibility of classes going completely online. An increasing number of districts, including Hazelwood, Saint Louis Public Schools, Clayton, and Kirkwood have announced they will start their fall semester with entirely online classes.

Decisions over whether schools should reopen have spurred debates nationwide. While some leaders call for schools to reopen completely, many teachers—including those in St. Louis—have [staged protests](#) and voiced their concern about unsafe conditions. Others, though, say [returning to in-person may be the best option for their students](#) after online learning proved to be difficult last semester. But what are the parents thinking? ...

<https://www.stlmag.com/family/parents-face-the-decision-of-in-person-vs-virtual/>



# All Hazelwood District Students to Begin Year in 100% Virtual Mode

## *Virtual and in-school option for future*

The Hazelwood Board of Education has approved the district's Reopening and Pandemic Plan 2020-2021 School Year. The district intends on implementing Contingency Phase 2 of the plan, which calls for all HSD students to begin the school year with the 100% virtual school model. When the conditions related to COVID-19 improve, a blended school model (virtual & in-person school) will become an option.

"The Hazelwood School District plan and its contingencies are evidence that the safety of our school community is our top priority," said superintendent Nettie Collins-Hart, "We have listened to our stakeholders and believe this is the best way forward."

From the start, HSD was intentional about making the plan development process inclusive and transparent. On June 8, the district shared the Reopening Hazelwood School District Plan Survey. More than 5,100 stakeholders (parents, students, and staff) provided responses about a variety of topics,

including virtual school, in-person school, and transportation needs. Additionally, the district held three public forums to collect public input.

The district has also consulted with public health officials throughout the process to develop best practices for navigating the COVID-19 pandemic during the school year. The consultation has led to the district implementing unprecedented safety measures.

At the conclusion of the input process, the Hazelwood School District Reopening and Pandemic Plan 2020-2021 School Year was created. The plan gives families the choice of selecting a 100% virtual school option or a blended school option that includes virtual and in-person school. However, based on current concerns about COVID-19, all students will begin the school year in Contingency Phase 2 (100% virtual school). The district is asking families to make an education model selection by July 24 to assist in the district planning process.

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## **Getting a Virtual Look at Google Classroom in Hazelwood District**

The Hazelwood School District will begin the 2020-2021 school year Aug. 24 with all students in the 100% virtual school model.

Laurie Martin, a 4th grade teacher at Twillman Elementary, held a virtual school tutorial for the HSD Communications and Public Relations Department.

Each morning, students will join Google Classroom. From there, they can access Google Meets and the school day can begin. "In my class, the first thing students will see is a quick good morning message," said Martin. "Next, we will begin direct instruction."

The school day will be structured with assignments, live feedback, and breaks to relieve stress. Teachers will also have some schedule flexibility to address individual needs of students. HSD is working with Special School District to finalize plans to serve students with IEPs in a virtual school environment.

HSD has chromebooks and hotspots available for families that have technology needs. The program details will be shared prior to the start of the school year.

The fall virtual school experience will be significantly different than the experience during the abrupt district closure the last spring.

"We were in crisis mode," Martin said. "We were trying to make sure that school went on for all students, and we only had days to prepare for 100% virtual school."

Since then, HSD teachers and curriculum coordinators have been developing plans to implement a robust virtual curriculum. Martin helped write the ELA curriculum.

"There is a lot of room and potential for creativity and innovation, which I always love as an educator," Martin said.

HSD purchased 1,300 web cameras to help teachers record and live stream lessons. Over the summer, teachers will also have access to a variety of professional development opportunities focused on virtual instruction.



## Missouri high school sports will play as scheduled, with or without St. Louis

High school sports will go on in Missouri.

