

June 2025

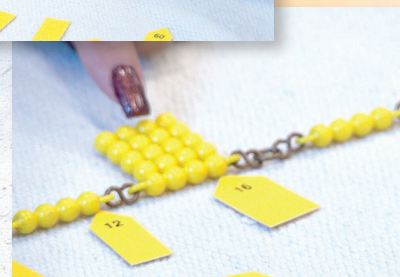
Twillman Montessori School Debuts in HSD



Montessori teaching is coming to the Hazelwood School District. HSD's latest thematic school will see Twillman Elementary introduce Montessori teaching for pre-K and kindergarten students for the 2025-2026 school year.

For those not familiar, Montessori philosophy was developed by Italian physician and educator, Dr. Maria Montessori. It features a hands-on, experiential approach to learning. Students learn by doing; student choice is paramount within the classroom, as they make choices regarding the progression of activities that they complete as part of their individualized work plans. The focus is placed on supporting the development of the "whole child," which includes social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development.

As part of the preparation for Montessori teaching, interior and exterior improvements are being made to the Twillman building, including painting upgrades, new bulletin boards, classroom flooring with rubber tiles, updated landscaping, and new entrance signage.



Monica Miller-Seawood, assistant superintendent, notes, "We are truly excited about Twillman Montessori, our newest thematic school, and we look forward to providing tailored instruction to students based on the philosophy and teachings of Dr. Maria Montessori." She continued, "Believe me when I say, that as a former Montessori student and a former Montessori teacher, Montessori education exposes a student to a world of learning filled with infinite possibilities."

Twillman Montessori will begin with pre-K and kindergarten classes, with plans for further expansion into other grades. The District is very excited about the plans for Twillman Montessori, and we will keep you posted about its progress!

Hazelwood School District

"A Culture of High Expectations and Excellence!"

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- Bridgeton
- Dellwood
- Ferguson
- Florissant
- Hazelwood
- Spanish Lake
- Unincorporated St. Louis County

Hazelwood School District

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Greetings Hazelwood School District Community,

With another school year behind us, we should both celebrate the successes of the past year, while looking ahead with optimism for what's to come. Our students have shown incredible perseverance, creativity, and brilliance — and our educators have continued to inspire and guide with passion and purpose. I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude to our students, families, teachers, and staff for their unwavering commitment to the success of the Hazelwood School District. This year has been filled with growth, learning, and memorable milestones across our schools. Together, we've fostered a positive culture and community spirit that continue to shape the success of our district. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in that success.

To our graduating seniors, I want to send a huge congratulations for reaching this milestone. Graduating is not an end — it's a beginning. It's the beginning of your next steps to self-discovery, making independent decisions, and new goals. Whether you are planning to continue your education, enter the workforce, join the military, or pursue another

From the Desk of the Superintendent

calling, I wish everyone the best, and I hope your experience in the Hazelwood School District has prepared you for the next step.

For our students who are returning, I want to congratulate you on a successful school year. Enjoy your time this summer to re-charge and enjoy your favorite activities. I also encourage you to continue learning throughout the summer. I challenge you to read thirty minutes to an hour each day, maintain a journal, join a book club, explore your local library, visit museums, and take advantage of our summer enrichment offerings. These are activities that are not only fun, but will allow you to continue to grow beyond the classroom and prepare you for success when you return to school in August.

Speaking of the summer, just because school is out doesn't mean that the District's work is done. In addition to our summer school sessions and programs such as Sunny Start, we are continuing our work on projects such as Twillman Montessori School, which will begin in the 2025-2026 school year. This innovative program is open to pre-K and kindergarten students throughout the District and features an emphasis on specialized, hands-on learning. Visit our website at hazelwoodschoools.org for more information.

In closing, I'm proud of how far we've come — and even more excited about what lies ahead for HSD. From new learning opportunities to expanded programs and facility improvements, there's so much to look forward to for the 2025-2026 school year. I hope that everyone takes time to relax, explore, and enjoy some quality time doing their favorite things. Have a wonderful summer, and we'll see you on August 18th!

Sincerely,

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart

Hazelwood School District Superintendent

HSD News is a news magazine created by the District's Communications and Public Relations Department.

