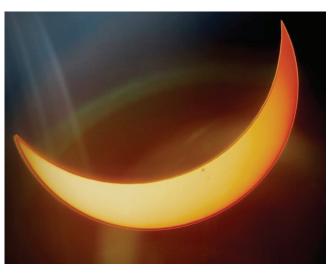


#### WITNESSING HISTORY

It was a day to remember as SV teachers, students and administrators paused to witness the monumental solar eclipse. Across the district, classes participated in eclipserelated activities, lessons and presentations. At the Central Office, Mr. Tom Lavelle, SV Intermediate **High School Science** teacher and member of the Amateur Astronomy Association of Pittsburgh, stationed his reflector dobsonian telescope with



a solar filter for staff to view the eclipse at a 50x magnification scale.

Mr. Lavelle shared with staff how to spot solar flares from sunspots and even the irregularities of the sun's flowing surface! Shoutout to Mr. Lavelle for sharing this exciting opportunity with us!

View more photos of solar eclipse activities and watching events in the following pages.

#### **MUSIC TO OUR EARS**

Seneca Valley recently received the 2024 Best Communities for Music Education designation by the National Music Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation! Thank you to our SV community for your outstanding support of music education and performing arts! Read more about this prestigious honor on page 13.



#### For Outstanding Support of Music Education and Enriching the Lives of Children and Advancing Student Achievement

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

A Song For the Seasons	
Surpassing the Goal	12
Athletics	
Staff of SV	31
Alumni Q&A	33

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

May 4......SAT Testing May 6-10..SHS AP Testing May 6.....School Board Meeting, Work Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m. May 10.....Act-80 Day, No School May 11.....Prom May 13.....School Board Meeting, Regular Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m. May 27.....Graduation Day May 30.....Graduation Day

#### For more dates, visit: www.svsd.net/WebCalendar

#### IT'S AN HONOR Click here to view the 2023-24 Third Nine

2023-24 Third Nine Weeks Honor Rolls for grades 7-12





#### WITNESSING HISTORY (cont.)

Take a look at the many ways students celebrated and learned about the mesmerizing phenomenon of the solar eclipse! Students enjoyed participating in "totality" awesome activities and educational lessons! Read about Rowan Elementary School's eclipse assembly welcoming a special visitor, at Rowan Elementary students learn about eclipse – Cranberry Eagle.

Shoutout to the Seneca Valley Foundation for supplying students with eclipse glasses.



















#### WITNESSING HISTORY (cont.)

Learning about the solar eclipse was fun and watching it in-person was out of this world! Ms. Veronica Mortier, SV Intermediate High School biology and astronomy teacher, took a group of 42 high school students to Penn State Behrend to watch the spectacular event while Rowan Elementary School teacher Ms. Rebecca Hester invited current and former students to join her at Albion Borough Park in Erie to witness the totality.

Here at Seneca Valley schools, staff and administrators enjoyed watching the phenomenon together as the sky darkened and temperatures cooled!



























#### **UNDER THE SEA**

Students in second grade classes at Rowan Elementary School took a dive into the depths of ocean conservation and discovery by creating a special "Under the Sea" exhibit! These young ocean ambassadors collaborated and worked hard to create a one-of-a-kind experience to help educate their peers, community members and Board Members (thank you, Mr. Tim Hester and Mr. Nick Brower!) about the importance of sustainability, wildlife conservation and our

environment. Students read articles and wrote reports, delivered presentations, created interactive art and gave guided tours of their exhibit.

"My colleagues and I wanted to empower our students with the awareness that they can play an integral part in creating a better outcome for our oceans, taking steps toward becoming global citizens," said Ms. Cardillo.

Check out our Instagram Reel of an Under the Sea adventure!



#### **EARTH DAY ARTISTRY**

This poster student is doing her part to save the world by spreading the word!

Congratulations to Rowan Elementary second grader Olivia Neelan on her second-place win in the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) Earth Day Poster Contest! Her creative artwork is now on display via the NETL website and was forwarded to the U.S. Department of Energy headquarters in Washington, D.C., for display there, as well.

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 that has been celebrated since 1970 and closely aligns with NETL's vision to develop sustainable energy solutions and protect the environment for future generations. Involving children in activities that center around the environment embodies the theme of Earth Day, "Planet vs. Plastics - Help reduce plastic pollution!" The contest also encourages creative expression and the development of an early interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

















### **PUPPET PROTOCOL**

Haine Elementary School (HES) Speech/ Language Therapists, Amy Schmidt, Annelise Doran and Taylor Barum, with the help of the SV's Special Education Department and HES Administration, teamed up with Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV's Speech Language Pathologists, Amy Miller and Sarah Reiber, to bring the "Safe at Lunch Program" to the school last month.

The program helps students learn what is expected to be safe and socially accepted throughout a meal—like keeping bites small, eating slowly, swallowing properly, eating neatly, staying seated and not talking with a mouth full of food, in order to decrease the risk of choking. The puppets sing—and students learn—a song, set to the tune of "Baby Shark," listing the safe eating and drinking rules with accompanying hand movements.

The audience played games with the visiting puppets, determining if their

demonstrated behavior was the right or wrong way to act in the cafeteria. The children also participated in some multi-sensory activities, touching foods and describing how they feel.

After the show, each child received a small coloring book of safe eating strategies to complete and take home to share with caregivers, siblings, and friends. This resource helps them carry over strategies they learned in the puppet show into daily routines. Posters are also displayed in the Haine cafeteria, so students can review and remember the positive cafeteria behaviors.







### **PARADE FOR A PURPOSE**

Ehrman Crest Schools recently participated in their annual Saulle's Teddy Bear Official Memorial Parade (S.T.O.M.P.) Walk - a campaign to raise monies for the Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute Fund to support oncology services.

Students and staff took turns walking around the building to help honor families impacted by this disease and raise money for cancer research. Many completed their walk carrying banners and signs and wore messages on their T-shirts.

S.T.O.M.P. participants have raised over \$220,000 over the past 16 years. This walk began in 2008 in memory of a kindergarten teacher, Ms. Linda Saulle, who taught at Evans City Elementary School and lost her battle with cancer in 2007. Today, it acts as a remembrance to all families touched by cancer throughout our local area.













### **OUT-OF-THE-BOX OBSTACLES**

Throughout the year, first graders at Haine Elementary School have been studying the engineering design process and, this past month, students participated in a variety of seasonally-themed science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities to further their understanding.

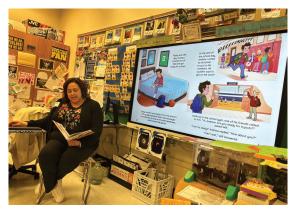
Some students learned about simple machines and were challenged to plan and create a leprechaun trap. Others built nests to hold their "Peep" chicks and created free-standing rainbows. The challenges fostered collaboration and problem-solving skills, encouraging students to explore how things work.





#### PAGES OF PERSEVERANCE

On April 11, students in Ms. Angela Cardillo's second grade class welcomed Ms. Antonietta Tripodi Quinn for a guest author visit. During her visit, Ms. Quinn captivated students with the inspiring true story of grit and perseverance through her book, "Andrew Conquers the Court." She also explained the process of turning a story into a written publication and even donated a signed book to the school's library.

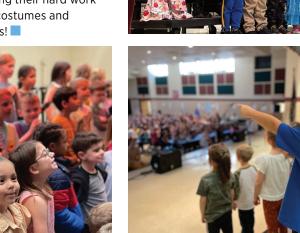




### **A SONG FOR THE SEASONS**

From sun hats to scarves, kindergarteners at Haine Elementary School embraced their roles as they took to the stage for their performances of the "Seasons" musical.

Family, friends and classmates were invited to attend the musical which depicted different seasons of the year. These talented performers did a fantastic job showcasing their hard work with catchy tunes, colorful costumes and heartwarming performances!















### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR IS OPEN!**

We are pleased to welcome incoming kindergarten students as they prepare for the 2024-25 school year. Kindergarten at SV is an engaging, half-day program with transportation that is provided one way. In order to enroll, children must be five (5) years old on or before September 1 of the enrollment year. Registration at this time is intended to collect pertinent preliminary information, including parent/guardian contact and student records. Learn more about the registration process and required documents at 2024-25 Kindergarten registration is now open (svsd.net).

# Save the Date! Kindergarten Countdown

IUST I

We are thrilled to welcome you to our school community and look forward to the upcoming academic year!

To help your new kindergartener become familiar with our school and meet our staff members, we would like to invite you and your kindergartener to come and visit.

# May 10, 2024

For more information on Kindergarten Countdown, register your child today for the 2024-25 Kindergarten enrollment year at **www.svsd.net/24-25KRegistration** 

### **DREAM AND ACHIEVE**

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Students at Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) may have a better idea after learning about a variety of careers during the school's annual Career Day. A panel of professionals spoke about their careers and how they got into them. Students also participated in various activities to help them reflect on these different career paths.

Thank you to those who shared their time and expertise! Students enjoyed gaining experience in career fields like academics, accounting, advertising, aviation, carpentry, coaching, cyber-security, engineering, food science, landscaping, law enforcement, management, medicine, sales, science and technology!