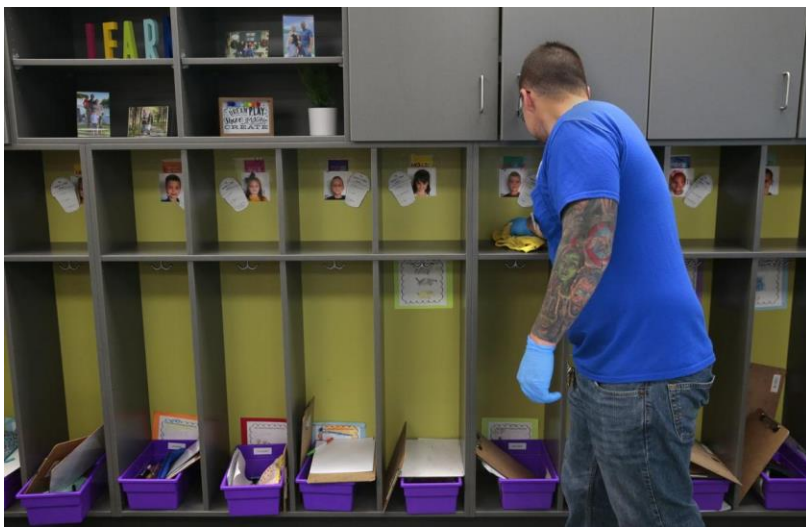
It appears likely St. Louis City and St. Louis County schools will have to watch from the sideline.

On Thursday afternoon, St. Louis County executive Sam Page encouraged all schools in St. Louis County to start the school year completely online. Also on Thursday, the St. Louis County Department of Public Health sent a letter to school leaders encouraging them to go virtual because of “a sustained increase in COVID-19 cases that is a result of community transmission.” The letter stated: “While this is a recommendation and not a mandate, the Department of Public Health may take further action to close school buildings that have outbreaks that further risk the health of residents.” Nearly 20 school districts in the area have opted to begin the school year online, including Affton, Brentwood, Clayton, Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Kirkwood, Parkway, Pattonville, St. Louis Public Schools and Webster Groves.

[Under the guidelines released this month by the Missouri State High School Activities Association none of these school districts would be allowed to compete in sports or other activities.](#) In MSHSAA’s return to play plan, any school district that does not offer an in-person school option is prohibited from practice and competition. That stance was reiterated Wednesday by MSHSAA leadership on a statewide conference call with athletics directors and administrators ...

[https://www.stltoday.com/sports/high-school/football/missouri-high-school-sports-will-play-as-scheduled-with-or-without-st-louis/article\\_d084f088-d2b8-11ea-a1d0-c7d50bd31bd0.html](https://www.stltoday.com/sports/high-school/football/missouri-high-school-sports-will-play-as-scheduled-with-or-without-st-louis/article_d084f088-d2b8-11ea-a1d0-c7d50bd31bd0.html)

## As Missouri sets another virus record, health department calls for St. Louis County schools to start the year online



Edward Fox, lead custodian at Eureka Elementary school, cleans first grade classroom cubbies as the Rockwood School District begins a weeklong break on Friday, March 13, 2020. Custodians started deep cleaning the first of 33 buildings using mist sprayers and disinfectant to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

The St. Louis County health department on Thursday recommended schools rely on remote learning this fall, as Missouri set yet another daily record for new cases of the coronavirus by surpassing 2,000 for the first time.

[https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/as-missouri-sets-another-virus-record-health-department-calls-for-st-louis-county-schools-to/article\\_073103e1-2b0c-5c1c-9695-615224992025.html](https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/as-missouri-sets-another-virus-record-health-department-calls-for-st-louis-county-schools-to/article_073103e1-2b0c-5c1c-9695-615224992025.html)

# Governor Parson to meet with St. Louis area school districts to discuss reopening plan



ST. LOUIS – Students will be headed back to school in Missouri this fall. Governor Mike Parson will be in St. Louis Wednesday afternoon to discuss the re-opening of schools during the pandemic. The governor will hold a meeting at Jennings High School today. This is one of the few stops Parson will make during his state-wide tour of schools. Tuesday he met with leaders at Capitol City High School in Jefferson City. Many districts in the St. Louis area have already announced plans for the start of the school year. Just one month before the first day of school, thousands of students in Kirkwood and St. Louis learned they will be staying home. Kirkwood is the sixth school district in St. Louis County to move to an all-virtual start to the 2020-2021 year, following Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, and Ritenour. school reopening plan

<https://fox2now.com/news/governor-parson-to-meet-with-st-louis-area-school-districts-to-talk-about-reopening-amid-pandemic/>

