

Kasey Revel Wins District Teacher of the Year Award

Kasey Revel of Sussex Central High School has been selected as the Indian River School District's Teacher of the Year for 2023-2024.

The announcement was made at the district's annual Teacher of the Year ceremony on May 4. Kasey was chosen as the district's overall winner from a pool of 15 candidates, one from each school.

Kasey has been an agriscience teacher at Sussex Central High School since 2020. She was previously a middle school mathematics teacher and a secondary instructional mathematics coach in the Woodbridge School District from 2014-2020. She was Teacher of the Year at Woodbridge

Middle School in 2017-2018.

At Sussex Central, Kasey is the school's FFA advisor and a teacher mentor. She is also the Sussex County representative for the Delaware Association of Agriculture Educators (DAAE). In 2022-2023, she was recognized by the DAAE as a Teacher Turn the Key recipient. She and her students have designed and coordinated landscape scenery for events such as prom, graduation, homecoming, the senior awards ceremony and the SCHS Hall of Fame induction.

As FFA advisor, Kasey has advised students participating in competitions at the state level, overseen the

Continued on Page 3



From left, State Rep. Ron Gray, SCHS Principal Bradley Layfield, Board of Education Vice President Leolga Wright, IRSD Teacher of the Year Kasey Revel, IRSD Superintendent Jay Owens and State Rep. Rich Collins.

IRSD Students Excel at BPA Nationals

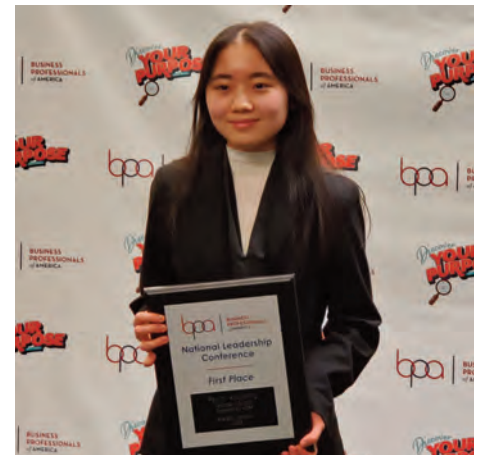
Three IRSD students recently earned five Top 10 finishes at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California. Two students earned first-place finishes in their respective competitions.

Vicky Chan of Indian River High School placed first in Payroll Accounting while Kaitlyn Kopf of Selbyville Middle School was first in Extemporaneous Speech. Vicky also earned a fourth-place finish in Meeting & Event Planning Concepts and a seventh-place finish in Marketing & Human Resources Concepts.

In addition, Autumn Griffith of Georgetown Middle School was a fourth-place finisher in the Digital Citizenship competition.

Four Indian River High School students also earned the Torch Ambassador Award for their BPA service. They were Hannah Rock, Jordy Estrada,

Continued on Page 4



Vicky Chan of Indian River High School

Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

31 Hosier St.
Selbyville, DE 19975
(302) 436-1000
irsd.net

Board of Education

Rodney M. Layfield,
President

Leolga T. Wright
Vice President

Derek E. Cathell

W. Scott Collins

James E. Fritz

Dr. Donald G. Hattier

Madeline R. Moses

Gerald T. Peden

Constance T. Pryor

Dr. Heather M. Statler

Dr. Jay F. Owens
*Board Secretary and
District Superintendent*

The Indian River School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate or deny services on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, creed, religion, veteran status, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship status, pregnancy, age, ancestry, disability, gender identity, genetic information, military status or any other characteristic protected by law.

 Find us on
Facebook

 @IndianRiver DE

Visit us on
the web at
irsd.net

From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

The end of the school year is less than a month away, which makes this a very busy time in the Indian River School District. In the coming weeks, our schools will be hosting spring concerts, student awards programs and, of course, graduation ceremonies. The festivities began on May 4 with the annual Teacher of the Year celebration at the Seed and Sapling events venue in Frankford. It was my pleasure to be on hand to recognize all of our talented school Teachers of the Year and the district's overall winner - Kasey Revel of Sussex Central High School. Kasey is a gifted and enthusiastic teacher who will represent IRSD well in the state Teacher of the Year competition. I would also like to thank Seed and Sapling for providing us with a first-class experience at their beautiful facility.

I would like to congratulate John M. Clayton and North Georgetown elementary schools, and Millsboro Middle School for being named Project Lead The Way Distinguished Schools for 2022-2023. JMC and NGE were named Launch Distinguished Schools while MMS was named a Distinguished Gateway School. PLTW provides PreK-12 students and teachers with a hands-on, interdisciplinary STEM-based curriculum that uniquely prepares students to thrive in life beyond the classroom. We are immensely proud of these schools as they strive to make every child at every grade level STEM-successful.

Finally, I would like to commend the six Indian River School District students that were recently honored as 2023 Delaware Secretary of Education Scholars. They were Vicky Chan and Carley Topper of Indian River High School, and Eva Cullen, Michael Fagundes-Rocha, Olivia Fox and Sherly Zhu of Sussex Central High School. These gifted students were selected by their school's principal based on their academic records and community service. Congratulations!

I hope you have a great summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent

Important Notice

The last day of school for students in Grades PreK-11 has been moved to Thursday, June 8. The last day for teachers will be Monday, June 12. The last day for paraprofessionals will be Friday, June 9. The changes resulted from unused surplus days built into the calendar for weather-related school cancellations.

