PANTHERETTE

- SCHUYLKILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL -

JUNE 2021 *Volume 60, Issue **VI***

"WE'RE PROUD TO BE A PART OF YOU"

It's hard to write a goodbye letter without digressing too much. Schuylkill Valley is all I've ever known; I struggle to think of a memory that occurred before I started kindergarten. The last thirteen years have brought joy, pain, conflict, anxiety, anger, excitement, and all feelings in-between. The Class of 2021, our class, has grown up together. We've grown from shoving goldfish up our noses, to hatching baby chicks, to trading silly bands, to playing tag at recess, to learning to play instruments, to going on first dates, to learning to drive, to going on college tours, and now to graduating, all together.

I'm ecstatic to go to college, make new friends, and have new experiences, but there's still part of me that's terrified of leaving. What if I hate college? What if I can't take care of myself in the real world? What if I get overwhelmed by classes, tennis, a job, and trying to keep up with friends? Realistically, I know everything will be okay and college will be a great learning experience all-around, but I'll always miss the unique, funny, and kind people I've met at SV.



It was difficult to accept the loss of half of our senior year to COVID-19. Some of us were lucky if we made it to one football game, but the senior class dynamic that decades of graduating classes before us have created was lost to quarantine. Half of us haven't been inside the building all year, and no matter how hard we tried, school just couldn't be the same as it was before. I like to think we've made the best out of this year, even though we were deprived of some of the most infamous senior year activities. We'll still have an in-person graduation, Baccalaureate, and other ceremonies that the Class of 2020 missed out on, and I'll always be grateful for those remaining opportunities.

We've had a good run. I hope you all agree with me in saying that SV helped foster wonderful memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. It's been an honor growing up with the Class of 2021 and I am so excited to see what great things the future holds for all of us. You've set the bar high; the Class of 2022 really has huge shoes to fill. Be proud of all your accomplishments, now is the time to brag, more so than ever before. To Schuylkill Valley as a whole: just as the elementary school Panther Pride song says, I'm "proud to be a part of you." You all hold a special place in my heart, and I hope we will meet again someday. SV, we all love you <3

See y'all at the first reunion!

Good luck and farewell,

Addison Angstadt, Editor-In-Chief '21

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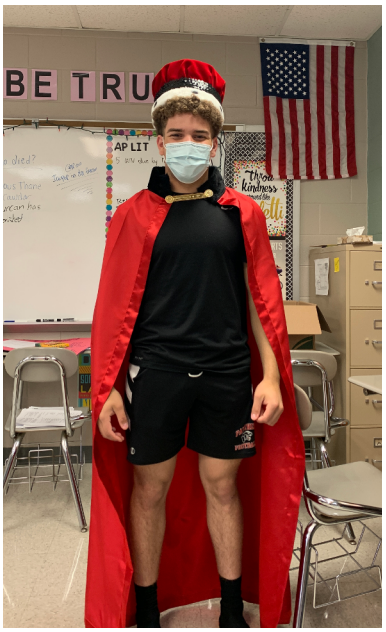
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A SPRING HOMECOMING

Congrats to **Vlad Caba** for being crowned Spirit King!

Congratulations to **Izzy Romig** for being crowned Homecoming Queen

and **Kara Faulk** for Homecoming Queen Runner-Up!





*The **Pantherette*** is published by students of Schuylkill Valley High School, Leesport, Pennsylvania, 19533.

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*The **Pantherette*** thanks Mr. Cullen and his students for the printing of our paper!

Money Saving Hacks for College

By Vanessa Jones '21

1. Make a budget for yourself

College is the first time on your own, so money may flow a little easier. Creating a budget and sticking to it will prevent you from overspending on certain things.

2. Apply for scholarships

Scholarships can save you a ton of money in the long run. They can prevent or limit student debt, and prevent you from having to pay so much for textbooks.

3. Use the library

The library has many resources for students to use for free. Many of these things are not free outside of the school library.

4. Shop around

When buying things for your dorm or even just supplies for classes shop around. This could prevent you from missing out on a great deal or overpaying on something.

5. Pay down your student debt

If able to pay down your student debt as you go through college. This can help prevent you from having a bigger amount to pay off when you get out.

Advice From A 2021 Senior

Briana Silasavage '21

As a senior who opted to remain virtual for the 2020-2021 school year, I have been left with an abundance of time on my hands to reflect on these past four years. Every year during Panther's-On-Parade seniors would give speeches on closing night. Nearly every year a senior warned us that the years would go fast and to enjoy our time while we are still here. It wasn't until I gave my P-O-P senior speech and stepped onto that stage one last time that I realized how true that statement was. If there is one thing I can convince incoming freshmen of it is that you never notice how quickly time is fading away until it's nearly gone.

I strongly urge each of you to get involved with at least one extracurricular activity freshman year. I have been exposed to so many different people, all unique in their own ways with differing opinions and views, all thanks to extracurriculars. We are lucky enough to have ample options for clubs, sports, and other activities. This will give you something to do in your free time where you can also make new friends, represent Schuylkill Valley, form new interests, and make your own memories. It is better to try something and discover you dislike it than to live life never knowing what could've been.

I beg of you, ignore all of the tropes that cult teen movies feed young minds about what highschool is supposed to be like. Every experience is different, we aren't cookies all cut out with the same piece of metal. Really, even when you do try to make those perfect gingerbread men, they never do all come out the same. Seniors aren't some menace to be feared as you walk the halls. Truth be told, most of us have no clue what we are doing either. Your friend group is going to change and develop as you go through changes yourself. It's okay to let go and move on. Holding on to a person that's ready to leave will hurt you more than accepting change. As Greek philosopher Heraclitus stated, "The only thing constant in life is change." There is absolutely nothing wrong with dating and exploring aspects of romance in high school, but don't get wrapped up in it. Do what makes you happy, surround yourself with the people who bring you joy. Don't feel obligated to date just because your peers are.

Do your homework, please. If you are willing to put in the work after class, I can confidently say that it truly will help you on future tests. Just by doing all of your homework chances are you will maintain a passing grade even if you struggle with test anxiety, or just hate tests. Luckily for us at SV many of the faculty are incredibly understanding. If you explain what is going on in your personal life outside of their classroom chances are they will give you some sort of extension. Pay attention to your syllabus, some teachers do accept late work for full credit or partial credit so if an assignment is forgotten in the stress of life don't give up. Despite my rambling, don't put too much pressure on yourself to hold perfect grades. A report card is not a reflection of your worth or future success.

