

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT!

THE RIVER VALLEY NEWS

Fall 2023

The World of RIASEC



Blairsville and Saltsburg
Elementary Schools
Introduce the RIASEC
Language at Annual
Title I Nights

Blairsville and Saltsburg Elementary Schools hosted RIASEC-themed Title I Nights this October. This year's events were a journey into the world of RIASEC themes, focusing on students' strengths, interests, and values.

RIASEC, the most widely adopted framework for interest measurement, is an acronym for Realistic Doers, Investigative Thinkers, Artistic Creators, Social Helpers, Enterprising Persuaders, and Conventional Organizers. The RIASEC language accelerates possibilities for all students by aligning their strengths, interests, and values to career-related learning. The Title I Nights were an exhilarating experience, actively engaging students and their families in a variety of activities tailored to their RIASEC codes.



The **Realistic** Doers had a blast working with tools to craft birdhouses, picture frames, and toy cars. This hands-on activity allowed students to explore their practical skills and experience the joys of making something from scratch.

The **Investigative** Thinkers showcased their problem-solving skills and analytical thinking with science experiments, robotics challenges, and solving mysteries.

The **Artistic** Creators explored their strengths and interests through crafts and art projects using a variety of mediums.

The **Social** Helpers gathered to play board games and make crafts for veterans. These activities underscored the importance of teamwork and service and resonated with students who thrive in collaborative and service-oriented environments.



The **Enterprising** Persuaders explored their leadership and persuasion skills by negotiating during a "Let's Make a Deal" activity and creating advertisements for the school store.

The **Conventional** Organizers follow a set of procedures and routines. These occupations usually include working with data and details more than with ideas. They enjoy practical tasks that use quantitative measurements.

Building a common language helps students land the plane and be able to articulate "who I am and who I think I want to become." It all works together to build a solid foundation for career exploration, allowing them to connect their learning to their own strengths, interests, and values. As we continue to foster the RIASEC culture in River Valley, we are guiding students toward a future where they can thrive by embracing their identities, and that's why it's a human process.

The enthusiastic participation of students and families during the Title I Night is a testament to the effectiveness of early career exploration and helping to build identity for young people so they know there's a place for them in the world. It's about a process of exploring themselves and understanding the world around them.



Seniors Supporting Seniors

By Olivia Ganoë, River Valley High School

High school math teacher Mr. Greg Kaylor founded the Seniors Supporting Seniors program in March 2020 to positively impact and enrich the lives of senior citizens and senior students during an especially tough time for both groups. As a volunteer in a nursing home ministry group, Laurel Faith in Action (LFIA), Mr. Kaylor saw the perfect opportunity to connect senior students and residents of nursing homes.

More than twenty 12th-grade students participate in Seniors Supporting Seniors. The program has four components: adult exercise, art, in-person visits, and birthday phone calls.

Adult exercise is a cornerstone of the program. Since assisted living locations were closed due to quarantine, video conferencing platforms like Zoom became one of the only ways to connect with residents. Seniors Supporting Seniors began leading virtual exercise classes via Zoom during the pandemic, and the practice continues today.



"It has been great to see the comfort level and camaraderie increase each week between the students and the participants from Beacon Ridge."

- Matt Wilson, Instructor
River Valley STEAM Academy

Beacon Ridge residents join classes twice a week. On Tuesdays, RVHS student-athletes share their love for movement and activity with the senior residents. Sports Medicine and Rehabilitative Therapy students at the STEAM Academy added a Thursday class this year. With guidance from their instructor, Mr. Matt Wilson, students put their learning into practice by teaching participants at Beacon Ridge exercises that increase strength and support mobility. All exercises are done in a chair to accommodate residents in wheelchairs.

The second component of SSS is art, which helps connect the communities and promote creativity. Ms. Katie Deglau's art students are interviewing Beacon Ridge residents to learn their interests to create personalized coloring sheets.



They send the coloring sheets to Beacon Ridge for a fun activity that connects our students and seniors through the love and appreciation of art.

In-person visits are a highlight of Seniors Supporting Seniors, which creates bonds with senior residents and senior students and alleviates the isolation of being in assisted living for long periods. Seven students took an educational field trip to Beacon Ridge in October to host a scarecrow-making party with the residents. This month, chorus teacher Mr. Adam Bukosky and his students will join Mr. Kaylor for a visit to Beacon Ridge to spread Christmas cheer and holiday joy with caroling.

