



November/December 2022 Newsletter

Ground Broken for New Sussex Central HS

The Indian River School District hosted a special groundbreaking ceremony for the new Sussex Central High School building on Thursday, November 3.

The event was attended by school and district administrators, SCHS students and staff, state legislators and representatives of the district’s architectural and construction management firms. Artist’s renderings of the new school were on display at the ceremony and those in attendance were presented small jars of soil from the site to commemorate the project.

Site work recently began at the property and the new 309,000-square-foot school is slated to open in the fall of 2025. 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.



Clockwise from top: Numerous district and state officials were in attendance at the groundbreaking ceremony; IRSD Superintendent Dr. Jay Owens; jars of soil from the site given to those in attendance; the Sussex Central administrative team prepares to shovel the ceremonial dirt.

Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

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From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

November 3 was a beautiful, sunny, 70-degree day. Perfect for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Sussex Central High School building north of Millsboro. The ceremony was attended by school and district officials, state legislators, SCHS students and staff, past district employees and Board of Education members, and representatives of our architectural and construction management firms. It was especially pleasing to see current SCHS students, including the marching band drum line, participate in the festivities. I look forward to the construction of this first-class facility, which is slated to open in 2025 and is richly deserved by students and staff. As I stated on that glorious afternoon, I hope the weather was indicative of how this project will go from start to finish!

Across the street, meanwhile, construction is progressing on the new Howard T. Ennis School. I had the opportunity to tour the facility recently and was extremely impressed. Construction crews are putting the finishing touches on the building, which will open on January 3, 2023 when classes resume following Winter Break. I'm excited that the Ennis staff will have this state-of-the-art facility to provide services to our special needs students. We've worked on this project for several years and the road hasn't always been smooth, but it's extremely satisfying to see our efforts finally come to fruition.

It's hard to believe we are already approaching Winter Break and the end of 2022. We've had a terrific school year so far, as the items in this newsletter can attest. As always, I want to thank you for your support and patience this school year as we've implemented new transportation schedules, altered daily starting/ending times for schools and worked through a few issues related to the return to normal operations following the pandemic. I look forward to 2023 and seeing what our students and staff can accomplish!

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent



Did You Know?

Brynn Crandell of Indian River High School recently won her second consecutive Delaware Division II cross country championship. Congratulations!

PCS Unveils Monthly Student Club Program



Phillip C. Showell Elementary School debuted a new program on November 22 that allows students to enroll in various special interest clubs without having to stay after school to participate.



Activities were held during the last hour of the school day and gave children the chance to interact with other students that may not be in their regular classroom or grade level. The school offered more than 25 clubs, including guitar, volleyball, board games, sign language, gift wrapping, paper airplanes, STEM, sculpture and field hockey.



PCS will host club activities once a month for the remainder of the school year.



Long Neck Hosts Fall Family "Camp Out"



A good time was had by all at Long Neck Elementary School's Fall Camp-Out and Math & Literacy Night on November 16! Guests enjoyed reading under the "stars," playing math and literacy games and creating woodland creature masks. Families were also served dinner and ended the night by making S'mores and participating in their choice of a math or reading game.

Poster Contest Winners



The Indian River School District had two winners in the 2022 Sussex Conservation District poster contest. In the Grades 4-6 division, Estrella Nunez Perez of North Georgetown Elementary School was the first-place winner while Long Neck Elementary School fifth-grader Aubrey Green tied for third place. The theme of contest was "Healthy Soil: Healthy Life." Top: Estrella Nunez Perez. Bottom (from left), LNE Principal Kathleen Wilson, fifth-grade student Aubrey Green and LNE fifth-grade teacher Jennifer Friscia.

"A Pickwick Christmas" to be Presented at SCHS

The Take Two Drama Club of Sussex Central High School is proud to announce the world premiere workshop performance of "A Pickwick Christmas."

The play will be presented at the Pre-

miere Centre for the Arts at SCHS on **Friday, December 16** at 7:00 p.m. and **Saturday, December 17** at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 and can be found online at bit.ly/30r7XMD.

School Choice Application Period Open Until January 11

The 2023-2024 school choice application period is now open. It will close on **January 11, 2023** at 11:59 p.m. A separate application must be submitted for each child and he/she must be registered in his/her home school for consideration.

