

LNE and NGE Recognized by State

Long Neck and North Georgetown elementary schools were recently named 2024 Delaware Recognition School award winners for Excellence in Serving Special Populations.

They were among 17 Delaware schools recognized either nationally or by the state for the academic progress of their students last year. The Excellence in Serving Special Populations category honors schools where multiple language learners showed exceptional growth toward meeting proficiency on the state's English proficiency test.

Long Neck and North Georgetown were among seven Delaware schools honored for Excellence in Serving Special Populations. Each school will receive an \$8,000 award, a certificate and a banner to hang in their building.

"We are incredibly honored that Long Neck Elementary has been named a 2024 Recognition School of Excellence in Serving Special Populations," said Long Neck Principal Kathleen Wilson. "This award is a testament to the dedication of our teachers, staff and community all working together to ensure every student receives the support they need to thrive. Our commitment to fostering academic growth and success for all students remains unwavering and we are grateful for this recognition."

"North Georgetown Elementary
Continued on Page 3

IRHS Captures Two State Football Championships

Indian River High School ended the fall sports season on a high note by winning two state championships on the same weekend.

On Saturday, November 30, Indian River captured the Delaware Class 1A Football Championship with a thrilling 47-45 victory over Tatnall at Abessinio Stadium in Wilmington. This came one day after the IRHS unified flag football team won the state title with a 45-32 victory over Caesar Rodney at Delaware State University in Dover.

The Class 1A final featured five lead changes and was the highest-scoring title game in Delaware history across all varsity competition levels.

Trailing 45-41 with just over a minute remaining, the Indians faced a 4th-and-11 from near midfield. Quarterback Dylan Grise threw a short pass to Michael Peranteau, who tossed the ball back to Jayvion Chandler on a "hook-and-lateral" trick play. Chandler ran 51 yards for the go-ahead touchdown and the Indians stopped Tatnall on the final drive to seal the victory.

The state championship was IR's third. The Indians also won titles in 1988 and 2011.

In the unified flag football championship game, Indian River fell behind 20-0 in the first quarter before rallying for a 45-32 victory. Under the guidance of coach Jamaal Bivens, the Indians captured the title in their first



Photos by Lauren Dickerson

year of competition.

The unified team finished the season with an overall record of 8-1 while the varsity team, under the direction of coach Phil Townsend, finished at 12-1.

Congratulations to both teams!

More photos, Page 4

Indian River School District

"A Model of Excellence"

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From the Superintendent



Dear Parents,

In early-November, we were greeted with the wonderful news that two of our schools - Long Neck Elementary and North Georgetown Elementary - were named State of Delaware Recognition Schools for 2024. Both were honored for Excellence in Serving Special Populations, where multiple language learners showed exceptional growth toward meeting performance standards on the state's English proficiency test. Staff at both schools constantly strive to have every child be successful in the classroom and in life. This much-deserved award shows the fruits of their labor and the impact they've had on English learners. I offer my sincere congratulations to Long Neck Principal Kathy Wilson and North Georgetown Principal Carolyn Fries and their staff and students. Your commitment to excellence exemplifies what the Indian River School District is all about.

During Thanksgiving weekend, I had the rare pleasure of seeing a high school earn athletic state championships on consecutive days. The fun began on Friday evening when the Indian River High School unified flag football team defeated Caesar Rodney 45-32 in the state final at Delaware State University. The state title is remarkable when one considers that it was Indian River's first year of competition in the sport. My heartfelt congratulations go to coach Jamaal Bivens, his coaching staff and all of the unified players on their tremendous season. You have made your school and community proud!

The next day, I traveled to Abessinio Stadium in Wilmington to watch the Indian River varsity football team take on Tatnall in the Class 1A state final. In one of the most thrilling games in the history of Delaware high school football, the Indians outlasted the Hornets 47-45 to capture the state championship. The game had the distinction of being the highest-scoring state final in state history across all varsity competition levels. Congratulations to coach Phil Townsend, his coaching staff and the IRHS players for the hard work and resilience that produced this fine season.

