



RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

APRIL 2023

PARADING THROUGH THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS

The SV Marching Band recently took part in the experience of a lifetime. During the 2023 marching band trip, students performed in the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade and had the honor of participating in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. ■

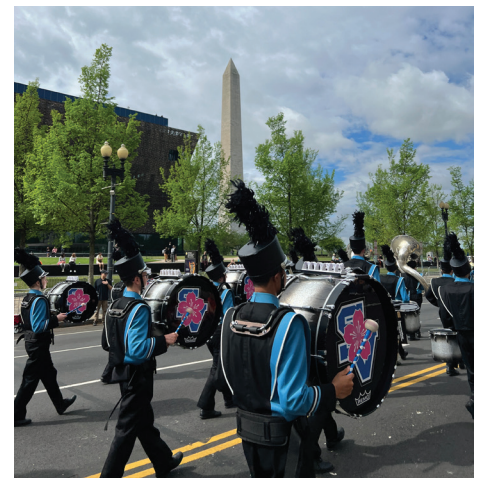


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DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 1-12 SHS AP Testing
- May 6 SAT Testing
- May 8 School Board Meeting, Regular Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- May 12 Act-80 Day, No School for Students
- May 13 Prom
- May 29 District Holiday, No School

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

IT'S AN HONOR!

Click here to view the 2022-23 Third Nine Weeks Honor Rolls for grades 7-12

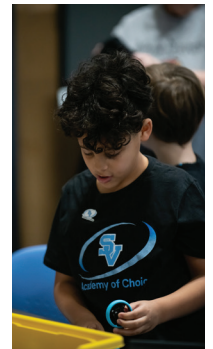


SV ACADEMY OF CHOICE OPENS NEW DROP-IN CENTER

Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) is officially open! Late last month, SVAOC staff, students and families enjoyed opening day festivities at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the new Cyber Drop-in Center.

The SVAOC has been providing cyber opportunities for students for over 15 years. The program has grown to now provide various forms of online education to over 2,000 Seneca Valley students. Seneca Valley's faculty, staff and administration were joined by school board members, local dignitaries and student representatives to celebrate this momentous occasion.

This easily accessible drop-in center, located in Cranberry Township, allows us to continue that growth and extend our mantra of SVAOC: Education Customized for You. Our well-established SVAOC cyber staff will offer on-site, personalized learning opportunities for cyber students in STEM, reading, physical education, and other areas, including social-emotional learning, as needed by our students and families. What an exciting next step in cyber education! ■



The following is a revised 23-24 calendar that now includes an additional staff in-service day on Friday Feb. 2, 2024.

Seneca Valley SD 2023-24 Student/Teacher Calendar

FINAL REVISION - APPROVED 4/2023

August 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	IS	A80	19
20	A80	FD	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

11 Staff Days; 8 Student Days (10 w/A80)
 Aug. 22 - First Student Day

September 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	H	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	A80	26	27	28	29	30

20 Days
 Sept 25 - Yom Kippur (Act 80)

October 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	A80	28
29	30	31				

22 Staff Days

November 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	IS	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	H	H	H	25
26	H	28	29	30		

18 Staff Days; 17 Student Days
 Nov. 10 - IS/Staff Clerical Day

December 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	H	H	H	H	H	30
31						

16 Days

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	H	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	IS	13
14	A80	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

21 Staff Days; 20 Student Days
 Jan. 11 - End of First Semester
 Jan. 12 - IS/Clerical Day

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	IS	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	SM	17
18	IS	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

20 Staff Days; 18 Student Days
 February 19 - IS/Clerical Day

March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	A80	16
17	SM	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	H	30
31						

19 Days

April 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	H	H	H	H	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

17 Days

May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	A80	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	H	28	29	LD-S	31	

22 Days
 May 30 - Last Day for Seniors (Grad. Day)

June 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	LD	IS	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

5 Staff Days; 4 Student Days
 June 6 - Last Day for K-11 Students

191 Work Days for Teachers

Snow (Emergency) Makeup Days:
 #1 - Feb. 16, 2024
 #2 - March 18, 2024
 #3 - Remote Learning
 #4 - Remote Learning
 #5 - Remote Learning

District Local Holidays:
 Nov. 22, 2023
 Nov. 27, 2023
 Dec. 25, 2023
 Jan. 1, 2024
 April 1, 2024

KEY

A80 - Act 80-Prof. Develop. Day (No school for students)

H - Holiday (No school)

IS - In-Service Day (No school for students)

FD, LD & LD-S - First Student Day, Last Student Day & Last Day/Graduation Day for Seniors

SM - Snow Makeup Day (this day becomes a holiday if no snow make-up days are needed)

Remote Learning - Flexible Instructional Day/Students engage in remote learning from home

Please note all dates are subject to change

IT'S GREEK TO ME

Mythology came to life at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) late last month! Students in Mr. Zach Cene's World History class researched gods, heroes and monsters in Greek Mythology and wrote about their studies. Following the weeks of research, parents and teachers were invited to watch the students become 'living statues,' complete with costumes and informative speeches.