### **HEART HEROES**

Our awesome students at Haine Elementary and Middle School recently rocked the Kids Heart Challenge, raising over \$12,000 for the American Heart Association!

Students conquered a massive obstacle course to promote wellness and even got to "pie" their teachers as a reward for their outstanding fundraising efforts! Thanks to everyone's hard work and participation, the American Heart Association awarded the school a grant for new physical education equipment that students will help select.





Special shoutout to Odin Smith who raised over \$750 and earned a gold medal for his achievement!







#### **UP FOR THE JUDGING**

Ehrman Crest Elementary (ECE) fourth graders recently incorporated the skills they've learned throughout their elementary education to innovate inventions at CIRC Tank. Students created companies and logos, brainstormed ideas, drafted costs and profits, shot commercials and made a three-dimensional model of their product – all before presenting to a panel of community judges. Some creative inventions included a stake-able beach chair for relaxing by the waves, a machine to help put on socks and take them off, and an all-in-one sports ball with interchangeable covers for different sports.

Several groups were selected to move on to the Elementary Regional Competition to be held at Inventionland in May.

"Every year, I am more and more impressed by what these groups are able to do when working together," said Ms. Melissa Womer, Ehrman Crest Elementary CIRC teacher and Librarian. Thank you to all the judges who came to support ECE's CIRC Tank and all the talented student inventors!















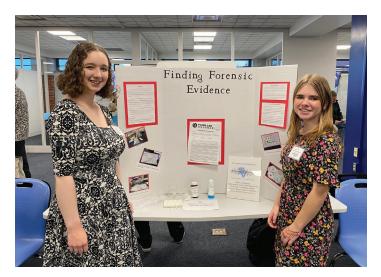


### **SHOWCASING STEM STUDIES**

Seneca Valley's 12th annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fair was held last month showcasing 52 student projects. These ambitious students conducted independent research and were evaluated on their use of the experimental method, literature review and analysis of findings. Many of them are aspiring STEM professionals and enjoyed the opportunity to share their diligent research.

Over 20 community experts volunteered to discuss projects and offer valuable feedback. Student project topics included colorsensing robotics, aquatic ecology, phenotypic biofilm mutations, genetic engineering and many more. It was a well-attended event by Seneca Valley teachers, administrators, family and friends!

A special shoutout to the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) for funding many of these endeavors through STEM mini-grants.



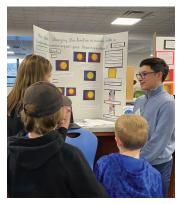












### SV STUDENTS AWARDED AT REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Five Seneca Valley students showcased their innovative research projects at the 85th annual Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF), held at the Carnegie Science Center, April 2-3.

They joined nearly 500 students from across the region to participate in this esteemed fair which serves as the qualifying event for the International Science and Engineering Fair, taking place in Los Angeles, California this May.

The PRSEF invites middle and high school students to take on the challenge of designing, implementing, and communicating an original experiment while competing for cash prizes and scholarships. On average, students spend about one year leading up to the Science Fair developing and executing their project by utilizing the scientific method.

Junior Isabella Muthler received a Sponsor award from Air & Waste Management Association for her project Dyeing Microplastics.

Seneca Valley participants included juniors Eric Chen and Isabella Muthler, sophomores Autumn Zacherl and Roshini Umesh, and freshman Albert Pimenov.



### **SURPASSING THE GOAL**

Congratulations to the Seneca Valley Senior High School (SVSHS) Student Council and all who supported this year's Raiderthon! SV celebrated a decade of school spirit and heartwarming community contributions in a BIG way! Between raffle baskets, donations and an active GoFundMe page, the event, held April 12, raised over \$12,000 for the Miracle League of Southwestern PA (SWPA).

"The community engagement cultivated by Raiderthon is truly remarkable," said senior Katie Sylves, student council secretary and Raiderthon Activities Coordinator. "Each year, Raiderthon serves as a reminder of the strength of our community and our ability to collaborate as a team."

This year, more SV clubs and sports participated than ever before. From club-run carnival booths and face painting to cup stacking and big ball volleyball competitions, the event buzzed with excitement!

Senior Asha Vellody, Raiderthon Activities Coordinator, said, "I loved being at Raiderthon and seeing all the families enjoying the booths." Senior Taryn Wilson, student council president and Raiderthon Community Fundraising Coordinator, agreed, "Being a part of Raiderthon was so special. Watching the community rally together for a great cause is truly inspiring."

Over the last 10 years, Seneca Valley students have raised over \$100,000 for the Miracle League of SWPA and it's not too late to donate! Help SV reach their goals by donating at www.gofundme.com/f/2024-raiderthonfor-miracle-league.





















### NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSIC EDUCATION

Seneca Valley School District has been recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation with the prestigious designation of Best Communities for Music Education, in acknowledgment of its exceptional dedication to music education.

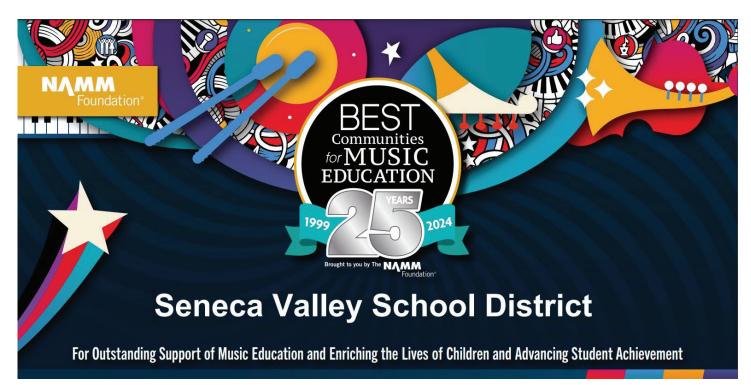
Now in its 25th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement for providing music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Seneca Valley answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

"We are honored to be chosen for this prestigious award that reflects the success of our music program," said Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction, grades 7-12. "Our instructors have cultivated a longstanding curriculum that resonates deeply with students, fostering a culture of exceptional dedication among our talented musicians. The unwavering support by our parents, staff and administration has been instrumental in the impact of music education across the District."

Music education is valuable for all students and Seneca Valley has a rich tradition of musical excellence. Seneca Valley's music program provides opportunities for students to collaborate, express themselves and explore how music relates to cultural and historical events.

"Music education is vital in our schools; it's not only academic, but it's expressive, emotional and inspiring," said Varden Armstrong, Seneca Valley Marching Band Director and Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Performing Arts Coordinator. "We are honored to receive this designation due to the legacy of the music programs we have within the SV community. This award reflects the hard work of our staff, the support of the district and community, and the rich traditions established by those who came before us."



PLEASE NOTE: Moving forward, all Seneca Valley 7-12 grade performing arts performances and shows that are part of a curricular class will no longer be formally charging admission. This includes band, choir, orchestra and dance. These organizations will be accepting voluntary donations at performances that will benefit students in the same manner as ticket sales did in the past. This change is a result of a desire to better delineate curricular vs. extracurricular events and performances (sporting events, marching band events, musicals, plays, etc.) and provide equitable opportunities and family experiences.

### SV HOSTS PMEA JUNIOR HIGH DISTRICT BAND

Last month, Seneca Valley hosted the Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) District 5 Junior High District Band Fest in the intermediate high school. Students representing school districts across Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties were selected through an application process to participate in either the Seventh and Eighth Grade Band, or the Ninth Grade Band. Instrumentalists spent the day working with guest conductors to prepare the concert music that would be performed that evening for families and friends. Guest conductors for this year's band fest were Mr. Robert Traugh, educator, freelance composer and performer in the Pittsburgh area, and Dr. Jonathan Helmick, Director of Bands at Slippery Rock University.

Hosting an event like the PMEA Junior High Band Fest is a great undertaking. Over a year of planning and preparation goes into successfully organizing such an immense and acclaimed event. An incredible amount of collaboration is required as well. Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) Instrumental Directors Mr. Brian Croach and Mrs. Sara Snyder worked in close cooperation with administration, safety and security, and food services, to name a few. Dr. Denise Manganello, Principal of the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC), opened the concert by offering a warm welcome to all visitors. Mr. Nolan Fetchko and the Seneca Valley Food Services Department assisted by providing snacks and meals for the 225 student participants throughout the day. Security and parking services needed to accommodate the many participating schools were covered by Mr. Jason Young and his safety team. The result of all these efforts was a remarkable day for all students and directors that participated.

#### Seneca Valley participants in Grade 7/8 Band:

Flute Austin Courtney

Clarinet

- Megan Gates Dahlia Marcin Aaron Hardy Kimberly Lopez-Lopez
- Kimberly Lopez-Lopez **Percussion**
- Joey Lagamba Leo Markowitz

Alto Saxophone Kyleigh Simoes Baritone Saxophone

**Colton Frankovitch** 

Daniel Kennadav

Gio Salgado

Caleb Karns

**Brenden Shick** 

Trumpet

**French Horn** Caroline Holmes Riliegh Karns

**Trombone** Saoirse Heilman

Quinton Hixon Wyatt Levere Jonathan Brower

**Tuba** Charlotte Obyc Dreden Anderson







#### Seneca Valley participants in Grade 9 Band:

Flute Tenor Sax

Willow Campbell Clarinet Ella King Emma Gallie

Alto Saxophone

Camden Armstrong

Tenor Saxophone Stone Oechslein Baritone Saxophone Josh Heere

**Trumpet** Nathan Lui

French Horn Anna Livorse **Trombone** Imogen Tomo Olivia Hennon Josh Glover Bobby Tammariello

Percussion Devlyn Broderick Jack Schaar

A special thanks to Mr. Brian Croach and Ms. Sara Snyder, band directors at Ryan Gloyer Middle School, for hosting this annual PMEA event.



