

District to Host Annual Title I Parent Meeting

The Indian River School District's annual Title I Parent Meeting is scheduled for **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 under the "News" tab.

Podcast Update

The IRSD Spotlight podcast has returned in 2021 with two new episodes.

- **Episode 62:** "Why Did You Become a Teacher?" – Posted March 9, 2021
- **Episode 61:** "Women of Will" – Posted February 11, 2021

These and all other podcast episodes can be accessed at irsd.net by following the Podcast link under the Discover IRSD tab.

Coming soon...



A drone's eye view of the new Sussex Central High School property on Patriots Way north of Millsboro. The current high school property can be seen at bottom.

Plans progressing for new SCHS

Plans are moving forward for the construction of the new Sussex Central High School.

In February, the Board of Education selected Richard Y. Johnson & Son as the construction management firm for the project. R.Y. Johnson will work with architectural firms ABHA and Buck Simpers and Associates on a preliminary design plan, which should be complete by late-April.

A planning committee consisting of school and district staff have been working for months on design requirements for the new school. Representatives from each academic content area provided input. The group also made visits to Odessa, William Penn and Dover high schools and to Abessinio Stadium (formerly Baynard Stadium) in Wilmington to obtain construction and design ideas.

The new Sussex Central High School will be located on a plot of land next to the existing high school on Patriots Way north of Millsboro. Construction of the 310,000-square-foot facility is expected to take two years once the design and permitting phases are complete. The new school is tentatively scheduled to open to students in the fall of 2024.

Construction of the new school was made possible by the passage of major capital improvement referendum on February 13, 2020.

Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

31 Hosier St.
Selbyville, DE 19975
(302) 436-1000
irsd.net

Board of Education

Rodney M. Layfield,
President

Leolga T. Wright
Vice President

Anthony L. Cannon

Derek E. Cathell

W. Scott Collins

Dr. Leo J. Darmstadter, III

Dr. Donald G. Hattier

Gerald T. Peden

Constance T. Pryor

Dr. Heather M. Statler

Dr. Jay F. Owens

*Board Secretary and
District Superintendent*

The Indian River School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate or deny services on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, creed, religion, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship status, pregnancy, age, ancestry, disability, gender identity, genetic information, military status or any other characteristic protected by law.

 Find us on
Facebook

 @IndianRiver DE

Visit us on
the web at
irsd.net

From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe it's been a year since our lives were turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm sure that when schools closed last March, few of us thought we would still be dealing with these issues in 2021. During the past 12 months, IRSD has faced unprecedented challenges in delivering quality instruction and services to our students. We understand how difficult this year has been for our families and are doing our best to relieve the stress that is still being felt by parents and children. I want to thank parents for their continued support, which has helped us keep our hybrid instructional program up and running since September. Better days are on the horizon and like all of you, I'm looking forward to a return to normalcy as we move forward.

Obviously, our ultimate goal is to have all students return to the classroom full time. The social distancing mandates imposed by the State of Delaware, however, have made a five-day-a-week schedule prohibitive at this time. We would not be able to maintain the proper social distancing in classrooms and on school buses if we were to bring all students back full time. The health and safety of students and staff remains our top priority as we navigate through this pandemic. Rest assured that we will return to a five-day-a-week schedule as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.

Data on the spread of COVID-19 has been encouraging in recent weeks, as the number of positive cases in our district and community has stabilized. However, I strongly urge parents to remain vigilant in following the necessary safety precautions. Please continue to practice social distancing and wear face coverings in public. We also ask that you utilize the COVID-19 symptoms checklist daily and do not send your child to school if he or she is experiencing any symptoms. By taking these measures, we can help control the spread of COVID-19 and clear the way for more IRSD students to attend classes in person.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent



IRSD Annual Title I Parent Meeting

March 18, 2021

Visit irsd.net for details and Zoom links!

Knights Earn State Titles

Sussex Central High School captured two individual state championships during the winter sports seasons.

Josh Negron won the 182-pound state wrestling championship on March 3 with a 5-0 victory over Cape Henlopen's Dalton Deevey in the state final.

Meanwhile, Asher Timmons captured the state pole vaulting title with a vault of 11 feet, 3 inches at the winter track and field championships at Dover High School on March 3.

Congratulations to both student-athletes!



Josh Negron



Asher Timmons

Did You Know?

All six year-long teacher interns at North Georgetown Elementary School made the Dean's List at the University of Delaware for the fall semester.

Spreading the Word



The staff of the IRSD Early Learning Center wore red T-shirts on March 2 in honor of the "Spread the Word – Inclusion" campaign sponsored by Special Olympics. The Spread the Word campaign is built on the idea that inclusion is a skill everyone can learn and practice together and one that builds togetherness through difference and community through adversity.

