



## NICOLE POORE

*Delaware State Senator*

*12th District*

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# MARCH NEWSBLAST

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## Education Awards

I was thrilled to learn that the State's Department of Education recognized three schools in our area for their success in improving student outcomes and closing the achievement gap among disadvantaged students.

Appoquinimink's Olive B. Loss Elementary and Brick Mill Elementary, along with Colonial's Kathleen Wilbur Elementary, were all honored by Secretary of Education Steven Godowsky for their exceptional work. Each of them, plus nine more schools across Delaware, will receive \$8,000 from the State's School Improvement Fund as recognition of their excellent performance.

There's a lot to be proud of here. Innovative practices in the classroom, strong academic cultures, ongoing professional development among faculty, and shared STEM labs and Makerspaces meant to expose students to the arts, music, and technology, were among the many highlights in each school.

Most of all, though, I was proud to hear that part of the formula for success in these model schools was a spirit of teamwork between students, staff, parents, and the broader community to support students and create a culture of achievement. This goes to show what we already know: it takes a village to raise a child.

When the entire community invests itself in education, we all reap the benefits. We owe it to our children, and to ourselves, to support education and raise our standards of achievement. In the 12th District, we've done just that, and we should all take pride in our children, as well as ourselves. Congratulations to the honorees, and to all of the students, teachers, parents, and neighbors who made it possible!



**Appoquinimink School District**  
THE WORLD IS OUR CAMPUS

*Colonial* SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Easter Seals Fundraiser

On **Saturday, March 19**, Easter Seals and CAI will host the **35th Annual Volleyball Challenge** at the **Delaware Sportsplex** in Newark. For the 11th year running, Delaware Democrats and Republicans will take to the court for some friendly competition benefitting a great cause. I am proud to join my fellow Democrats once again and support Easter Seals' vital work in the community. Please come out to join me – we'll be playing from **8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at 326 Ruthar Drive, Newark, DE 19713.**



## Highway Safety Improvement Project Notice

Improvements on **Howell School Road** began in earnest on Monday, March 7. The project will affect 1.1 miles of road, and will deliver badly-needed safety improvements and traffic relief between state routes 896 and 71.



To that effect, DelDOT has released a traffic alert that intermittent daytime lane and shoulder closures will occur on Howell School Road from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Monday through Friday in the spring and summer.

Intermittent nighttime lane and shoulder closures will also occur from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., Sunday evening through Friday morning, from Sunday, March 6 to Sunday, March 27, with possible catch-up work on the intervening Saturdays.

This is a major infrastructure project, with completion expected in December 2017. Please plan accordingly, drive safely, and pay special attention to work crews in the area.

## Tax Season

Don't forget that federal taxes are due **Friday, April 15**, and Delaware state taxes are due on **Monday, May 2**. I encourage anyone who needs filing assistance to consider these free resources:

- Any taxpayer with a 2015 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$62,000 or less can e-file their federal taxes with the IRS for free at [www.irs.gov/FreeFile](http://www.irs.gov/FreeFile)
- **Any Delawarean** can file their state returns with the Division of Revenue for free online at <http://revenue.delaware.gov/information/updates.shtml>
- The AARP Foundation offers free tax assistance for qualifying low-to-moderate-income taxpayers over 50. For more information, call (888) 687-2277 or visit [http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide/](http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/)
- The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who make \$54,000 or less, as well as persons with disabilities or who speak limited English. For more information, go to: <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>
- Taxpayers can also dial 211 to reach the Delaware Helpline for additional information on tax assistance services



*Pictured from left to right: Chairing a February Joint Sunset Committee Hearing; Visiting Kuehn Chemical Company for a discussion and tour with Senator Bethany Hall-Long; Reading to a classroom at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School.*