

PANTHERETTE

- SCHUYLKILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL -

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Valentines Day History

by Savannah Derr '25

St. Valentine, an Italian doctor who was also a priest, inspired the creation of Valentine's Day. Valentine had become famous for marrying people during the reign of Emperor Claudius II who outlawed it because he thought it would be a distraction to recruit new soldiers. Claudius found out about the weddings and sent Valentine to prison where he'd reach out to people with the love he said Christ gave him. Valentine had also befriended his jailer and helped his daughter, Julia, who was blind and needed someone to read for her. Claudius grew to like Valentine and offered a pardon to him, but only to abandon his Christian faith and worship the Roman gods. Valentine refused the offer and also tried to encourage Claudius to believe in Christ. Claudius had become enraged by his response and sentenced Valentine to death. Before Valentine died, he wrote a note to Julia to thank her for being his friend and to stay close to Christ, where he also signed, "From your Valentine." People have found inspiration in his note and began writing their own love messages on Valentine's Feast Day, February 14. It was not until 496 A.D. that Pope Gelasius declared February 14th as Valentine's official day.

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Coordinating With Cupid

by Grace Grym '25

As January wraps up, the stores begin to fill with red hearts. Valentine's Day is right around the corner! This is a day to not only treat others but yourself with love. Go to your local grocery store and search for Pillsbury's Valentine Cookies. Have a nice day in with the sweet smell of freshly-baked cookies. If you are not a 5-star chef, try going out for a meal at one of your favorite restaurants. Stay cozied up at home, or go to the movie theater and enjoy a film. There are a lot of movies coming out around this time, so find what piques your interest. Whether you stay in, go out, or just sleep, I hope you enjoy yourself! All together Valentine's Day should be a day for you and self-love. Happy Valentine's Day Panthers!



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Brave Bessie

by Jenna Kirby '24

Barbie has come out with "Brave Bessie," a doll made to honor the first black female pilot, Bessie Coleman. This doll is the newest addition to *Mattel's* line, "Inspiring Women."

Bessie Coleman started her journey as a pilot in 1920. She conquered many racial and gender discrimination to accomplish her dream. The U.S. offered no pilot training opportunities for black people, so Bessie went to France and was the first Black person to own an international pilot's license.

Coleman was awarded the nickname "Brave Bessie" because of the courageous and daring tricks she would perform. Her most renowned tricks were making figure-8 shapes in the sky, walking on the plane's wings midair, and parachuting from the plane while a co-pilot took over the controls. She would tour the country doing air shows, flight lessons, and speeches. She would even refuse to perform if the crowds were segregated.

Devastatingly, she passed away at age 34 in a plane accident. The team at *Mattel* are hoping that the release of this doll will spread news about this unspoken, admirable American icon.



ADVICE: Grace's Guidance

by Pantherette Staff

Dear Grace,

There's this girl I like, and I want to ask her to be my valentine. I know she likes me too, but how do I ask her?

Dear Anonymous,

Asking someone to be your valentine can be difficult, but you have plenty of options. Try asking; sometimes, it's just that easy. You could get her flowers, make her feel special. The best and most heartfelt way to ask someone to be your valentine is by writing them a letter. You could also try to ask her on a date, but be creative. If they say yes, then that's great, which I'm sure she will, but if she doesn't, just know it's not the end of the world.

Dear Grace,

I've been feeling down. It feels like every day is emotionally draining. Sometimes I feel like I'm going to shut down. How do you deal with rough times?

Dear Anonymous,

When you're dealing with rough times, you don't feel like doing anything. Everything is too much, so I suggest taking a break. Life can be stressful, and we sometimes need to take a second to breathe. You are the most important thing in your life, so care for yourself. You can eat healthy, sleep, and exercise. You can practice mindfulness (yoga, meditation, or journaling). Mindfulness helps you live in the present moment and it helps with anxiety as well. Talking with a trusted adult or friend about how you're feeling may help too. Sometimes you just need someone to guide you through your problems. Remember, we aren't going through everything alone; you can get through the hard times.



Valentines Day Gift Ideas



by Helene Yerger '23

Love is in the air! In the spirit of this lovely season, I'd love to provide some gift ideas for those who matter most or even someone who needs a little love. Flowers, chocolate, and handwritten love letters are always the best go-to gifts, but I think we can all step it up while also achieving affordable pricing!