## **ALL-STATE HONORS**

Seven talented SV musicians recently advanced all the way to the state level of the Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) and attended the annual PMEA All-State Festival and conference. In the performing arts world, this is the equivalent of making it to the state championship. The festival was held at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center and student performances were held at the newly renovated historic Warner Theater.

The All-State Orchestra was conducted by Mr. Scott Laird, Fine Arts Chair and Instructor of Music at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM). Students rehearsed with Mr. Laird over the course of three days which culminated in a performance on Saturday, April 20.



The All-State Wind Ensemble was conducted by Ms. Andrea DeRenzis Strauss, Conductor and Artistic Director of the Tara Winds Community Band in Atlanta, GA. The All-State

All State Orchestra Participant: Isabella Muthler

Concert band was conducted by Dr. Alfred L. Watkins, Co-Founder and Conductor of the Cobb Wind Symphony. Both ensembles performed a concert on Saturday, April 22.

The All-State Choir was conducted by Dr. Christopher Jackson, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. Their performance closed the conference with a fantastic performance on Saturday afternoon.





All State Band Participants: Paityn Armstrong, Kami Topf and Mackenzie Tunstall



All State Choir Participants: Ayla Alexander, Graham Logue, and Giulia Siegfried.

### SIDE-BY-SIDE SYMPHONY

Seneca Valley Orchestra junior violinist Jake Pieszak was one of 54 students in the tri-state area to participate in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's (PSO) Side-By-Side Program.

This side-by-side concert gives advanced high school musicians the experience of rehearsing and performing alongside the esteemed musicians of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Students received personal coaching from PSO musicians, participated in full orchestra rehearsals and collaborated with the best student musicians from Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.



The program concluded with a concert on the Heinz Hall stage.



#### **MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS**

For the 27th consecutive year, the Seneca Valley Choral Department hosted a Music Performance Assessment (MPA) event on March 27, in honor of Music In Our Schools month. Approximately 600 Seneca Valley Chorus students in grades 7-12 participated in this Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) event. The goal of a MPA adjudication is to provide opportunities for students within ensembles to receive a clinic with a collegiate judge, scores, written and recorded comments, and a rating that reflects performance levels. It provides a "snapshot" evaluation of the implementation of music curriculum and provides meaningful feedback to the directors and students via adjudicator verbal and written comments. The PMEA assessment forms are correlated to state standards, testing terminology and traditional grading. Ensembles can receive comments, only, or ratings of Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor. Attending an adjudication is valuable, however, hosting one is an even greater indicator of the dedication our SV Choral department has. All SV choirs, grades 7-12, performed.

The adjudicators for the event were Dr.



Mark Boyle from Seton Hill University, Craig Cannon of Belle Voci Pittsburgh, and Christine Jordanoff (retired) from Duquesne University. "I'm so honored to be here judging with Western Pennsylvania choral royalty," said Dr. Mark Boyle. "I work with high school choirs around the Pittsburgh area every Friday. This chorus program is far beyond the norm. There is something very special at Seneca Valley!"

The SV Choral directors who participated included Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander, Ms. Claire Barker and Ms. Chessa Crum. The Seneca Valley Choral Boosters provided support as chaperones and as assistants in organizing and implementing the details of the event! The SV Madrigal Singers, Concert Choir, Treble Choir, Men's Choir and Eighth Grade Choir all received Superior Ratings; and the Seventh Grade and Grade 9/10 Choir received Excellent Ratings! Congratulations to all! The





collaboration of District officials, students, parent helpers, teachers and collegiate judges made the day a fantastic educational experience and a great success!

### **READY TO PERFORM**

An impressive 57 auditioned singers were recently selected from Haine Middle School and Ehrman Crest Middle School to attend the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Elementary Chorus Fest held at Grove City Area High School. Students prepared concert repertoire in the months leading up the April 12 event and then rehearsed with singers from 32 schools across District 5. Fifth graders worked with Mr. Shawn Funk, award-winning conductor of the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus. Sixth graders rehearsed with Mr. Victor C. Johnson, award-winning composer, arranger and conductor, of Texas. The day culminated with a dinner banquet honoring the musicians as well as an incredible concert performance showcasing the prepared pieces.

Students were led by Mrs. Ellie Lahm Schroder, Haine Middle School Music Teacher, and Mr. Kyle Masson, Ehrman Crest Middle School Music Teacher.

#### Haine Middle School Participants:

**Fifth Grade:** Kymbella Campbell, Emma Crede, Mia DeStasio, Kayla Eiseman, Taylor Harsche, Ashlynn Kazmarek, Charlotte Lowes, Ella Lowes, Reid Loya, Ella McGinley, Elise Phipps, Aubrey Post, Addison Sargo



**Sixth Grade:** Georgia Bryer, Ty Dingeldein, Chelsea Federowicz, Ella Grider, Katelyn Houk, Brynn Lange, Maggie Lucas, Emmaryn Matthey, Xavier Mueller, Alexandria Sullenger, Kate Takac, Nora Widdop.

#### Ehrman Crest Middle School Participants:

Fifth Grade: Avery Bator, Lillian Burgert, Paige Chesler, Bayley Davis, Owen Fitzgerald, Lily Franceschina, Penelope Fulton, Dagny Hayes, Emma Hughes, Demaurii Jackson, Lily Johns, Anaya Kandikuppa, Lucie Laprade, Piper Levere, Jase Lodovico, Rosalie Mazzant, Kaitlyn Michaels.

Sixth Grade: Annaliese Bontatibus, Tanner Boros, Bayden Coleman, Julianna Coleman, Alivia Duffield, Devin Galligan-Stierle, Ella Ivin, Alyssa Leishman, Vinny Nicoll, Reese Ohorodnyk, Cadence Pile, Luciana Senft, Eli Stehle, Zachary Sypien, Haleigh Wilson.

#### **SUPERIOR STRINGS**

The Seneca Valley Orchestra department recently took a group of students to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Students participated in an adjudication where they received first place and a rating of Superior (the highest rating possible). In addition to the adjudication, students participated in a clinic at the University of North Carolina Greensboro with their esteemed string faculty.

Along with musical activities, students also enjoyed spending time at the beach and pool, going on a Dolphin Cruise, shopping at Broadway on the Beach and Barefoot landing, and attending a Medieval Times dinner show.

"Students and adults alike had a great time on the trip, and I am so proud of the students for their performance," said Ms. Sarah Miller, secondary orchestra instructor.

















#### **VIDEO PRODUCTION STUDENTS SWEEP AWARDS**

SV Video Production students and SVTV volunteers won nine awards (a school record!) at Robert Morris University's annual Digital Media Arts Consortium (DMAC) student video festival! Submitting entries in ten of the 14 video categories, SV came away with awards in eight categories, including two Best in Category distinctions and a senior honorary award.

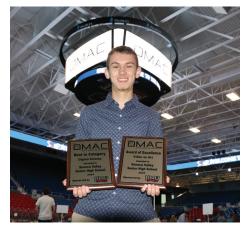
Senior Caleb Magill won in the "Special Effects" category and picked up The Founders Award for excellent contributions to SVTV over his high school career! Senior Ben Stanton won Best in Category for "Digital Cinema" and in the "Video As Art" category. Senior Ella Schmitt won in the "Documentary" category for her inside look into sports videography. Kaydence Kilhof won in the "Feature Package" category for her video about the inaugural Ryan Gloyer 5K. The SVTV football crew won Best in Category in the "Live Event" competition for its production of the Seneca Valley vs. Hempfield football game. The Seneca Says crew won in the "Morning Announcements" category, and freshman Zach White won in the "Stop Motion / Animation" category.

Reflecting on the competition, senior Kaydence Kilhof said, "It felt really good to win an award for something that I worked hard to complete. I am proud of myself, as well as the other winners, for facing all of the challenges that film

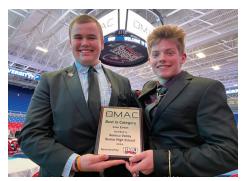


throws at you. It was amazing to see all the other talented media students from our area come together to celebrate such a special industry."

"I was so proud of our video production students and SVTV volunteers for their amazing performance at this year's DMAC awards," said Mr. Dan McKosky, Video Production teacher and SVTV sponsor. "The amount of awards earned in a great variety of categories is a testament to how wide-ranging and varied our students' talents are. It made me so happy to see their great efforts this year be recognized among the best local high school talent."









The DMAC Video Festival has existed for over 30 years to give high school media production students from dozens of Western Pennsylvania and Ohio schools a competitive venue where they can see each other's work.