I am also pleased to report that students from three schools had a strong showing at the FFA National Convention in October, that the Howard T. Ennis School recently received a \$1,187 grant from TangerKids for its classroom sensory support project, that John M. Clayton Elementary School first-grader Annabelle Lehman won first place in the Sussex Conservation K-1 Poster Contest for the second straight year and that IRSD Lead Nurse Kenna Murray was a recent recipient of the DAISY Nurse Leadership Award.

This is our final newsletter for 2024. I hope all of our IRSD families have a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jay F. Owens
Superintendent



Jan Bomhardt



Lori Boyce



Lisa DeShazo



Ryan Goodwin



Melanie Hall



Tami Hudson

Special Education Ambassadors 2024

The Indian River School District is pleased to announce its Special Education Ambassadors for 2024! The honorees are as follows:



Michelle Mitchell

- Jan Bomhardt**, John M. Clayton Elementary School
- Lori Boyce**, East Millsboro Elementary School
- Lisa DeShazo**, Millsboro Middle School
- Audrey Feltz**, North Georgetown Elementary School
- Ryan Goodwin**, Georgetown Middle School
- Melanie Hall**, Phillip C. Showell Elementary School
- Tami Hudson**, District Office
- Michelle Mitchell**, Southern Delaware School of the Arts
- Jean Morgan**, Howard T. Ennis School
- Theresa O'Shields**, Selbyville Middle School
- Devin Petka**, Long Neck Elementary School
- Christina Reed**, Lord Baltimore Elementary School
- Jack Roach**, Sussex Central High School
- Dr. Heather Statler**, Community Ambassador
- Jennifer Sumski**, IRSD Early Learning Center
- Stephanie Tietmeyer**, Indian River High School
- Amy Timer**, Georgetown Elementary School



Jean Morgan



Theresa O'Shields



Devin Petka



Christina Reed



Jack Roach



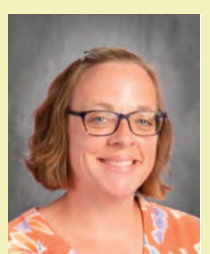
Dr. Heather Statler



Jennifer Sumski



Stephanie Tietmeyer



Amy Timer

State Recognition Schools

From Page 1 School takes great pride in its recognition for Excellence in Serving Special Populations," said North Georgetown Principal Carolyn Fries. "Our dedicated team of educators work tirelessly to ensure that our multilingual learners achieve remarkable growth every day. We celebrate the outstanding English proficiency demonstrated by our stu-

dents and are committed to their continued success."

This is the seventh time since 2010 that Long Neck has been recognized by the state for Excellence in Serving Special Populations, Academic Achievement or Continued Excellence. This is the second consecutive year and third overall that North Georgetown has been honored for Excellence in Serving Special Populations.

Did You Know?

Long Neck Elementary School students collected 2,172 cans during their annual Thanksgiving food drive. The winning class was Ms. Legates with 306 cans.



Indian River Brings Home Two State Titles



**IRHS Varsity Football
The Championship Season**

vs A.I. duPont	W 54-0
vs St. Elizabeth	W 46-28
at Polytech	W 41-17
at Delmar	L 29-55
vs Seaford	W 46-7
at Brandywine	W 23-7
vs St. Andrew's	W 60-0
vs Conrad	W 50-20
at First State Military	W 41-13
State Tournament	
vs Conrad	W 34-14
vs Polytech	W 30-22
vs Tatnall	W 47-45

**IRHS Unified Flag Football
The Championship Season**

vs Caesar Rodney	L 18-27
at William Penn	W 62-26
vs Smyrna	W 51-24
at Cape Henlopen	W 61-36
vs Dover	W 2-0
vs Cape Henlopen	W 84-68
State Tournament	
vs Mt. Pleasant	W 60-52
at Newark Charter	W 72-25
vs Caesar Rodney	W 45-32



Photos by Lauren Dickerson (@laurenspics99)

Timmons Wins STEM Award

Dr. Michele Timmons was recently selected as a Delaware STEM Council first-place winner and awarded \$7,500 to enhance learning opportunities in the STEM program at Phillip C. Showell Elementary School.