Flower Lego Set

Personally, I am head-over-heels for the flower Lego sets! The prices range anywhere from 25 dollars to 60 dollars (I bought a 30-dollar one that looks just as great as the 60-dollar one). I love the idea that they will literally last forever and add a little something to your room. All sets come with instructions and you can always mix and match creating new flowers forever! They are the epitome of the cutest gift to receive and give for Valentine's Day!



Light-Up Decorations

Another adorable gift guaranteed to shed tears of love is a light-up outline of a picture of you and your significant other! It's fully customizable and affordable at the price of 30 dollars! The product is simply timeless and so spot on! You can even have a custom message written on the front wooden piece! It can be dimmed and comes with a wall plug for easy setup! I highly recommend this cutie!

Matching Sweatshirts

Lastly, a bit more expensive, but I promise it's worth every cent, matching sweatshirts! I found fantastic ones with or without hoodies on Etsy for 60 dollars! They are entirely customizable! You can pick a variety of colors and what the hand embroidery says! Maybe you want the anniversary of when you started dating or the day you met! You can then also decide if you'd like their initial on the sleeve with or without a heart! I am in love with this, think of all the snuggle parties and day-to-day wear you get out of one sweatshirt!



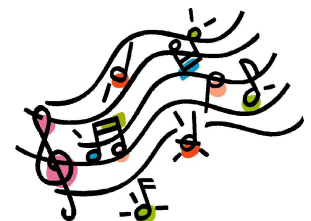
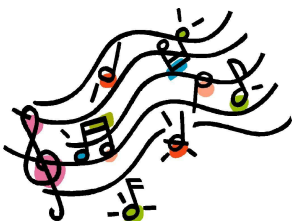
Three Songs to Cure Winter's Woes

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

As we find ourselves trapped within winter's icy grasp, many of us also find ourselves trudging through every passing day with a sense of apathy that these months often bring along. Something I find to be helpful while navigating these cold and dark times is introducing variety and excitement to my listening habits. It's so easy to fall into the pattern of keeping the same seven sad songs on constant rotation from January to April, but finding a new song to have on repeat can help placate winter's woes. Here are a few phenomenal songs that might just bring some buoyancy and joy to this drab time of life:

James Crow - Mobley

Acting as a prominent player in the Austin music scene for years, the one-man band Mobley describes his music as "post-genre pop." His songs often explore hot-topic political issues with a passionate and refined intelligence. Sonically, his work is reminiscent of indie artists such as Tame Impala, The Voidz, and Portugal the Man. *James Crow* serves as a catchy, poppy earworm that starkly contrasts its biting socio-political message.



It's So Nice! - Noël Wells

Reminiscent of twee artists She and Him and Regina Spektor, Noël Wells approaches her music with gentle wisdom, feminist insight, quietly brewing anger, and unapologetic uniqueness. *It's So Nice!* -- the title song of her sole LP -- is a lovely and leisurely dreamlike tune detailing the beautiful aspects of the world that are always around us, even when we're too distracted, tired, or sad to notice them.



Boxing - Ben Folds Five

Known for his quirky piano-rock albums and his gorgeous, distinctly 90's ballad *Brick*, Ben Folds greatly exercises his storytelling skills in this next song. *Boxing* -- which Folds penned when he was only 19 -- is a stunning piano ballad told from the perspective of revered boxer Muhammad Ali as he laments his fears about growing old to famous sports broadcaster Howard Cosell. This song holds an unbelievable amount of passion, desperation, and understanding in its brilliant 4-minute and 46-second run time. It's one of those songs that elicits emotions that you didn't even know you had the capacity to feel until you hear it. It's a true work of art.



On the Chopping Block: How Our Schools are Squandering the Arts

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

NOTICE: This is a student opinion article and it does not necessarily reflect the views of the Pantherette and its staff.