Parents enjoyed seeing their students' educational showcase and students did a great job bringing their mythological statue to life! ■



STELLAR STUDENT PROJECTS

Rowan Elementary third graders recently completed Creativity, Innovation and Research Center (CIRC) projects that were out of this world! Students applied what they had learned in their science classes to real-world situations. Students studied the solar system in class and used that knowledge to design and build shelters for human colonies on various planets. They researched the weather conditions on the planets and worked together in the CIRC makerspace to create shelters to overcome those conditions.

This project was also a cross-classroom collaboration activity requiring students from different CIRC classes to work on the same project without ever being physically together. Teams communicated using shared online documents and successfully overcame the challenges that naturally arose.

Students reached for the stars and did a fantastic job! ■



NOCTURNAL ENTHUSIASTS

Bats are often thought of as spooky, creepy or scary, but second graders at Rowan Elementary sure don't think so.

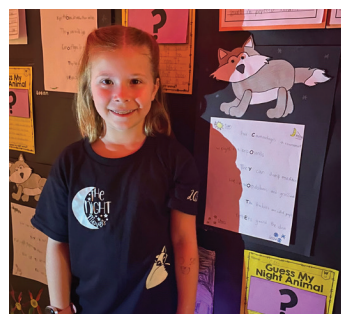
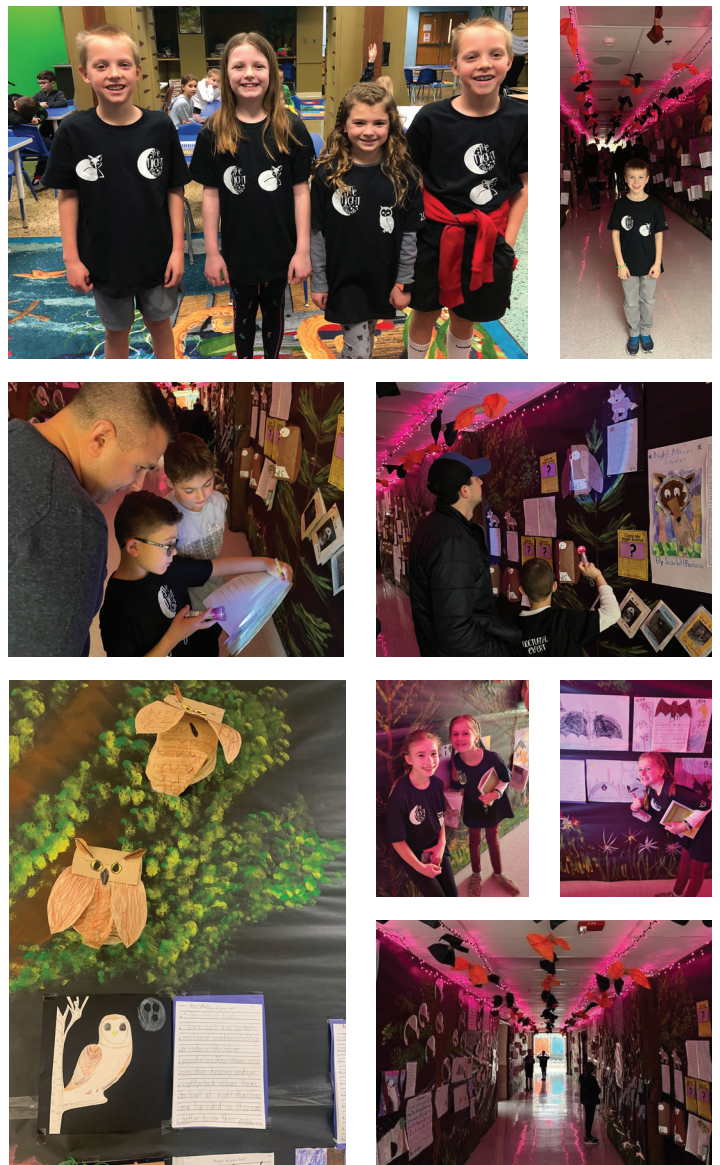
Students in Ms. Cavicchia's and Ms. Cowell's second-grade classrooms created 'The Night Moves' interactive exhibit to bring awareness to the importance of nocturnal animals in our local ecosystem. The classes collaborated with one another, parents and the community over a span of many months to increase student learning on this preservation topic.

"Our students used their critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and creativity to produce Research Reports, Position Papers, Coyote Acrostic Poems, Bat Cinquain Poems, Bat

Trivial Pursuit Games, QR Codes of Sounds of Nature, and much more," stated Ms. Cowell.

Additionally, students studied animal adaptations and habitats and created an immersive exhibit for parents and students to visit during Rowan's Open House Night. Visitors were encouraged to interact with the material using flashlights, sharing what they learned on a 'graffiti' wall and answering questions revealed on flaps.

These future chiropterologists loved sharing their knowledge during Rowan's Open House and collected \$582 in donations for the purchase of bat boxes and owl houses for the elementary school. This project will inspire conservation for years to come! ■



INNOVATIVE INVENTIONS

This past month, fourth and sixth grade student inventors showcased their inventive creations at Inventionland in Pittsburgh.