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Creativity and Talent on Display at Spring STEAM Showcase

Hazelwood School District's talent and creativity were on full display at the HSD Spring Showcase, which featured the students' STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) projects.

Throughout the school year, Hazelwood students have been working hard on STEM and art projects, and the showcase provided an opportunity for their work to be celebrated by the community. Students brought along their families to show off their projects and receive their well-earned recognition.

"As always, the entire spring showcase was a hit and one that the community never fails to attend. Students of all grade levels were in attendance to experience the different vendors, display their science fair projects, and show off their amazing artwork in the gym," said Dr. Matt McClellan, Career and Technical Education coordinator.

The West High gymnasium was stocked full of art projects from each school, displaying the talent and creativity of Hazelwood students. From paintings to embroidery to sculpture, Hazelwood students have done it all in the 2024-2025 school year!

"Each piece reflected the students' unique perspectives and artistic growth, leaving attendees inspired and impressed," said Dr. Patty Ulrich, director of curriculum. "A huge thank you to our dedicated art teachers for guiding and supporting our students, and to our talented young artists for sharing their amazing work."

There were also numerous science projects on display, showcasing how HSD students' creativity meshes with

curiosity and research to study hypotheses. Whether studying how to make plants grow, which dish soaps are best for grease stains, or figuring out how to safely catch a rocket after takeoff, students have used the scientific method to explore all their most intriguing questions.

"The STEM Extravaganza is a showcase of what our community, post-secondary, and industry partners can offer our students, and bring to our classrooms in regards to science, technology, engineering and mathematics," Dr. McClellan said. "This is also an opportunity where our teachers, pre-K through 12th grade, showcase what we are doing with our students in regards to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics."

Additionally, HSD robotics teams were in attendance to show the community their impressive skills and the hard work that goes into wiring and operating their robotics.

The event also featured a summer resource fair for students and families with summer camp, internship and job opportunities.



Hazelwood West High Student Receives Full-Ride Scholarship to Maryville University



Lawrence Braithwaite, a senior at Hazelwood West High School, was surprised with the opportunity of a lifetime recently in the form of a full-ride scholarship to Maryville University.

Over 700 students competed for full-ride scholarships

to Maryville University, and Lawrence was one of the big winners from those applicants, receiving the Donald M. Suggs scholarship. West High college and career counselor, Dr. Na'Jeana Henderson, organized with Maryville to make the scholarship presentation a surprise to Lawrence and his family. Lawrence and his mother, Tennille Kendrick, believed they were gathering at the school to receive an honor from the high school when two representatives from Maryville brought out a huge check in the amount of \$145,464.

With Maryville being Lawrence's top choice for schools, he was ecstatic to learn he will now be attending the university, and at no cost to him or his family.

"This was not on my bingo card today. I was not expecting this at all!" Lawrence shared. "I'm feeling excited right now. I'm trying my best not to cry."

The scholarship, which is awarded to academically strong students from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education, covers Lawrence's full tuition, room and board, and miscellaneous costs for all four years of his undergraduate studies. Lawrence was selected for his incredible academic achievement, leadership qualities and community involvement throughout the scholarship competition.

Lawrence will be following his passions at Maryville with plans to study computer science or game design.

"You just want your kids to be able to go where they want to go, and you tell them the sky is the limit. So Maryville has truly blessed us," his mother said. "For him to be able to go where he wants to go and be able to do what he wants to do, we're just so thankful for that."

Lawrence participated in a coding camp at Maryville University for the past two summers, and he fell in love with the campus during his time there. Now, he is excited to get started with his college education and plans to bring his best to Maryville.

"This means a lot, I'm going to be doing my best at Maryville when I'm a student there. I was really hoping I'd win this scholarship because I really want to go to Maryville — it's my top school," Lawrence said. "I'm just really happy right now."

The Hazelwood School District proudly celebrates Lawrence's incredible achievements and looks forward to his continued success at Maryville University!



West High Junior, Elyse Townsend, Earns the Girl Scout Gold Award

From innovative problem-solving, empathetic leadership, confident public speaking, and project management, Gold Award Girl Scouts take these principles and become action-oriented in their communities. Elyse Townsend, a junior at West High, recently demonstrated all of these attributes to achieve the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award is earned by a high-school-aged Girl Scout who has dedicated more than 80 hours to address an issue they are passionate about in a way that produces meaningful and permanent change. Whether local, national, or global level, Gold Award Girl Scouts provide innovative solutions to pressing and relevant challenges.