Find time for yourself. Mental health is so incredibly important to your standard of life. If you are struggling and it feels like nobody at home would listen and you feel like you can't talk to your friends, reach out to trusted faculty. Our guidance counselors will always listen to you and find time for you. I may not be there physically, but my lines of communication are always open if you need a listening ear. If things get too rough and it feels like all of your options are unavailable the National Suicide Prevention Hotline is available 24-hours at 800-273-8255.

Lastly, always walk on the right side of the hallway. There is nothing more frustrating than nearly missing the bell because a group of students decided to block the hallway. Finally, good luck! It isn't as scary up here as you might think and I hope that one day I will see some of your words on the very pages of *Pantherette*. Who knows, maybe one day you'll be the senior dedicating their last *Pantherette* article to a freshman you've never met, but somehow know how they feel.

Forever and always,

Bri Silasavage

EASY COLLEGE MEALS

Sandra Goho '21

One-Pot Bacon Cheeseburger Mac & Cheese

Time: 5 minutes to prep, 20 minutes to cook

Ingredients: 5 slices of bacon, 1 lb ground beef, 3.5 cups macaroni, 1.5 cups chicken broth(or water), 2 cups milk, salt, 2.5 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Directions: Cook bacon over medium heat in a large pot until crisp. Remove bacon and drain it on a paper towel. Add beef to the pot and cook over medium until browned. Drain excess grease. Add macaroni, broth/water, milk, salt, and half of the bacon. Simmer over medium heat and then cook for 10 minutes. If all the liquid is used up before the 10 minutes is up, gradually add in a little more milk(¼ cup). Add in 2 cups of cheese and stir until melted. Top off with the leftover cheese and bacon!



Sandwich Melts

Time: 5 minutes

Ingredients: your favorite bread, deli meats, cheese, butter

Directions: Spread the butter on the bread. Put whatever meats and cheeses you would like on the buttered bread. Sear it on a pan until golden brown!

Stir Fry

Time: about 20 minutes

Ingredients: your preferred veggies, rice or noodles, chicken, sauce, oil

Directions: Cook the rice/noodles(according to the box directions). While that's cooking, get some oil in a pan and cook the chicken. After the chicken is cooked, add in the veggies for a couple of minutes. When everything is to your liking, combine the sauce and rice/noodles to the pan of chicken and veggies!

Muffin-Tin Lasagnas

Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients: 1 egg, 15 oz ricotta cheese, 2 cups shredded Italian cheese, olive oil, 24 oz pasta sauce, 24 wonton wrappers

Directions: Preheat oven to 375˚. In a bowl, mix egg, ricotta cheese and 1.25 cups Italian cheese. Grease a 12 count muffin pan with oil and line each with a wonton wrapper. Fill each muffin hole with 1 tablespoon ricotta mixture and 1.5 tablespoons pasta sauce. Top with a second wrapper and repeat the ricotta and sauce layers. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake until the cheese is melted(about 20-25 minutes)!

One-Pot Spaghetti Dinner

Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients: 1 lb ground beef, 3 cups beef broth, 3 cups marinara sauce, 8 oz spaghetti noodles, parmesan cheese(optional), any dried herbs(optional)

Directions: Cook beef in a large pot until no longer pink. Drain the grease and season with salt and pepper(optional). Add marinara sauce, dried herbs, and beef broth. Stir well to combine, bring to a boil and then reduce heat to low. Lay broken spaghetti noodles on top of the sauce criss-crossing them and pressing down until submerged by liquid(do not stir at this point). Cover and cook, stirring every 5 minutes until pasta is to your liking(about 15-20 minutes). Top with parmesan cheese and dried herbs(optional)!

Advice for Future College Applicants

Cloey Fleming '21

Feeling overwhelmed and confused about college and the future is completely normal, it definitely was for me. Decisions about your college and major can be difficult and stressful to make. Plenty of seniors don't know what they're going to do still, and that's okay; most college students change their major as well. I picked my college by going on College Board and filtering out everything I knew I didn't want. Figure out if you want to go to a big or small school, stay close home or get out of the area. If you have no idea where you want to go, find a college that helps undecided majors; some colleges have amazing programs for undecided students. Narrow down the college search as much as possible until you find a couple colleges that fit where you want to live for the next four years, at least. If you find a college that you love, but you think it's too expensive, apply anyway and then see how much money they are willing to give you. Don't be afraid to call them and ask them for more money, especially if you got more money from a different college. Colleges want

everyone they accept to attend so if they think giving you an extra couple thousand dollars will make you choose their college, they will definitely consider it. For applications, the college essay can be about almost anything (unless they give you a specific prompt) but try to remember that the person reviewing your essay has read hundreds of essays. Anything that will capture their attention is good. Some people use really niche interests; a girl on tiktok started her essay with the words, “I hate the letter ‘s’,” and tied it to one of her parents dying and how it hurts to hear people talk about “parents” when she has a “parent.” Applying to colleges and making decisions that will affect your future can be really difficult and intimidating but it doesn't have to be. Take it one step at a time, start looking for colleges or thinking about majors as soon as possible.

How to Pick a Major

Samantha Stewart ‘21

Picking a college major is a stressful decision to think about throughout high school, especially as a rising senior. For many, myself included, it feels like deciding your entire future at the age of 16-18 years old. Before I reveal how I picked my college major, I think it’s important to note that your college major does not determine your entire life’s path. Humans are ever changing and thinking that 4 years of education will determine the entire rest of your life is silly and will only lead to unnecessary stress. While in college, you can transfer universities, change major, go in undecided, or even drop out if you realize college was not the correct path for you. As you continue in life, your future will become clearer and every decision you’ve made until then just was a stepping stone. So, instead of thinking your years at college will define your life, think of the time spent as an experience to lead you to where you are meant to be. Even if you go to college for something completely unrelated to your actual future career, you will always carry with you the friendships, realizations, experiences made during college.