### **ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES**

By Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director



### SPRING SPORTS ARE UNDERWAY

It is hard to imagine, but our spring sport teams have weathered the spring storms. Each of our teams have displayed remarkable resilience in adapting to the challenging forecasts of late March and early April. We applaud and appreciate our student-athletes and coaches for their patience and flexibility in keeping our schedules on track. Here is a glimpse of how the 2024 spring season has started off.

#### Baseball

Head Coach Eric Semega enters his 24th season at the helm and this year's team is a veteran roster looking to make an impact in the WPIAL playoffs. The roster has depth on the mound, quality bats and solid defense from all nine positions. As always, section play will be a battle with regular foes Butler, North Allegheny and Pine-Richland. At the time of this writing, the Raiders were 5-3-1 overall and 3-2 in section play.



#### Softball

Head Coach Marlesse Hames returns for her third season at the helm and her 2024 team is currently undefeated 9-0 (6-0 section) and ranked first in the WPIAL and second in the state for 6A softball. The team returns a veteran lineup including the battery of catcher Anna Kalkowski and pitcher Lexie Hames. Seniors Kara Pasquale and Kylie Staudt will patrol the outfield and provide the leadership for this championship-caliber team.

#### **Boys Lacrosse**

Head Coach David Hall returns to lead the Raider boys lacrosse program. Currently, the Raiders are 5-5 overall and 1-2 in section play. The upcoming games in the next few weeks include key section games with Pine-Richland, North Hills, Shadyside Academy and North Allegheny. The Raiders are led by a senior class of four – returners Aiden Burns, Nick Fischer and Dylan Kunkelmann and newcomer Cenzo DiTullio.





#### **Girls Lacrosse**

Katie Smolter returns to the sidelines for her 13th season as head coach and her 2024 Raider squad is out to an overall record of 4-3-1 (2-2-1 section). Remaining games include section contests with North Allegheny, Freeport, Fox Chapel and Pine-Richland. A senior class of eight strong leaders and players lead the team: Addison Barbe, Kacy Christensen, Megan Holby, Alba Lanti Gago, Lorena Lopez, Lydia Miller, Alena Rosenzweig and Brooklyn Salameh.



#### **Boys Tennis**

Coach Eric Grove, in his 24th season as head coach, has a squad led by seniors Michael DeVyver, Graham Logue and Mark Wilson. First singles player Michael DeVyver finished in fourth place at sectional singles, qualifying him to the WPIAL Individual Championships as the 11th seed – the first Raider to qualify for the WPIAL Individual tournament in 24 years!

#### Track & Field

Head Coach Ray Peaco, in his 16th season at the helm, currently has both the boys and girls teams at 4-1 overall and in section meets. The Raiders have a key upcoming section meet with Butler to determine their postseason fate in the team championships. At the North Allegheny meet, the following athletes moved into the









Top-5 on the Raider record board: Kathryn Morrison, 100 hurdles (15.61, #4 All-Time); Kyler Matson, 300 hurdles (39.79, #5 All-Time); and Eddie Strong, 200m (22.50, #5 All-Time). At the Butler County Track & Field Classic, records set by the Raiders included Kyle Mancing in boys high jump (6' 2"), the girls 4 x 800 relay (Claire Riehl, Sydney Heltzell, Paige D'Amico and Delaney Mansfield), and boys 4 x 400 relay (Karter LeRoy, Kyler Matson, Ethan



Barnett and Elliott Deutsch.) These are just a few names we will look to for medal performances next month at the WPIAL championships.

#### **Boys Volleyball**

Brett Poirier enters his fourth season leading Raider Boys Volleyball and the team's overall record stands at 6-3 (3-3 section) and includes a championship trophy in their own tournament, held March 23. Nine returning seniors lead the team this year: Peter Breski, Matt Cinker, Matthew DeGraaf, Nicholas Dunmire, Connor Gormly, Daniel Kane, Matthew Mirilovich, Ian Phelps and Jose Tinoco.



#### THE EPITOME OF SCHOLAR-ATHLETE EXCELLENCE

The Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) announced their ten male and female James Collins Scholar-Athlete Award winners on Wednesday, April 17. The Seneca Valley Senior High was represented on both lists with diver Isaiah Clerkley and golfer Lihini Ranaweera honored as one of ten WPIAL Scholar-Athletes, Isaiah and Lihini were two of 20 honorees out of 146 nominations, and it is an uncommon moment when a district has both a male and female honoree. The scholarly excellence and athletic brilliance of both Isaiah and Lihini is a testament to the strength of Raider Athletics and a commitment to our core values of excelling athletically, academically and socially. We congratulate Isaiah and Lihini and thank them for representing our District with immense class and distinction.





### **COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2024**

Many Raider student-athletes made their college commitment official with the early signing period starting in mid-November. We congratulate these seniors in achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of you are tremendous representatives of Raider Athletics and we are very proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

Name Emerson Peffer Sport Basketball **College/University** Saint Vincent **Major** Early/Elementary Education



#### **ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, MARCH 2024**

The Female Athlete of the Month for March was girls lacrosse attacker/ midfielder I orena Lopez. The senior had a hot start to the season, contributing goals or assists in all seven games for the Raiders. She leads the team with 37 goals, averaging five goals a game. Lorena has also chipped in with five assists and over 27 ground balls. Her performances have lifted her team to four wins, one draw and two losses.



including a 3-1 section record, strong enough for third place. Lorena's standout game came in a 19-15 victory over Shaler where she tallied eight goals. She has also scored a hat trick (three or more goals) in five of seven games. We recognize Lorena as the March Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Lorena!

The Male Athlete of the Month for March was senior boys tennis player Michael DeVyver. Michael came into the season as Seneca Valley's No. 1 singles player and has certainly lived up to that ranking. He is 6-2 on the season in singles matches, leading the Raiders to a .500 record halfway through the season. Michael also represented Seneca Valley at the 2024 Boys Tennis WPIAL Section Individual



Playoffs, where he came in fourth place, the highest finish for a Seneca Valley boys tennis player in 24 years. With his accomplishment, Michael qualified as the 11th seed for the Boys Tennis WPIAL Singles Championships. For an impressive month, we recognize Michael as the March Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Michael!

### WE ARE PLANNING FOR 2024-25

#### Physical, drug & concussion test dates

The athletic department has announced its summer physical, drug testing and baseline concussion testing dates for 2024-25. Please note these plans are subject to change.

#### **REMINDERS for 2024-25:**

- All required paperwork for athletic participation in 2024-25 will be available on Parent Portal and the SV Athletics website starting May 1. **New for 2024-25:** No paperwork may be completed prior to May 1.
- ALL fall sports paperwork is due in the athletic office no later than **3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1**. Coaches <u>will not</u> accept paperwork on the first day of tryouts.
- Dates for physicals are not yet confirmed. Once dates are set, we will announce. Please note physicals are first come, first served - we <u>do not</u> take reservations in advance. We encourage families to have their physical completed as soon as possible after May 1. You may visit your PCP or any Urgent Care Clinic for an athletic physical.
- The PIAA mandates their CIPPE form as the only permissible form for doctor's signature.

- All student-athletes must register in the Parent Portal under "Sports Registration" before tryouts/practice begin. Registration begins May 1.
- Complete information available on the District's Athletics website under "Participation and TRYOUT information" starting May 1.
- Concussion baseline testing only needs to be completed <u>every other year</u>. Parents may call the Athletics Office at (724) 452-6040, x1752 to confirm the status of their child's baseline concussion test.

#### Drug Testing and Baseline Concussion Testing Dates – Senior High School

- Tuesday, July 9, from 3-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 10, from 8 a.m. noon and 1 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 30, from 3 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 31, from 8 a.m. noon and 1 3 p.m.

### **HOOPS AND HOLLERS!**

While the scoreboard at the Harlem Wizards game showed our new friends from Jersey as the champions at the end of the night, the real winners were the rising Raiders and their families in the stands.

The night was filled with folly, dazzling trick shots, incredible athleticism and lots of fresh beats that kept the nearly sold-out crowd on their feet. Our SV All-Stars were a force to be reckoned with on the court and displayed an amazing amount of grit, determination and sportsmanship. Thank you to the team for sharing their talents and energy!

#### **SV All-Stars**

Head Coach: J.P. McFeeley Ms. Shay Houser Mr. Josh Sektnan Ms. Nicole Moorman Mr. Alex Krajniak Mr. Zachary Mathews Ms. Erin Burkhart Mr. Forrest Haffey Ms. Lynne Rodrigues Mr. Paolo Tolomeo Mr. John Hickman Ms. Ellizabeth Schroder Ms. Karen Fornadel

Ms. Tracy Richards Ms. Mackenzie Kacsur Ms. Ava Mosbacher Ms. Erin Andrekovich Ms. Christina King Ms. Chelsea Miller Ms. Hannah Gonzales Ms. Lauren O'Donnell Mr. Michael Ozdinec Guest Referees: Mr. Bob Ceh, Dr. Tony Babusci

Ms. Marissa Bitonti Mr. Christopher Titus

Ms. Quincy Gildea



















With the help of our sponsors, the event raised just under \$15,000! These proceeds will benefit the high school's LEAD program. LEAD (Learn, Explore, Act, Develop) is the district's goal to support students' social and emotional needs and help them thrive. At the SV Intermediate and Senior High Schools, the LEAD group of students and staff are driving an "SV Norms" movement that highlights positive behavior and attitudes to shape students into productive members of society.