In addition, members of the PCS National Elementary Honor Society, alongside Dr. Timmons, were recognized as the 2024 "Friends of the Bay Young Stewards" recipient by the Center for the Inland Bays.

Students were recognized for positively impacting the center's mission and contributing to the accomplishment of the center's goals. NEHS members initiated a school-wide recycling program, completed water sampling of the Polly Branch stream and reported their findings from that sampling at Selbyville Town Hall as Junior Town Council members.

Dr. Timmons has also incorporated external stakeholders into the school's STEM program while making students aware of various career opportunities in STEM fields. Partners have included NASA, Delaware Solid Waste Authority, Center for the Inland Bays, National Guard and commercial, private and military pilots.

"My priority as a STEM, Library and Technology teacher is to help prepare students for life and to be impactful community members," Dr.



Dr. Michele Timmons

Timmons said. "I always keep this in mind with every lesson. One goal of STEM is to help our engineers problem solve and communicate effectively with a team. What makes it so exciting along the way is exposing students to careers they never knew were possible for them.

"One of my sweetest moments last year was during our Science of Flight unit for third grade as we were learning about aerospace engineers. One of my third-grade girls asked me, 'Dr. Timmons, I can do that when I get older?' I was proud to tell her, 'yes kid, yes you can.'"

IRHS HOF Seeks Nominations

Do you know someone who has done extraordinary things for the community and the world? Did that person graduate from Indian River High School? Why not acknowledge them and give them a gift they will not expect by nominating them for the IRHS Hall of Fame?

The nomination deadline is Friday, January 10 for the 2024-25 Hall of Fame induction. The selection committee is looking for graduates who show great character, citizenship and leadership and who have made significant contributions in their field and community. The nominee must have graduated from

Indian River High School at least 10 years prior to the nomination. The candidates will be evaluated on achievements and recognition in their chosen fields (in the local, state, national or international arenas).

The committee prioritizes candidates who have given back to the Indian River High School community either by directly engaging with students or through broader contributions to the school's culture and environment. Community service and individual achievements are also highly valued.

Nomination forms can be downloaded at IRHSAlumni.com. The winner(s) will be recognized with an award plaque at a special event in 2025.

Nanticoke Dance Troupe Visits Georgetown Elem.

On November 15, Georgetown Elementary School had the honor of hosting the Nanticoke Indian Dance Troupe for a truly special cultural experience. Students were treated to an inspiring performance that showcased traditional Native American dance, music and storytelling.

Throughout the event, the Nanticoke troupe shared stories passed down through generations, giving students a unique glimpse into the tribe's rich history and traditions. The dancers performed vibrant, energetic routines



and also brought artifacts for students to explore, offering a hands-on way to learn about the culture and heritage of the Nanticoke Tribe.

This enriching experience not only entertained but also educated students about the importance of preserving cultural traditions and the power of storytelling. Georgetown Elementary would like to thank the Nanticoke Indian Dance Troupe for sharing their talents and knowledge with students.

We are grateful for opportunities like this that help broaden our students' understanding of the world and celebrate the diversity within our community.

School Gardens Kick Off Journey Toward Healthy Eating

November was a busy month at two new school vegetable gardens in the Indian River School District.

On November 8, Southern Delaware School of the Arts began building its new garden with the assistance of Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids. Students, parents, staff members and HFHK volunteers spent the day building the new garden beds and filling them with soil. A variety of plants and vegetables will soon be planted in the beds and maintained by students.



Southern Delaware School of the Arts began building its new garden on November 8 with the help of numerous volunteers.

The following week, students at Georgetown Elementary School harvested fresh vegetables from their HFHK garden. Staff and community volunteers built the garden this summer and a dedicated team of staff and students worked throughout the fall to prepare and plant it.

After the harvest, the GES nutrition services team took the fresh vegetables and turned them into a delicious, nutritious salad that was served to staff and students during lunch.



In November, students at Georgetown Elementary School began harvesting fresh vegetables from their new school garden, which was constructed last summer.