Throughout high school I had many different ideas of what I would go to college for. First, I was sure I would become a doctor because I was obsessed with Grey’s Anatomy. Eventually I moved onto computer science, management, and a laboratory scientist until I settled on nursing. While I understand some people’s decisions come easier or harder than mine did, I think there were some things I did to aid me in making a decision. I would first find an interest and then pursue it as best I could. This meant taking classes, studying the subject in academic enrichment, or researching it on my own. I then looked into jobs available pertaining to the interest and researched schooling and the job market. I would usually sit on these interests for months at a time which allowed me to truly think about if this path is right for me. I thought about if my personality and interests would come in the way of my career. I didn’t decide on a major until late summer before senior year and I didn’t have any idea where I wanted to go to college. My main piece of advice is to not stress about your decision too much. Simply analyze your interests, pursue them, and re-evaluate over time. You can always take a gap year or pick an undecided major.

FUTURE PLANS

Academy of Massage Therapy and Bodyworks:
Mell Caba- Massage Therapy

Alvernia University:
Madison Houck- Occupational Therapy
Samantha Stewart- Nursing

Drexel University
Brice Dornblaser- Chemical Engineering

Eastern University:
Layton Crespo- Marketing

Grand Valley State:
Cloey Fleming- Legal Studies

Hofstra University:
Courtney Thompson- Theater Production

Keystone College:
Chanz Stevens- Computer Science

Kutztown University:
Abby Searfoss- Elementary Education
Abigail Kunkle- Applied Digital Design
Alyssa Potts- Earth and Space Science Education
Emily Zaharia- Criminal Justice
Harlee Neuin- Social Work
Kimberlee Lopez- Early Education
Nate Schaeffer- Secondary Education
Ridge Moser- Psychology
Ryan Livinghouse- Computer Science

Lebanon Valley College:
Reinhold Louis- Business Administration

Lehigh Carbon Community College:
Heather LaFaver- Vetrinary Technology

Liberty University:
Vladimir Caba- Counseling Psychology

Lycoming College:
Addison Angstadt- Communications and Political Science

Monmounth University:
Izzy Romig- Psychology

Millersville University:
Olyvia Bainbridge- Psychology

Northampton Community College:
Michael Mish- Business Administration

Penn State Berks:
Allison Ammarell- Electrical Mechanical Engineering Technology
Luke Braucher- Undecided

Penn State Schuylkill:
Jillian Phillips- Radiological Sciences/Medical Imaging

Pennsylvania College of Technology:
Jacob Braucher- Electrical Construction
Thomas Lukawski- HVAC

Ramp School of Ministry:
Elsie Lebron

Reading Area Community College:
Amenia Sannoh- Nursing/Occupational Therapy
Elijah Cline- Essentials, then transferring to get a degree in Materials Engineering
Gabriel Torres- Dental Hygiene
Kaitlyn Fell
Rachel Santos- Forensics
Ryana Sene- Biology

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences:
Carielle Geist- Nursing
Georgia Manwiller
Kaitlyn Fies- Nursing
Sam Lisa- Nursing

Temple University:
Vanessa Jones- Pharmaceutical Science

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology:
Wolf Arnold

University of Delaware:
Aidan Gensure- Chemical Engineering

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Ashlyn Giles- Early Childhood Development

University of North Carolina-Charlotte:
Tyler Steffy- Mechanical/Motorsports Engineering

University of Oklahoma:
Victoria Heidecker- Biology on a Pre-Med track

University of the Arts:
Canon Stewart- Music Business, Entrepreneurship, and Technology

University of Pittsburgh:
Kara Faulk- Neuroscience and Psychology on a Pre-Med track

Wagner College:
Zach Heffner- Business Administration

West Chester University
Briana Silasavage- Secondary English Literature Education

West Virginia University:
Elizabeth Brzostek- Undecided

Westminster College:
Steel Boyer- Computer Science

York College of Pennsylvania:
Isabella Hoeltzel- Fine Art

These students will continue their education at BCTC:
Bryce Romberger- CDL License
Josh Torres- Welding
Parker Bachman
Tyler Fronina- Welding

Some students are heading into the military:
Janelis Acevedo- Navy

Other students are heading straight into the workforce:
Allen Reitnour- Real estate license/construction classes
Austin Norton
Cheyenne Palamar
Christian Rivera- Temporary job then trade school
Clayton Hummel- HVAC
Jacob Kunkleman
Jadiel Mateo- Welding
John Emes
Kaitlyn Kline
Reese Nowotarski
Sandra Goho
Tanner Davis- Construction
Zachary Zimmerman- Farm work



A few students are taking a gap year or still deciding what they want to do:
Allora Fernandez
Autumn Snyder
Callan Martzall- wants to major in Computer Science
Dan Henne- wants to attend college
Dawson Dissinger
Dasia Datil- plans to go to college for an occupation in the medical field
Ella Jenkins- will attend college to major in Political Science
Emily Starr- going to college
Hunter Whitmoyer- wants to go into the military or go to school for welding
Juancarlos Ramos-Collazo
Luis Humes- Wants to become a certified personal trainer
Luke Crowell
Maximo Beras-Goico- Wants to travel
Max Troutman- Taking courses for Audio Engineering, Voice Acting, Music Compostion, and Video Editing
Megan Beissel- Wants to major in hospitality
Nathan Woods- Tech school
Riley Smith- Majoring in Information Technogy

SENIOR REFLECTIONS

Due to the current pandemic, our seniors have lost many of their lasts. We asked seniors to write one last reflective piece on their time at SV, as a way to leave their message before saying goodbye.

Dear Schuylkill Valley, You Did Well

Isabella Romig '21

I know the last year and a half at school has been weird - and by weird I mean something no one thought was coming, no one was prepared for, and something everyone had to get through together. I always hear students (myself included) throwing around the common complaints or digs at SV, but honestly, I would not have wanted to go to any other school. I think SV always has and currently is handling the adjustments very well.

Schuylkill Valley is a smaller school but I love the family aspect our small community brings. I remember the beginning of my freshman year and realizing that my older brother (a senior at the time) knew basically everyone. Little freshie me was amazed and also a firm believer that I would never get to that point, but flash forward to May of that year and I felt like I had myself another family. Flash forward again to me writing this now and I know I have a family here. I suppose I have to thank my parents for forcing me to get involved (no but really thanks Josh & Karin <3), because through the plays and my sports and random activities at school, I was able to connect with not only my teachers but other staff members at the school. My friend groups have changed throughout the years: I've gained some, lost some, and some of my best ones now are people who I thought I despised (how dramatic). But my connections with teachers have never dwindled. And I love Schuylkill Valley for that. Every teacher cares, all in different ways, but a student is never just another kid in their class. Since my first day of freshman year, I have felt welcomed and included and like an important part of this school. Because at SVHS, every kid is an important part of this school (and I'm not just being inspirational right now, this is true).