Thank you to all who participated in the night's success, especially volunteers, sponsors and the SV All-Stars! Also, a huge thanks is owed to the Ehrman Crest PTO including Jean Elwell, Liz Steel and Barb Magill for coordinating the awesome concession stand offerings and the planning committee: Ms. Megan Lizewski, Ms. Natalie Green, Mr. Alex Krajniak, Ms. Becky Rockey, Ms. Lisa Graham and Ms. Annie Mersing.















#### HOME RUN APPRECIATION

As we get closer to graduation, we want to remind all the teachers and coaches out there: seniors never forget the impact you made on them! Your lessons went far beyond textbooks, shaping minds and hearts for a lifetime. Thank you for being the guiding stars in their educational journey. Here's a heartfelt example of that influence; senior members of the baseball team made special visits to thank an SV staff member who left an impact on them during their time at Seneca Valley.

Take a look at a memorable moment that took place late last month at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School.





























### TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

Seneca Valley senior Brandon McKenzie took the next step to continue his education by taking part in the Southwestern PA Career and Technical Education Signing Day held at PNC Park on April 23. Through the PA Department of Education and Butler County Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS), Mr. McKenzie was one of five students selected from 1.000 students to attend the event. He currently attends BCAVTS for Sports Medicine and has committed to Slippery Rock University to study Exercise Science through their 3+3 Pre-Physical Therapy Program.

The second annual signing

**ALL-AROUND CHAMPION** 

#### Affective Marchander Marchan



event recognizes students who are leaving career and tech education and are either employed, enrolled or enlisted. Congratulations and best of luck to Mr. McKenzie!

#### PIN TO WIN

This year, at the Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling (PJW) Tournament, Seneca Valley's Mimi Skowronski won the state championship in the 112-pound category.

According to her Coach Mike Conlon, the PJW championships are considered one of the toughest state tournaments in the country due to the concentration of wrestling talent. As a seventh grader in an extremely tough bracket, Mimi won the state championship decisively. "It was truly amazing," exclaimed Mr. Conlon. "Congratulations to Mimi Skowronski for being named State Champ!"

Click here to read the Cranberry Eagle article.



Seneca Valley sixth grader and gymnast Jack Milne recently earned the title of All-Around Champion at the 2024 PA Men's State Championship, having received the highest combined score in his level. Mr. Milne placed in all six events, receiving first on the pommel horse and high bar; second on his floor routine, rings and parallel bars; and third on the vault.

These impressive scores qualified him for the Region 7 Championships held April 4-7, in Landover, Maryland. Mr. Milne





competed against gymnasts across six states and placed fourth in his floor routine and fifth all-around. Mr. Milne is a proud team member for the Butler Gymnastics Boys Competitive program. Congratulations, Jack!







## **39TH ANNUAL ALL DISTRICT K-6 TRACK AND FIELD MEET**

## MAY 17, 2024

## **NEXTIER STADIUM**

(ON THE SECONDARY CAMPUS)

5:15 - 5:45 P.M. REGISTRATION 6 P.M. MEETING WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS ON THE 50-YARD LINE 6:15 P.M. FIELD EVENTS BEGIN TRACK EVENTS BEGIN AT THE END OF FIELD EVENTS.

## **FREE TO ALL DISTRICT RESIDENTS IN GRADES K-6**

Participants should wear appropriate clothing for running, jumping and throwing. Please supply your own water bottle!

> 6:15 P.M. FIELD EVENTS: Softball throw and long jump Track events begin at the end of field events.

Participants can choose to compete in the following track events:

## SPRINTING

Kindergarten: 40 Meters 1st & 2nd Grade: 60 Meters 3rd & 4th Grade: 80 Meters 5th & 6th Grade: 100 Meters

### DISTANCE

K-2nd Grade: 400 Meter Run 3rd & 4th Grade: 400 Meter or 800 Meter Run 5th & 6th Grade: 400 M, 800 M or 1600 M Run

Pre-K Race (parent and child) on football field at the halfway point of meet!

Students from CVE, Rowan, Ehrman Crest and Haine can see their physical education teachers for more details!

Come enjoy an evening of track and field competition! There is no cost in having some fun at the track!

### **ENVISION BLIND SPORTS**

Envision Blind Sports, a non-profit organization based in Mercer, PA and a member of the Move United network, recently received a \$30,000 grant from The Hartford to purchase adaptive sports equipment to distribute within several public schools across western Pennsylvania.

Envision Blind Sports generously donated kits of adapted sports equipment to each Midwestern Intermediate Unit (MIU) IV Teacher of the Visually Impaired, including Ms. Jessica Sloan who works with students at Seneca Valley.

Ms. Sloan attended a recent Envision event where she was presented with a kit that includes a variety of adapted soundproducing balls, running tethers, and eye shades to allow for students with visual impairments to participate in sports and activities along with their sighted peers in addition to spreading awareness to blind sports within our public schools.

Several of Ms. Sloan's students from Seneca Valley will be able to utilize the adapted sports equipment during their gym class, including sophomore Julian Silecky, who attended the Envision event.

After the presentation Mr. Silecky enjoyed some time playing goalball and using the adapted soccer balls.



"I am super excited to share this equipment with the physical education teachers at Seneca Valley to help make gym class fully accessible for my students," said Ms. Sloan.

This equipment was made available to the MIU4's 27 school districts in the Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties, including Seneca Valley. These kits will help to level the playing field for students with visual impairments to participate in sports and physical education activities alongside their sighted peers.

#### **KINDNESS AND INCLUSION**

Before Spring Break, our SV Unified Bocce Team visited Haine Elementary School to teach students about kindness and inclusion. The team members read a story about kindness, helped the elementary students make handprints that reflected their superpower and even taught them how to play bocce!

"My students learned how to play frisbee bocce," said Ms. Ashley Salman, Haine Elementary Physical Education (PE) teacher. "It was not only a great experience to learn about kindness and inclusivity, but a great PE curriculum connection as well."

Thank you to these SV leaders for sharing heartfelt lessons!











#### **GAME CHANGERS**

Up to 100 students were given the chance to acquire knowledge in sports and business technology from top experts in the field – the Pittsburgh Penguins and the global IT and business firm CGI. For two fortunate SV students, this firsthand experience was unforgettable.

Juniors Alissa Wilson and Brooke Rodriguez were selected to participate in The Pittsburgh Penguins Tech Academy powered by CGI.

Festivities kicked off with a Welcome Event at PPG Paints Arena in January where attendees met one another and toured the facility. Students were split into groups throughout the Tech Academy where they listened to Pittsburgh Penguins and CGI professionals, rotated through multiple departments and received an immersive in-thefield technology experience. Stations included information on the technology used in Pittsburgh Penguins analytics and research, the control room, mobile ticketing, CRM, sports and exercise science and more.

"I was so fortunate to have had the opportunity to take part in this academy," said Miss Wilson. "I have learned many valuable skills that I will be able to use in my future endeavors. I applied to this program because I plan on furthering my education in business and marketing and felt that this would be a great opportunity for me to learn more about what I would be doing for the rest of my career."

After the Tech Academy concluded, students were posed with a list of questions. Each group had one month to collaborate on their proposal with the chance to win prizes for themselves and their school, present their idea to a group of technology professionals at the Pittsburgh Penguins Sports and Technology Conference Powered by CGI and ultimately be named "CGI Pittsburgh Technologists of the Year."

Miss Wilson added, "One of the key takeaways I have learned is that it takes a lot of people and patience to form a product. While forming our proposal for our project, each of us in the group needed to pitch our individual ideas and mesh them all together to form one idea to propose."

Applications were open to all students in grades 9-12





Pictured, L-R, Alissa Wilson and Brooke Rodriguez

in Pittsburgh's surrounding counties: Allegheny, Butler, Washington, Beaver, Armstrong and Westmoreland.

To learn more about the Pittsburgh Penguins Tech Academy Powered by CGI, visit here.





#### **PURPOSEFUL PROJECT**

In partnership with Cranberry Township, Haine Middle School sixth grade PURPOSE (Pupils United for the Rewarding Practice of Self Enrichment) students presented on the importance of protecting local watersheds at the Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on March 28. The students gave proactive strategies to implement including lawn and garden care, car wash techniques and using a rain barrel. These young environmental leaders



volunteered their time and effort beyond the classroom and are hopeful their efforts



will help make a difference in the Cranberry Township Community.

#### **STYLED AND STEPPING AHEAD**

This month, juniors and seniors in Seneca Valley's Community Based Vocational Training (CBVT) program attended a Career Readiness Day hosted by the ARC of Butler County. Students participated in mock interviews, learned how to tie a tie and received manicures from Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS) students. They also interacted using vocational skits to help hone their professional etiquette and enjoyed a fashion show highlighting professional dress and what to wear to a job interview.









