

Jennah Truitt Named IRSD Teacher of the Year

Jennah Truitt of Lord Baltimore Elementary School has been selected as the Indian River School District's Teacher of the Year for 2022-2023.

The announcement was made at the district's annual Teacher of the Year ceremony on May 5. Dr. Truitt was chosen as the district's overall winner from a pool of 15 candidates, one from each school.

Dr. Truitt has been a teacher in the Indian River School District for the past 11 years and a dually-certified kindergarten teacher at Lord Baltimore Elementary since 2015. She previously served as a preschool, second-grade and third-grade teacher at Long Neck Elementary School and the Project VIL-LAGE program. She was also selected as Lord Baltimore's Teacher of the Year in 2018-2019.

Dr. Truitt holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood and elementary education from Salisbury University, and master's and doctorate degrees in curriculum and instruction from American College of Education.



Jennah Truitt with Board of Education Vice President Leolga Wright and IRSD Superintendent Jay Owens at the district Teacher of the Year ceremony on May 5.



In 2018, Dr. Truitt was the recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, which is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government for teaching excellence. During her time at Lord Baltimore she has also been an IRSD Special Education Ambassador (2018) and been recognized as one of Beebe Healthcare's Progressive Women in the Community in honor of International Women's Day (2020). She is a member of the district's Special Education Task Force and previously served as a kindergarten lead teacher for the district's science and English language arts committees. In 2019-2020, she

represented the Indian River School District on the Delaware Department of Education's "Bridging Kindergarten" committee.

"The moment you enter Dr. Truitt's classroom, it is evident that she possesses the qualities of an extraordinary educator," said Lord Baltimore Elementary School Principal Pam Webb. "Her classroom presence, high expectations and encouraging demeanor allow the students to feel confident as they embark on their educational journey. I take advantage of visiting her classroom frequently to remind myself

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More Teacher of the Year Photos, Page 4

Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

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From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

We recently had an exciting and rewarding Teacher Appreciation Week in the Indian River School District. The week began on Monday, May 2 with a special "signing" ceremony at Sussex Central High School to honor 11 education pathway students who have chosen to attend college to pursue teaching careers. Three days later, Indian River High School hosted a ceremony to honor seven seniors who will major in education at the postsecondary level. These students will attend Delaware Technical and Community College, Delaware State University and the University of Delaware. We wish them the best of luck and hope they will return to teach in our district some day. The week culminated with the annual Teacher of the Year ceremony in which Jennah Truitt of Lord Baltimore Elementary School was named IRSD Teacher of the Year for 2022-2023. I would like to congratulate Jennah and the 14 other talented educators who were named their school's Teacher of the Year. You represent IRSD's best!

More great news came on May 6 when Leslee Hazzard of East Millsboro Elementary School was named Delaware School Counselor of the Year. (See Page 3.) This is a tremendous honor that highlights Leslee's unyielding compassion for her students and their families. Stephanie Wilkinson of Indian River High School was also honored as a finalist for the state award. For the Indian River School District to have two of the three finalists for this prestigious honor makes me immensely proud. Leslee and Stephanie are just two of the many dedicated counselors in our district that go above and beyond to meet the needs of our students. Congratulations!

Before we head into the summer, I want to give one more heartfelt thank you to our parents for their patience and understanding during what at times has been a difficult school year. By working together, we have been able to provide in-person instruction to all students for the entire year and continue to deliver the top-flight educational services that make us one of the top public school districts in Delaware. In the coming weeks, I look forward to attending concerts and awards ceremonies throughout the district along with graduation ceremonies at both high schools and the Howard T. School. These events always remind me of how fortunate I am to serve this wonderful school district.

Have a great summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent

Hazzard Named 2022 State School Counselor of the Year

Leslee Hazzard of East Millsboro Elementary School has been named Delaware School Counselor of the Year for 2022.

The award was given by the Delaware School Counselor Association at a special social event in Dover on May 6.

"Mrs. Hazzard treats every student in our building as if they were her own," said East Millsboro Principal Karen Clausen. "She cares deeply about their best interests and is always looking for ways to help them, no matter the circumstances. I have observed Mrs. Hazzard working with children on a daily basis for the past three years. She has been instrumental to the success of many of our students who have needed assistance in a variety of ways. She is an amazing person with a huge heart who always puts the best interests of others before her own."

Leslee serves on a variety of leadership teams at East Millsboro and works with outside organizations to secure assistance for families in the areas of housing, clothing, food, school supplies and before- and after-school care. She also played a key role in the development of positive behavior support strategies that have resulted in a significant de-



Leslee Hazzard

crease in disciplinary referrals at the school.

At the district level, Leslee is a lead elementary school counselor and serves as a mentor to new counselors throughout the district.

The Indian River School District was proud to have two of the three finalists for the state award. Stephanie Wilkinson of Indian River High School was also honored as a finalist.



