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# Indian River District News

## "A Model of Excellence"

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Winter 2019



## Honor Society at JMC

Sixty John M. Clayton Elementary School students recently had the distinction of being the first district elementary school students to be inducted into the National Honor Society.

The fourth- and fifth-graders were inducted during a special ceremony at the school on Jan. 31. John M. Clayton is the first elementary school in the district to have an Honor Society chapter.

Students applied for the honor and were chosen based on academic performance, community service and leadership. A committee comprised of eight JMC teachers selected the honorees.

"We're hoping to promote that feeling in our school community that if you work hard, you will be rewarded," JMC teacher Melissa Grise said.

The school hopes the new National Elementary Honor Society chapter will build students' leadership skills while motivating them to work hard in school. Members will also be encouraged to complete service projects in the school and community throughout the year.



From top, John M. Clayton's first group of Honor Society inductees. Honor Society inductees at the ceremony on Jan. 31. JMC fifth-grader Jairo Alcon Hernandez receives his certificate. The NEHS banner.

## Energy Improvements Underway in District

The Indian River School District has partnered with Seiberlich Trane Energy Services to make more than \$7 million in improvements across the school district. These infrastructure upgrades will improve comfort, safety and health, and the student learning environment while reducing the energy consumption and environmental footprint of the schools. Additionally, this extensive series of school infrastructure improvements will save millions of dollars in energy costs over the next 20 years and beyond.

All of these improvements will come at no cost to the local taxpayers. The energy savings project is being funded through a performance contract with Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility. Improvements throughout the district will generate energy savings of about \$500,000 per year, which will pay for the project costs using the payment bond from Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility.



"The Indian River School District takes pride in developing new ways to conserve energy and save money," Superintendent Mark Steele said. "Some of the fascinating items found in our investment grade audit will help us not only manage

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## From the Superintendent

**Mark L. Steele**



Dear Parents,

The Indian River School District was dealt a setback on Feb. 5 with the failure of a two-part major capital improvement and current expense referendum. The initiative sought funding for 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. Residents were also asked to approve funding for staff, curriculum, supplies, transportation and utility expenses for a high school and elementary school. While we are disappointed with the outcome of the referendum, we certainly respect the wishes of our residents

With our total enrollment projected to grow by more than 1,700 students during the next six years, we are still faced with a shortage of classroom space at several buildings. In the coming weeks, the administration and Board of Education will consider many options to alleviate overcrowding in our schools. Rest assured, however, that we remain committed to providing the best possible learning environment for our students.

I hope you all have a safe and successful second half of the school year!

Sincerely,

Mark L. Steele  
Superintendent

## IRHS Gets Del-One Branch



*In February, Indian River High School will be opening its own branch of the Del-One Federal Credit Union. The new Del-One branch kiosk will be operated by student workers. Representatives from Del-One provided students with a brief orientation in December and additional training in January prior to the opening of the new branch. STEM and Construction pathway students were instrumental in designing and building the teller workstation. From left, Deborah Harriger (Del-One), Abbey West, Gavin Clattenburg, Victoria Gee, Kate Timmons, IRHS teacher Jeff Bunting, Alexa Fitz, Luke Morgan, Veronica Nhan-Nock (Del-One), Cody Edwards, Brooke Weaver and Morgan Bomhardt.*



### Indian River Board of Education

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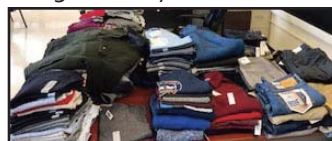
Mark L. Steele,  
Board Secretary and District  
Superintendent

### Cordrey Doubles Clothing Donation

Cordrey Charities, Inc. has doubled its donation to the Indian River School District this year to provide clothing to needy high school students.

The \$2,000 donation was used by IRSD Parent Center Coordinator Michele Murphy to purchase a large supply of clothing for high school-aged students. Items included shoes, socks, pants, shorts, dresses and shirts. The clothing will be housed at Indian River and Sussex Central high schools and will be made available to students in need.

IRSD would like to offer its heartfelt thanks to Cordrey Charities for its compassion and generosity!



## District Makes Infrastructure Improvements

*From Page 1*

our resources better, but create a better learning environment for our students. The Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility has put together a partnership that will move our district to the forefront of energy dollar management."

Improvements across the district will include improved classroom and parking lot lighting, upgrades to heating and cooling systems, thermal envelope improvements, low flow water fixtures and improved building controls.

Schools to be impacted are East Millsboro Elementary School, John M. Clayton Elementary School, Long Neck Elementary School, Lord Baltimore Elementary School, North Georgetown Elementary School, Phillip C. Showell Elementary School, the Georgetown Elementary/Middle School complex, Millsboro Middle School, Selbyville Middle School, Indian River High School, Sussex Central High School, Southern Delaware School of the Arts and the G.W. Carver Center.

"I'm excited to be able to bring this opportunity to my home district." Seiberlich Trane Sales Engineer John Walker said. "As a parent in IRSD, I look forward to seeing the improved facilities and financial savings it will bring."

Work at the schools began in February and is expected to continue throughout 2019.

**Visit the Indian River School District on the web at [irsd.net](http://irsd.net)**



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**Golden Knights Make History**

# State Champs!

## Sussex Central captures first football title

Sussex Central High School captured its first-ever state football championship with a 33-7 victory over Salesianum in the Delaware Division I final on Dec. 1 at Delaware Stadium in Newark.