As a student involved in almost every artistic/ creative endeavor this school provides, the arts are my livelihood. I spend my days writing relentlessly about anything and everything that touches my soul, singing along to any song my mind can conjure up, running lines for the school musical, and pensively contemplating and dissecting the messages of the art I have recently consumed. I was raised by great art; from a young age, my parents played me a diverse selection of music, my elementary school art classes introduced me to our world's brilliant visual artists, middle school art appreciation days allowed me to learn about different cultures around the world, music teachers endlessly supported me in my journey to becoming a musician, and my English teachers encouraged me to continue writing and crafting my own unique voice. Now, I plan on taking my pursuit of art -- writing -- and turning it into a career in the next few years. Without these adults in my life guiding me to appreciate art, I don't know if I would have grown to be brave enough to pursue a creative career path. Additionally, art has not only taught me how to create; it has taught me how to live. Some of the most valuable lessons I have learned, I have learned from art. The countless movies, books, songs, and paintings I have obsessed over have taught me to be sensitive, kind, passionate, and productively angry. My chief concern is that without proper care being placed around the arts in schools, so many children will never learn these valuable lessons that art has to teach.

I always try to believe that the people in charge have our best interests at the forefront of their minds. Though, when the arts continue to be habitually ignored, it's difficult to believe that our pursuits of artistic creation are respected by those in charge. When our ambitious visual art students are rarely recognized for their incredible work and the county and district-qualified musicians are not recognized for their performances,

the stage we perform our school musicals on is literally splintering and rotting away beneath our feet, and the school musical is now forbidden from online ticket sales (the method that allowed last year's show, *Spongebob the Musical*, to reach record-high ticket sales), it's crystal clear how this district feels about the arts and the students and teachers involved in them. It's so frustrating trying to become a well-respected and accomplished young artist when countless adults around us continue to treat the arts as a joke. Last April, I watched numerous teachers roll their eyes and express their ironic excitement at the prospect of taking 40 minutes out of their schedule to watch their students perform a preview of the musical they'd been rehearsing for three months. As a dedicated member of the school musicals, I found that incredibly saddening and discouraging. Do those in charge really not care about the arts we are dedicating our precious time to? If they really don't care, I want them to look me in the eye and tell me that they've never felt a deep, indescribable connection to a movie character. I want them to tell me that they've never cried along to a beautiful and touching song. I want them to tell me that they've never sat in comfortable silence, days after finishing a book, their head still reeling with the events that unfolded in it. I want them to look me, every other young artist at this school, and every teacher of the arts at this school in the eye and tell us that they find no substance, meaning, or importance in the arts.

Whether some of us want to believe it or not, the arts are the backbone of our society; they teach us compassion and empathy, they allow us to make sense of the nonsense that surrounds us, and they supplement the occasionally drab reality of our world. Where would we as a society be without the gentle paintings of Vincent van Gogh, the rich compositions of Bach and Mozart, the great plays of Shakespeare, the brilliant films of Martin Scorsese or Spike Lee or Emerald Fennell, or the sweet croonings of Johnny Cash or Otis Redding or Joni Mitchell? The arts have the overarching power to shift public perception and bring about revolution; they are an impenetrable force and it's time for the adults around us to start treating them as such.

The Fine Print by Lauren Asher

by Grace Grym '25

The Fine Print is a romance novel written by Lauren Asher. The story is about a guy named Rowan Kane, who is rude and cold-hearted. Rowan's grandfather, Brady Kane, recently passed away and left behind a will detailing who will receive his property, a theme park called dreamland (basically a fictionalized version of Disneyland). Rowan's grandfather makes him the director of creators, which the creators are the people who design and create the theme park. The park holds a meeting, and this is when rowan meets Zahra, a bright and beautiful salon worker. Zahra aspired to be one of the creators, so she submitted a drunk proposal degrading one of their most extensive and expensive rides. Zahra could have easily gotten fired, but rowan decided to make her one of the creators. From there, unsympathetic Rowan opened up to Zahra.

I love this book. The Fine Print makes you see what it may be like to work at a theme park and then fall in love. I like how you can see both POVs of Rowan and Zahra. The different POVs allow you to see how they feel about each other. This book is the best casual relationship to I'm in love with you relationship. Compared to Zahra's happy-go-lucky attitude, Rowan's grumpy persona contrasts greatly. The relationship arc of Rowan as director of dreamland, with Zahra being an employee, is interesting because they shouldn't be together but want to. I also love how the characters don't have terrible trauma, but they have fears and some baggage that attribute to their personalities. This book is a 10/10, and I recommend it to anyone over 15.



Sports

by SV Sports Staff

Berks County Basketball

by Gary Wenzel '23 and Caden Moyer '23

The 2022-2023 season has been a surprise for a lot of teams producing better seasons than the experts projected. At the top of Berks Division I is Reading and Wilson duking it out. As of now, Reading has started to pull away with the division.

