January 5, 2017

Dear Hazelwood School District Parents and Guardians:

We recently notified you about a change in a Missouri law that became effective January 1, 2017. I want to make it clear, that in no way is the Hazelwood School District planning to do anything differently about how we handle matters of student discipline, such as school fights, as a result of the change in the law. We will look at each situation on a case-by-case basis, as we have always done.

As in the past, we will continue to discipline students according to our Student Behavior Guide. As we are not a law enforcement agency, we do not have the power, authority or desire to charge a student with a felony. However, once we were informed about the changes in the law, we had an obligation to educate and inform our students and parents.

We have concerns about the potential impact of this legislation on students both in and out of school. Therefore, we took a proactive approach to inform parents, staff, and to educate our students on the impact that this change may have in everyday life at school, home, and in the community. In order to provide communication to our students and families, we sent an email on December 16, 2016, and we are holding student assemblies in all of our schools.

As a school district, one of our primary goals is to ensure the safety and success of our students. A part of that is ensuring that students have information that may impact their lives. We look forward to continued partnerships with our parents and community to reach that goal.

If you have questions, please contact our School Safety Department at 314.953.5043 or the Student Services Department at 314.953.5065. Thank you for your continued support of the Hazelwood School District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart
Superintendent
Hazelwood School District