The sixth-grade innovation team winners visited Inventionland for the Seneca Valley School District Invention Contests! Five teams of innovators presented their pitch to the judges and three of those teams were chosen to move on to the regional competition in May.

Congratulations to the TEPM Team on their first-place win. Participants included Ellie Edmisten, Charlotte Riggle and Madison Tomaszewski. This team innovated a reusable stick-on thermometer for disposable hot drink cups. It would allow customers to determine the temperature of the drink before drinking it. Not too hot, not too cold, just right!



Ehrman Crest Elementary (ECE) fourth grade Creativity, Innovation and Research Center (CIRC) Tank winners also visited Inventionland to present their amazing inventions.

The leading team, the Mighty Tie-Dye Tigers, invented an app-controlled, automatic fish feeder for on-the-go families.

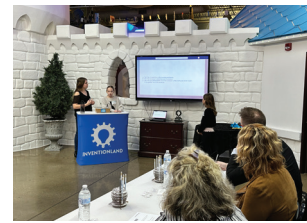
The second-place team, Rise and Design (RAD), combined the technology behind the scissor lift with a personal stool to use in libraries, homes and schools to lift users safely to higher shelves.

The third-place title ended in a tie between the inventions Lego Vacuum, a machine that sorts Legos as it cleans, and a Trash Hoop that could be purchased to attach to trash cans to combat littering and make throwing away trash

Congratulations to the second-place team, Fab Tabs, with members: Myra Kantz, Taylor Sevin and Madeline Watson. This team innovated toothpaste tablets that dissolve in warm water so you can brush your teeth with less mess!



Congratulations to the third-place team, CMG Company. Members include Nathan Leslie, Amelia Cummings, Alex Verenna and Ella Jacisin. The team innovated heat-resistant and waterproof gloves for mechanics who work on hot engines and other professionals in similar fields.



Good luck at regionals!

more enjoyable. The Trash Hoop would keep score of how many people made a basket, helping to save the planet!

Other inventions included an off-road wheelchair, a self-watering 'smart' plant pot and more.

Congratulations to all the participants who presented their projects proudly! ■



A DAY AT THE PENNSYLVANIA LIVING MUSEUM

History coming to life took on a whole new meaning for Ms. Joni Klotz's third grade class at Ehrman Crest Elementary School (ECE). As students learned about the history of Pennsylvania, they did more than memorize historical facts and read documents, they brought history to life through a Pennsylvania Living Museum.

Students were given a character to research, write a script for, and portray in costume to visitors. They did a great job sharing facts about their character to parents, teachers, students and administrators! ■



LEARNING TO SIGN FROM A SPECIAL GUEST

April 15, is National American Sign Language Day and Ms. Webb's class at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) welcomed Mrs. Kirkpatrick to teach second graders about Deaf History, Deaf Culture and American Sign Language.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick, who was born deaf has been a librarian for 20 years and a sign language interpreter for 24 years. Students learned how interpreters help provide communication, as well as the appropriate ways to talk to someone who is deaf. Mrs. Kirkpatrick also helped students build the connection between how some sports use sign language to help communicate during a game.

Students learned many new things about sign language, but the class favorite was learning that you can communicate underwater and through windows!

Together, students were able to practice signing letters, their names and animals. The most important lesson they learned was that even though some people may be deaf, they are no different than anyone else. Not being able to hear is just something that makes someone unique, and that should be celebrated! ■



POSTER STUDENTS

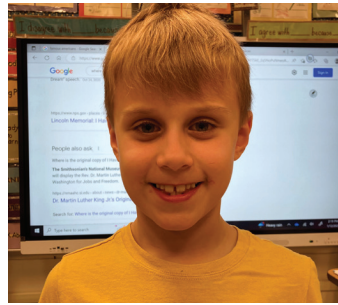
Three Rowan Elementary School students recently won top awards for their ideas on how we can invest in our planet. All three were named winners in the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) annual Earth Day Poster Contest. The winners are:

- Alex Reiterovych, first place winner in the second-grade category
- Nash Caldwell, second place winner in the second-grade category
- Yasmeen Fahs, first place winner in the fourth-grade category

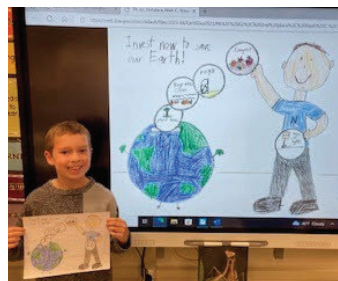
Their artwork is now on display via the NETL website and were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Energy headquarters in Washington, D.C. for display there, as well.

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, "Invest in Our Planet. What will you do?" The contest also encourages creative expression and the development of an early interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Congratulations to these creative students! ■



Alex Reiterovych



Nash Caldwell



Yasmeen Fahs

A MOMENT OF SCIENCE

Ehrman Crest Schools took science to a whole new level when they hosted a Science Day which showcased a variety of hands-on activities and experiments for all to enjoy -- including some tasty treats from food trucks!

