



February 2021 Newsletter



Fearn Clendaniel Architects, Inc.

An artist's rendering of the new Howard T. Ennis School, which is scheduled to open in 2022.

## Work Underway at New HTE property

Site work has begun at the new Howard T. Ennis School property on Patriots Way north of Millsboro.

A silt fence and entranceway have been installed at the site and the building structure should begin to take shape in late-February. Richard Y. Johnson and Son was selected as the general contractor for the project.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new school was held on November 20.

Despite some recent construction delays due to weather, the building is still scheduled for substantial completion in **May 2022**. It will open to students in **September 2022**.



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Architects' renderings of the interior of the new Howard T. Ennis School. Graphics courtesy of Fearn-Clendaniel Architects, Inc.

## District Mourns Passing of Kristina Perfetti

The Indian River School District is saddened to inform our community that Howard T. Ennis School Principal Kristina Perfetti passed away on February 2, 2021.

Ms. Perfetti had been the principal of the Howard T. Ennis School since 2009.

"We are heartbroken by the passing of Kris Perfetti," IRSD Superintendent Dr. Jay Owens said. "Words cannot describe the profound impact she had on the Howard T. Ennis community. Under her leadership, Howard T. Ennis became a first-class educational facility for students with disabilities. Her caring, compassion and commitment helped countless students become more independent in their daily lives.

"I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Perfetti for many years in a variety of capacities and found her to be an extremely gifted administrator. Kris was the face of the Howard T. Ennis School for more than a decade

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## Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

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## From the Superintendent



### Dear Parents,

In early-February, the Indian River School District reached an important milestone - the end of the second marking period and the halfway mark of the school year. This is noteworthy because other than a brief two-week pause in December and January, we've managed to maintain our hybrid instructional model for the entire year. Given the uncertainty that surrounded public education in Delaware when the school year began in September, I'm sure that few thought this would be possible. While the hybrid model obviously isn't the optimal method of providing instruction, we're pleased that it has allowed more than 7,000 district students to receive in-person instruction during these difficult times.

I want to offer my deepest appreciation to those who have worked so hard to make our school buildings safe for students and staff. I especially want to thank our teachers and instructional staff for their creative and tireless efforts to deliver quality instruction to our students. The pressures they have faced have been enormous, but they have accepted the challenge with determination and enthusiasm. For that, I cannot be more grateful. Most importantly, I want to thank parents for their patience and understanding during the past few months. We understand the pandemic has been extremely difficult for families and although we've hit a few bumps along the way, the support of our parents has been invaluable to our efforts to provide the best possible services under both the hybrid and remote models. We look forward to the day that all of our students return to school for in-person instruction five days a week. I know that day is coming soon.

Finally, our district suffered a great loss with the recent passing of Howard T. Ennis School Principal Kris Perfetti. Kris was the face of Howard T. Ennis for 11 years and the love she had for her students was always evident. Her passing leaves an immense void in the hearts of everyone who knew and loved her. Our deepest condolences go out to the Perfetti family and the entire Howard T. Ennis community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens  
Superintendent



IRSD Annual Title I Parent Meeting

**March 18, 2021**

See Page 4 for details!

## Did You Know?

The Indian River School District has distributed approximately 650 wi-fi hotspots as part of the Connect Delaware program for low-income families that have experienced hardships receiving reliable internet access. Families wishing to obtain a hotspot should contact their home school. Please visit [irsd.net/access](http://irsd.net/access) for additional information.



Curbside meal service is offered every Wednesday at eight locations throughout the school district.



## Curbside Meal Service Continues

The Indian River School District is offering free meals for curbside pickup to all students as part of the USDA Summer Food Service program, which has been extended into 2021.

Parents or guardians may drive up to a meal distribution location where a nutrition services staff member will hand them a "Meals to Go" package in a contactless fashion. Children do not have to be present at the distribution sites for families to receive meals. However, the district asks that parents/guardians please be respectful and only pick up meals for the children in their households.

Parents/guardians are advised to clear space in their vehicle's trunk prior to arrival.

Service takes place **every Wednesday** from 10:45 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Meals are free of charge and available to children 18 years and under at the following locations:

- Georgetown Elementary School
- Howard T. Ennis School
- Indian River High School
- Long Neck Elementary School
- Lord Baltimore Elementary School
- Millsboro Middle School
- North Georgetown Elementary School
- Selbyville Middle School

In addition, evening meal service will take place at Indian River High School and North Georgetown Elementary School **every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

## SHAPE Teacher of the Year



Jessica White of the Howard T. Ennis School was named 2020 SHAPE Delaware Health Teacher of the Year. Every year, the Delaware Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) honors outstanding physical education teachers at the elementary, middle school, high school and adapted levels.



Nutrition services staff at Indian River High School stand at the ready on the first day of curbside meal service in September.