In Berks II, Berks Catholic leads the way with Exeter within striking distance. However, all of the other schools are struggling to string wins together.

Sitting at the top of the Berks III is Fleetwood with an undefeated BCIAA record. Schuylkill Valley is in second place, putting up a very impressive season. Hamburg is having a decent year as well.

Berks IIII is led by Oley Valley with no one else in streaking distance almost locking them a divisional title.



Sv Bowling

by Gary Wenzel '23



Both the boy's and girl's bowling team had a great season and they grew exponentially over the winter. The team also had an amazing time together while competing bonding as a team. The boys bowlers were Noah Gehret, Larsen Hale, Landon Hueske, Bariden Lash, James Muzopappa, Tyler Spitler, and Evan Walsh. The girls were Zoe Merkel, Caitlyn Reichert, and Kimberly Heck.

World Cup Replay

by Gabby Daubenspeck '24 and Emily Goetz '24

November 20, 2022, kicked off the quadrennial FIFA World Cup, hosted in Qatar. The series began with many unexpected upsets, one of the most being Argentina's defeat by Saudi Arabia in a Group C match. The jaw-dropping turn of events did not stop there. Sixteen countries were eliminated during the group stage; some that were expected to do much better. Belgium, initially ranked #2 going into the series, was sent home by Morocco with a 2-0 score. Germany was also on the list of disappointments when they failed to reach the knockout stage after being pushed down to third in Group E by Japan's staggering win against Spain. Despite entering the competition ranked #1, Brazil was surprisingly knocked out by underdogs Croatia in the quarterfinals. Argentina and France went head to head during the finals, pushing for victory. After the two-hour match ended with a 3-3 score, Argentina beat France in penalty kicks (4-2), earning them the World Cup Title.



Berks County Girls Basketball

by Olivia Kraus'24 and Natane White '24

It has been a competitive season for all of the Berks County Girls' Basketball teams so far. Early leaders in the county include Wyomissing and Berks Catholic. As of writing this, Wyomissing is undefeated in league play. They had their first loss of the season on January 14th. Berks Catholic is also undefeated in league play so far as well. Caraline Herb is one of the top three-point shooters in the county and Berks Catholic's top scorer. Grace Reedy, from Exeter, currently averages the most points in the county at 22.5 points per game. As of January 18th, other average point leaders include Alexis Hess (Fleetwood), Morgan Snyder (Oley Valley), Amaya Stewart (Wyomissing), Caraline Herb (Berks Catholic), Olivia Moyer (Brandywine Heights), Natane White (Schuylkill Valley), Addison Benner (Brandywine Heights), Juliana Stichter (Schuylkill Valley), and Hailey Kilgore (Twin Valley). The Berks County playoffs should be an interesting competition with all the many talented teams in the mix this year.

1,000 Point Scorers

by Kalika Kauffman '24

Boys basketball had a doubleheader against Lancaster Country Day on January 28th. Between the games, the 1,000-point scorers and the 100-win wrestlers were recognized for their accomplishments. Schuylkill Valley hung up a banner to acknowledge their achievements in previous years. Congratulations to all the SV graduates who attained these great goals!

Girls 1,000-point scorers:

2008	Corielle Yarde	2,283
2005	Gladine St. Julien	1,756
1984	Robin Laity	1,433
1999	Jackie Reitnouer	1,283
1991	Kim Roth	1,063
2005	Jess Dower	1,063
1978	Kathy Kreider	1,048

Boys 1,000-point scorers:

1991	Darin Walls	1,695
2012	Cornell Yarde	1,464
2020	Malachi Kauffman	1,293
2006	Danny Dunkelberger	1,049
1980	Mark Rachman	1,022

100-win wrestlers:

2010	Colin Shober	194
2011	Nate Giorgio	159
2012	Arty Walsh	156
2006	Glenn Shober	154
2015	Josh Giorgio	153
2004	Steve Fehnel	144
2010	Ryan Maurer	138

2011	Dylan Scheidt	138
1998	Jake Stork	132
2005	Addison Nuding	131
2006	Dan Moist	119
2005	Brian Thomason	115
2011	Guiliana Caloiero	114
1987	Peter Horst	112
2002	Eric Koller	112
2008	Kyle Deeds	110
2011	Noah Horst	110
2000	Kris Gelsinger	106
2010	Mike Giorgio	101
2015	Jonathan Tindall	101
2005	Patrick Walsh	100
2009	Pat Leavitt	100
2010	Dakota Davis	100

Pre-Postseason NFL Predictions

by Jacob Zimmerman '24 and Jordan Johnson '23

The 2022-23 NFL playoffs began on January 14th. Jordan Johnson sat down with Jacob Zimmerman to discuss potential conference champions and super bowl winners before the playoffs kicked off.