Fan favorites included a Don't Rock the Boat challenge and paleontology dig. Many local businesses supported Science Day by providing educational booths and science demonstrations ranging from a violin demonstration to a 'Guess the PSI' contest. Everyone enjoyed the day full of science fun! ■



GRANT AWARDED FOR YOUTH GARDEN PROGRAM

Ehrman Crest Elementary (ECE) has recently been awarded a 2023 GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant in the amount of \$500 to be used for the enhancement of Ehrman Crest garden spaces.

GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant, provided by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening, is designed to bring

the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the United States with hopes of reaching 10 million children by 2023.

Congratulations Ehrman Crest! Get gardening! ■





SAVE THE DATE

Kindergarten Countdown!

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 12, 2023

For more information on Kindergarten Countdown, register your child today for the 2023-24 Kindergarten enrollment year at [23-24 SV Kindergarten Enrollment is Open](#)

INSPIRING FUTURE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Recently, 12 SV seniors from the Anatomy 2 classes observed open-heart surgery at Allegheny General Hospital. Students watched from an observation deck as Dr. Stephen H. Bailey performed an aortic valve replacement and were excited about the program returning after being on hold for the past three years.

"I have been participating in this program since it started

about 15 years ago," said Seneca Valley Senior High School Honors Molecular Biology and Honors Human Anatomy teacher Ms. Rebecca Finch. "We were able to watch this procedure beginning to end and then Dr. Bailey was kind enough to come up and speak with the students about the procedure and answer any questions they have. What I love about this experience is

it allows students to see so many different medical careers that are associated with this complex surgery. Some careers include surgical tech, physician assistant, nurses, perfusionist, anesthesiologist, nurse anesthetist and more, and not all of these require years of advanced schooling. You can have a two-year degree and stand at the side of the surgeon saving lives. These are real people doing their jobs, and it's great to see this



in person rather than on a TV drama series!"

Many students expressed that watching an open-heart surgery is an unforgettable and life changing experience. ■

BIG BALL VOLLEYBALL FOR A BIG CAUSE

This month, Seneca Valley Advanced Leadership students Mia Humphreys and Tayla Fullerton organized a Big Ball Volleyball Tournament as part of their leadership project.

The students effectively communicated with staff and peers, used problem solving skills, managed the organization of teams and collected funds. They were able to generate 21 teams of eight players and create the schedule and bracket for a smooth-running tournament.

The Advanced Leadership course will become College in High School Leadership next year and will be accredited through the University of Pittsburgh.



Funds raised from sign-ups totaled \$840 and were donated to the Seneca Valley Hope Squad, a new peer-to-peer suicide prevention program at SV focused on connecting struggling students with services they need.

To learn more about Hope Squad visit www.svsd.net/HopeSquad ■



AN IMPACTFUL MESSAGE

On April 14, tenth-grade students at Seneca Valley Intermediate High School gathered in the auditorium to watch "Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life," a film documenting Pittsburgh's powerful community response to hate in the aftermath of the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history. Through the voices of survivors, family members, diverse Pittsburgh residents and leaders, the film shows unity in a moment of crisis, the resilience of a vibrant city, and a community working together to understand what it means to be "stronger than hate."

After watching this impactful film, students listened intently to family members of Rose Mallinger, a Holocaust survivor, and the oldest victim of the 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue shooting. The Mallinger family spoke to students



about the film and answered questions from the audience during the Q&A session.

Read more about this story in the [Cranberry Eagle](#). ■



CONSERVATION GENETICS AT ZOO U.

The Pittsburgh Zoo Education Program has launched a new conservation collaboration with the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology that will continue to enrich academic opportunities for students and enhance conservation genetics-related projects, research and outreach throughout the region.

For the last three years, the Pittsburgh Zoo has supported the SV Center for Biotechnology through student projects like aquarium water sampling and DNA testing of fish species in waterways.

This past year the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium organized a four-day class focused on Conservation Genetics, as part of their ZooU high school education program. Each class included informational lessons, guest speakers and animal encounters from species that benefit from conservation genetics. On Feb. 18, Seneca Valley senior student technicians Maggie Monahan and Peri Gaguzis and Biotech teachers Mr. Brian Carson and Mr. Tom Lavelle, were given the honor of presenting on the first day of the ZooU class. Their presentation focused on how the Biotech Lab uses genetics to locate different aquatic species. Miss Monahan and Miss Gaguzis gave an in-depth look at their research on hellbender salamander and fish species detection.

“It was an amazing opportunity to get to share what we have learned with other kids who are also passionate about science,” Miss Monahan stated.

“I was honored to be a part of something that truly seemed to touch and inspire the next generation of scientists,” Miss Gaguzis said. “It is always a great pleasure working with Mr. Carson and Mr. Lavelle too!”

On Saturday, April 1, seventeen students from the ZooU Conservation Genetics class took a field trip to

the SV Biotech Lab. In groups, the students prepared DNA samples to determine the fish population presence in Little Connoquenessing Creek. Miss Monahan and Miss Gaguzis assisted the visiting students through all preparatory steps. The class also obtained a water sample used for DNA extraction. Mr. Carson demonstrated how to filter cells out from the water, a necessary step prior to DNA purification. The remainder of the class was spent analyzing DNA sequencing data that outlined all the fish and mammal species in the campus’ surrounding waterway.