I have never once felt ignored or brushed off, and I hope that other students feel the same. But seriously, even if you're at the end of your junior year and you think it is "too late," get involved. Talk to anyone and everyone and just be kind. I dealt with the dumb drama my freshman and sophomore year because I liked being involved (ew) and it was exhausting. When I realized that it was okay to not like someone and just not speak to them (wow!), life was SO MUCH easier. You will always have people you don't get along with and that's fine. But, on the other hand, you will make some of your best friends and with them amazing memories. It's true that not everything lasts, but allow yourself to enjoy the memory of those good moments instead of missing the past. Change is normal and most of the time a good thing, so allow it to happen. So I guess where I'm going with this is a thank you to SV. Thank you for helping me find myself, my friends, and mentors. Thanks for having rules but also just enough room to do all of the dumb stuff, and thanks for being a place I actually wanted to go to. I'll miss you.

A Senior's Last Words

Ryana Sene '21

Life has a way of showing you the person you could become
And we should try and take advantage of that
I am not saying that this year has been a great year
But we should at least try to take the good that came with it

There might not have been a lot of good memories
But we need both the good and bad to achieve our goals
They say learn from your mistakes
And I am positive that we will take this life lesson for future reference

As a senior I am proud to say that I have accomplished the goal of graduating high school
But even with this accomplishment I still have a long road ahead of me
And I am still unsure where this road will lead me
But I am sure that I want a great future for myself

I remember the first time I came to SV
I was terrified because this was high school
I remember back in 10th grade, I thought that my whole life would be here
But the truth is this was the shortest 3 years of my life

Life goes on and time passes by
Sometimes time goes by so fast that you can't keep track
And my advice is that we should try our best to catch up with time.



A Final Goodbye

Elsie Lebron '21

From freshman orientation in 2017 to now graduation on June 8,2021, my time at Schuylkill Valley High School can be described with one word. Youthful. High school taught me to always find joy in the little things and to appreciate the moments we have as kids because we only live through it once. Schuylkill Valley High School has given me the experience and understanding of what it takes to transition from teengaer to adult. I cannot express how grateful I am to be a graduate of the class of 2021. My time at high school is coming to an end, but a new journey has begun. I appreciate every single person who has stood by my side throughout the past four years. Thank you to my mom for being the person who inspired and motivated me to be the greatest I can be. I would not be where I am today without her love and passion to provide nothing but the absolute best. This school has shown me the true meaning of pride and that is something that I will continue to carry on throughout the rest of my years. I want to give a big thank you to all the teachers and counselors in our school who have done nothing but the absolute best for us. Even though this senior year was not what we expected, they made it the best they could for us. I am very grateful for the 5 years that I have spent in Schuylkill Valley. This school has felt like a home since the day I arrived and that is something that I will always be grateful for. Even though I had a love/hate relationship with school, I learned to cherish all the memories because before you know it, you will be walking across that stage saying your final goodbyes. I will never forget the fear that I had in the beginning of high school and feeling like graduation was so far away. I never realized how much I would miss high school until I realized that I only have a couple months left until graduation. There is not much I can say but to cherish all the moments and memories in high school. To the underclassmen, high school is full of hard times, but along the way you'll make some great memories. Make the best of every school event; whether it's a dance or a game, GO TO EVERYTHING. Do not take anything for granted. Trust the journey and have faith in yourself that you can do anything. Learn to love school because before you know it, you will have to say goodbye. Do not stress out too much on the past, but instead focus on the present. Enjoy every moment and have fun. Be proud to be a Panther! With that being said, when life changes to be HARDER, change yourself to be STRONGER. Goodbye Schuylkill Valley High School, so long and farewell.

Dear High School.....

Kaitlyn Kline '21

Dear High School,

So this is the end isn't it? After four years of dealing with me, you finally decide to cut the ropes and kick me out without a proper goodbye? Do you know that was quite selfish of you to do without a warning or notice? It would have been appreciated to be honest, but since you insist I pack and move out by June, there are a few things I want to say to you before I leave. The first thing I would like to mention is some of the positive things you have offered me in the last four years. Although when I first moved into SVHS I was kinda scared being the new student in a group of people who mostly likely knew each other since Kindergarten, you offered me things I never had in middle school, you offered me friends and the ability to find and be the real me, without worrying about being judged. You also gave me some really fun memories, for example wearing a costume in school for Halloween, going to the prom, being in chorus, and hanging out with friends during lunch and on the bus. You taught me some lessons about school and life in general, you taught me to not be afraid to ask for help when needed, words only hurt if you let them get to you, and how fast four years really can fly past so you should live your life to the fullest. While you did bring some of the best memories in my life, you also brought out the worst in me .

For starters, High School, there were times I stayed up late trying to perfect that assignment that was due tomorrow, or studying for that test I forgot about until the last minute. You also at times brought in a few bad days and what seemed like at the time unbearable drama. The stress and anxiety from all the school work being piled up at one time also made me feel overwhelmed, which kind of makes me glad you are finally kicking me out, but at the same time I really will miss the memories and just being around my friends and teachers which have been my home away from home. Honestly, I wouldn't be as hurt if you didn't decide to make me leave in the middle of a pandemic where I cannot physically be with my teachers and classmates and make my 'last year the best year' as everyone tells me to. You have played this cruel joke on the last two years of seniors. What did we do to you to not have the chance to have the best year before moving on with our lives? High School, you were selfish for just making us leave in a pandemic, do you not understand how important physical and social interactions are for teenagers? Because of this pandemic and you, I felt kinda on my own, and I felt like I didn't have very good relationships with my classmates and teachers like in previous years. But I can't completely blame you. After all, time must still move forward, pandemic or not.

Despite our differences and the good and bad times you put me through, overall I will miss you dearly, and even though personally I'm not ready, my time has run out here and I must move on to bigger and better things like getting a job and eventually getting a house and family. No matter the distance, SVHS will always be my family, goodbye to SVHS and my schooling. I hope you will never forget me like I will never forget you.