Elyse partnered with Ackerman School to rejuvenate their sensory garden and create an inviting space allowing children of all abilities to find calm and peace. In addition to planting new perennials to beautify the area, Elyse also constructed a relaxing bench for the students.

“Community means a lot to me because communities help shape how we present ourselves to the world,” Elyse shared. “Earning this award means I can finally give back to the community that has raised me. I wanted to rejuvenate the Ackerman Schools sensory garden because every child deserves a space that feels like it was designed for them.”

“Gold Award Girl Scouts, like Elyse, are the leaders our world needs! She found a meaningful way to address a pressing issue facing her community, and discovered she has the power to create the future she wants to see,” said Danielle Washington, Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri chief program officer. “We are proud of her remarkable achievement!”

The Hazelwood School District celebrates Elyse for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award and is proud of her commitment to community service.



New Band and Orchestra Opportunities Offered to Hazelwood Students

The 2025-2026 school year is bringing exciting musical opportunities for Hazelwood students, including an expansion of the Central and East High marching bands, and more band and orchestra classes at the elementary level.

The new model provides elementary students opportunities for band and orchestra during the school day and offers band at all elementary schools. This means that more students will have the opportunity to take band at the elementary school level without transportation being a barrier.

Hazelwood School District Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart remarked, "The expansion of the band program is a reflection of our commitment to offering well-rounded learning. Music education inspires learning, creativity, and teamwork. These are skills that benefit students throughout their lives."

Also, part of the new developments in band education at HSD is the creation of the District High School Band, which includes the combined Central and East High marching bands. HSD band coach, James Garrett, said the expansion of the band aims to build bigger, better, and stronger ensembles by recruiting new members to the band while also retaining its existing members. "The band will travel and represent the Hazelwood School District community."

Combining the Central and East bands allows for strong collaboration between the Hazelwood music

faculty and students. Additionally, Garrett said this effort will provide growth opportunities to all students and staff involved in the band program.

Part of the band expansion involves a summer band camp, which is a four-week program for Central and East High students to have a focused and enjoyable environment in which to play music and practice the performance. Band camp participants will learn to play new music, meet fellow student musicians from outside their own school corridor, rehearse and perform at a parade, prepare for competitions, and stay engaged in musical growth over the summer. The summer band camp will take place from June 2-25, Monday through Thursday, from 7:15 a.m.-4:25 p.m.

HSD is excited to offer these expanded musical opportunities to our students, and we look forward to seeing how the students' skills develop and bloom through these programs in the upcoming school year!



HAZELWOOD DISTRICT SUMMER BAND CAMP

CAMPERS WILL:

- Learn to play new music
- Meet fellow student musicians
- Rehearse and perform at a parade
- Stay engaged in musical growth

INFORMATION:

WHEN: June 2nd – June 25th, 2025 (Monday-Thursday)

TIME: 7:15 AM - 4:25 PM

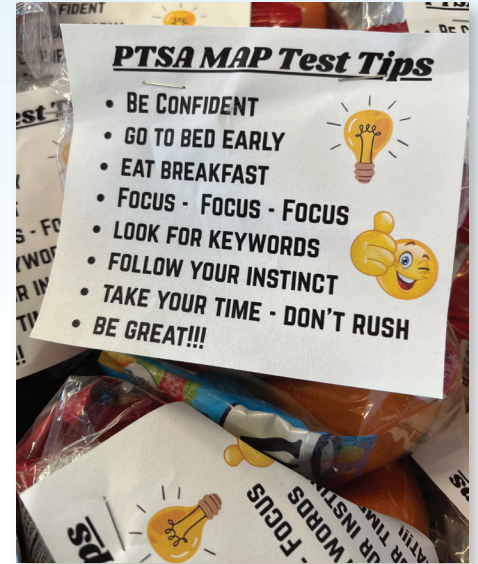
WHERE: Central High School - Band Room

WHO: Students entering grades 9-12/ East High and Central High School



HSD Aims to Be the Best on the Test

State testing season took on a new attitude this year with the re-launch of the Be the Best on the Test campaign. Because raising state test scores was such an important priority for the District this year, there was an urgency to get the word out about how important these tests are and why they matter so much. The District aimed to not only bring awareness, but to change the culture around how we approach state testing.