“The partnership with ZooU provided a unique, meaningful opportunity for both the students in attendance, as well as the students presenting from the SV Center for Biotechnology,” said Mr. Carson. “Students teaching their peers creates a highly engaging, positive learning environment for both parties that helps to foster a deeper understanding of the subject matter.”

“It was a pleasure to partner with the Pittsburgh Zoo on this educational experience. Perhaps what was most gratifying was seeing the ZooU students work through the procedure alongside our student technicians and both the Pittsburgh Zoo and our lab’s staff,” Mr. Lavelle stated. “The questions and discussions that were generated from this hands-on experience were outstanding and a testament to the students’ drive for investigative learning.”

Ms. Marissa Netti, Senior Education Specialist for the Pittsburgh Zoo, also expressed her appreciation for this collaboration.

“It was a great opportunity to give these high school students hands-on experience that they may never get. We had a lot of the students on the bus ride home say they wish they had access to this type of science learning



at their own schools,” Ms. Netti stated.

The SV Center for Biotechnology is looking forward to future partnerships and educational enrichment opportunities. ■

PLANNING AHEAD

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 18.

Approximately 80 school representatives/institutions were in attendance from state universities, private colleges, community colleges, technical, beauty, nursing, art, business schools and military recruiters.

This event offered students the opportunity to meet with admission representatives and learn more about a variety of options that are available to them. ■





SV CHORAL STUDENTS ATTEND ALL-EASTERN FESTIVAL

Seniors Elizabeth Hixon, Leta Hixon and Anya Maschmeier attended the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-Eastern Conference from April 13-16. After performing at the All-State level last year as juniors, the three singers were able to qualify for the All-Eastern division. All three students performed in the Treble Chorus with over 100 other singers from Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts and Vermont. The choir was under the direction of Dr. Kristina Caswell MacMullen from the University of North Texas and performed multicultural music from all over the world. ■



SVAOC MUSIC STUDENTS EARN TOP HONORS AT PMEA ALL-STATE LEVEL

This month, 17 Seneca Valley musicians advanced all the way to the state level of Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) which is part of the annual PMEA All-State conference and festival. In the performing arts world, this is the equivalent of making it to a state championship. The event was held at the Kalahari Resort in Pocono Manor, PA.

The All-State Jazz Ensemble was conducted by New York City-based trumpeter, Joseph Boga. Boga is a member of the legendary ensemble Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks. The jazz ensemble performed as part of “jazz night” for the conference on Friday, April 21.

The All-State Choir was conducted by Dr. Amanda Quist, Director of Choral Activities for the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. SV students rehearsed with Dr. Quist over the course of three days which culminated in a performance on Saturday, April 22.

The All-State Wind Ensemble was conducted by Dr. Patricia Cornet, Director of Bands at Temple University. The All-State Concert band was conducted by Dr. F. David Romines, Director of Bands at Marywood University. Both ensembles performed a concert on Saturday, April 22.



Pictured left to right: Callum Williams, Leta Hixon, Jackson Hugus, Elizabeth Hixon, Isaac Hixon, Anya Maschmeier, Emma Zelesnak, Ayla Alexander, Natalie Palmer, Colton Marley

The All-State Orchestra was conducted by Dr. Timothy Dixon, Director of Orchestral Studies at Messiah University. Their performance closed the entire conference with a performance on Saturday afternoon, April 22. ■



Pictured left to right: Raymond Walter, Peter Ko, Bridget Scott, Paityn Armstrong, Mackenzie Tunstall



Pictured: Isabella Muthler



Pictured: Leanne Abel

ANNUAL CHORAL ADJUDICATION

Students in the SV Choirs participated in a Music Performance Assessment event on March 29. This adjudication brought four collegiate judges to SV to evaluate the choirs in grades 7-12. Judging was conducted by Dr. Mark Boyle from Seton Hill University, Dr. Susan Medley from Washington & Jefferson College, and Dr. Christopher Scott and Dr. Timothy Little-Tran from Slippery Rock University. The preparation for an adjudication is a substantial musical and metacognitive investment made by both students and faculty in the teaching/learning process. This vigorous means of assessment evaluates the learning, progress and achievement of the students in the classes. Owing to the success of the annual choral adjudication, SV has one of the strongest choral programs in Pennsylvania.

“Our students are very proud of their work and learn so much through this process,” stated Ms. Chessa Crum, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) Choral Teacher.

“Since the inception of the annual Choral Adjudications, SV has had choral ensembles at every level in grades 8-12 represent SV as All-State Ensembles,” added secondary Vocal Instructor Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander.

“We also have more individual students who qualify as All-State singers than any other school in Pennsylvania almost



every year,” stated Ms. Claire Barker, a vocal instructor on the secondary campus, grades 7-12. “This year, the students set a new school record!”

The positive performances and processes of adjudication help to build confidence, knowledge and skills. This year, the Freshmen Chorus, Women’s Chorus, Men’s Chorus, Concert Choir and Madrigals Singers all received Superior ratings (the highest rating given) and the Seventh Grade, Eighth Grade and Tenth Grade choirs all received Excellent ratings! Congratulations to all! ■

PMEA JUNIOR HIGH DISTRICT BAND

Last month, 24 Seneca Valley Band students were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Junior High Band Fest at Hopewell High School.