IRSD Teachers of the Year

Kasey Revel

From Page 1

construction of Sussex Central's landscape display at the Delaware State Fair, organized plant sales from the school's greenhouse, coordinated various fund-raising activities and established a raised bed project in which vegetables from the school farm were donated to the community or entered in the state fair.

Kasey holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in developmental psychology from Wesley College. She also holds master's degrees in School Leadership and Gifted & Talented Education from Wilmington University.

"Kasey is not only Sussex Central's greatest example of a highly-effective teacher, she is truly one of the best educators in our district," said Sussex Central High School Principal Bradley Layfield. "Anyone who enters her classroom will discover that this is evident from her consistent and pervasive use of instructional best practices each and every day she interacts with students.

"Kasey's best trait as a superior educator is her passion for her students and not just a passion for her curriculum. To watch Kasey teach and to engage her in professional conversations, as I do daily, it is clear that she fully invests her effort to ensure the success of every individual student who enters her classroom."

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



IRSD Teachers of the Year, 2023-2024. Seated (from left): Brooke Zwiebel, Melanie Absher, Sheila Ebke, Kasey Revel (overall winner), Wendy McCabe, Triwania DeShields-Morris, Elizabeth Walter. Standing (from left): Abbe Tribbitt, Beth Baker, Hilary Diefenderfer, Leanne Hearn, Kelsey Gullede, Clayton Riepen, Jessica Behrens, Ashley Carter.

Teacher

Melanie Absher
Beth Baker
Jessica Behrens
Ashley Carter
Triwania DeShields-Morris
Hilary Diefenderfer
Sheila Ebke
Kelsey Gullede
Leanne Hearn
Wendy McCabe
Clayton Riepen
Kasey Revel*
Abbe Tribbitt
Elizabeth Walter
Brooke Zwiebel

School

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

*-Overall IRSD winner



IRSD Teacher of the Year Kasey Revel is presented with a special tribute from the Delaware General Assembly by State Reps. Ron Gray (right) and Rich Collins at the IRSD Teacher of the Year celebration on May 4. Teacher of the Year winners from all 15 district schools were honored at the ceremony, which was held at the Seed and Sapling event venue in Frankford.



LNE Students Get Lesson On Cyberbullying

Dr. David Carter, assistant principal at Indian River High School, gave young students a lesson on cyberbullying and the responsible use of technology during a special assembly on April 3 at Long Neck Elementary School.

Dr. Carter discussed the digital footprint of students and what he's witnessed at the secondary school level in terms of the misuse of technology, including cyberbullying. He noted that information students share from their devices remains in cyberspace forever. He also provided tips on avoiding online scams that attempt to get individuals to reveal addresses and credit card numbers.

The event was sponsored by the Long Neck Sunrise Rotary Club, which purchased 685 copies of the book "The Technology Tail: Teaching your child how to navigate social media," one for every child at Long Neck Elementary. The books were generously supplied at cost by Browseabout Books in Rehoboth Beach.

The club also presented a donation in Dr. Carter's name to the Crisis House Shelter in Georgetown.

BPA Winners

From Page 1

Samantha Teoli and Alex Quinn. IRHS's Zerkyah Yarbrough was also a finalist in the Interview Skills competition.

IRSD students were among the approximately 6,500 middle-level, secondary-level and post-secondary level business students from 25 states, Puerto Rico, China, Haiti and Peru who participated in the National Leadership Conference.

Visit IRSD on:

Facebook



and

Twitter



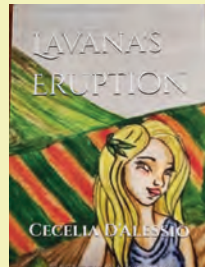
Georgetown MS Student Becomes Published Author

A unit on mythology in a seventh-grade English language arts class at Georgetown Middle School has resulted in an Indian River School District student becoming a published author.

Cecelia D'Alessio was so enthralled by the task of creating her own myth as part of a unit in Mrs. Tridente's class that she created "Lavana's Eruption," which has been turned into a book.

The story focuses on Lavana, a farmer from Greece who owns sprawling lands with the best crops in town. Members of the surrounding community would like to use her land to grow their own crops. Lavana hatches a plan that will allow her to make a lot of money so that she can

gain power. Little does she know, someone with actual power is watching her and comes up with a plan of their own.



The book was published on March 18



Cecelia D'Alessio

with illustrations by Alecia Herald. It is available on Amazon.

"We are extremely proud of Cecelia, ecstatic that her work was published and totally thrilled at the love of reading and writing that Mrs. Tridente has created in her classroom," GMS Principal David Hudson said.

IRHS Senior Wins Beau Biden Memorial Scholarship

Indian River High School senior Jordy Estrada has been selected as the Beau Biden Memorial Scholarship Gold Award winner for 2023. Jordy was one of five finalists out of 80 applicants for the award, which includes a \$10,000 scholarship. Jordy will be attending Cornell University in the fall.

Awarded by the I Could Do Great Things Foundation, the scholarship recognizes college-bound high school seniors from Delaware who embody the virtues of former Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden and who exhibit qualities of leadership, community, civility, respect and a strong moral compass.



Jordy Estrada

Author Sarah Weeks Visits Two IRSD Schools



Two district schools received visits from renowned children's author Sarah Weeks during May. Mrs. Weeks visited Phillip C. Showell Elementary School on May 1 and John M. Clayton Elementary School on May 2.

Mrs. Weeks spoke to students at all grade levels during a series of assemblies throughout the day. She explained the writing and illustration process, answered questions from students and read one of her books.

PCS students have read two of her books – "Save Me A Seat" and "Pie" – this year during the One School, One Book program.