Coached by John Wells, the Golden Knights rolled to a 9-1 regular season record and the Henlopen Conference Northern Division title. In the playoffs, Sussex Central dominated Appoquinimink 36-7 in the quarterfinals before recording a thrilling 21-20 come-from-behind victory over Dover in the semifinal.

In the state final, the Golden Knights jumped ahead 7-0 in the first quarter on a 59-yard touchdown pass from Isaac Barnes to his brother Isaiah Barnes. They broke the game open in the third quarter when Shihiem Williams returned the second half kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown and Kasim Lewis scored from three yards out a few minutes later after a fumbled a punt snap by Salesianum. The Knights cruised to victory from there as their defense held Sallies to under 200 yards of total offense.

Sussex Central ended the year on a 12-game winning streak and the team was honored at special rally on Dec. 3 at the school stadium.



Aerin Donovan photo



Aerin Donovan photo

**SCHS Coach John Wells**



Aerin Donovan photo



Aerin Donovan photo



Aerin Donovan photo



Aerin Donovan photo

## The Championship Season

<b>at Hodgson</b>	<b>L 6-26</b>
<b>vs Queen Anne's</b>	<b>W 31-3</b>
<b>at Caravel</b>	<b>W 31-0</b>
<b>vs Dover</b>	<b>W 21-0</b>
<b>at Sussex Tech</b>	<b>W 25-0</b>
<b>vs Smyrna</b>	<b>W 31-12</b>
<b>at Polytech</b>	<b>W 42-0</b>
<b>at Cape Henlopen</b>	<b>W 43-0</b>
<b>vs Caesar Rodney</b>	<b>W 39-0</b>
<b>vs Indian River</b>	<b>W 63-0</b>

### State Tournament

<b>vs Appoquinimink</b>	<b>W 36-7</b>
<b>at Dover</b>	<b>W 21-20</b>
<b>vs Salesianum</b>	<b>W 33-7</b>



Isaac Barnes with the championship trophy at the rally on Dec. 3.



Aerin Donovan photo



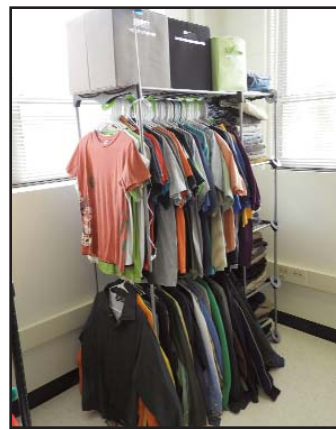
The team was honored at Legislative Hall in Dover in January.

# Thrifty Eagle Store Opens at GWC

The Howard T. Ennis School celebrated the grand opening of its new Thrifty Eagle Store on Jan. 4.

The store will be run by students in the school's STEP (Student-Centered Transition Education and Pre-Vocational Program) program, which emphasizes the development of solid employment and independent living skills.

Located inside the G.W. Carver Center in Frankford, the Thrifty Eagle store is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and offers clothing, shoes, toys, glassware and other household items. Donations can be made at the store or at the Howard T. Ennis School in Georgetown.



## News and Notes

# SCHS to Host College and Career Fair

The Sussex Central High School counseling office will be hosting a College and Career Fair on Feb. 28 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Parents and students at all grade levels are welcome to attend to speak with representatives from a variety of colleges and universities, training programs, and local businesses. This is an opportunity to learn about post-secondary options and current jobs available to high school students.

## JMC Joins Instagram

Welcome to Instagram John M. Clayton Elementary School!

JMC established its new Instagram account in late-January. The school's feed can be accessed by searching for username "jmcelementary" or "John M. Clayton Elementary."

Check out its feed for photos of students and staff.

## SMS Geographic Bee

Ian Lewis will represent Selbyville Middle School at the Delaware Geographic Bee in March. Ian won the school's final round competition on Jan. 29.

# MMS, LNE Selected as State Recognition Schools

Millsboro Middle School and Long Neck Elementary School were among 16 Delaware schools to be honored in 2018 for their students' academic achievements.

At a special ceremony on Dec. 10 at Clayton Intermediate School, the Delaware Department of Education named Millsboro Middle and Long Neck, along with 13 other schools statewide, as 2018 Recognition Schools. Each school will receive an \$8,000 award. There was also one School of Continued Excellence that was honored as a Recognition School last year and had



*The Millsboro Middle School staff with its Recognition School banner.*

outstanding performance again this year.

Recognition School awards were created by legislation passed by the Delaware General Assembly in 2009. The awards are given to schools whose students are performing



*Long Neck representatives receive their banner at the ceremony on Dec. 10.*

at an exceptionally high level or to schools that have succeeded in closing the achievement gap for groups such as low-income students, students from minority groups and students with disabilities.

The winning schools have

discretion in deciding how to spend their award money to benefit their students and school as a whole. Each school will appoint a committee consisting of administrators, teachers, support staff and parents to determine how the award will be used.

Millsboro Middle was last honored in the Recognition Schools program with an Academic Achievement Award in 2011. Long Neck received an Academic Achievement Award in 2010, a Recognition School Award in 2013 and School of Continued Excellence recognition in 2012 and 2014.