The fest featured two concert bands that diligently rehearsed during the day and gave a successful performance in the evening. The concert included a wide variety of music ranging from slow beautiful pieces to energetic music from the movie “The Incredibles.”

The seventh and eighth grade ensemble showcased 11 SV students and was conducted by Mr. Mark Godwin from Geneva College. Participants included Camden Armstrong-alto saxophone, Willow Campbell-flute, Emma Gallie-clarinet, Quintin Hixon-trombone, Rileigh Karns-french horn, Ella King-clarinet, Anna Livorse-french horn, Anthony Livorse-tuba, Eli Scanlan-trombone, Imogen Tomo-trombone and Mac Wilson-percussion.

The ninth-grade ensemble also featured 13 SV students and was directed by Dr. Jason Worzbyt from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Student members included Jordan Courtney-trumpet, Josh Hardy-flute, Brynn Houser-clarinet, Maddy Karns-alto saxophone, Emmelyn Kaye-clarinet, Jeb Kellar-trombone, Annabelle Obyc-flute, Riley Relich-trombone, John Rieger-trumpet, Lola Schwendemmann-french horn, Ellie Stewart-flute, Claire Thompson-flute and Autumn Zacherl-flute.

Students are led by Varden Armstrong, Robert Babick, Sara Snyder and Brian Croach. ■



VIDEO PRODUCTION STUDENTS EARN TOP HONORS AT DMAC

Students in video production classes won four awards at Robert Morris University's Annual Digital Media Arts Consortium (DMAC) student video festival on April 20. The DMAC festival was held on the arena floor of the UPMC Events Center and featured student representatives from dozens of western Pennsylvania schools.

Senior Evelyn Vogel won an award of excellence in the video art category for her experimental film "It's Fine" while also winning a Founders' Award for her dedication to SVTV and video production classes over the last three years.

Senior Alex Palmieri won in the news package category for his in-depth report on the 'No Cost to Shop' store in the senior high.



Freshman Phoenix Hale won in the animation category for her impressive frame-by-frame short film called "Frog's Hasty Journey."

Reflecting on the event, Evelyn Vogel said, "I'm incredibly thankful for the opportunity to

compete with other schools and see the talent in our region."

Seneca students and SVTV volunteers submitted fantastic work in 10 different categories and had an opportunity to see the varied work of neighboring schools' artists as well. ■



Alex Palmieri



Evelyn Vogel



Phoenix Hale

A PERFECT PERFORMANCE WITH THE PSO

On April 11, Madeline Shipe, Seneca Valley Senior bassist, had the opportunity to perform with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) in their side-by-side concert. During this performance students sit with symphony members to perform professional level repertoire under the Assistant PSO Conductor Moon Doh. Acceptance into this program is extremely prestigious and Miss Shipe was honored to be selected for the second time.

"I enjoyed this experience a lot, and, although it wasn't my first time playing with the PSO's side-by-side, this year was more memorable since I met so many new musicians and feel like I learned a lot more this year going into it



more prepared," Miss Shipe stated. "I enjoyed meeting other musicians who were as passionate about making music as I was and having the opportunity to have a sectional with members of the PSO bass section was like a dream. Overall, this is an amazing opportunity and I encourage anyone who enjoys making beautiful music to apply next year." ■



A MUSICAL TRIP TO NASHVILLE

On March 30, SV high school orchestra students departed for Nashville, Tennessee for their annual orchestra trip! Students from the Seneca Valley Chamber Orchestra and Seneca Valley String Orchestra combined to create one ensemble that received a rating of Excellent and title of second place at the World Strides National Heritage Festival. Senior violinist Gretchen Kellar received a Maestro award for individual excellence and leadership. Students also participated in a clinic and recording session at world famous RCA Studio B, the home studio of musicians such as Elvis Presley and Dolly Parton. In addition to performances and curricular activities, students visited many local attractions and restaurants such as The Country Music Hall of Fame, Ole Red, a performance and tour of the Grand Ole Opry and more!





SPRING SPORTS ARE UNDERWAY

As I sit to write this month's edition of Raider Pride, we are fresh off a week in mid-April that saw temperatures in the mid-to-high 70s. Spring is here and with that comes outstanding performances by our Raider Student-Athletes. Here is an update on our spring sports at the time of this writing.

Baseball

Head Coach Eric Semega enters his 23rd season at the helm and his 2023 squad has kicked off the year in top form. The Raiders are currently undefeated at 9-0 (3-0 section) and ranked atop the standings for 6A baseball. This year's squad is one that will put the pressure on for all seven innings. They are aggressive on the basepaths, disciplined at the plate, composed on the mound, and defensively solid in the field. In short, they are a fun team to watch play the game.



Softball

Head Coach Marlesse Hames returns for her second season at the helm and her 2023 team is currently 7-1 (6-1 section). The defending WPIAL champions have been ranked at or near the top of the standings all season long and are currently tied with Hempfield (the Raider's lone loss) atop the 6A standings. The team returns a core group from last year's PIAA runner-up squad and will rely on timely hitting, great defensive play and stellar pitching.