Jordan: I have the Buffalo Bills and the Cincinnati Bengals playing each other in the AFC Championship round. I think it will be a very entertaining game between two high level quarterbacks in the league. Not taking anything away from the Bills, I have the Bengals coming out on top with a final score of 31-27. In the NFC championship game I have the San Francisco 49ers and the Philadelphia Eagles. I pick the Eagles to come out on top, the Eagles defense is gonna overwhelm the rookie Brock Purdy and Jalen Hurts is gonna show why he's an MVP candidate. Lastly, I have the Eagles beating the Bengals in the Super Bowl with a final score of 33-24 wrapping up a historic season for their franchise.

Jacob: I predict the Buffalo Bills and Kansas City Chiefs will meet in the AFC championship. I think this game will be a battle of the quarterbacks. Ultimately the team that wins the turnover battle will win this game. Josh Allen is 0-2 vs Patrick Mahomes in the playoffs but this is the year the Bills will take the AFC with a 38-34 win over the Chiefs. I have the Philadelphia Eagles and San Francisco 49ers playing in the NFC championship. I think these are the two best rosters in the NFC. I believe the Eagles will come out on top. The 49ers have been pleasantly surprised by Brock Purdy and I think he will be tested by a strong Eagles pass rush and secondary. I predict a final score of 27-24 in the NFC championship. In the Super Bowl the Eagles and Bills will meet. I predict a final score of 31-28 with the Eagles winning.

Buffalo Bills vs. The Patriots on Sunday, January 8th

by Sara Pyne '25 and Pantherette Staff

Have you ever been touched by a heart-warming story? On the 5th of January, Buffalo Bills quarterback Damar Hamlin unexpectedly fell to the ground in the first quarter of their game from what is now known to be cardiac arrest. What would you do if you were a coach or teammate in this situation? I bet a million thoughts and potential decisions would be running through your mind. For a coach, it would be very stressful and difficult seeing a player collapse so unexpectedly.

Additionally, when he fell, his breathing did stop. If someone is tackled under an incredible amount of pressure, it may cause them to run out of oxygen. Despite this tragedy, there is good news surrounding Hamlin; he was released from the hospital on Monday, January 9th. He is a true fighter and he was loved and endlessly supported by many in his time of need.

In conclusion, the Bills did not finish the game, but Hamlin is back in Buffalo and still recovering.



***Warm Bodies*: Rom-Com Recommendation**

by Leiland Wisniewski '25

February is a great month for a lot of things. You can still go out skiing or snowboarding with the snowy weather. In addition to that, the Superbowl is quite the attention grabber for this month. There is one holiday, though, that everyone seems to either love or absolutely despise: Valentine's day. Now, what is the best thing to do on Valentine's day? Watch romantic comedies otherwise known as rom-coms! This activity can be done either by your lovely self or with that special someone. Rom-coms are a huge hit to a lot of people but finding the right ones to watch can be tricky. Luckily, I am here to talk about my favorite rom-com of all time. *Warm Bodies* by Jonathan Levine is a fun and sinister watch. I particularly love this movie because of those two aspects and I think romance and horror should be played out more together in future movies. If done well, it can work really nicely. Without spoiling too much, this movie starts out with a zombie apocalypse of sorts and we see how "R", a zombie, starts to fall in love with a less infected girl. He does what he can to protect her from the rest of the zombie world while she tries to not let her family kill him. As cheesy as it sounds and how much this Romeo and Juliet trope has been done, I think this movie is definitely worth watching. For any book lovers out there, *Warm Bodies* was based off the novel by Issac Marion.