The Indian River School District will utilize the Data Service Center's web-based Delaware Public and Charter School Choice Application. All IRSD school choice applications for 2023-2024 must be submitted online at schoolchoicede.org. By submitting online applications at schoolchoicede.org, parents experience a user-friendly interface which allows them to quickly submit applications to the schools of choice for their children. The online system offers both English and Spanish options for school choice applications.

When visiting schoolchoicede.org, parents must create an account with a user name and password. It is recommended that the user name be an e-mail address. Once an account has been created, the parent can select up to three schools. However, three schools are not required for completion of an application. Simply select the school(s) of interest and enter the child's information. Parents can also apply to the Spanish Immersion Program for Kindergarten. (Certain conditions apply for application of Spanish Immersion in subsequent grades).

Schoolchoicede.org will also designate district schools that are anticipated to have openings for 2023-2024. Schools that are at capacity will be labeled as "At Capacity." Parents will still be permitted to submit applications for "At Capacity" schools. However, these applications may be placed on a waitlist or denied due to capacity.

Parents will receive an e-mail confirmation once their school choice application has been submitted. They may review, edit or withdraw an application at any time prior to the January 11, 2023, deadline with the use of the established user name and password.

The Indian River School District Board of Education will take action no later than February 27, 2023, on all choice applications. Parents will have until March 17, 2023 to accept or decline a school's invitation (made via email). Parents will also be notified of waitlisted and declined applications within these dates. Consideration for waitlisted applications will begin in July.

Please be advised that students currently choiced into a school who will move to the next building level (ex: 5th graders moving to middle school, 8th graders moving to high school) must submit another choice application to be considered by the next feeder school.

For more information about school choice or the online application system, please contact the IRSD district office at (302) 436-1000.

Kindergarten Registration Underway for 23-24 School Year

Kindergarten registration for fall 2023 is now underway in the Indian River School District.

If your child will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2023, now is the time to register him or her for kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year.

Registration documents can be found online at irsd.net by

clicking on the blue "Registration" button on the home-page. Documents should be submitted to the child's home school along with an original birth certificate, proof of residency and proof of immunization records.

Parents who cannot access the online registration system should contact their child's school to arrange the pick-up and drop-off of paper documents.

No School for HTE Students on Dec. 21

There will be no school for students at the Howard T. Ennis School in Georgetown on **Wednesday, December 21**. Ennis staff should report as scheduled.

The calendar change was approved by the Board of Education to allow Howard T. Ennis staff members additional time to prepare for the school's move into its new building, which will open on January 3, 2023.

December 21 will be a regular school day for all other district schools.

Food Pantry Now Open at G.W. Carver

The Harry K. Foundation Food Pantry at the G.W. Carver Center in Frankford is now open! The pantry will be open from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. every Friday 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. Family members must present a driver's license or approved State of Delaware ID at each visit.

The pantry is located at the G.W. Carver Education Center, 30207 Frankford School Rd. in Frankford. For questions, contact the Howard T. Ennis School at (302) 856-1930.

Visit IRSD on:



ELC Students Plant, Harvest Vegetables



Through a partnership with Healthy Food for Healthy Kids, students at the IRSD Early Learning Center planted and harvested vegetables in the school's garden beds this fall. Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids upgraded the garden beds this summer, installing irrigation systems. In October, students planted several varieties of lettuce and radishes. Students harvested the vegetables on November 21 and were able to eat what they grew.

Family Math Night at GES

Parents, students, teachers and support staff participated in Georgetown Elementary School's annual Family Math Night in November.

Teachers and support staff from each grade level worked together to plan several activities to engage students and their families in exciting, fun and friendly math competitions. Bridges Math Workplaces and fall-themed math games and crafts were just some of the activities that took place during this entertaining evening. Teachers even copied extra Bridges Workplaces and paper math manipulatives so students and their families could continue these math activities at home.

These activities reinforced what students are learning in math class, which in turn helps them practice math fluency even when they are not in school. Georgetown Elementary School's PTO was also present at



Family Math Night to sell drinks and snacks for families to enjoy while spending quality time with their children.

Did You Know?

Howard T. Ennis School recently won the CANgineering People's Choice Award from the Delaware Food Bank for its sculpture created from collected cans and other food items.