Boys Lacrosse

Head Coach David Hall returns to lead the Raider boys' lacrosse program. Currently, the Raiders are 6-1 overall and 1-0 in section play. The upcoming games this month include key section games with Butler, Pine-Richland, North Hills, and Allderdice. Senior play will be the key this season and these seniors include Evan Bulvin, Cole Callahan, Thomas Carryer, Jack Kriznik, Dominic Scialabba, Brady Skinner, Ruben Torres, Evan Vandewater and Evan Vetter.



Girls Lacrosse

Katie Smolter returns to the sidelines for her 12th season as head coach and her 2023 Raider squad is out to an overall record of 4-3 (3-1 section). The remaining games this month include section contests with Pine-Richland, North Hills, North Allegheny and Freeport. The team is led by a strong core of senior leaders including Mia Berg, Anna Johnson, Macy McMullen, Kylie Nemcek, Maya Perry and Kendall Walton.



Boys Tennis

Head Coach Eric Grove, in his 23rd season as head coach, has a squad led by seniors Tom Beresnyak, Adam Brazer, Nathan Craig, Mark Evelsizer, Peter Ko, Logan McKinney and Dante Rosetti. Currently, the Raiders are 7-4 overall. In individual sectional tournament play, Michael DeVyver won his opening round match 10-0 before falling in the quarterfinals; Mark Evelsizer came up against a tough opening round opponent and was unable to advance past the first round in section singles.



Track & Field

Head Coach Ray Peaco, in his 15th season at the helm, currently has the boys' team at 5-0 and the girls at 4-1. The Raiders have key section meets coming up with North Allegheny and Butler to determine their postseason fate in the team championships. Senior Jonathan Price moved up to 4th all-time in the 110 hurdles, with a time of 15.17 seconds vs North Hills. At the Butler County Classic, junior Madison Monahan tied the school record in the pole vault at 10-6. These are just two of many names we will look to for medal performances next month at the WPIAL championships.



Boys Volleyball

Brett Poirier enters his third season leading Raider Boys Volleyball and the team's overall record stands at 6-2 (3-2 section) and includes a runner-up trophy at their own tournament held on April 1. Following the loss of 12 seniors from last season, current seniors Grant Hoover and Steven Mazur have stepped into key leadership roles for Poirier's squad. ■



COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2023



Raider student-athletes continue to make their college commitment official through the winter months. We congratulate these seniors on 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 proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Ryan Krumenacker	Men's Soccer	Shippensburg Univ.	Business
Brady Skinner	Men's Lacrosse	Westminster College	Sports Business ■

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

February 2023

The Female Athlete of the Month for February was girl's wrestler **Maddee Fischer**. The sophomore had a strong finish to the end of the girl's wrestling inaugural season. She placed second at the 2023 Western PA HS Girls Championship and then placed fourth at the Western Regional Girls Tournament to qualify for the PA Girls State Championships. Maddee was one of two SV wrestlers to qualify, and she ended the championship weekend on the podium with an eighth-place finish. All of this is made even more impressive factoring in this is Maddee's first year wrestling. For an impressive month, we recognized Maddee as the February Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Maddee!

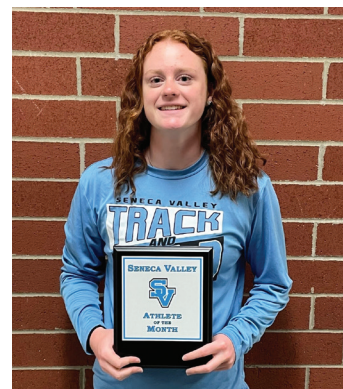


The Male Athlete of the Month for February was boy's diver **Isaiah Clerkley**. The junior diver continued his record-breaking year into the postseason. At the 2023 WPIAL Diving Championship, Isaiah blew the competition away finishing in first place with a score of 559.35, 51.05 points higher than the second-place finisher. At the 2023 PIAA Diving Championships, Isaiah finished in second place with a score of 302.95, narrowly missing first place by 3.35 points. We recognize Isaiah as the February Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Isaiah!

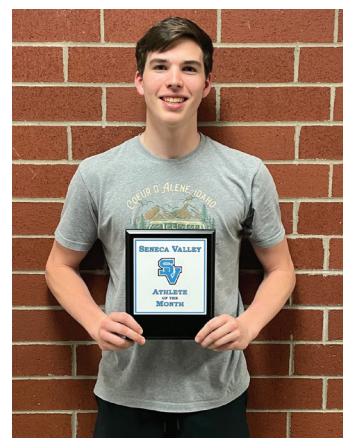


March 2023

The Female Athlete of the Month for March was girl's track and field athlete **Claire Riehl**. The junior sprinter had a strong start to the season, with top-three finishes in all individual events she has entered. She won the 200-meter dash in four out of five meets and finished second in the fifth meet. Her fastest 200-meter dash time this season is 27.62. Claire also placed first in the 400-meter dash at the Butler County Classic with a time of 63.87 and placed third in the 100-meter dash against Shaler with a time of 13.51. Claire has also led the 4x400 relay team to two first-place finishes as the anchor runner. For a spectacular month, we recognized Claire as the March Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Claire!