Sincerely,

Class of 2021 Senior Kaitlyn Kline

It’s Over Already?!

Brice Dornblaser '21

Reflecting on my high school years as a senior on the cusp of graduation gives me a rush of emotions. Of course, there were times when I felt stressed from my workload at school, but I also have many great and enjoyable memories from high school. There was nothing I preferred more than hanging out with my friends at dances, football games, MiniTHON, and bowling. I always wanted something to look forward to in order to stay motivated, which was never a problem for me with all the exciting activities and events.

Over the last few years, I have discovered so much about myself. It took me until late into high school to figure out what I wanted to pursue in college. It’s alright not to know until senior year. That’s part of what high school is for: to expose ourselves to many subject areas in the hopes of sparking interest. I feel as if high school has adequately prepared me, academically and socially, for the challenges ahead in college and in my career, and I sincerely wish the same feeling upon everyone.

However, I’m certain we can all attest to the fact that this year stood out from others, though not in the greatest way possible. The pandemic has robbed us of over a year’s worth of the aforementioned activities, as well as social interaction in general. We’ve been through a lot in the last year, but I’m remaining optimistic that conditions will continue to get better. Being able to see my classmates and their glowing personalities again brings a smile to my face every day.

I’m beyond happy to graduate and conclude this significant chapter in my life. The opportunities and knowledge that college will soon bring me makes me very excited. On the other hand, I will miss the fun times I had in high school and, above all, my amazing classmates who motivated me every step of the way. I don’t want my memories of high school to be plagued by the pandemic; I want to remember high school by all the good times we had together.



From Leesport to Lincoln

Ashlyn Giles '21

It is finally here; my senior year! I remember seeing 2021 on my student ID card and thinking it was a lifetime away. But the truth is, my high school years flew by. To think we have a lifetime awaiting us once we walk down to get our diplomas.

We began our senior year in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Life as we knew it would never be the same. Virtual schooling is our new normal and the fear of getting sick has affected school, relationships, and every aspect of my life. Most importantly, it impacted my track season. COVID-19 causes me to live on the edge, always worrying if I am sick or not.

My winter track season ended at Virginia Beach, Virginia with me becoming an Indoor National Champion. I am bringing that adrenaline into the spring outdoor track season. On Saturday, April 17th I broke the county record in both shot put and discus. To say I am enjoying my senior year is an understatement. My hard work is paying off, both with academics and athletics. Some days I am exhausted and I do not have very much free time, but I am trying hard to enjoy every single minute. While keeping up my grades, I am training hard as I prepare to head to the State Championship.

In addition, the prom is on April 23 and I cannot wait to enjoy it with my friends. Who would have thought I would purchase a matching mask with my prom dress? We are all grateful to be having prom at all. Next, will be graduation. While I am so excited for the future, I have many emotions about my high school years ending. It makes me sad to go separate ways with my friends.

Besides, I am extremely nervous to start college halfway across the country, although I am grateful to receive a full academic and athletic scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Nebraska is a Big 10 school, which has lots of competitors. The Coach is well-respected and my future teammates are already reaching out and making me feel welcome. While I am a nervous wreck to start classes and to be so far from my family, I am grateful for the opportunities I have had. I am upset to be leaving my Garage Strength family, who have guided and mentored me to become the athlete I am today, my teachers at Schuylkill Valley who have taught me so much, and my friends and family who have been my biggest support system, even on the tough days. 2021 is going to be a great, unforgettable, crazy year!

My Senior Year Went by in a Zoom!

Nate Schaeffer '21

Knowing that I will soon be leaving the only place I've known for the first 18 years of my life is definitely a scary feeling. I really thought that by this time, I would be ready to say goodbye. But if I am being honest, I really don't know if I am. If I have learned anything from being a senior during a pandemic, it is to never rush your life or take things for granted. I know that may sound a bit cheesy and redundant, but it is still very relevant nonetheless. Underclassman, please live every second of your life in the moment. Sometimes just take a breath, look around and soak up your surroundings because you will be getting ready to graduate in the blink of an eye. With COVID, a lot of our junior year and all of our senior year was drastically altered. This pandemic made us all realize just how much we appreciate being with each other and making memories at school. Personally, I think I am going to miss the little things the most. Whether I am having a conversation with my friends before class, going through a vigorous workout with the team, or laughing and bonding with people, those engagements will forever be engraved into my heart in the years to follow my graduation.

Athletes, please give your all. Being in three sports myself, I know it can sometimes be challenging to maintain your motivation to continue to push yourself forward. However, even if you are having an off-performance day, please try to still have fun and laugh. My mom used to always tell me years prior to COVID, "Nate, you never know how many days you get, I hope you're not squandering your opportunities," and that statement has surely replayed in my mind hundreds of times. We all experienced the scary reality of her words firsthand on Friday March 13, 2020 when we received the news that we were called off of school and sports. Little did we all know how much of an impact that news would have on our lives. Please do not take even one practice off, physically and especially mentally. Be present literally and figuratively for every event in your life because you truly never know what will happen.

So again, my message to all students at Schuylkill Valley is to always invest your best self into whatever interests you. Help build each other while improving yourself simultaneously. You never know how much time you all have with each other. You never know when an unfamiliar evil could damage your world.

I will be spending my next four years at Kutztown University to study secondary education and run on the track team as well. So, if any of you would like to reach out to me, I will still be around. I don't know if I will ever be ready to leave the place I grew up. I wish all of you tremendous success with the next stages of your life. You will be in my shoes before you know it!