# School districts across the bi-state vary in virtual, in-person learning

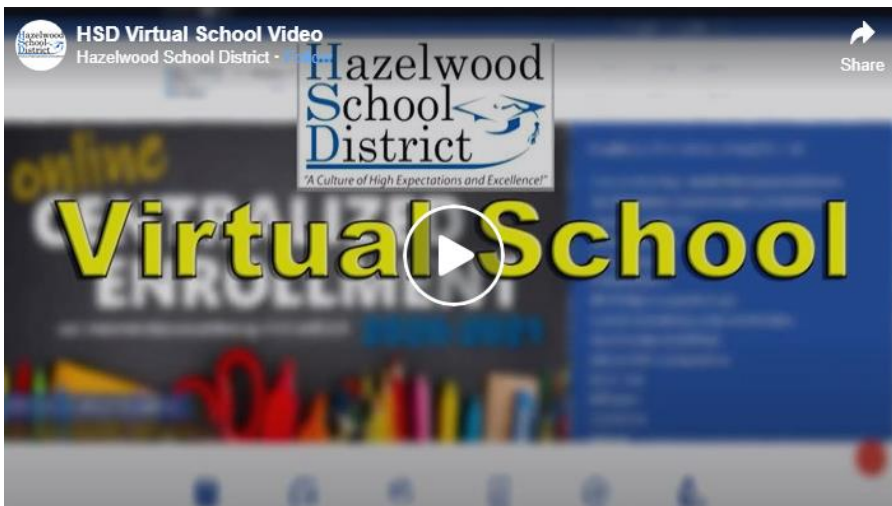
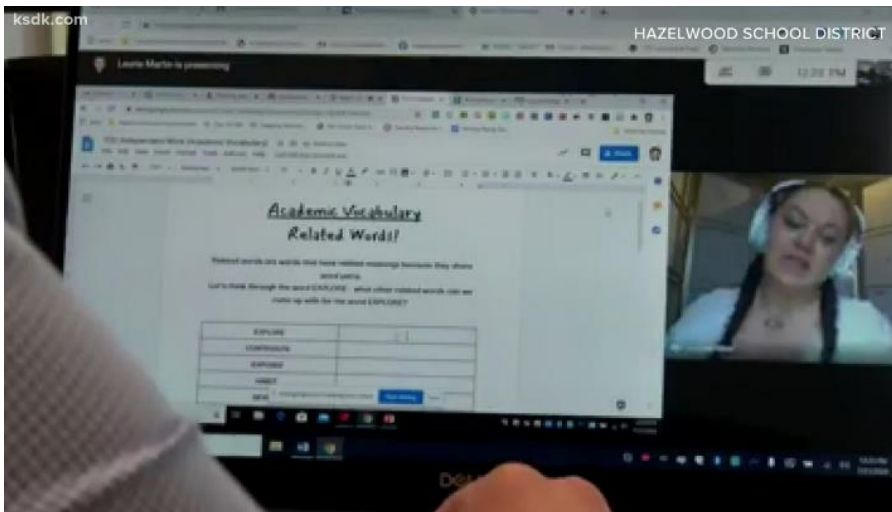


Besides Parkway, the Clayton, Pattonville, and Webster Groves school districts in St. Louis County made the decision Wednesday to offer only online classes in the first quarter of the new school year. Kipp and Lift for Life charter schools also confirmed shortly after that they will also start the school year solely online. These schools join several other districts that have already made the call to start the school year with only virtual learning. Those include Affton, Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Kirkwood, Maplewood-Richmond heights, and Ritenour.

<https://fox2now.com/news/school-districts-across-the-bi-state-vary-in-virtual-in-person-learning/>



## Here's a look at how virtual learning will work at one of Missouri's largest school districts



FLORISSANT, Mo. — One of the largest school districts in Missouri has released details on how its virtual learning will work amid the coronavirus pandemic. Hazelwood School District will have students attend virtually during the first quarter, which is through Oct. 15. When conditions related to COVID-19 “improve,” the district will offer parents a blended school option which would be two days in person and three days virtually. <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/education/virtual-learning-hazelwood-school-district/63-48a24557-29ac-4986-8107-d7c337f75539>



# Here's why these school districts chose to start the year 100% online

Districts like Parkway, Kirkwood, Clayton and Hazelwood aren't returning to classrooms this August. Here's why

