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Kindergarten Registration Underway

Indian River School District parents are encouraged to register their children for kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year.

Registration is for children who will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2019. Parents can register their child by presenting an original birth certificate, proof of immunization, proof of residency and the required district registration forms to the child's home school. A district registration packet is available on the Indian River School District website at irsd.net. Children currently enrolled in a district preschool program do not need to register for kindergarten.

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Indian River District News

"A Model of Excellence"

irsd.net

Spring 2019

Art Henry Named Teacher of the Year

MMS Music Teacher Wins Top Honor

Arthur Henry of Millsboro Middle School has been selected as the Indian River School District's Teacher of the Year for 2019-2020.

The announcement was made at the district's annual Teacher of the Year celebration on April 30 at Georgetown Middle School. Henry was chosen as the district's overall winner from a pool of 16 candidates, one from each school.

Henry has been an instrumental music teacher at Millsboro Middle School since 2015. He is responsible for instrumental music instruction in Grades 6-8 and teaches the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion instruments. In previous years, he also provided fifth-grade instrumental music instruction at East Millsboro and Long Neck elementary schools.

Before coming to the Indian River School District, Henry was a classroom instru-



Art Henry addresses the audience at the district's Teacher of the Year celebration on April 30.



Art Henry with district and state representatives.

mental music teacher for the School District of Philadelphia from 2012-2015. In that capacity, he served as a vocal music specialist for Grades K-12 and an instrumental music spe-

cialist for Grades 3-8.

Henry holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia and a master's degree in music education from Boston University. He also completed additional undergraduate work at Temple University in Philadelphia. Henry also attended The Salvation Army School for Officer Training from 1999-2001, earning an associate's degree in occupational ministries. He received a full ordination as a Minister of

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From the Superintendent

Mark L. Steele



Dear Parents,

The Indian River School District was dealt a serious blow on May 7 with the narrow defeat of a major capital improvement referendum that would have funded the construction of a new Sussex Central High School, an eight-classroom addition at Indian River High School and a four-classroom addition at Selbyville Middle School.

Faced with an anticipated enrollment growth of more than 1,700 students in the next six years, the district has no choice but to utilize portable classrooms to alleviate overcrowding in our schools. We project the need for about 22 portables across the district in the next five years. The cost of these units is astronomical and must be funded through our operating budget. This will likely cut into our reserves and necessitate a current expense referendum sooner than we expected.

However, the district respects the democratic process and we will examine all possible options to keep students safe and provide them with the best possible learning environment. These options may include redrawing our attendance boundaries. I encourage you to stay informed on this issue in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Steele
Superintendent

EME Charters First Alpha Club

East Millsboro Elementary School has chartered the first Alpha Club in the State of Delaware. The club is an offshoot of the Optimist Club of Sussex County.

The club has 16 student members from Grades 3-5. These students are involved in a community service project to benefit the homeless population in our area.

This spring, students are creating and distributing "go-bags" for the homeless that contain items such as deodorant, tissues, toothbrushes, water and socks.

Alpha Club students are completing the project under the guidance of teacher Wanda Williams and paraprofessional David Taylor.

The Alpha Club was formed in February and the school hosted a special charter ceremony on April 9.



The East Millsboro Elementary School Alpha Club.

Calendar Change: Last Day Moved to June 6

At its regular meeting on March 25, 2019, the Indian River Board of Education approved a series of changes to the 2018-2019 school district calendar.

The last day of school for students in Grades 1-11 will now be **Thursday, June 6**. The last day for preschool and kindergarten students will be Friday, May 31. The last day for teachers will be Monday, June 10 and the last day for paraprofessionals will be Friday, June 7.

The changes are the result

of unused surplus hours built into the calendar to compensate for weather-related school cancellations.

In addition, school and district offices will implement the 10-hour summer schedule beginning Monday, June 10. Offices will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. Offices will be closed on Friday. The summer schedule will be in effect through August 16.

Referendum Defeated

The Indian River School District's major capital improvement referendum was defeated by district residents on Tuesday, May 7.

The unofficial totals were 4,578 votes for the additional tax and 4,643 votes against the tax. The margin of defeat was 65 votes.

Kindergarten

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However, parents interested in registering their child for the Spanish immersion program at either East Millsboro or John M. Clayton elementary school must contact that school for registration information.

A link to the Delaware school locator website is available at irsd.net.



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Mark L. Steele,
Board Secretary and District Superintendent

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IRHS Tri-M Students Perform at Delaware Legislative Hall

Eighteen members of Indian River High School's Tri-M Music Honor Society performed at Legislative Hall in Dover on March 21 in the first concert designed to bring awareness of the benefits of music education to legislators. The concert was part of Make Music Matter sponsored by the Delaware Music Educators Association.

The band's Wind and Jazz Ensembles performed under the direction of IRHS Band Director Nathan Mohler.

Indian River High School is the only Sussex County school with an active Tri-M chapter. Members must maintain good grades and perform community service. IRHS Tri-M students volunteer in the community including as mentors at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School, help with concerts at the Southern Delaware School of the Arts and volunteer at the Atlantic Community Thrift Store.

Indian River attendees were seniors Kathleen Carter, Allie Landrie, Diana Bird, Logan Krick, Grace Furman, Fred Stinglin, Lekyra Johnson and Amber Hills; juniors Grace Kerr, Lena Bird, Nico Bird, Gabby Tierney, Kaila McCabe, Thomas Oxbrough and Maddie Johnson; and sophomores Gus Fadden, Destin Smyth and Abby Wilson.