Last Few Moments

Heather Lafaver '21

As my final few weeks of senior year come to an end, there is so much to look back on before graduation. The last part of my junior year was not how I planned it to be, but I made the most of it, hoping to be back in person for the beginning of the school year. As the COVID cases started to rise, my hopes of having a good senior year started to die. I was so scared that I would miss out on so much of my senior year. I missed out on my last first day of senior year and my last winter formal dance. I was lucky enough to have my soccer and bowling season. What made them special was the fact that all of the other seniors on my team and on all the other teams, we didn't let that affect us. We were able to make the most of it even though we missed out, with team dinners, team bonding activities, and team camps. If anything, I think that because we didn't have those things, it allowed us to help to make the freshman feel welcomed at the high school. Going into high school, I had friends who were a year older than me that gave me really good advice and I have also picked up on this. One of the biggest things to me is not to let opportunities go. If you see a club or sport you might like, do not be afraid to go out for it. I learned really quickly that you made a lot of friends that way. You are only in high school one time and what you decide to do with it is all on you. You do not want to look back on it and be like, "man, I wish I would have left that club or that sport." Another thing is go out to sporting events and participate in all of spirit week or whenever there are theme days or themes for the sporting event. Even if you don't understand anything about sports, go and support your fellow peers. I am thankful enough to have gone to sporting events, to have participated in sports and a bunch of clubs and to have been a part of POP. By participating in all of these extracurricular activities, I was able to make a bunch of friends and had fun doing them. When people say that sports and extracurriculars are like your family, they are right. When I was a freshman, I remember being so scared to go out of everything, but when I found the courage to do it, I didn't regret a thing. SV is truly lucky to have such a supportive and caring community. I am going to miss everything from my high school and entire time here at SV. From my first soccer game of high school to the last time I will be on the stage for POP. Also, never use the excuse that there is nothing here that you like; go and try different things and you might find your new favorite thing and make new friends along the way. Just try and have fun and enjoy the last four years here at SV; it really does go by in the blink of an eye. Part of me wishes I could pause for a little bit and just have a little bit more fun before my cap and gown is given to me.

Thankful for SV

Madison Houck '21

2008 marked my adventure at Schuylkill Valley. The members of the class of 2021 have been some of my best friends and classmates which I have grown alongside. I could never thank them more for helping shape me into the person I am today. I never expected our senior year would look like this, but I am grateful for every opportunity our senior year has still offered along with all the other years filled with experiences. When the pandemic took away the end of junior year, I was fairly upset to lose prom and Mini-THON and just the end of year excitement, looking ahead at becoming a senior. Though, I am forever grateful I never had to finish chemistry! But, if someone had told me last year that our senior year would also be impacted, I probably would have had a different opinion. I had assumed all of this would go away and we could enjoy our last year together. I still feel like I have 4 years left when in reality, we have 2 months. Anyone who said high school would fly by, I never believed them, but I am reflecting on my time here and I cannot believe it is truly about to end. I enjoyed my middle school years as a cheerleader, where I got to make memories with girls who became my best friends. I participated in track 8th and 9th grade- no, I wasn't good, but I had so much fun trying something new once again alongside friends. I joined clubs which provided me a variety of experiences that changed how I look at life. PYEA and Leo Club allowed me to interact with the community in a meaningful way and support a cause that I believe everyone should be involved with. I wish I had more opportunities to serve the community in the food bank- I look forward to doing this again in the future. As an 8th grade camp counselor, I had a BLAST. I am so sad I did not have the chance to serve again this year. I was a student ambassador and helped with the 9th grade transition and assisted a new student in school which gave me a sense of pride that I was helping someone. Additionally, my internship with the occupational therapist in the district has been an outstanding experience for me to see more of what my future career will entail. As a senior, I have been given great opportunities- I was inducted into NHS, chosen as a member of the homecoming court, and participated in all my normal club activities. Next Friday is prom and I am so grateful SV has the ability to give us seniors this experience along with baccalaureate and graduation. Though this year was nothing like I imagined it would be, the teachers made sure they did everything they could to emotionally support us and help us get things done. These last few weeks will be bittersweet and filled with senioritis, but I hope to soak it all in and make new memories. The pandemic definitely changed my perspective on school; I will truly miss being a Panther. But, change is good and I will embrace the new adventures beyond SV. Thank you to the staff and my classmates at SV. I will never forget my time here. And to any underclassmen, take advantage of all the activities and opportunities provided by SV and enjoy it- it will go quick.

Future Plans and Undergraduate Advice

Kaitlyn Fell '21

As a sophomore, I had always wanted to go into the Early Childhood field but never knew what I wanted to do. Over the years, I have decided to enter the Speech Pathology field. I have joined a pre-RACC program called Teacher Academy through Berks Career and Technology Center. BCTC has helped me find what I want to do as a future job. I am planning on finishing my Accociates Degree at RACC for Early Childhood Education through the Teacher Academy program. After that, I plan on transferring over to Marywood University to get my Master's Degree in Speech Pathology. I am very excited to learn and eventually work in my dream field. I've got many things still to look forward to within the next seven years, but I'm ready to face any obstacle with determination.

To the underclassmen, I would highly recommend joining BCTC, even if you don't know what you want to do yet. Join a class and see if you like it; if not, try the next, and the next. BCTC is an amazing place to get a head start on the plans you have for your future. Yes, it takes away your ability to do extra courses here at SV, but sometimes you need to sacrifice something to achieve your goals. You are still able to do sports and extracurricular activities. BCTC is very flexible with home school and sport activities. I hope that you decide to take the risk and follow your dreams to a better future.

A Message for Freshmen

Max Troutman '21

Dear future graduates, we seniors greatly take for granted the position you have. You are at an uncanny time where you can guide yourself into a future path. When I was a freshman, I took for granted the opportunity and time I had to plan. My dream job was to be a professional voice actor and audio engineer. Sadly, my younger self drove me away from my dreams, showing me that becoming a voice actor was too far out there. I would never reach my goals with the mindset I had. Thankfully, I had a freshman to help me.

My brother, Alex Troutman, is an intelligent kid. He is a talented writer, reader, and best friend. We were sitting at the dinner table when my dad asked me how my college search was going. At the time, the future was a terrifying idea. I had no set path for what to do after high school and I was afraid of getting stuck with a dead-end job. I raised my voice and spoke three words, "I don't know." My mindset was all over the place. At one end of my head, I was thinking of getting a position in an office. At the other pole of the spectrum lie the idea of becoming a warehouse manager. I had already convinced myself that I was going nowhere in life. I would tell myself that I did not have the abilities or expertise to get a high-paying job and would be stuck. For the longest time, I feared my future. My grades were mediocre, my plans were too far out of reach, and I wanted to stay close to home. My brother raised his head and had a perplexed, yet disappointed look on his face. "But Max, I thought you wanted to be a voice actor? You're already great at voices so why not voice act?" My dad agreed, saying "He's right, Max. Maybe you guys could make a few projects together?" I then realized that voice acting was not an egregiously competitive field to get into. It was

whether or not you put your name out there.

