

Indian River School District



February 2022 Newsletter

IRSD Counselors Finalists for State Award



Leslee Hazzard



Stephanie Wilkinson

Two school counselors from the Indian River School District have been named finalists for the 2022 Delaware School Counselor of the Year Award.

Leslee Hazzard of East Millsboro Elementary School and **Stephanie Wilkinson** of Indian River High School represent two of three finalists for the overall state award, which will be given by the Delaware School Counselor Association this spring.

Congratulations to Leslee and Stephanie on this prestigious honor!

District Partners With DSU for ARTC Program

The Indian River School District, in partnership with Delaware State University and the Seaford School District, will be hosting a series of Sussex County recruitment events to highlight DSU's new Alternative Routes to Certification program. The events are open to those who possess a bachelor's degree in a field other than education but who are interested in becoming teachers.

A recruitment event will be held in the Indian River School District on **Wednesday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m.** at Georgetown Middle School. Additionally, Seaford School District will host a recruitment event on March 1 at 6:00 p.m. at Seaford High School. DSU will be offering a virtual recruitment event on a date to be determined.

These events are free and no pre-registration is required. Please note that COVID protocols regarding face coverings and social distancing will be in place at these events.

Secretary of Education Visits Early Learning Center



From left: Secretary of Education Mark Holodick, Audrey Carey, Jay Owens and Janet Hickman.

Delaware Secretary of Education Mark Holodick visited the Indian River School District on February 8 to observe instructional activities for pre-school students at the IRSD Early Learning Center.

Dr. Holodick was joined by Superintendent Jay Owens, Supervisor of Early Learning Audrey Carey and Principal Janet Hickman in observing classroom lessons, family-style lunch service and general school operations.

"I want to thank the ELC teachers and staff for welcoming the Secretary into their school and for showcasing the amazing opportunities provided to our earliest learners," Dr. Owens said.

Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

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From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

As we move into the second half of the 2021-2022 school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past five months. When schools opened in September, we made a commitment as a district to provide all students with five days a week of in-person instruction. We believed this was especially important after a year in which students participated in a hybrid instructional model with a blend of in-person and remote learning. I'm extremely pleased that we've been able to maintain our five-day in-person schedule without interruption since September. This is impressive given the surge of positive COVID cases that occurred across

Delaware and the United States in January. I recognize that the going has been tough at times and that parents have been saddled with many inconveniences, but we sincerely appreciate your patience, understanding and adherence to COVID protocols during the first half of the school year. I also want to thank our hard-working staff members who have been on front lines every day providing educational services to students under challenging circumstances. Currently, COVID numbers in IRSD and the state are trending downward. This is a positive development we hope can be sustained and lead to brighter days ahead.

On the academic side, administrators in our district have participated in a book talk using the book, "Learning that Sticks." This book has allowed school administrators to dig deeper into what students should be doing or thinking about as part of their learning. This professional learning opportunity has also given administrators the opportunity to dig deeper into research-supported learning strategies and calibrate and align them to our new teacher evaluation system.

On February 8, we had the pleasure of hosting new Delaware Secretary of Education Mark Holodick on a visit to the IRSD Early Learning Center. Mr. Holodick visited several classroom to observe the wonderful educational services being provided to preschool students in our district. We sincerely thank Mr. Holodick for his visit and hope IRSD can be a model for early childhood education across Delaware.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent

Did You Know?

Two Indian River School District athletes were named Gatorade Delaware Player of the Year for their respective fall sports. **Bre Reid** of Sussex Central High School received the honor for volleyball while **Brynn Crandell** of Indian River High School was the winner for cross country. Congratulations!

Ennis Staffers Take Plunge

The staff of the Howard T. Ennis School rallied together to raise funds for Special Olympics Delaware by participating in the Lewes Polar Bear Plunge on February 6.

Team members chose between the warmth of their home pool at Howard T. Ennis or the beach and 37-degree water temperatures in Rehoboth Beach. But no matter where they plunged, it was all for the same great cause.

Special Olympics Delaware utilizes sports as a platform to create life-changing experiences for students at Howard T. Ennis and across the state.

Collectively, the Ennis team raised more than \$2,600 for Special Olympics Delaware with teacher Sydney Sobolewski being the top fundraiser.

