

Weekly COVID Testing Offered in IRSD Schools

The Indian River School District has partnered with the Delaware Division of Public Health to offer students free screening for COVID-19. The tests are performed in school by qualified health care professionals with the Quidel Corporation.

Quidel offers an optional two-part testing program, which began in most schools on March 7.

Part I:

Weekly COVID-19 rapid testing will be performed at the child's school. Families may be interested in this service if their child is unvaccinated or if they are concerned with COVID-19 in the school setting or at home. Health care professionals will be on site at a specified day and time each week. Weekly testing will be offered at all district schools with the exception of the Howard T. Ennis School and the IRSD Early Learning Center.

Part II:

If the child is enrolled in the weekly testing program, families may also take advantage of the "Test to Stay" program. This program affords the child the opportunity to be tested in lieu of quarantine. If the child is exposed to a positive COVID-19 close contact in the household, he or she may participate in the "Test to Stay" program, which allows them to remain in school as opposed to being quarantined. The student would be tested for five consecutive days. If the test result is negative, the child may remain in school on that day. "Test to Stay" sites will operate from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday at Selbyville

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Design Drawings Approved for New Sussex Central HS



At its monthly meeting on February 28, the Indian River Board of Education approved design drawings for the new Sussex Central High School building north of Millsboro. The new school will have a capacity of 2,200 students and be constructed on land next to the existing Sussex Central High School building, which will eventually be converted into a middle school. The design drawings have been submitted to the State of Delaware for agency review and the development of construction documents to be used in the bid process. The district hopes to break ground on the new 309,000-square-foot building this fall. The school is scheduled for completion in 2025. Above top is an exterior rendering of the new Sussex Central High School. At bottom is an aerial view of the new facility with the existing Sussex Central High School building at right.

Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

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From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

During the past month, I've been extremely impressed with the accomplishments of students throughout the Indian River School District. In February, 19 students from four schools qualified for the Business Professionals of America national competition based on their performance at the state leadership conference. These hard-working students will travel to the national conference in Dallas, Texas in May. They won't be the only ones traveling to Texas this spring, as four student teams from three IRSD schools qualified for the VEX IQ Robotics World Championships, which will also be held in Dallas. In addition, 12 Sussex Central High School students recently earned 13 medals at the Delaware Educators Rising Conference, with four qualifying for the national competition in Washington, D.C. in June. It's also been wonderful to see countless students recognized at Board of Education meetings for honors such as All-State Band, Sussex County Honors Chorus and Academic All-Conference in athletics. Moments like these remind me of how many talented students we have in our schools and how fortunate I am to lead such a high-performing school district.

As you can see on Page 1 of this newsletter, we are moving closer to breaking ground for the new Sussex Central High School building north of Millsboro. We are hoping to begin site work at the property this fall. Meanwhile, construction is continuing across the street at the new Howard T. Ennis School. Work is being completed on the mechanical, electrical and fire protection systems and we are moving forward with the issuance of bid packages for technology. Substantial completion of the building is scheduled for later this year.

The district recently announced new starting and ending times for all schools for next school year. (See Page 3.) These changes are necessary to reduce overcrowding on school buses, address the current bus driver shortage, equalize instructional time for all schools, relieve traffic congestion in certain communities and address necessary transportation route changes for the new Howard T. Ennis School. We realize these changes will require some families to adjust their daily schedules. As a result, we are exploring childcare opportunities in our schools that may ease the burden on parents. Once we have finalized these plans, we will communicate information to our families. As always, thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition to this new schedule.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent

District Approves New Starting and Ending Times

The Indian River School District will implement new daily starting and ending times for all schools for the 2022-2023 school year. (See chart at right.)

The changes are designed to reduce overcrowding on school buses, address the current bus driver shortage, equalize instructional time for all schools, relieve traffic congestion in some communities and address transportation route changes that will become necessary when the Howard T. Ennis School moves into its new facility north of Millsboro.

The most significant changes will be at the elementary level, where starting times will be pushed back between 10 and 80 minutes, depending on the school. East Millsboro and Phillip C. Showell elementary schools will each start and end more than an hour later from the current school year.

The school day for Southern Delaware School of the Arts has also been lengthened so that its daily instructional time is the same as other district schools. In addition, SDSA students will only ride school buses with other SDSA students.

