



February 2023 Newsletter

New HTE School Opens



The new Howard T. Ennis School on Patriots Way north of Millsboro officially opened on January 3.

Construction of the 94,000-square-foot facility began in the fall of 2020 and was substantially completed in time for students and staff to move in after Christmas Break. Delays on the construction of the therapy pool have pushed its expected completion date back to late-February.



Ennis families got their first look at the new school at a special open house event during parent conferences on January 12.

The district will host a dedication ceremony this spring once the therapy pool and other punch list items have been completed.



Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

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From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

January 3 was a historic day in the Indian River School District, as the new Howard T. Ennis School north of Millsboro officially opened to students and staff. It was wonderful to be there that morning and watch the Ennis family take ownership of the modern facility it so richly deserves. After more than 50 years at its previous location in Georgetown, Howard T. Ennis can now provide services to students with disabilities in a state-of-the-art learning environment. Although construction delays prevented the therapy pool from being ready on opening day, we anticipate it's completion in late-February. We look forward to hosting a formal dedication ceremony this spring once the pool and a few remaining construction projects have been completed. I want to thank Howard T. Ennis staff members for their hard work and dedication in making sure the new school was ready for students following Christmas Break. Moving in the middle of a school year is never easy, but teachers and staff were up to the challenge and I commend them for their passion and dedication. I hope the entire Ennis community enjoys its new school!

Across the street, site work is continuing at the new Sussex Central High School property. Work on the building pad is tentatively scheduled to begin in March, with structural steel to follow in June. The new 309,000-square-foot school is slated to open in the fall of 2025. Although budget issues continue to be a concern due to the fluctuating market for construction materials, we remain committed to providing the first-class facility that was promised to our taxpayers when they generously approved the major capital improvement referendum in February 2020. We will work tirelessly to deliver a school in which our community can be proud.

As we move past the halfway point of the school year, I want to take this opportunity to thank our staff members for their efforts in keeping our schools running smoothly. IRSD has some of the most gifted professionals in the State of Delaware, whether they be teachers, counselors, secretaries, custodians or support staff. I feel fortunate to work with these individuals every day and witness first hand their commitment to our schools. Their dedication is integral to providing our nearly 10,800 students with the best-possible educational services.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent

#weareIRSD

Crandell Wins Second Straight Gatorade Award

Brynn Crandell of Indian River High School was recently named Gatorade Delaware Cross Country Player of the Year for the second consecutive year.

Brynn has won the Delaware cross country state title in each of the past two seasons. The sophomore is the district's first-ever two-time winner of the Gatorade award. (See list at right.)

The Gatorade Player of the Year Award was established in 1985 to recognize the nation's most elite high school student-athletes for their athletic excellence, academic achievement and exemplary character. In each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, one Gatorade winner is chosen in 12 different sports.



IRSD Gatorade Player of the Year Winners

2022-2023

Brynn Crandell (Indian River HS), cross country

2021-2022

Brynn Crandell (IRHS), cross country

Bre Reid (Sussex Central HS), volleyball

2020-2021

Raychel Ehlers (IRHS), volleyball

2015-2016

Brooke Beam (IRHS), girls soccer

2011-2012

Jamie Jarmon (IRHS), football

2010-2011

Caitlin Forte (IRHS), girls soccer

2007-2008

Erika Brittingham (SCHS), softball

2006-2007

Brandy Jester (SCHS), softball

2002-2003

Andrew Weatherly (SCHS), football

MMS Student Receives Gold Key Honor

Millsboro Middle School seventh-grader Gisel Farrera-Sanchez recently won a Regional Gold Key Award in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program. Gisel's piece titled "Droplets" won in the ceramics and glass category.

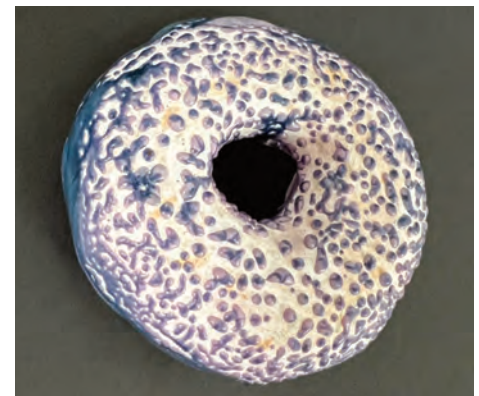
The program is the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens. Students in Grades 7-12 from throughout Delaware were eligible to enter artwork in 15 categories into the competition.



Regional Gold Key winners will compete nationally in New York. Results from that competition will be announced in March.

Gisel's piece will also be on display at the Art Center Gallery on the campus of Delaware State University through February 11.

For more information about the competition, visit artandwriting.org/awards



"Droplets"

New Schedule for Harry K. Food Pantry

The Harry K. Foundation Food Pantry at the G.W. Carver Center in Frankford has implemented a new schedule. The pantry is now open from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. every **Thursday** that school is session during the 2022-2023 school year.

IRSD families may visit the pantry one time per month to receive 30 pounds of food and five pounds of household items.

The pantry is located at the G.W. Carver Education Center, 30207 Frankford School Rd. in Frankford.



Wright Captures 55m State Title

Tim Wright of Sussex Central High School was crowned state champion in the 55-meter dash at the DIAA Indoor Track Championships at the Prince George's Sports Complex in Landover, Md. on February 4. Tim captured the title with a time of 6.51 seconds.

Tim Wright (left) crosses the finish line in the 55-meter dash at the indoor championships.

GES Students Participate in Delaware GOTR 5K Run

On December 4, students from Georgetown Elementary and several other district schools participated in the statewide Girls on the Run 5K at Delaware Technical and Community College in Dover.