# INAUGURAL SENECA VALLEY BEST BUDDIES WALK 2024

### SATURDAY, JUNE 1

9 a.m. Registration Begins | 10 a.m. Walk Begins



**REGISTRATION COST: \$10** Deadline to register: May 31 **T-SHIRT COST: \$15** Deadline to order: May 6

#### runsignup.com/Race/PA/CranberryTwp/ SenecaValleyBestBuddiesWalk

The Inaugural SV Best Buddies Walk will be a great opportunity to come together and celebrate those with special abilities while raising funds for Best Buddies International. Join us for a morning of friendship, music, face painting, refreshments and more!



BEST BUDDIES

### A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Photo Credit: Josh Milteer

"You've made this day a special day, by just your being you."

More than 50 years after the world met Mister Rogers, the methods he used in the Neighborhood are still impactful, helping every learner thrive.

Over 250 teachers, administrators and educational professionals from all over Western Pennsylvania recently gathered at Ehrman Crest Elementary School to learn what it takes to make schools a bit more like the Neighborhood. FrED Camp, a free professional development event, was held March 23, with the goal of expanding the "Fred Method." Participants learned more about cultivating educational practices that embody Mister Rogers' sense of community and belonging in our schools.



















#### **STAFF OF SV**

"Señora Kriess, were you born in Mexico?" is a question I often get from my students. I remind them that, just like them, I once sat in a classroom listening to unfamiliar words roll off my teachers' tongues, doing my very best to follow along and pick up new words that I could use with my friends and their abuelos who lived with them. I grew up in Miami and was always fascinated with the Hispanic culture that surrounded me. I was fortunate in college to study in Spain and completely immerse myself in the language and culture. Since then, I have never stopped learning and, whenever possible, traveling to Spanishspeaking countries. That is why when I heard about Operation Walk and their Spring 2024 trip to El Salvador, I jumped on the opportunity to volunteer.

Operation Walk is an organization that travels to developing countries providing free medical care; the upcoming trip to El Salvador was recruiting a group of volunteer doctors, nurses, and physical therapists to treat local patients debilitated by arthritis and other joint diseases. Since many of them were unable to work and provide for their families, these surgeries would be life-changing for them. And wait... what? The group needed Spanish interpreters? I could combine my love of language, my thirst for cultural experiences, AND my innate desire to help others all in one trip? Count me in!

I signed on as a volunteer and began practicing medical Spanish by Skyping with an online tutor. This immediately came in handy when I arrived at the airport in San Salvador. My first task was to communicate with customs officials to convince them to let us pass through with a HUGE suitcase full of anesthetic medication. The pressure was on since, without those meds, none of the 50 surgeries we were to perform would have been possible. After that, I spent very long days at the hospital, mostly on my feet, with very few breaks. My medical Spanish refresher was very useful when I was translating between the patients and doctors and speaking with the local hospital staff. But I also often found myself



in a nurturing role, comforting nervous family members and patients prepping for surgery, explaining procedures to them, and chatting with them about their lives and their families while they recovered.

Upon my return, I've been asked what my biggest challenge was and what my biggest takeaway was. The former is easy to answer. My whole life I have always been extremely averse to anything even remotely related to the medical field. I've even been known to faint at the sight, or even thought, of blood! So, being in a hospital, assisting with medical procedures, and even holding patients' hands while they received IVs and epidurals, was definitely outside my comfort zone. I somehow overcame this obstacle and faced my fears, much to the surprise of those who know me best!

The second question, my biggest take-away, is a bit harder to answer, mostly because there was so much that profoundly affected me. Perhaps most outstanding was the bravery and resilience of the patients. Besides being incredibly grateful and warm, the patients demonstrated an amazing tolerance for discomfort. The hospital conditions were so different than in the United States: no A/C in an extremely warm, tropical climate; broken and non-functioning hospital equipment (from heart monitors to hospital gurneys); lack of vending machines; uncomfortable plastic chairs







in waiting rooms; endless hours of waiting pre-surgery; and major surgeries, knee and hip replacements—with only local anesthesia!

I must have heard a thousand "thank yous" and "god bless yous" in my time at the hospital. I even got invited to my new amigos' homes, with encouragement to visit the beautiful beaches and numerous volcanoes for which El Salvador is known. However, the real gracias goes from me to the guanacos, the Salvadorans, for providing me with an amazing experience that I will never forget.

Elana Foster Kriess, Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School Spanish Teacher

#### **'I LED THE PLEDGE'**

Seneca Valley School District's School Board Meetings were held on April 8 and 15. We were pleased to continue the tradition of inviting elementary students from Seneca Valley's K-4 schools to lead the members of the School Board and public in saying "The Pledge of Allegiance."

For the April 8 meeting, we were joined by Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) fourth grader, Isaac Chiaraluna. Isaac's favorite subject in school is math and he dreams of one day becoming an engineer and/or pilot. Isaac says he enjoys riding his bike, playing hockey, building Legos and spending time with his older brother, Nico, who is also his best friend.



Isaac with, from L-R, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent, and Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President

For the April 15 meeting, we were joined by Simon Negley, a fourth grader from Ehrman Crest Elementary School. Simon is one of five boys in his family. His favorite subjects in school are math and science. He says he likes to play video games and build LEGOs, and loves sports, including soccer, basketball, baseball and flag football.



Simon with, from L-R, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent, and Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President

### **SV ALL-STAR**

For the month of April, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Ms. Karen Greenawalt, Administrative Assistant at Seneca Valley Senior High School.

The SV All-Star Club is an awards program developed by the District to express our gratitude to Seneca Valley classified employees (administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, maintenance, cafeteria), bus drivers and security guards who are often the unsung heroes of our schools. We recognize a new member of this elite all-star club each month.

Ms. Greenawalt has been the administrative assistant in the high school for several years and has demonstrated unwavering dedication to enhancing the experience for all who enter the building.

"Her commitment to efficiently organizing and supporting both largescale events and daily operations has fostered a positive environment for both students, staff and visitors," said Mr. Bob Ceh, Principal of Seneca Valley Senior High School. "Beyond her valuable skills, Karen's warm and welcoming personality has been instrumental in creating a friendly atmosphere within our school community."

Ms. Greenawalt is very deserving of this recognition and is a remarkable asset. She always goes above and beyond in her role and makes everyone feel welcome.



Pictured from L-R: Ms. Natalie Green, Acting Assistant Principal of Seneca Valley Senior High School, Ms. Megan Lizewski, Assistant Principal of Seneca Valley Senior High School, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President, Ms. Karen Greenawalt, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Bob Ceh, Principal of Seneca Valley Senior High School



**Simren Jayaraman, SV '21**, is a full-time student at the University of Missouri and is well on her way to making a difference in the lives of others as a healthcare professional. We asked her to catch us up on what she is doing and how Seneca Valley influenced her life and career.

#### Q: Catch us up. Tell us what you're doing today:

A: I am currently in my third year of a six-year direct medicine program at the University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC). This year, I am wrapping up my lecture-based coursework on Pathology and Microbiology while also starting to see patients in clinic once a week. Outside of school, I am part of a Bollywood Fusion dance team that competes nationally, and I like to run at the local park. When I complete my six years at UMKC, I will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Doctor of Medicine (MD) and begin my residency, hopefully in pediatrics!

#### **Q:** Please share with us some information about your family.

A: I have one younger brother who is currently a junior at Seneca Valley and lives with my mom and dad. When my brother isn't busy with the school musical or academic decathlon, the four of us love to travel, watch movies together and do puzzles!

#### Q: What might (someone) be surprised to know about you?

A: I have visited and stayed overnight in all 50 states before I turned 20 years old. I enjoy traveling because it helps me get out of my bubble and gain more empathy for others as I become familiar with different cultures, lifestyles and personal circumstances.

## Q: How did Seneca Valley help you become the person you are today, both personally and professionally?

A: Seneca Valley helped me become the person I am today through the opportunities it offered. One of the key opportunities included the considerable number of clubs available after school. I always felt like there was something for everyone. I developed professionally through Medical Careers Club which helped me better understand the field I wanted to enter. I developed personally through the friendships and relationships I made with my peers and teachers in Academic Games and as a class officer. Another great opportunity available through SV includes trips abroad through language classes or trips to different states through clubs. In ninth grade, the Latin program allowed me to travel to Italy which helped me learn about Italian culture and history.

## **Q:** What do you think makes Seneca Valley such a special place to learn and grow?

A: The people at Seneca Valley are what make it such a special place to learn and grow. The teachers and staff go out of their way to support their students both in the classroom and in extracurriculars. The students you meet in the classroom, sports and clubs also make SV special. Instead of creating a competitive learning environment where it is hard for students to grow and collaborate, the staff at





Seneca Valley help students work together so they can learn with others and develop important people skills.

#### Q: Who was your favorite teacher/coach/SV staff member?

A: One of my favorite teachers at SV was Mrs. McDermott. She retired recently, but, before that, she was one of the gifted teachers in the intermediate high school. She always encouraged me to step outside my comfort zone through Model United Nation (MUN) and debates among my peers. Another one of my favorite teachers who is currently teaching at SV is Mr. Carson, my 10th-grade chemistry teacher. He went out of his way to be a caring and attentive teacher both inside and outside the classroom, which is not always an easy thing to do. It takes a special kind of teacher to notice students struggling in social settings and step in when necessary.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Seneca Valley? We'd encourage you to recall a moment or event that had a particularly strong influence on your life.