## TAPP Students Warm Up ELC Staff

On a day when wind chills were in the 20's and the area had received a dusting of pre-dawn snow, students in the district's Transition And Parallel Program (TAPP) did their part to warm up the staff of the IRSD Early Learning Center.

On January 28, TAPP students made hot chocolate and then took a special decorated cart from room to room in the ELC, where staff members "pur-

chased" cups using play money. The activity was an opportunity for students to practice customer service and monetary transactions and was much appreciated on such a frigid morning!

The TAPP program teaches 18-21 year old students with special needs functional life and job skills to help them become more independent individuals. Budgeting, time management, self-care, household management, social skills awareness, health and safety,



TAPP students deliver hot chocolate to the staff of the IRSD Early Learning Center on January 28.

employability skills and community involvement are all skills that are integrated into the program.

## District to Host Title I Parent Meeting

The Indian River School District will host its annual Title I Parent Meeting on **March 18, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.**

Parents can join via Zoom to learn about and collaborate with district leaders on the following:

- An explanation of Title I of the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, including your rights as a parent, our parent involvement policy and an overall explanation of how Title I works.
- An overview of IRSD 2020-2021 Title I budget expenditures.
- Our state assessment system.

There will be time for feedback and questions.

The Zoom link for this session is available on the district website at [irsd.net](http://irsd.net).

## Freeman Stage to Provide Art Kits for IRSD Students

In March, more than 10,000 district students in Grades PreK-12 will receive Creative Nourishment Kits courtesy of The Freeman Stage in Selbyville.

Local artist John Donato has been commissioned by The Freeman Stage to create special bags containing self-guided, innovative art projects for students. Each bag will contain a step-by-step instructional worksheet, art and construction paper, a bundle of markers, a glue stick and string to display the finished artwork.

The kits are crafted for four grade-level groups (PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12) and are aligned with the district curriculum. Delivery to IRSD schools will take place the week of March 1-5.

The Indian River School District would like to offer its heartfelt thanks to The Freeman Stage for providing this worthwhile, character-building activity to students. Generous support for the project has also been provided by M&T Bank.

## Supplies Collected for Transitional Families



The McKinney-Vento program delivered supplies to transitional families within the Indian River School District prior to the predicted winter storm on February 1.

Families were provided with a variety of items to meet everyday needs such as hygiene supplies, heaters, blankets and air mattresses. Families were also provided with supplies to help them stay safe and healthy during the pandemic. Hand sanitizer, masks and disinfectant wipes were distributed.

The McKinney-Vento program also provided transitional students with wi-fi hotspots to ensure academic success. The program will continue to communicate with students and their families throughout the school year to understand their needs and to provide available resources.

## IRSD Mourns Kristina Perfetti

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and she will be greatly missed by our entire community. Our deepest condolences go out to her family and friends."

Prior to becoming Howard T. Ennis principal, Ms. Perfetti served as the school's assistant principal for two years (2007-2008). She also served as an assistant principal at Sussex Central High School from 2005-2007. Prior to joining the Indian River School District, she was a special education teacher in the Bethlehem Area School District in Pennsylvania from 1996-2003 and an assistant principal in the York, Pa. School District from 2003-2005.

The Indian River School District offers its deepest sympathy to the Perfetti family and the Howard T. Ennis community. Condolences to the Perfetti family can be sent to Heather Perfetti, 20 Cambry Lane, Elkton, MD 21921.

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## IRHS Students Named to All-Eastern Ensembles



*Gus Fadden*

Two Indian River High School students have been selected to the 2021 All-Eastern Honors Ensembles.

**Gus Fadden** was chosen for the All-Eastern Band for euphonium while **Abby Wilson** was selected to the All-Eastern Mixed Choir as an Alto I.

Chosen by the National Association for Music Education, the All-Eastern Honors Ensembles are comprised of students from Delaware, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Europe.



*Abby Wilson*

***Gus and Abby will participate the virtual Eastern Division Honors Ensembles program in March.***

## Student-Athletes Excel in Fall Sports Seasons

The Fall 2020 high school sports seasons were some of the most successful in IRSD history.

On December 19, the Sussex Central High School football team captured the Delaware Division I state championship with a 28-19 victory over previously-undefeated Middletown. It was the Golden Knights' second state title in three years under coach John Wells.

One week earlier, coach Steve Kilby's Indian River High School boys' soccer team won the Delaware Division II state title with a 2-1 victory over Newark Charter. Jordan Illian scored both goals as the Indians captured their third championship title since 2013.

There were also some individual acco-



*Raychel Ehlers*

lades, as Indian River senior Raychel Ehlers was named Delaware's Volleyball Player of the Year after leading the Indians to an 11-3 record and the state tournament quarterfinals.

Congratulations to all of these talented student-athletes!



*The Indian River boys' soccer team*



*The Sussex Central football team*