The district-wide efforts included promotional items that were given to schools as prizes and incentives, all school marquees advertised the dates of the testing windows, and District communications (everything from our newsletters to the website to correspondence with parents) included messaging that stressed the importance of excelling on the state tests. You may have also seen clips on social media of principals throughout the district offering encouraging words to students. Testing areas were also designed to be more structured and strategically planned.

Individual schools also played their part. They set up their own internal campaigns to get students and parents enthused about taking the tests and doing their best. Highlights included:

- Central High kicked off the Be the Best on the Test campaign with a pep rally, where students learned about their 2024 proficiency and what the school's goals were for the 2025 testing season. Student volunteers represented their class and participated in a relay race, a mat race, and a tug-of-war contest.
- The PTSA at North Middle School cheerfully greeted students at the start of the day on the week that the testing window began. The enthusiastic parents provided encouraging words, signs, and bags that included nutritious snacks to keep students alert and energized.
- Jamestown Elementary did their part by hosting parents for a MAP Night to further educate parents on the test, and had them participate by taking sample tests themselves. The MAP Night theme was 'Are You Smarter Than A Jayhawk?' Students and their parents competed at different MAP stations with MAP-like questions to accrue points for the evening. This provided parents with a firsthand look at the types of questions each child needs to understand, helping them to better support and encourage their child to succeed on the test.

These efforts combined to create enthusiasm and an attitude shift towards state testing. The scores are scheduled to be available later this summer and the District is optimistic that the scores are headed in the right direction.



Dr. Collins-Hart Receives Humanitarian Award for Efforts Towards Equity in Education

The School Superintendents Association (AASA) recognized Hazelwood School District Superintendent Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart as one of two recipients of the 2025 Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award.

This is an annual recognition of “education leaders who are committed to the advancement and mentorship of women and people of color, and/or addressing social justice issues among children and adults in schools,” according to a press release from AASA.

“I am honored to receive recognition with the 2025 Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award,” Dr. Collins-Hart said. “It is a privilege to lead the students and staff of Hazelwood School District as we work together to break down barriers and strive for equity in education.”

Dr. Collins-Hart began as superintendent of HSD in 2016, and since then she has been a champion of promoting equity in the field of education for both staff and students. AASA executive director, David R. Schuler, said Dr. Collins-Hart has shown an unselfish devotion to the HSD students, staff and larger community, not only breaking down barriers but building bridges in the field of education to ensure educational leadership is richer and more accessible to a wide range of qualified educators.

Her efforts to break down barriers and build bridges can be witnessed in over \$200 million in scholarships, and counting, that have been earned by graduating HSD seniors throughout her tenure. Dr. Collins-Hart has put particular emphasis on collaborating with state agencies and local organizations to design



and implement equity measures for not only HSD, but school districts statewide.

Prior to her role as superintendent, she was a teacher for nine years with additional experience as an assistant principal, principal, curriculum director, assistant superintendent and college professor.

Dr. Collins-Hart received the award at the Dr. Effie Hall Jones Memorial Equity Luncheon at the AASA National Education Conference in New Orleans this spring. During the luncheon, she encouraged the superintendents in attendance to continue to be “relentless, unapologetic and stay the course to do what is right for our children.”



HSD Superintendent Dr. Collins-Hart (pictured third from left) with previous Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award winners.

Two Hazelwood Employees Recognized with Starfish Awards

Two Hazelwood School District employees were recently awarded for their positive impact on students by the Special Education Foundation.

McCurdy Elementary principal, Dr. Germaine Stewart, and Arrowpoint Elementary bus driver, Titus “Mr. T” Cothrine, were recipients of the Special Education Foundation’s Starfish Awards. The Starfish Award is reserved for individuals who have brought about significant change through seemingly small, yet deeply meaningful actions.

Dr. Stewart, who received the Leadership Starfish Award, said it has been an honor to be able to serve the students and staff at McCurdy, as well as the community. She said the students, and helping them grow, is her reason for doing the job.