Girls on the Run (GOTR) is a social/emotional program that focuses on the connection between physical and emotional health to empower girls and strengthen their confidence. Participants work hard each week to navigate topics that require vulnerability and self-reflection and the feelings that may be associated with those topics.

A recent independent study found that 97 percent of GOTR participants learned critical life skills associated with conflict resolution and decision-making, 85 percent improved in confidence and 40 percent increased their physical activity level.

GOTR coaches and volunteers at Georgetown Elementary would like to acknowledge the growth, courage and hard work displayed by all student participants.



Above left: Aspen Schaefer and Symone Sturgis showing off their medals. Above right: Vanessa Roblero-Deleon participating in the 5K run at DelTech.



Walter Smith (left), IRSD Supervisor of Alternative Programs and Nika Reid, Supervisor of Support Services, at the coat giveaway event at the Frankford Fire Hall.

IRSD Provides Winter Coats to Families

The Indian River School District gave away 350 winter coats to its families during the month of January thanks to a generous donation from the Schell Brothers Kudos For A Cause program. Giveaway events were held at the Frankford Fire Hall, Millsboro Middle School and Grace United Methodist Church in Georgetown.

For two weeks in September, IRSD was the Kudos For A Cause campaign beneficiary. Schools gave "Kudos" to special people on their Facebook and Instagram pages. For every comment received on the posts, Schell Brothers donated \$1 towards the coat drive. In addition, Schell Brothers also donated \$1 for every new LIKE and FOLLOW on the Project Kudos Powered by Schell Brothers Facebook and Instagram pages during that time period.

By the time the campaign wrapped up on October 3, IRSD had earned a \$20,189 donation, which was used to purchase a supply of North Face and Columbia coats for the giveaway.

IRSD would like to thank Schell Brothers for its generosity in keeping our students warm this winter!

Did You Know?



The Indian River High School unified basketball team was featured on WBOC's Delmarva Life on February 1.



Visit IRSD on:

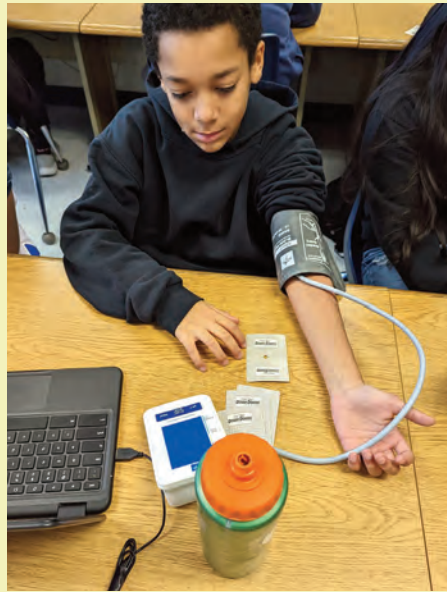


Georgetown Middle Expands CTE Offerings

Georgetown Middle School's exploratory teachers have worked this year to create additional pathways related to Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Ms. Lowe, Mr. Schwendtner and Mr. Timmons are working to provide real-world, hands-on experiences for students while supporting core teachers with curriculum overlap. Students can regularly be seen collaborating in groups, problem solving and designing solutions to classroom problems while learning the skills to solve tomorrow's industry and career problems.

Mr. Schwendtner and Mr. Timmons have implemented Project Lead The Way for Grades 6-8. Mr. Schwendtner has three courses including Flight and Space (6th), Medical Detectives (7th) and Science of Technology (8th). In



Flight and Space, students learn basic physics related to flight and rockets. Seventh graders learn about vital signs and disease diagnosis, and end with a brain dissection. Eighth grade uses applied chemistry to make ice cream and clean up an oil spill. Students also learn about nanotechnology used in clothing and sunscreen.

Mr. Timmons is currently working with all grade levels on App Creators to teach the basics of coding using the coding program MIT App Inventor, provided by an industry-leading computer science institution. This class allows students to explore the basics of coding and create custom apps for tablets, cell phones and computers using concepts from the C++, Java and Python coding languages. Next school year, the program will be expanded to include the Automation and Robotics, and Design and Modeling courses to expose students to more career options

within the technology and computer science domains.

Ms. Lowe has recently joined the exploratory team as the school's first Exploring Agricultural teacher. Students learn how agriculture is woven into every aspect of our lives and how human influences on our natural resources are necessary for a thriving agricultural industry. Students are looking forward to her school garden, greenhouse and outdoor classroom for the upcoming school year.

The CTE department is asking that you please contact Mr. Schwendtner at george.schwendtner@irsd.k12.de.us if you or your company or business would like to come into our classroom to help provide students with the opportunity to meet experts within the various fields around Sussex County. As our programs grow, we plan to grow our community relationships and work to provide students with authentic opportunities outside of the classroom.



Giant Food to Support IRSD Food Pantry in March

The IRSD Harry K. Foundation Parent Center Food Pantry in Frankford has been selected as a beneficiary of the Giant Food Bloomin' 4 Good Program for the month of **March**.

The Bloomin' 4 Good Program is an easy way for shoppers to give back. Every sale of a Bloomin' 4 Good Bou-

quet with the purple hanging tag supports a nonprofit organization local to the Giant Food store in which it was purchased.

The Harry K. Food Pantry was selected as the March beneficiary by local store leadership at the Giant Food located at **38069 Town Center Drive** in Millville.

The pantry will receive a \$1 donation for every Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet purchased at this location throughout the month.

The pantry is located at the G.W. Carver Education Center, 30207 Frankford School Rd. in Frankford.