SMS Students Excel on AAPPL

Based on scores from the Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL), all 25 eighth-grade Spanish Immersion students at Selbyville Middle School have qualified for the Immersion Continuation program at Indian River High School.

As a result of their exemplary scores, students will receive the following benefits and opportunities when they move on to Indian River High School next year:

- They have already met the high school world language requirement and have earned four world language credits that will appear on their high school transcripts.
- They are eligible to take Advanced Placement Spanish language and literature courses as ninth-graders.
- Beginning in 10th grade, they can extend their immersion language and content knowledge to the college level with dual enrollment courses.

Additionally, with a score of 3 or 4 on the Delaware Smarter Balance reading assessment, each student will earn a Certificate of Multiliteracy.

SMS students who earned this recognition were Christopher Aguilera Espinoza, Emir Cruz Castro, Andy Diaz Escalante, Ivan Flores, Evan Forjan, Brizna Garcia Lopez, Mia Hall, Donne Henry, Ayleth Hernandez Pacheco, Jace Jarmen, Thania Jimenez Cordoba, Josiah Johnson, Ava Rae Johnson, Katelyn Lasher, Rosnell Lewis, Lysania Lopez Gil, Audelio Lopez Sandoval, Wilson Mendoza Velasquez, Andy Morales Moran, Brandon Morales Rodriguez, Jose Miguel Ramirez, Ariel Saldaña Cerda, Jesus Sanchez Ozuna, Isabel Scott and Adley Triscuit.



Gus Fadden Selected for USSYP

The United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) has announced that Indian River High School senior Augustus (Gus) Fadden will join Senators Thomas R. Carper and Christopher A. Coons in representing Delaware during the 59th annual USSYP Washington Week to be held March 14-17.

Gus was selected from among the Delaware's top student leaders to be part of the 104-student national delegation. Each delegate will also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship for undergraduate study. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 program will be the first-ever fully virtual Washington Week and is designed to be a highly-interactive and exciting education and leadership forum for the nation's most outstanding student leaders.



Long Neck student council members (from left) Liam Archila-Palomino, Thomas Hoopes and Jade Coulter.



Long Neck students and staff with IRSD Superintendent Jay Owens and Assistant Superintendent Karen Blannard.

Kindness Week at Long Neck Elementary

Long Neck Elementary School celebrated Kindness Week during the week of February 8-12.

Numerous activities revolved around the book "The Jelly Donut Difference" by Maria Dismundy. The book is about a set of siblings who do not get along and are mean to each other. They learn lessons in kindness, caring, generosity and being a good neighbor and friend. Long Neck students and staff practiced spreading kindness within the school community by creating a classroom "donut" and then adding sprinkles to the drawing to show the acts of kindness presented throughout the day.

Parents and local businesses were also encouraged to participate by creating their own donuts and drawing sprinkles to signify acts of kindness by children, workers and customers. They were then asked to submit photos of their donuts to the school.

The week also featured theme days in which students and staff were asked to wear crazy hair, socks and clothing, and the colors pink or red.

Student council representatives also presented thank you cards to the Long Neck Sunrise Rotary Club, which has donated \$10,000 toward the school's new playground and has purchased indoor recess items. George Hoffman Heating & Air was also thanked for its support of the Long Neck community.

Special Delivery from Freeman Stage



The Freeman Stage delivered Creative Nourishment Art Kits to every IRSD school during the week of March 1-5. Above, Corrin Harris of the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation delivers the kits to Indian River High School. Local artist John Donato was commissioned by The Freeman Stage to create special bags containing self-guided, innovative art projects for every student based on his or her grade level. The Indian River School District would like to offer its heartfelt thanks to The Freeman Stage for providing this worthwhile, character-building activity. Generous support for the project was also provided by M&T Bank.



Four IRHS BPA Students Qualify for Nationals

Indian River High School had another strong showing at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference.

The IRHS Chapter of BPA earned the Professional Cup Award for the first time. This award recognizes the chapter's community engagement, service and leadership through BPA with an emphasis on high levels of active student involvement in the prestigious Torch Awards program.

Lanaya Haynes was successful in her election to the BPA State Officer Leadership Team. She will serve as state SOLT treasurer for the 2021-2022 school year.

IRHS students also excelled in the competitive events. Results are as follows:

Vicky Chan

- 1st Place in Business Meeting Management
- 2nd Place in Banking & Finance
- 2nd Place in Fundamental Word Processing
- 4th Place in Financial Math & Analysis
- 4th Place in Administrative Support Concepts
- 4th Place in Management, Marketing, & Human Resources Concepts

Isaac Chandler

- 2nd Place in Computer Programming

Lanaya Haynes

- 1st Place in Advanced Interview Skills
- 4th Place in Payroll Accounting

Misty Hickman

- 5th Place in Advanced Spreadsheet Applications

These students have qualified to represent IRHS, the Indian River School District and the State of Delaware at the National BPA Leadership Conference to be held in May.