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to see them grow. Being a part of having them set goals, put a plan in action and achieve those goals is why we come here every day,” she said.

According to the Special Education Foundation, recipients of



the Starfish Award consistently demonstrate unwavering compassion and kindness, and offer vital support during challenging circumstances, and Dr. Stewart has done just that.

Another characteristic that recipients of this award possess is the ability to leave a remarkable imprint on the lives of students and families within their community, and Mr. T is a beloved bus driver who has done just that.

“I treat the kids like they’re my own,” he said. “I like driving the kids, taking the kids to school. It’s about being with the kids.”

Congratulations to these two incredible members of the Hazelwood School District, and thank you for all you do for our students and community!

Larimore Student Participates in Pre-College Initiative at NSBE Convention in Chicago

Attendees of engineering conventions hope to discover new concepts, attend informational sessions, and engage in networking. For Jer’Rhia Shelton, a fifth-grade student from Larimore, all those boxes were checked when she attended the annual 2025 National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Convention in Chicago this spring, alongside her mother.

As a younger attendee among predominantly high school and college students, Jer’Rhia initially felt nervous, but gradually became comfortable within the welcoming environment. She enjoyed hands-on workshops, including rocket building and renewable car construction projects.

Math has always been Jer’Rhia’s favorite subject. Jer’Rhia facilitates a math group at Larimore, where she works with third-grade students every Thursday morning for 25 minutes. In this position, she creates a lesson and finds ways to make math fun for them to learn.

“It is sometimes hard for people, but math is fun and my favorite subject because it gets difficult, and I like when things are challenging,” Jer’Rhia shared. “It gets better and fun for me to do, once I get the hang of it!”



Hazelwood Community Raises Over \$50,000 for Students with Charity Golf Tournament

More than 110 golfers and 28 teams gathered at the Florissant Golf Club recently for the 2025 HSD Foundation Charity Golf Tournament.

The annual event brings the Hazelwood community and HSD staff together to help raise funds for students across the District. This year, \$51,167 was raised to support Hazelwood students and increase academic achievement by helping to remove barriers which may prevent student success.

“The HSD Foundation Charity Golf Tournament was a fun-filled day on the green, bringing the community together to support our students,” said Chris Norman, chief financial officer.

The tournament was made possible thanks to our amazing sponsors including Stifel; ENPAQ, LLC; Regents Cleaning Concepts;

Kaiser Electric; K12 Learning Solutions; World Wide Technology; Ameresco; KONE Elevators and Escalators; His Kingdom Carriers; Jarrell Mechanical Contractors; Curtis, Heinz, Garret & O’Keefe, P.C.; Kelly Education; Vogel Heating & Cooling; The Fletcher Company LLC; Future Transportation LLC; Integrated Facility Services Inc.; Corrigan Company; Hazelwood NEA; Handyman Hardware; EMT and Daikin TMI.

The Hazelwood School District sincerely thanks all the golf tournament participants and sponsors for helping us provide the best possible education and opportunities for our students!



EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAM

Hazelwood offers exciting enrichment opportunities and coursework for all students throughout the summer.

EXAMPLES OF COURSEWORK (K-12)

- Reading Across America
- Standards-based English, math, and science courses
- STEM projects
- ACT prep courses
- Personal finance
- Smart Start dual credit course

www.hazelwoodschools.org

GALACTIC/Gifted Students Rally to Help Wildlife Rescue Clinic

The rescue animals at Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic in High Ridge, Missouri, will receive some much needed supplies thanks to the efforts of the students at GALACTIC. GALACTIC is a program for academically gifted students grade 1-5 in the Hazelwood School District.

GALACTIC teacher, Ms. Elizabeth Winkler, has been volunteering at Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic for over 18 years, and in honor of her retirement this year, the students were presented with an opportunity to help the animals being cared for at the clinic. When the fifth and sixth grade student ambassadors were asked to organize an effort to help, they answered with a resounding, “yes!”

“Our social committee asked if the student ambassadors would be interested in organizing a supply drive. They of course said, ‘yes,’” GALACTIC teacher Michelle Binuyo said.