The new schedule will increase bus capacities for middle and high schools, ease morning and afternoon traffic congestion in the towns of Millsboro and Selbyville, and bring IRSD starting and ending times in line with other Sussex County school districts.

The changes will take effect with the opening of the 2022-2023 school year in September.

Did You Know?

Sussex Central High School freshman **Malachi Stratton** won the 106-pound state wrestling championship on February 26 at Cape Henlopen High School. Malachi clinched the title with a 12-4 major decision over Alex McEvoy of Caesar Rodney in the championship final.

Daily Starting/Ending Times 2022-2023 School Year

<u>School</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Sussex Central High School	7:30 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
Indian River High School	7:30 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
Georgetown Middle School	7:30 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
Selbyville Middle School	7:30 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
Millsboro Middle School	7:30 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
Phillip C. Showell Elementary	8:50 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
North Georgetown Elementary	8:15 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
East Millsboro Elementary	8:50 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Georgetown Elementary	8:50 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Lord Baltimore Elementary	8:50 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Long Neck Elementary	8:50 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
John M. Clayton Elementary	8:50 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
Southern Del. School of the Arts	8:15 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
Howard T. Ennis School	8:00 a.m.	2:45 p.m.
Early Learning Center (a.m.)	8:00 a.m.	11:20 a.m.
Early Learning Center (p.m.)	12:00 p.m.	3:20 p.m.

APs Graduate From Leadership Academy

Jenna Argo of East Millsboro Elementary School and Sarah Green of North Georgetown Elementary School graduated from the inaugural cohort of Delaware's Assistant Principal Academy on December 16.

The program, administered under the Governor's Institute for School Leadership, is a year-long professional learning opportunity that develops assistant principals into transformational building-level principals. The academy consists of five modules of instruction aligned to Professional Standards for Educational Leaders and includes coaching by the University of Delaware's Academy for School Leadership as well as practice-based mentorships with successful building principals.

Jenna and Sarah were among the 12 assistant principals from across Delaware that graduated from the inaugural cohort. The academy's second cohort began in January.



Jenna Argo



Sarah Green



MMS Student Excels in YAM Art Contest

Millsboro Middle School eighth-grade student Jerimiah Hagans was awarded Honorable Mention in the middle school category for the Delaware Youth in Art Month Flag Design Contest.

This year's contest theme was "Art Connects Us."

Youth Art Month began on March 1 and is designed to bring awareness of the visual arts to Delawareans while showing communities how the arts positively impact children and our world. The YAM Flag Design Contest was sponsored by Delaware Art Education Association.

COVID-19 Testing

From Page 1
Middle School, Millsboro Middle School and Georgetown Middle School.

The child must be enrolled in weekly COVID-19 testing with Quidel in order to take advantage of the "Test to Stay" program.

Families may register for testing at any time at:

my.primary.health/I/indian-river-schools

For more information about the Quidel testing program, visit

www.dhsscovidsschooltest.com

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IRSD Teachers of the Year, 2022-2023



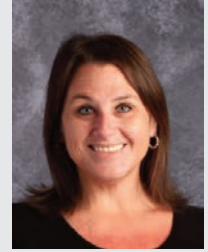
Sommer Atkins
Indian River High School



Jacob Austin
Millsboro Middle School



Khara Bauer
John M. Clayton Elementary School



Wendy Breedlove
Howard T. Ennis School



Mary Caligiure
Southern Delaware School of the Arts



Karlie Class
IRSD Early Learning Center



Jacob DeLillo
East Millsboro Elementary School



Elizabeth Edwards
Long Neck Elementary School



Brandon Gibbs
Georgetown Elementary School



Nicole Jenney
North Georgetown Elementary School



Jordan Marvel
Sussex Central High School



Brittany Rummel
Georgetown Middle School



Lisa Stetler
Selbyville Middle School



Michele Timmons
Phillip C. Showell Elementary School



Jennah Truitt
Lord Baltimore Elementary School

The overall IRSD Teacher of the Year will be announced at a special ceremony on May 5.

Congratulations to all of our school nominees!

Face Coverings Now Optional in IRSD Schools

At its meeting on February 28, the Indian River Board of Education voted to make face coverings optional for students and staff in all IRSD schools. The new protocol went into effect on March 1. Masking in classrooms and on school buses will no longer be required for students, staff and visitors. However, families retain the option of having their child continue to wear a mask in the school building and on school buses. The Indian River School District would like to thank all of its families for their patience and understanding during these challenging times.