## Hazelwood School District

The Hazelwood School District will begin the school year under "Contingency Phase 2" of its reopening plan with a 100% online school model. Once the coronavirus situation improves, a blended learning model will become an option. "The Hazelwood School District plan and its contingencies are evidence that the safety of our school community is our top priority," said Nettie Collins-Hart, superintendent of HSD. "We have listened to our stakeholders and believe this is the best way forward." The district stressed that the fall's virtual school experience would be completely different than the experience when school abruptly closed in the spring. "We were in crisis mode," Twillman Elementary teacher Laurie Martin [said in a video explaining](#) what the start of school would look like. "We were trying to make sure that school went on for all students, and we only had days to prepare for 100% virtual school." <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/why-districts-chose-virtual-online-learning-school-year/63-d057c1f9-508e-46e4-b82a-a028362d19d7>

## 5 On Your Side Countdown: The biggest 'what if' questions in St. Louis sports history



Van Zandt was the national high school player of the year out of Hazelwood Central, and was on his way to stardom. Then he tore up his knee in a Lions Club all-star game 34 years ago in Jefferson City. Van Zandt was ranked higher than Barry Sanders at the time. He was headed for an all-american career at Mizzou. But after the injury, he was never the same. They don't play all-star football games in July any more.

<https://www.ksdk.com/article/sports/the-biggest-what-if-questions-in-st-louis-sports-history/63-3cfd64b-7d19-40a4-a925-8f90be8b39f6>



# TONY VAN ZANT

## President's Choice Award

Tony Van Zant is arguably the greatest high school football player in St. Louis history. After his senior season at Hazelwood Central in 1985, Parade Magazine named him the National Player of the Year. Van Zant had offers from Michigan, Oklahoma, Notre Dame, Nebraska, Miami, Arkansas, USC, and countless others. Barry Sanders was in that class and not as highly thought of as Tony. Van Zant rushed for 2,736 yards and 36 touchdowns his senior year. He led the Hawks to the state championship and a 14-0 record. In the first playoff game against Hazelwood East, Tony ran for 352 yards and two touchdowns. In the second round against Sumner, He ran for 364 yards and three touchdowns. He pulled his hamstring in the 3rd quarter in that game. In the state title game against Lees Summit, he ran for nearly 200 yard and threw a touchdown pass. For his career, Van Zant rushed for 6,128 yards and a national record of 91 touchdowns. He could have gone anywhere in the country for college. He chose Mizzou. Van Zant said, "It was something I wanted to do for my mom. She had moved enough. I said I will stay home and she can see me play." Unfortunately, the area never got to see the real Tony Van Zant at Mizzou. Two devastating knee injuries took away his explosive speed. However, if you saw Tony play in high school, you knew you were witnessing greatness. Tony now resides in Jefferson City and teaches at Jefferson City High School. He is engaged to Cassandra Wilson. Tony has two children of his own: Beanna and Aquil. Cassandra has three children: Elijah, Jeremiah and Sarae.

<http://www.stlshof.com/tony-van-zant/>



This story was lost amidst COVID news; linked to previous page KSDK story

April 8, 2020

# 9 Questions About Missouri's Aug. 4 Primary

*Will two incumbent county councilwomen keep their jobs?*

Dunaway and Walton Gray are facing serious challenges for re-election. Dunaway, of Chesterfield, is squaring off against Creve Coeur Mayor Barry Glantz, who hails from a major population center in the 2nd District. Dunaway is promising to fight for progressive values in the heavily Democratic district, while Glantz says he would be a consensus builder on the council.

Meanwhile, Walton Gray is facing Shalonda Webb and **Mark Behlmann** in the 4th County Council District that includes a big chunk of north St. Louis County. Walton Gray is part of a formidable political faction that's elected people to state and local posts. Webb has nabbed a number of endorsements, while Behlmann is well known for his time on the **Hazelwood School Board**.

While neither the 2nd or the 4th District is expected to turn red this November, the council's operations could change dramatically if Dunaway or Walton Gray lose.

<https://news.stlpublicradio.org/government-politics-issues/2020-07-31/9-questions-about-missouris-aug-4-primary>