The student ambassadors brainstormed separately and then came together to create an action plan based on their individual ideas. They started with identifying tasks, such as marketing the drive throughout the school with announcements and flyers, decorating donation boxes, and creating a bulletin board to keep track of donations.

To motivate their fellow students, they turned the drive into a friendly competition among the grade levels in which the grade level that collected the most donation items would win frozen treats and an extra recess. They displayed the scoreboard in the hallway outside of Ms. Binuyo’s classroom so all of the GALACTIC students could keep track of which class was winning.

In total, 487 items were collected to help the animals, and the first and second grade classes were the winners. The donated items included cleaning supplies, food items, office supplies, and more.

“We’re totally non-profit, we get no federal or state funding, so everything is donations. So all the work that these guys did is wonderful,” Ms. Winkler said. “This helps us so much because this means that any money we get in donations, we don’t have to spend it on supplies, we can spend it on the animals for their vet bills, medicine, formula, and more.”

“We are an all volunteer group, we’re a small rescue, and we rescue native Missouri animals and then we release them back into the wild. Animals who were gotten by a dog or a cat, hit by a car, orphans, and so on,” Ms. Winkler said. “Our goal is to get them back up and moving and back into the wild.”

The students said it felt good to help out, and they learned some valuable lessons while honing their skills throughout the process. They said the supply drive taught them how to make a plan carefully and execute it, how to be more responsible and creative, and allowed them to give back to their community.



“As a teacher, it was great being able to see their different gifts and talents come to the surface,” Ms. Binuyo said. “Each one of them has a different skill set that made this possible, and it was awesome to see them blossom in that way. They worked really well together.”

“And it took all of that together, all of them using their talents,” Ms. Winkler added.

The fourth grade student ambassadors who led this project included Hosea Jackson IV, Emmeline Wagner, Mohammed Aitkassou, Nyla Patterson, Trentyn Marshall, Wesley Kendrick, Keonne England Jr., Gregory Crowe, Jalia Gauss, Tania Sims and Louisa Tran.

The fifth grade student ambassadors are Zoey Oluyemi, Daniel Griffin, Dominic Sharp, Remi Reed, Jermain Abernathy, Giournee White, Alysaa Thomas, Autumn Hindmon, Ca’lyn Boykins and Sariena Williams.

The Hazelwood School District is thrilled to see our students combine their creativity and talents to set and accomplish goals, all while serving their community along the way. Great work, GALACTIC! We are HSD Proud!

HSD Students Shine at State Music Festival

The musical talents and capabilities of the Central High Hawks were on display recently at the Missouri State High School Music Festival where several students received prestigious honors.

“Our students did a fantastic job at the state music festival,” Scott Borchering, Central High School athletics and activities director said.

Nine Central High students earned gold and silver ratings at the state music festival, under the leadership of Central’s choir director, Toni Towns; orchestra director, Kimberly Jackson; and band director, Mark Thomas.

“I am extremely proud of our students, and their teachers who do all of the hard work for these amazing students,” Borchering said.

The following Hawks received gold ratings: Arianna Hunter, violin solo; Elijah Sevier, alto saxophone solo; Faith Ford, vocal solo; Hannah Dorsey, vocal solo; Ikee Muhammad, vocal solo; Isaac Parker, vocal solo; Julianna Busse, vocal solo; and Michelle Rigsby, vocal solo. Additionally, Isaac Barnes received a silver rating for his vocal solo.

“The nine students that represented Hazelwood Central High School at the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSA) state music festival put forth countless hours of practicing and preparation for this event,” Kimberly Jackson, orchestra director said. “Watching these students grow and succeed is one of the most rewarding things in the world. Their dedication to their talent is proven in the metals they receive and the countless accolades they continuously strive for every day.”

Band director, Mark Thomas, praised his solo band musician who represented the school at state, Elijah Sevier.



“He has amazing talent that continues to improve and surprise us all. He plays for an extracurricular jazz band, Jazz U, where he solos in the many performances they have. He is certainly an amazing and gifted young man,” Thomas said.

Other Hazelwood School District students showed spectacular performances including three students from Hazelwood West. From the Wildcats, both Joseph Lum and Samuel Fritz earned gold ratings for their individual keyboard mallet solos, and Sabrina Bush earned a silver rating for her string bass solo.