Front row (L-R): Director Nathan Mohler, Amber Hills, Alexis Landrie, Frederick Stinglin, Kathleen Carter. Second row: Lekyra Johnson, Abby Wilson, Grace Furman. Third row: Grace Kerr, Gabby Tierney, Diana Bird, Madison Johnson. Fourth row: Maddie McCabe, Nicholas Bird, Elena Bird. Back row: Destin Smyth, Gus Fadden, Thomas Oxbrough, Logan Krick.



Geography Bee Winners at LBE



On January 23, Lord Baltimore Elementary School held the National Geographic Geography Bee. Two hundred seventeen fourth- and fifth-graders competed to become one of 10 finalists. David Miller was the winner of the School Bee. Luca Donato placed second and Kari Zook came in third. Congratulations! From left, Kari Zook, David Miller and Luca Donato.

Did You Know?

Seventh-grader Ian Lewis of Selbyville Middle School has been selected to attend the National Geographic Geography Bee in Washington D.C. in May.

Southern Delaware School of the Arts student Ellie Merrick was the overall state winner of the 2019 Arbor Day Poster Contest sponsored by the Delaware Forest Service.

JMC Named PLTW Distinguished School

John M. Clayton Elementary School has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Launch. It was one of just 214 elementary schools across the U.S. to receive this honor.

"Mrs. Swartz, our STEM in-

structor and robotics coach, should be commended for earning this honor for John M. Clayton Elementary School," JMC Principal Allisa Booth said. "Over the past three years, she has created a stellar program from scratch, providing all of our students with hands-on activities



Jaime Swartz

through engaging instruction. The Project Lead the Way curriculum allows our students to be creative problem solvers and innovative thinkers on a daily basis. Thanks to Mrs. Swartz, JMC students are ready for the middle School STEM program as well as real world challenges!"



2019-2020 IRSD Teachers of the Year. Seated (from left): Alexandra Fish, Catherine Dorey, Tracy Marvel, Arthur Henry (overall winner), Stephanie Fair, Katherine Bennett and Ashley Broughton. Standing (from left): Jennifer Jerns, Brian Gloyd, Jeffrey Bunting, Wendee Bull, Elizabeth Illian, Kristopher Guerin, Robert Weber, Heather Hellens and Megan Conway.

IRSD Teacher of the Year

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Religion and a commission as a Salvation Army Officer with the rank of captain.

Henry is a member of the National Association for Music Educators and the North American Brass Band Association. Since 2014, he has been the director of music for the Valley Forge Presbyterian Church and is a former divisional director of piano instruction for The Salvation Army, New Jersey Division. In the community, Henry has provided piano accompaniment for vocal concerts at schools in the Indian River, Cape Henlopen and Woodbridge school districts and for Sussex Academy in Georgetown.

"Mr. Henry has shown to be a dependable and conscientious staff member who has integrated himself into the culture at Millsboro Middle," MMS Acting Principal Bradford

Breasure said. "He can be nurturing a student who is struggling, playing multiple instruments in his classroom or working at concession stand to raise money. He commands respect from his students and colleagues. Mr. Henry will always bring solutions to any problems that he may encounter during the course of a school year."



Art Henry walks to the stage after being named Teacher of the Year.

"Mr. Henry embodies what it means to be a teacher with the countless hours that he continues to perfect his own craft in music," MMS Assistant Principal Christopher Costello said. "He models what he preaches for the students, always striving to have his students succeed. That's how he measures success for himself."

As the district's Teacher of the Year, Henry is now eligible for the state Teacher of the Year Award, which will be announced in October.

Visit the Indian River School District on Facebook and on the web at irsd.net

2019-2020 IRSD Teachers of the Year

Katherine Bennett

Phillip C. Showell Elementary School

Ashley Broughton

Georgetown Kindergarten Center

Wendee Bull

Georgetown Middle School

Jeffrey Bunting

Indian River High School

Megan Conway

Lord Baltimore Elementary School

Catherine Dorey

G.W. Carver Center

Stephanie Fair

Southern Delaware School of the Arts

Alexandra Fish

John M. Clayton Elementary School

Brian Gloyd

Long Neck Elementary School

Kristopher Guerin

Howard T. Ennis School

Heather Hellens

North Georgetown Elementary School

Arthur Henry (Overall winner)

Millsboro Middle School

Elizabeth Illian

Georgetown Elementary School

Jennifer Jerns

Selbyville Middle School

Tracy Marvel

East Millsboro Elementary School

Robert Weber

Sussex Central High School

Teacher Signing Day at IRHS

On April 11, seniors from Indian River High School participated in the inaugural Signing Day for Education Majors. Eight students from the Class of 2019 will be attending college in the fall and are planning to major in education.

IRHS is in its second year of the Teacher Academy CTE pathway and anticipates that more students each year will continue to pursue careers in education and that many of those students will return home to teach.



Seated (from left): Mikeya Griffin, Breanna Palasik and Molly Beattie. Standing (from left): IRHS Principal Michael Williams, Guirnalda Charles, Morgan Keyser, Heather Scarlavai, Dr. Bob Kime (DTCC) and IRHS Teacher Academy teacher Megan Hines. Not pictured: Amber Zellers and Haley Warrington.