A: One of my favorite memories from my time at Seneca Valley was participating in the Vans Custom Culture Competition through the SV Art Department. I remember the moment we found out we placed in the Top 5 nationally, the excitement of our art team was unmatchable. Mr. Woolslare spearheaded this project and created an opportunity to collaborate with other art students. I also had the opportunity to work on the glass mosaic for the SV Aquatic Center that was built during my time at SV. I appreciated how Seneca Valley cultivated my love for art, as it became applicable later in life when things became stressful. Students need to have de-stressors like art as tools in the real world even if it is not related to their academic pursuits or career.

## Q: If you had one message for teachers or staff, what would it be?

A: My message for teachers and staff would first be thank you for helping me get to where I am in life. The second would be to continue preparing students for university or the real world as best as you can. My U.S. History/Advanced Placement (AP) Government teacher Mr. Lucot used to ask how he could better prepare high schoolers for college, and I think the answer is to give more opportunities to practice problem-solving and test-taking skills. The biggest leap I felt from high school to college was learning how to answer multiple-choice questions and apply the knowledge that I learned. So, I would definitely encourage the staff and teachers to continue emphasizing that portion of their curriculum to prepare their students!

## Q: What do you wish other people knew about Seneca Valley?

A: I wish people knew about the large variety of learning opportunities both in coursework and in extracurriculars offered at Seneca Valley. Being at SV can be exciting because your experience is what you make of it and what you choose to engage in. I hope other people take the time to explore the choices available to them and have fun during their time at SV.

### A STEP TOWARD THE FUTURE

The Seneca Valley Senior High School is excited to help students prepare for the future. Their future, that is.

The College & Career Fair was held for grades 10-12 in the senior high school gymnasium on April 17. Approximately 70 school representatives/institutions were in attendance from state universities, private colleges, community colleges, military recruiters and technical, beauty, nursing, art, business schools and military recruiters.

This event offered students the opportunity to network, get information about summer internships, meet with admission representatives, and learn more about a variety of options that are available to them.





## SNAPCHAT NOW LETS PARENTS RESTRICT THEIR TEENS FROM USING THE APP'S 'MY AI' CHATBOT

Snapchat is introducing new parental controls that will allow parents to restrict their teens from interacting with the app's artificial intelligence AI chatbot. The changes will also allow parents to view their teens' privacy settings, and get easier access to Family Center, which is the app's dedicated place for parental controls.

Parents can now restrict My AI, Snapchat's AI-powered chatbot, from responding to chats from their teen. The new parental control comes as Snapchat launched My AI nearly a year ago and faced criticism for doing so without appropriate age-gating features, as the chatbot was found to be chatting to minors about inappropriate and edgy topics.

Snapchat says the new restriction feature builds on My Al's current safeguards, "including protections against inappropriate or harmful responses, temporary usage restrictions if Snapchatters repeatedly misuse the service, and age-awareness."

In addition, parents will now be able to see their teens' safety and privacy settings. For instance, a parent can see if their teen has the ability to share their Story with their friends or a smaller group of select users. Plus, a parent can see who is able to contact their teen on the app by viewing their contact settings. Parents can now also see if their teen is sharing their location with their friends on the Snap Map.

As for parents who may be unaware about the app's parental controls, Snapchat is making Family Center easier to find. Parents can now find Family Center right from their profile, or by heading to their settings.

#### How to Set Up Family Center

- 1. Download Snapchat on your phone and create an account.
- 2. Once you're set up, tap your profile icon in the top left corner of the home screen.
- 3. Then, tap the settings/gear icon in the top right corner.
- 4. Scroll down until you see Privacy Controls, and tap Family Center.
- 5. Send an invite to your child.
- 6. Wait for your child to accept the invite.
- Once they do, when you tap Family Center, you'll be able to see their friends, view who they've chatted with, and restrict sensitive content, if you want.

Click here to view a full guidebook of parental controls.

Article provided by TechCrunch and Bark

ß	Safety Checklist for Parents Helpful tips for parents of Snapchatters. Remind your teen to:
~	Only Connect with Family and Friends. Only invite and accept friend invitations from people they know in real life.
~	Carefully Pick a Username. Choose a username that doesn't include their age, birthdate, personal information or suggestive language. Your teen's username should never include personal information like age or birthdate.
~	Sign Up with a Real Age. Having an accurate birthdate is the only way your teen can benefit from our age-appropriate safety protections.
~	Double Check Location Sharing. Location-sharing on our Map is off by default for everyone. If your teen is going to turn it on, it should only be used with their trusted friends and family.
~	Talk to a Trusted Adult. When it comes to safety and well-being, there are no bad questions or conversations. Tell your teen to speak to a trusted adult if they have a concern.
~	Use In-App Reporting. Your teen should know that reports are confidential – and go directly to our 24/7 Trust & Safety team for review.
~	Think Before Sending. As with sharing anything online, it's important to be really careful about requesting or sending anyone – even a partner or close friend – private or sensitive images and information.
~	Join Snapchat's Family Center, Make sure you and your teen are signed up for our parental controls, Snapchat's Family Center, where you can see which friends your teens are talking to and set Content Controls.

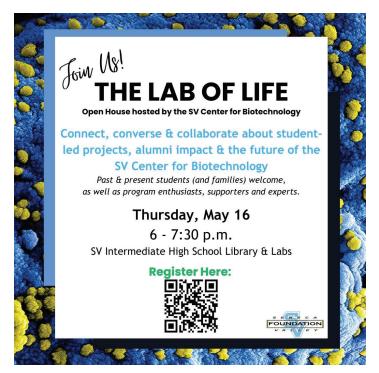
**Snapchat Story TIP:** For many users, Snapchat may recommend users to follow by including their stories among the stories of users your child followers. These "Quick Add" users are recommended based on Snapchat's algorithm, location-based recommendations, mutual friends and contact information matching. To hide these unwanted and potentially inappropriate suggestions:

- 1. Swipe into the Story Menu.
- 2. Tap the three dots in the top right portion of the screen.
- 3. Click "Hide Friends Story Suggestions."

\*\* This setting feature is only temporary and will reset after a few months, so users may have to go back and follow these steps again.



- Ehrman Crest Elementary School welcomed special visitor Mary Ours, CBS News First Alert Meteorologist, to teach students about meteorology and lead them through a daily forecast video! Take a look at this special visit, here.
- The Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) summer camp registration is now open! This program offers a variety of exciting experiences for every interest – from artistic masterpieces to culinary delights, LEGO adventures to sports thrills. Register today for a summer filled with creativity, fun and confidence-building!
- Teacher Nominations WTAE-TV is launching a Teacher of the Month recognition program for the 2023-24 school year. Each month, from September through May, a teacher will be selected from the many deserving submissions that they receive. The selected Teacher of the Month will receive a \$1000 credit to donorschoose.org, a crowd-sourcing page for classroom project/program funding. In addition, Pittsburgh's Action News 4 will feature that teacher and their story (and possibly a surprise school visit) during a news broadcast, as well as social media. Nomination information can be found at WTAE Teacher of the Month.
- All students in Pennsylvania public schools, including Seneca Valley, have access to free breakfast for the 2023-24 school year, regardless of family income.
  Encourage your student(s) to stop for a full breakfast or various grab-and-go items. And new for the 2023-24 school year, families who qualify for reduced meals will now be able to receive lunch for free. If you think you qualify, please apply to receive this benefit and return it to the Seneca Valley Administration Office with attention to Faye Nelson. We encourage you to fill out a Free & Reduced-Price School Meals Application as many programs are connected to your child(ren)'s eligibility. Applications can be found at www.svsd.net/FreeandReduced.
- SV Backpack Flyers Flyers are updated frequently and feature information on student and community events/ activities. Learn more at Backpack Flyers / Backpack Flyers (svsd.net).
- Healthy habits SV's Health Services Department would like to remind everyone to eat well, sleep well, stay hydrated and wash hands frequently. <u>Additionally, they ask that you</u> <u>please stay home or keep your child home when sick, and for</u> <u>24 hours after fever is gone without medication or 24 hours</u> <u>without vomiting/diarrhea.</u> Thank you!
- Seneca Valley residents 62 years of age or older are invited to apply to become a member of the Seneca Valley School



District Gold Card Club. Membership entitles card holders to attend home athletic events, music, dramatic and other school productions. To apply for a gold card, please visit Parents/Community / Gold Card Club (svsd.net).

- Reality Tour is an accessible substance prevention program that delivers information to get parent and child on the same page.
- Substance Abuse Prevention for Parents CANDLE, Inc. (candleinc.org)
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!
- Drive for SV! Driver incentives are now being offered.
- Join the SV Team! Visit www.svsd.net/HumanResources to learn more and apply.
- Visit Niche to view SV rankings.

### FYI

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200



local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices.

# JOIN THE SENECA VALLEY TEAM!



## Applications accepted at www.svsd.net/Employment.



## **APPLY TODAY!**

Teacher applicants needed for 2024-25:



Secondary





## Benefits of working at Seneca Valley:

- Competitive salaries & benefits
- Professional development & faculty mentoring
- Commitment to supporting diverse faculty & staff
- Inclusive community and engaged students
- Commitment to community service
- Exceptional facilities

The Seneca Valley School District is committed to advancing equity and embracing diversity and inclusion in the workplace. EOE.