The Hazelwood School District congratulates all of these students who received outstanding ratings at the state music festival. This is a reflection of all your hard work and passion throughout the year!



HAZELWOOD CONNECT VIRTUAL ACADEMY REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR!

OPEN TO GRADES 1-5

DISTRICT PROVIDES CHROMEBOOK AND HOTSPOT REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ACCESSIBLE IN THE PARENT PORTAL

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT KEONNA REYNOLDS AT 314-953-5204 OR VISIT HAZELWOODSCHOOLS.ORG.



Hazelwood School District Students Excel in West Community Credit Union Art Contest

HSD fourth—and fifth-grade students from Lawson, McCurdy, McNair, and Cold Water participated and excelled in West Community Credit Union's 4th Annual "Adventure" themed art contest.

"It felt good, and I am happy that all the people who chose me chose me to win," shared fourth-grade McCurdy student, Jace Reid.

Forty submissions were displayed at West Community's Florissant branch at 18 Mullanphy Gardens Shopping Center. Credit union members, family, and friends were invited to visit the branch and vote for their favorite piece. Nearly 100 votes were received, and a prize was awarded to the winner from each school.

"I felt great when I won," said fourth-grade McNair student, Justin Matias-Zun. "My mom always encouraged me to keep drawing. I tried hard on my artwork, and my dad always tells me to keep trying and never give up, so I didn't. I couldn't believe it when I won."

"I drew a landscape with about seven trees, a blue and purple background, a shooting star, a lake, and stars," said fifth-grade

Galactic and Cold Water student Xavier Payne. "I feel very proud to be the winner of Cold Water."

The winners were announced at a pizza reception hosted at the credit union on Thursday, May 8, with students, teachers, family members, and the Mayor of Florissant, Tim Lowery, in attendance. The four winners were awarded \$50 to open a Kids Savings Account and a certificate. All participating artists received \$10 and a participant certificate.

"It was impressive to see the powerful images of what adventure means to the student artists," said Stephanie Tyler, West Community Credit Union's community and business development representative. "Supporting our local schools and students is a fundamental part of our mission. The strong relationships between educators, parents, and community members make our community thrive and a wonderful place to live."

The Hazelwood School District takes great pride in its students' creativity, which has enabled them to excel in the West Community Credit Union Art Contest. We look forward to next year's art contest!

Hazelwood School District's Scholar Athletes: The Excitement of Commitment Day

Signing day is one of the most anticipated times of the year at HSD. Athletes, coaches, athletic directors, and the community eagerly await the announcement of the colleges our student-athletes will attend. After years of dedication both on the field and in the classroom, it's rewarding to see student-athletes' hard work pay off with college opportunities.

Central High senior Rain Moore never imagined enjoying exercise — until wrestling changed everything. The sport's demanding practices and competitive atmosphere sparked a deep passion. With a commitment to Grand Canyon University for wrestling, Rain plans to embrace the sport's intensity.



"Wrestling has been fun and required a lot of hard work," Rain explained. "I hated exercising when I started, but now I love it. The adrenaline rush of winning and being on the mat is just fun."

Some students and their parents actively sought direct communication with college coaches. In the case of Illia Zolotov, Central High senior and decade-long soccer player, Missouri Baptist was a phone call away.

"I started this journey two years ago when I decided I wanted to play college soccer, and that became my goal for the last two years," Illia shared. "I was texting various coaches looking for good options, and last year, my parents and I decided to contact the Missouri Baptist coach. After about two months, he replied and invited me to his office for a meeting, which led to a scholarship offer and my commitment."

West High senior and football player, Isaiah Smith, shared his feelings about resilience and the camaraderie amongst the team members.

"Even though it wasn't filled with many wins, the losses gave me a reason to work harder," Isaiah explained. "It also gave me something I haven't had since Little League: competing for West High gave me a brotherhood that would flourish until we all graduated."



East High senior and basketball player, Jaylen Vance, expressed gratitude to the coaching staff who supported him throughout his four years of high school and assisted him in the college process.

"I appreciate all the coaching staff for helping me push all four years of high school and getting me through," Jaylen said. "They helped me find a college to commit to."