Music often fills the halls of the high school with Seniors Supporting Seniors Birthday Calls. LFIA provides a birthday list of senior citizens aged 80-90 years old each month. Mr. Kaylor and his students call the birthday ladies and gentlemen to sing Happy Birthday on their special days. About 150 students have participated in the calls this year, singing Happy Birthday from Ms. Droste, Mr. Heinnickel, Ms. Highberger, and Mrs. Stuller's classrooms. "Recipients are frequently overjoyed, sometimes cry, and often share that our calls make their day," said Mr. Kaylor.

"Having students call our recipients is a tremendous blessing. We receive such positive feedback. Recipients get so much joy from the personalized, heartfelt birthday calls. They have told us how nice it is to be remembered. This small but meaningful act of kindness makes a HUGE impact for so many! This is a wonderful way to foster a positive relationship between youth and the older generation."

- Taylor Ramezan, Director of Marketing
Laurel Faith in Action

Over the past three years, what started as a small program to shed light on a dark situation has become an integral part of the high school culture. Seniors Supporting Seniors continues to grow, and we can look forward to more positive opportunities for students and residents.

Powering Up the Future

Dynamic Growth and
New Horizons at the
STEAM Academy
Electrical Occupations
Program



The Electrical Occupations Program at the River Valley STEAM Academy is developing the next generation of skilled electricians and powerline technicians. The program's enrollment has doubled since its launch in the 2022-2023 school year. The balanced mix of first- and second-year students fosters a dynamic and collaborative learning environment.

Students are showcasing their skills, recently completing a drawing module and designing detailed plans for a double vanity bathroom, setting the stage for the next challenge, a comprehensive kitchen wiring project in the newly updated lab. Instructor Mr. Kip Mack is introducing advanced tools like threaders and pipe benders to equip students with essential techniques for working with conduit.

"I never pictured myself being able to do anything like this."



Grant funding has equipped each student in the program with high-quality climbing boots. Each student in the program has the opportunity to try climbing to explore the options and decide if they would like to pursue Powerline Training.

The comprehensive program lays a foundation for practical skills development. Students are completing essential certifications, including OSHA 10 and NCCER Core and Electrical Level 1. Second-year students are beginning Electrical Level 2, which offers in-depth knowledge of alternating current motors, control systems, motor theory and application, and more. In addition to the certifications, students can earn up to five college credits through the Electrical Occupations Program.

With the enhanced facilities and dedicated instruction from Mr. Mack, STEAM Academy students are acquiring critical skills, discovering their potential, and carving out their paths in the electrical field.



An exciting addition this year is the Powerline Training Program. An outdoor training yard with ten 25-foot poles is in the works. Two climbing poles were installed in the lab, allowing students to familiarize themselves with the gear and climbing and maneuvering techniques. This hands-on training enhances the learning experience and opens new avenues to their education.

The River Valley STEAM Academy offers programs in Biomedical Technology, Cybersecurity, Electrical Occupations and Powerline, Esports, Pathways to Health Professions, Rising Educators, Sports Medicine and Rehabilitative Therapy, and Welding Technology.

For more information, visit www.rvsteamacademy.org or call 724-343-3230.

River Valley School District has cute new additions to the wildly successful school dog program! Now, each building has a designated furry friend to support students!

Meet Marty

School Dog,
Middle & High School



BREED

English Mastiff

Docile and dignified, these gentle giants are patient, loveable companions.

BIRTHDAY December 18, 2022

TRAINING Currently in PA State Police Comfort Dog Training.

LOVES Walks on the nature trail, rope toys, and stuffed animals.

Introducing Aria

School Dog,
Saltsburg Elementary



BREED

Miniature Australian Shepherd

Bright, self-motivated workers and endearingly loyal and lively companion dogs.

BIRTHDAY February 12, 2022

TRAINING Certified AKC Canine Good Citizen

LOVES Belly rubs, treats, and playing with toys.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EARLY
DISMISSAL

DEC
6

BES
HOLIDAY
CONCERT
9 AM

DEC
8

SES
HOLIDAY
CONCERT
7 PM

DEC
12

EARLY
DISMISSAL

DEC
13

RVMS/RVHS
HOLIDAY
CONCERT
7 PM

DEC
14

CHRISTMAS
BREAK

DEC
22-29

HAPPY NEW
YEAR!
NO SCHOOL

JAN
1-2

EARLY
DISMISSAL

JAN
10

ACT 80 DAY:
NO SCHOOL
FOR STUDENTS

JAN
15

EARLY
DISMISSAL

JAN
24

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CONNECTED
FOLLOW US



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River Valley School District



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