My brother and I teamed up to help me spread the word that I was a young, gifted voice actor looking for work. We found several websites that were hiring and put out numerous auditions. Gradually but steadily, my name stood out in the world. People started coming to me asking if I could do a voice, compose a song, or even dabble in audio engineering. My dreams are coming together thanks to my brother's reassurance, and I can't thank him enough for the support. To all of you freshmen who are confused about what you want to do, do what you enjoy the most. I'm sure most of you have already heard this saying from a parent or teacher, but if your job is what you love to do, you won't work a day in your life. Follow your aspirations no matter what barriers you find in your way. I have auditioned for over a hundred different projects and have made more than half. And Alex, If you're reading this, thank you.

COLLEGE ATHLETES

The following seniors plan to continue their athletic careers in college. Good luck, Panthers!

Addison Angstadt- Lycoming College- Tennis, Division III

Steel Boyer- Westminter College- Swimming, Division III

Layton Crespo- Eastern University- Lacrosse, Division III

Ashlyn Giles- University of Nebraska, Lincoln- Track and Field, Division I

Zach Heffner- Wagner College- Football, Division I

Reinhold Louis- Lebanon Valley College- Football, Division III

Michael Mish- Northampton- Basketball, NJCAA

Jillian Phillips- Penn State Schuylkill- Volleyball, Division III

Rachel Santos- RACC- Volleyball/Basketball, Division III

Nate Schaeffer- Kutztown University- Track and Field, Division II

Chanz Stevens- Keystone College- Football, Division III

SENIOR BEQUEATHS

Abby Kunkle bequaths her graphic design and 3D pinting legacy to **Riley Kunkle '25**

Addison Angstadt and **Alyssa Potts** bequeath the titles of Boys' Tennis team managers to **Lily Crowell '22** and **Ann Davila '22**

Alyssa Potts and **Addison Angstadt** bequath the titles of Girls' Tennis team captains to **Lily Crowell '22** and **Ann Davila '22**

Ashlyn Giles bequaths her throwing legacy at SV to **Emma Deyarmin '23**

Briana Silasavage bequaths her microbiology skills to **Elle Bennet '22**

Cloey Fleming bequeaths her old, dented, broken car to **Matthew Fleming '22**

Emily Zaharia bequaths her ambition, determination, and passion to be more and know more, her hope that she'll beat her dead lift record (she knows you can!), her obsession with Marvel, her fantastic taste in music, her dumb jokes, dark humor, bad impressions, and the little bit of resilience she still has to her sister, **Elizabeth Zaharia '23**

Heather LaFaver bequaths the title of Mom of the Friend Group to **Makayla Lowery '22**

Izzy Romig bequaths her spot on the couch to **Maxwell Romig '29**

Jillian Phillips bequaths her volleyball diving skills to **Kristian Wolf '22**

Megan Beissel bequaths her artistic ability to **Alyssa Armpriester '23**

Nate Schaeffer bequaths "wearing Air Monarchs to track meets" to **Michael Goad '23**

Sandra Goho bequaths her position as the Girls' Bowling team captain and anchor to **Kimberly Heck '24**

Maximo Beras-Goico bequaths the title of President of FBLA to **Lindsey Giacabello '22** and his swag to **Aiden Gehret '22** and **Gus Salas '22**, "because they both need it."

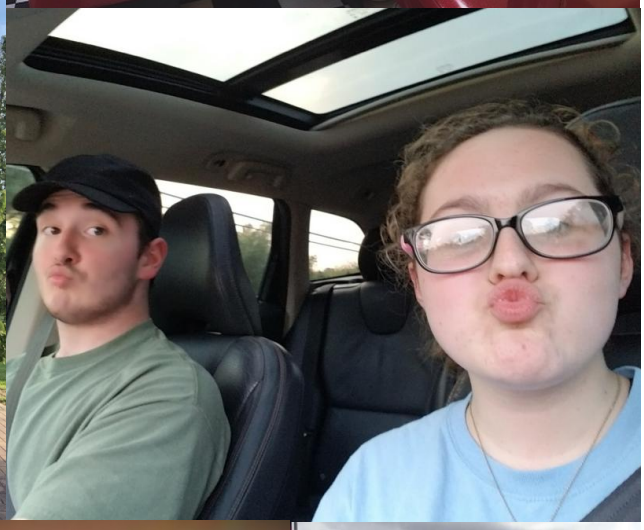
Class of 2021 Memories


















WE ARE
PENN STATE






MileSplit


HUSKERS










HUSKERS
NEBRASKA
NEBRASKA


447



Pantherette Seniors



Kara Faulk has been a dedicated member of *Pantherette* since her freshman year. She served as Assistant Editor-In-Chief this year as well as being involved in LEO Club, NHS, basketball, lacrosse, Student Ambassadors, and Science Olympiad. Kara's favorite part about Pantherette was "the club meetings because we always got to bounce around ideas and really come up with cool things to get the club involved with." Kara will miss the tight-knit community at SV. After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh on a pre-med track..



Briana Silasavage has been a member of *Pantherette* since her sophmore year. Bri served as this year's treasurer and contributed at least one article to every single edition. She is also involved in Mock Trial, Lit Mag, the fall play production, POP, and Valley Voices. Bri's favorite part of Pantherette was the DC trip in 2019. She will miss the friends that she's made the most when she leaves SV. After graduation, Bri plans to attend West Chester University to get a Bachelor's degree in secondary literature education with plans to be a guidance counselor.



Samantha Stewart has been a loyal member of *Pantherette* since her freshman year. This year, she served as our Communications Ambassador and helped our club step onto a new platform, Instagram. Additionally, Sam also is involved in PYEA, NHS, WAG, LEO Club, Reading Olympics, Student Ambassadors, Mock Trial, and Yearbook. Her favorite memory of *Pantherette* was getting lost with Addison and Kara in King of Prussia during her freshman year trip. After high school, Sam will attend Alvernia University to major in nursing. She will miss seeing her friends and teachers every day.



Courtney Thompson has been an essential member of *Pantherette* this past year. Although she only joined her senior year, she has stood out as an exceptional contributor to the newspaper. Courtney is also involved in POP. After graduation, she plans to go to college for stage and film production. Courtney will miss walking the crowded halls of SV after graduation.