HTE team members were Keri Justice, Kyle Weed, Melissa Kansak, Kimberley Cooper, Sydney Sobolewski, Christopher Budesheim, Crystal Fuhrmann, Geri Vota, Jessica White, Kourtney Collins, Corinne Elliott, Gina Greeson, Dawn Ciccanti, Beth Sparpaglione, Elizabeth Johansen, Beth Dabrowski and Morgan Burton.

Plunge Statistics



Plunge 1

Date: Friday, February 4

Location: Dr. Lorraine Wray Aquatic Center

Air Temp: 87°

Water Temp: 86°



Plunge 2

Date: Sunday, February 6

Location: Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

Air Temp: 32°

Water Temp: 37°

Recruitment Fair Set for Feb. 26

The Indian River School District will host its Eighth Annual Education Recruitment Fair on **Saturday, February 26** at the Clarion Fontainebleau Conference Center in Ocean City, Md.

The fair will run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with more than 30 schools and districts from Delaware, Maryland and Virginia scheduled to attend.

The event is designed to match candidates to anticipated school vacancies in Grades K-12. Participating districts will be recruiting teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, ELL professionals, administrators, related services personnel, bus drivers, food service workers and more. The fair is open to new teachers and those seeking to transfer.

The Clarion Fontainebleau is located at 10100 Coastal Highway (101st Street) in Ocean City, Maryland.

For more information and to register, visit apllc.org.



Career and Trade Fair at IRHS

Indian River High School will host a Career & Trade Fair on **Wednesday, February 23** at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the event is to give all IRSD students and their families exposure to career and trade paths in Sussex County that do not require a four-year college degree. Participants can meet with more than 30 local employers and businesses ready to share potential career and trade information and/or hire on the spot.

The event is free and registration is not required.

Teacher of the Year Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the Indian River School District's Teacher of the Year for 2022-2023.

Visit irsd.net to access the IRSD Teacher of the Year nomination forms for 2022-2023. Please return the completed form to the school of the teacher you've nominated.

Nominations must be received by **March 4**.

Each school will select a Teacher of the Year and the overall district winner will be chosen from that pool of candidates. The district winner will be announced at a special ceremony on May 5.

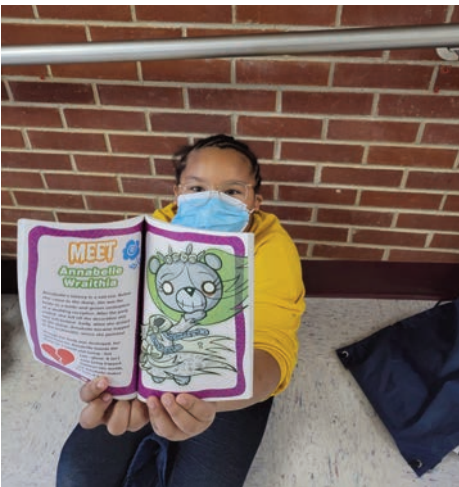


Georgetown Hosts MVOL Book Fair

Georgetown Elementary School hosted a special book fair in January supported by Scholastic and The United Way of Delaware's My Very Own Library program.

Every student was allowed to select, at no cost, five brand new books. The MVOL program believes that when students choose the books they want to call their own, they develop a love for reading and stronger literacy skills.

A second MVOL book fair will take place in June when students will be able to select five more free books. Students have also participated in virtual author visits such as the one with Juan Felipe Castillo, whose personal journey resonated with many students as he discussed his book "Imagine."



MMS Wins Conference Title



The Millsboro Middle School wrestling team finished the 2022 season undefeated (9-0) and won the middle school conference tournament on February 5. The Knights racked up 261 team points in the tournament, easily outdistancing Beacon (174) and Smyrna (161). In addition, Josh Dempsey, Logan Micinowski and Jimmy McLane finished first in their respective weight classes.

Alumni Spotlight



Sussex Central High School graduate Jenna Anger was crowned 2022 Mar-Del Watermelon Queen by the Mar-Del Watermelon Association on February 5. Jenna was a member of the SCHS Class of 2020 and is currently attending the University of Alabama.

Bus Drivers and Bus Aides Needed!

Substitute drivers and aides also needed

Interested applicants should contact Shawn Tidwell or Tami Hudson in the IRSD Transportation Office at (302) 436-1000
shawn.tidwell@irsd.k12.de.us
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