After achieving a personal accomplishment of tying the school record with eight interceptions, East High senior and football player, Semaj Flowers, expressed gratitude to his coaches and highlighted the importance of hard work.

"Hard work pays off," Semaj explained. "Working in the summer helps you; it builds up your stamina. It helps you fight the wars and the cold in December and the playoffs."



The Hazelwood School District is proud to recognize the following students committed to their collegiate journeys. We wish them success in their future endeavors:

Central High: Rain Moore, Izy Prude, Preston Nance, Elijah Boyd, Maurice Evans Jr., Ronald Cottle, Jayden Atkins, Deontea Anthony, Gavin Godfrey, Amon Lee, and Illia Zolotov; West High: Tayler DeDeaux, Donnell Dennis, Christopher Marshall, Brandon Robinson, Darrius Silver, Isaiah Smith, Ayden Sutton, Jerome Williams; and East High: Arif Shakoor, Semaj Flowers, Marcus Burks, DJ Cody, Shamon Thomas, Brian Lee, and Jaylen Vance.



East High's Steven Hall Celebrates Undefeated Conference Season and Coach of the Year

"Look, listen, and follow directions in basketball, and life will take you far," is the daily encouragement East High head basketball coach, Steven Hall, gives his players. Coach Hall was recently named the 2025 Suburban Green Conference

Coach of the Year for his efforts.

"I was the first coach at East High to win 19 games in a season," Coach Hall noted. "When building a program, you must have players, parents, coaches, and administrators to believe in your goals and system."

With over 35 years of coaching experience, Coach Hall's journey to becoming the Suburban Green Conference Coach of the Year began at his alma mater, Vashon High School, where he served as the assistant coach. While there, he helped Vashon win nine state championships and 12 district titles. In 2012, Coach Hall guided Roosevelt High School from an average of four wins per season to 14. Following this, his coaching career at Career Academy

culminated in a 2015 district title and a trip to the quarterfinals.

In 2020, Coach Hall, a school counselor, arrived at East High and created a program centered on dedication, sacrifice, and leadership.

"I have been able to mold my young men to be one of the top teams in Missouri this year," Coach Hall explained. "I received this award because this is the first time in East High's basketball history that the team has gone undefeated at our basketball conference." Coach Hall added, "We won the Winfield tournament, the Consolation Championship in the MICDS Christmas Tournament, and Second Place in the Circle 7 Tournament. Several players received individual awards in these tournaments as well. I am so proud of the program that we are building, and we look forward to even greater seasons to come."

The Hazelwood School District is proud of Coach Hall's commitment and dedication to serving HSD students and congratulates him on being named Suburban Green Conference Coach of the Year.

North Middle Student Ranks Among Top 15 Players on the Hot 100 List for the Class of 2030

Madison Farr, a seventh-grade student at North Middle, has recently been recognized as one of the top 15 players on the Hot 100 list for the Class of 2030. The Hot 100 list is one of the most sought-after rankings in softball. The ranking assesses players across the country based on their graduating class, statistics, level of competition, academics, and various other metrics. In a three-way tie for the fifteenth place, Madison is a three-time United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) All-American Direct Invite, USA Softball All-American, and a USSSA Select 30 player. She plays softball for the St. Louis Chaos.

"I feel amazing about it," Madison shared. "It is hard to get to one of those places, and I am just

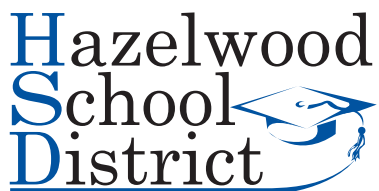
glad I put in the work effort to get there."

Madison credits her dad and coach as her most significant influences throughout her sports journey, adding that softball has humbled her. "My dad is my biggest influence," Madison shared. "He always supports me, he keeps me going, he is there for me all the time."

Madison encourages her peers to pursue sports because of their fun nature, the introduction to meeting new people, and scholarship opportunities.

The Hazelwood School District is proud of Madison's top-15 rank on the Hot 100!





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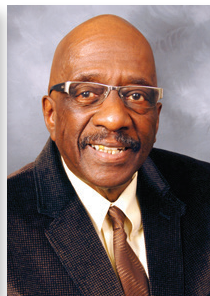
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