Reinhold Louis joined the *Pantherette* during sophomore year, and has been an outstanding, loyal member ever since. Reinhold is never afraid to take on the harder articles, even ones that require interviewing administration. After high school, Reinhold plans to attend a 4-year university to major in business and play football. Reinhold's favorite memory of *Pantherette* was going to D.C. sophomore year. "It was truly an eye-opening experience, seeing how journalism could capture such historical moments that have shaped our country, and the world." When he leaves SV, Reinhold will miss the staff that never gave up on him and pushed him to do his best.





Vanessa Jones, a loyal member of *Pantherette* since freshman year, will attend Temple University to get her PharmD after graduation. Vanessa has been involved in NHs and Science Olympiad in addition to *Pantherette* during her time at SV. Vanessa will miss seeing all her friends from high school once she heads to Temple. Her favorite memory from *Pantherette* is "going to Philadelphia [her] first year and going to the Mutter Museum."

Sandra Goho joined the *Pantherette* her freshman year and has been a devoted member over the last four years. Sandra is also involved in Leo Club, Agriculture Club, Student Ambassadors, and bowling. She will miss "the teachers and their kind words during difficult times" the most when she leaves SV. Sandra's favorite part about *Pantherette* is being able to express her feelings in different styles of writing. After graduation, Sandra plans to take a gap year to expand her work skills before going to a local college to major in business. She hopes to own her own bakery in the future.





Cloey Fleming has been involved in *Pantherette* since her sophomore year and brought her extensive book knowledge to the club. Cloey is also involved in PYEA, LEO, WAG, Ambassadors, and Reading Olympics. When Cloey leaves SV, she will miss her friends the most. After graduation, Cloey plans to go to college at Grand Valley State for paralegal studies.

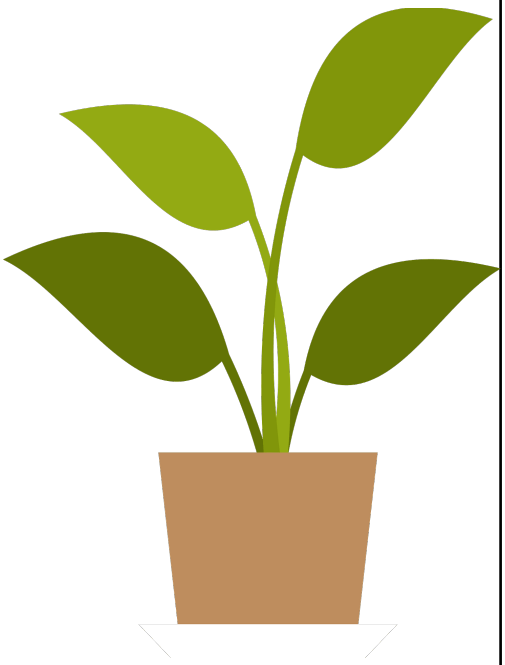
Addison Angstadt, the 2020-2021 *Pantherette* Editor-In-Chief, joined the club her freshman year. Addison is also involved in TV Studio, PYEA, NHS, Yearbook, Science Olympiad, tennis, Mock Trial, and is a class officer. Her favorite memory from *Pantherette* is when Donald Ballou had to save her, Sam, and Kara from King of Prussia after they got lost. She'll miss the atmosphere of SV and the infamous SV sunsets the most after graduation. Upon leaving SV, Addison plans to attend Lycoming College to dual major in Communications and Political Science and to play tennis.



Dorm Decorations

Courtney Thompson '21

Posters- Why not hang up a few colorful posters of your favorite things such as art, TV shows, or bands.? Avoid using tape when hanging them to avoid paint damage.



Fairy lights/Led Lights - Add some more light into your room with sets of fairy lights. You can find them in nearly any color, and they are inexpensive. Some even come with clips for photos!

Pictures- Print out your favorite memories. Your best friends, prom, or even just family. You can make a collage to hang up by tacking them to a cork board, or hang them around the edges of a mirror.

Pillows,Throw Blankets, and Rugs- You can never have enough pillows or blankets. You may have a certain aesthetic you would like your room to be, and a pillow or blanket that fits your ideas will tie the whole room together. Even just a small circular rug can tie a room together.

Plants- Real or fake, plants will bring the outside in. You have an abundance of options when it comes to styles and colors.

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENIOR ADDISON ANGSTADT AND JUNIOR SARAH GILBERT FOR BEING CHOSEN AS THE 2020-2021 STUDENTS OF THE YEAR!



This year's Students of the Month gathered in the auditorium on Tuesday, May 11th to be recognized for their accomplisments. Standing- Sam Stewart, Addison Angstadt, Lily Crowell; Standing- Aidan Gensure, Sarah Gilbert, Averi Hidalgo, Anna Gwiazdowski, Reagan Rittenhouse, Sara Motz, Ashlyn Giles; Standing- Jon Werely, Luke Seymour, Mara Nagle, Jillian Phillips, Tanner Mountz, Vlad Caba, Tim Horrell; Missing- Lily Dang

Appreciation for Guardians: *A poem dedicated to my dad in Heaven*

Sandra Goho '21

Parents, grandparents, siblings, others relatives
They always pest you and constantly annoy you,
But it is because they care and love you so much
"Where are you going, and when are you coming home?"
They ask these questions just in case something happens
Do not think for one second that they do not care
"I love you. Please text me when you get there. Okay?"
They say this to reassure you that they are there
During arguments, they will still be there for you
"Would you like to go out to breakfast or dinner?"
When they ask you this type of question, just say yes!
Eating with them will not do any harm to you
"Please do not make any bad decisions tonight"
Bad decisions might disappoint your guardians
And it could potentially harm your future plans
When your guardians are pestering you nonstop
Just think about all of the things they do for you
They do everything for you out of love and care
One day, they will not be there to bug you all day
And then you will regret not going out to lunch,
Telling them you love them unconditionally,
Or even making a bad decision one night.
Tell your guardians you truly love them today
Tomorrow isn't promised for either of you
Anything can happen in the blink of an eye.



Calendar

- June 2 - Seniors' Last Day
- June 7 - Baccalaureate
- June 8 - Last Day of School
- June 8 - Commencement
- June 20 - Father's Day
- June 20 - First Day of Summer