Millsboro Student Wins Poster Contest

Jeremiah Hagans of Millsboro Middle School was the Grand Prize winner of the DART First State Transit Poster Contest.

Jeremiah was both the first place winner for eighth grade and the contest's Grand Prize winner. As the Grand Prize winner, he will have his artwork displayed on DART buses throughout Delaware.

The contest encourages students in Grades 6-12 to learn more about Delaware's public transit system. This year's theme was "Stuff The Bus, 25th Anniversary Logo Challenge" in honor of DART's annual partnership with the Food Bank of Delaware for the "Stuff The Bus" Thanksgiving Food Drive.



Jeremiah Hagans

GES Student Tours Radio Station

Thanks to the efforts of some caring community members, Georgetown Elementary School first grader Alina Escalante Velasquez recently took a special tour of the local Maxima Spanish-language radio station.

Alina, who is visually-impaired, lives in an apartment in Georgetown that is attached to Caruso's Pizza. Employees at Caruso's heard her playing the piano and informed the owner of Maxima, which has a visually impaired radio host. The owner contacted Channel Chaplin, the school's bilingual school/community liaison, and offered Alina a tour of the station.

Alina and her mother visited Maxima on May 4, met the station's visually impaired host and took a tour of the studio. IRSD and Georgetown Elementary would like to thank Maxima and Caruso's for making this visit happen.

For photos, visit the district Facebook page

Jennah Truitt

From Page 1

of why we all committed our lives to education.

"Jennah understands the importance of building solid foundational skills for her students as well as meeting their social and emotional needs. Parents often share how impressed they are with their child's growth and how much their child enjoys school during their time with Dr. Truitt. Lord Baltimore is very fortunate to have such a dedicated educator."

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



IRSD Teachers of the Year

Teacher

Sommer Atkins
Jacob Austin
Khara Bauer
Wendy Breedlove
Mary Caligiure
Karlie Class
Jacob DeLillo
Elizabeth Edwards
Brandon Gibbs
Nicole Jenney
Jordan Marvel
Brittany Rummel
Lisa Stetler
Michele Timmons
***Jennah Truitt**

School

Indian River High School
 Millsboro Middle School
 John M. Clayton Elementary School
 Howard T. Ennis School
 Southern Delaware School of the Arts
 IRSD Early Learning Center
 East Millsboro Elementary School
 Long Neck Elementary School
 Georgetown Elementary School
 North Georgetown Elementary School
 Sussex Central High School
 Georgetown Middle School
 Selbyville Middle School
 Phillip C. Showell Elementary School
 Lord Baltimore Elementary School

*-Overall IRSD winner



IRSD Teachers of the Year, 2022-2023. Seated (from left): Michele Timmons, Elizabeth Edwards, Brittany Rummel, Jennah Truitt (overall winner), Nicole Jenney, Jordan Marvel, Lisa Stetler. Standing (from left): Wendy Breedlove, Mary Caligiure, Karlie Class, Jacob Austin, Sommer Atkins, Khara Bauer, Jacob DeLillo, Brandon Gibbs.

Nurses Attend DSNA Conference

IRSD nurses attended the annual Delaware School Nurse Association (DSNA) Conference on March 26 in Rehoboth Beach. Nurses engaged with colleagues throughout the state, visited vendor booths and heard a variety of guest speakers. The conference title was "911... OOPPSS.. Nurses Office, What's Your Emergency? Emergency Management and Assessments for the School Nurse." Nurses attended sessions that focused on emergency situations that could potentially arise in the school setting.



Last Day of School Moved to June 10

At its regular meeting on March 28, 2022, the Indian River Board of Education approved a series of changes to the 2021-2022 school district calendar.

The last day of school for students in Grades PreK-11 will now be **Friday, June 10**. The last day for teachers and paraprofessionals will be Wednesday, June 15.

The changes resulted from unused surplus days built into the calendar for weather-related school cancellations.

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Arts Festival Coming to SCHS

The inaugural Southern Delaware Festival of the Arts is coming to Sussex Central High School May 20-21.

Friday, May 20 (6:00-8:00 p.m.) – Art show, comedy show and choral concert with guests from the Southern Delaware Chorale.

Saturday, May 21 (10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) – Dance performances from local studios, theater productions with scenes written by local students, jazz and concert band performances with guests from the Upper Chesapeake Community Band, live figure drawing and much more.

The event is free and open to the public. Visit sussexcentralvpa.org for more information.



**Southern
Delaware
Arts
Festival
May
20 & 21,
2022**

Art Showcases
Bands
Choirs
Dance
Drama

Featuring Showcases and Performances by SCHS, GMS & MMS Students & Ensembles, Southern Delaware Chorale, Upper Chesapeake Community Band & MORE!

Scan QR Code for more info:



Sussex Central High School
26026 Patriots Way
Georgetown, DE 19947
Friday, May 20 6-9 pm / Saturday, May 21 10a-3pm