To learn more and apply, scan the QR code or visit www.svsd.net/Employment.

## **Academy of Choice**

## **Camp Offerings**



## June 10-13 week 1

SV Summer Band Camp (HMS) Band students with at least 1 year of experience | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Haine Middle School

Culinary Arts I Grades 5-12 | 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Senior High School Kitchen

Pastry Arts Camp Grades 5-12 | 12:30 pm - 4 p.m. Intermediate High School Kitchen

#### week 2 June 17-20

Sports Camp Grades 4-8 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. or 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Haine Middle School

FIRST Robotics & Programming Grades 7-12 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Senior High School

**SVAOC Dance** Grades 5-12 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. **RGMS Dance Studio** 

The Art of Photography Grades 7-12 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Intermediate High School



June 24-27 week 3



**Camp Confidence** Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. **CVE** School

SV Summer Orchestra Camp Orchestra students in grades 4-8 with at least 1 year of experience 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Ehrman Crest Middle School

## **July 8–11**



Camp Chill: Session 1 Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. **Rowan Elementary School** 

**Kinder Kids** Students entering kindergarten 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m Haine Elementary School

Building Up Your Imagination LEGO® 1 Grades 1-2 | 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Ehrman Crest Elementary School

Building Up Your Imagination LEGO<sup>®</sup> 2 Grades 3-4 | 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. **Ehrman Crest Elementary School** 

Dream It, Build It! 3D Printing and Gaming Grades 4-8 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Intermediate High School

## July 15-18



Fitness Fun! Grades 1-6 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. **Ehrman Crest Elementary School** 

Art

Grades 5-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Intermediate High School

Camp Chill: Session 2 Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. **CVE** School

## July 22-August 1 week 6

SV Summer Band Camp (ECMS) Band students with at least 1 year of experience | 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Ehrman Crest Middle School



For more information and to register for camps, visit https://www.svsd.net/Page/19662

## SVSD - Drug Prevention is for Every Family



"One parent emailed me after attending Reality Tour to express gratitude for SVSD support calling it a 'great resource for the fight against substance abuse'.

We believe our partnership with Reality Tour serves as a deterrent in this never-ending battle."

Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent

**Reality Tour,** the only **parent/child drug prevention program** in Butler County, has educated over 14,000 residents. Parent/Child prevention education is the key to protecting families. It is recommended by that all SVSD Area students (especially those in 6<sup>th</sup> grade) attend a Reality Tour with a parent or guardian.

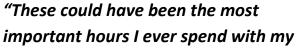
Reality Tour is held from 6-8 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, 8070 Rowan Road. All registration is online at <u>www.RealityTour.org</u>. The fee is \$6 per person. (Families on free & reduced lunch register at no charge.)

Feb. 15	6-8pm	
Mar. 21	6-8pm	
Apr. 18	6-8pm	
May 16	6-8pm	

#### **Reality Tour 2024 Dates**

No homework due day after you attend Reality Tour. Dates may fill quickly. Register now! Youth aged 10-18 must attend with <u>their own parent or guardian</u>.

**Parents:** DEA issued a national alert on Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer in the illegal drug supply. It is present in our county. Vaping has caused a heightened concern for prevention. Reality Tour puts special emphasis on teen vaping and the associated risks.



**son.**" – From a father who attended with his son.





## 2024 SENECA VALLEY SCHOOL DAY DISCOUNT OFFER JUNE 21, 2024

## EARLY BIRD OFFER FOR YOUR SCHOOL DAY TICKETS! TICKETS ONLY \$31.99 IF PURCHASED BY APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>!

PRICE INCREASES TO \$35.99 WHEN PURCHASED MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OR LATER

### PURCHASE INSTRUCTIONS TO VISIT ON JUNE 21st FOR AS LOW AS \$31.99:

- STEP 1: Go to www.kennywood.com/schools
- STEP 2: Enter your '2024 School Ticket' ticket quantity
- STEP 3: Enter Promo Code senecavalley in the 'Promotional Code' box, then click 'Apply'
- **STEP 4:** Click 'Continue' to advance to the ticket calendar. **SELECT THE ABOVE SCHOOL DATE TO APPLY DISCOUNT OFFER**, then click 'Continue'

### STEP 5: SELECT [AGAIN] THE ABOVE SCHOOL DATE, then click 'Continue'

**STEP 6:** Click 'Continue' to advance and complete the remaining steps to purchase your tickets!

### PURCHASE INSTRUCTIONS TO VISIT ANY DATE OF CHOICE THROUGH JULY 14<sup>TH</sup> FOR \$37.99:

(if you are unable to visit on the date selected at time of purchase, you can visit any day through July 14<sup>th</sup>) **STEP 1:** Go to www.kennywood.com/schools

- **STEP 2:** Enter your '2024 School Ticket' ticket quantity
- **STEP 3:** Enter Promo Code **senecavalleyflex** in the 'Promotional Code' box, then click 'Apply'
- STEP 4: Click 'Continue' to advance to the ticket calendar. SELECT ANY VISIT DATE THROUGH
  - JULY 14th TO APPLY DISCOUNT OFFER, then click 'Continue'
- STEP 5: SELECT [AGAIN] YOUR VISIT DATE, then click 'Continue'
- STEP 6: Click 'Continue' to advance and complete the remaining steps to purchase your tickets!

#### \*Good Any Day tickets will only be available for purchase March 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### IMPORTANT: DO NOT CAPITALIZE ANY CHARACTERS OF THE PROMO CODE.

Visit **KENNYWOOD.COM** for up-to-date park operating dates and hours. Park operating dates, hours and prices are subject to change. Online offer only. No refunds or rainchecks for online purchases.

## **SAVE THE DATE!** Seneca Valley School District **50 Year BEDITION GLEN EDEN BARN** Dufford Road, Evans City **Saturday, July 6** 4:30 - 10 p.m. | \$55 per person

\* Ticket includes appetizers, dinner, dessert and two drink tickets

## **GOLF OUTING** and **MEET & GREET** *Friday, July 5* Hartmann's Golf Course and Watering Hole, Harmony Golf Outing: \$43 per person with cart

Golf Outing: \$43 per person with cart Meet & Greet: \$28 per person | **11 a.m. - 2 p.m.** 

Meet & Greet includes picnic games, lunch and cash bar

Reservations due by <u>June 15th</u>

Return email with payment directions to: <u>Dawn Jamieson Wagner</u> at ridawag2@sbcglobal.net

# Sarah Heinz House Summer Camps 2024





**Day Camp - Early Childhood** Ages 3-4; Ages 5-6; Completed 1st Grade-Completed 2nd Grade

> **Day Camp - School Age** Completed 4th Grade-Completed 6th Grade

**Day Camp - Leadership Camp** Completed 7th Grade-Completed 12th Grade



#### Heinz House Residential Camp

Boys Residential Camps & Girls Residential Camps Completed 1st Grade-Completed 11th Grade



### **Specialty Camps STEM**

Preschool STEM Exploration: Ages 4-6 Lego Robotics Camp: Completed 4th Grade-Completed 8th Grade Robotics, Invention & Engineering: Completed 2nd Grade-Completed 5th Grade Drones, AI & Robotics Camp: Completed 5th Grade-Completed 8th Grade

#### **Specialty Camps ART**

Creative Magic Art: Ages 5-9 Comic Book Camp: Completed 4th Grade-Completed 8th Grade Art Life: Ages 10-14

Specialty Camps DANCE

Mini Stars: Ages 5-9 Rising Stars: Ages 8-13



This is not a Seneca Valley sponsored event.

Questions? Contact: SHH@sarahheinzhouse.com 412-231-2377

Scan here for more info

www.sarahheinzhouse.org

## SUMMER STARTS AT THE

## WATERPARK!



Opening Day! - Saturday, May 25	World's Largest Swimming Lesson Thursday, June 20
Totally Tubular Tuesday Night Swims Tuesdays, June 11 - August 6, 9-11 PM	Christmas in July - Thursday, July 25
Noodle Nights Fridays, June 14 - August 9, 6-8 PM	Puppy Plunge - Saturday, September 7
Military Appreciation Days Sundays - May 26, June 30, July 28, August 25	Rentals available for birthdays, grad parties, family reunions, & more! - All summer long!

**BUY A MEMBERSHIP & SAVE! VISIT CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/WATERPARK** 

# **KIDS READ TO KIDS**

Cranberry Public Library

Hey, little friends! Are you ready for fun and adventure? Join us at the Cranberry Library for story time with students from Ryan Gloyer Middle School!

Get ready to explore magical worlds, meet new friends, and let your imagination soar!

The 8th grade students created a book and craft just for you! Hope to see you there!

Registration is required. Register online by May 21.

Register for the 10:30 a.m. session <u>HERE.</u> Register for the II:30 a.m. session <u>HERE.</u>



Saturday, July 13, 2024 Race start: 8:30am Cranberry Community Park \$25 Adult • \$15 Child

# yourctcc.org/5k