The Possible Upcoming TikTok Ban

by Randy Rosado '26



We all know TikTok, the app where you can mindlessly scroll through millions of videos uploaded every single day. But what if I were to tell you that the end of the app may be coming? All of this began in 2020 when Donald Trump tried to legally ban the app with reasoning that American data was said to be stolen by the Chinese government but lost several court battles. The CFIUS also known as the Committee of Foreign investment In the United States ordered ByteDance, which is a Chinese internet company, to disband itself because the U.S fears the data is being stolen either way. Moving onto 2021, TikTok proposed they had a comprehensive package with layers of government and independent oversight to ensure there are no backdoors in TikTok to manipulate the platform even going so far as investing \$1.5 Billion dollars into these claims to keep the app up. Along with that, Senator Marco Rubio enacted legislation blocking all transactions under the influence of China. Last month, 25 states themselves banned the app on state-owned devices. We will have to wait and see if that will also happen to Pennsylvania.

New Staff Spotlights

Mr. Brader - New Business Teacher

by Gary Wenzel '23

Schuylkill Valley's newest teacher comes from a history in sports performance. Mr. Brader, the new Business teacher, is a hard-working, motivational teacher excited to be at SV.

What did you do before you came to SV?

I taught psychology/sports psychology at Phillipsburg High School from 2001-2009.

Owned a sports performance facility (FASST Performance) from 2001 until I sold it in 2019.

I was a football strength and conditioning coach at University of Alabama between 2018-2019 and an assistant football strength and conditioning coach at Louisiana Tech University in 2019 before becoming the Director of Sports Performance at Albright College – 2019-2022. I returned to teaching in the fall of 2022.

What is something about you that most people don't know?

I eat two McDonalds Caramel Sundaes almost every day (even though he claims it is not fast food, we all know it is.)

Tell me one fun fact about yourself.

I have kept a journal since July 7th 2018 documenting every day of my life and have written two books and co-authored another utilizing the information/experiences I've gathered throughout my life.



What do you think was the best experience in your life?

Coaching at the University of Alabama during their 2018 SEC Championship and BCS National Championship Finals season. We lost in the Championship against Clemson but it was awesome working with all the great players and coaches.

What do you like most about SV?

I like the students and have enjoyed how welcoming everyone has been so far. It's been positive and I look forward to continuing to work with everyone.

Mrs. Kauffman - New Physical Education Teacher

by Emily Gao '23

Where did you go to school?

East Stroudsburg University, SV

What made you want to be a teacher?

My Kindergarten phys ed teacher Mr. Butterweck- He made every student feel special, fun activities

What made you want to teach Wellness/Fitness?

I've always liked sports, enjoyed playing 9 diff sports since 4 years, enjoy wellness because I can come up with fun and engaging ideas to learn and improve overall health and wellness.

What is your favorite part of teaching at SV so far?

Getting to know the students, being back at alma mater (dream)

What is the one piece of advice you would have given your high school self?

Don't be discouraged, it might take awhile to achieve your dreams and goals but you will get there. Don't let anyone look down on or tell you you cant do something.

Is there any piece of advice you would like to give the seniors?

Never give up! if you can dream it, you can achieve it!

Is there anything else you would like the student body to know about you?

Participated in disney college program and worked as youth activity counselor on the Disney cruise line



Ms. Martin - New Counselor

by Sara Pyne '25

Ms. Martin's day-to-day mostly consists of ensuring a smooth operation for the counselors and the students they need to see. She also handles keeping track of scholarships and sponsors.

I asked Ms. Martin a few questions about her position; here are her answers:

What are the characteristics of someone who would succeed in the position you hold?

I think that someone who is patient, empathetic, and able to handle chaos are the emotional characteristics required to succeed. Attention to detail, able to organize and multitask are a few of the professional characteristics.

What are some challenges that come with this position?

I think some of the challenges come with communication. I think that this specific job and this specific team has a really smooth communication base. But in similar positions, not expressing who does what and building a repour with your coworkers can really impact your ability to succeed.

How is this position's performance measured?

A lot of this job is dealing with confidential information and is time-sensitive. So those two are the most important metrics used to measure your performance. Are you performing the task in a sensitive manner and respecting the people involved? Is the task being completed in a timely manner? Keep in mind that while these are important, so is doing the job well. So don't sacrifice quality for timely.

What is your favorite part of working at SVHS?

I love working with students. My longest job was working with dementia patients in a direct care setting and I worked as an Activities Coordinator for many years. I see a lot of similarities in the sense that I can directly impact the lives of those who may be in need of an ally. It is very rewarding to know that my job, while a supportive role to counselor's and the Principal/Vice Principal, can make a real and tangible difference to a kid.