The Male Athlete of the Month for March was boys' volleyball outside hitter **Grant Hoover**. A senior captain, Grant has led his team to a 6-1 regular season record and a 9-3 record in tournament sets. In tournament play, he tallied an incredible 52 kills, 29 digs, 11 aces, 4 blocks and 2 assists over 12 sets while leading the Raiders to a second-place finish at the annual SV Boys Volleyball Tournament. During regular season play so far, Grant has amassed 102 kills, 67 digs, 13 aces, 12 blocks and three assists. He has a team-best per-game average of 14.5 kills and 9.5 aces. We recognized Grant as the March Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Grant! ■



WE ARE PLANNING FOR 2023-24

Physical, Drug & Concussion test dates

The athletic department has announced its summer physical, drug testing and baseline concussion testing dates for 2023-24. Please note these plans are subject to change.

Reminders for 2023-24:

- All required paperwork for athletic participation in 2023-24 will be available on the [Parent Portal](#) starting June 1 - no paperwork may be completed prior to June 1.
- ALL fall sports paperwork** is due in the athletic office no later than 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3. Coaches will not accept paperwork on the first day of tryouts.
- Dates for physicals are not confirmed yet. Once the dates are set, we will announce them. Please note physicals are first come, first served - we do not take reservations in advance. **We encourage families to have their physical completed as soon as possible after June 1. You may visit your PCP or any Urgent Care Clinic for an athletic physical.**
- The PIAA mandates the CIPPE form as the only permissible form for a doctor's signature.

- All student-athletes must be registered in the [Parent Portal](#) under "Sports Registration" before competing. Registration begins June 1.
- Complete information available on the District's Athletics website under "Participation and TRYOUT information" starting June 1.
- Concussion baseline testing only needs to be done every other year. 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 11**, from 3 – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 12**, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 – 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 1**, from 3 – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 2**, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 – 3 p.m.

Download the new and improved **SV MOBILE APP**



Seneca Valley's updated app is more personalized, more customized and has greater mobile content!



SV Portal
Once you log in, you'll stay logged into your account. Now you're just a tap away from viewing grades, homework, school information and more.

SV Customization
Click on the settings wheel to customize the app on your device.

SV Calendar
Stay informed with access to one or more calendars all in one place. Add personal calendar notes.

www.svsd.net

ON PAR FOR SUCCESS

Join the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) on Aug. 3, at Cranberry Highlands for the 11th Annual Gift of Hope Golf Classic! This event is a vital part of our fundraising efforts, and we would love for you to be a part of this day of fun and socializing, all for a great cause.

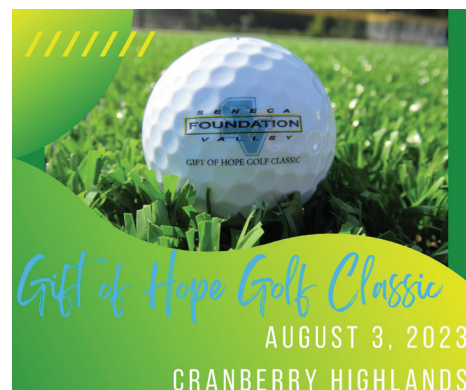
The SVF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing the gift of hope and promise of excellence to the Seneca Valley School District. Since its inception in 2012, SVF has contributed over **\$1 Million** to the district through teacher-inspired initiatives, classroom enhancements, capital improvement projects and professional development - **and we are eager to do**

more! Proceeds from this year's golf outing will allow us to continue, and **increase**, our efforts for the benefit of all Seneca Valley students and staff.

Hole sponsorships in honor or memory of your favorite SV teacher or alumni are a wonderful way to recognize someone who made an impact on you and your family.

If you or your organization is willing to donate a raffle prize or volunteer at the event, please email Annie Mersing, SVF Development Director, at mersingam@svsd.net.

Use the QR Code below to register your foursome and secure your sponsorship.



Spots sell-out quickly! (Forms can also be mailed in with payment.) For additional details, click [here](#). ■

<p>PRESENTING SPONSORS \$10,000</p> <p>Recognition on All Event Media 3 Complimentary Foursomes & 12 Dinner Passes Premium Signage at Registration, Reception and Premium Holes 1 & 10, Full-Page Ad in Presentation Ad in SVSD Activities Calendar (8,000 Distribution) Recognition & Intro at Reception</p>	<p>EXTRAORDINARY SPONSORS</p> <p>PUTTING CONTEST - \$2,000 SKILL PRIZE CONTEST - \$1,500 LUNCH/DINNER/COCKTAIL - \$1,500* <small>*Includes 4 dinner passes</small> HOLE-IN-ONE CONTEST - \$1,000 HOLE SPONSORS - \$400 All extraordinary sponsors receive ad space in presentation & signage</p>
<p>GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS \$5,000</p> <p>2 Complimentary Foursomes & 8 Dinner Passes Signage at Registration, Reception, 1 Hole & Pin Flag Full-Page Ad in Presentation Recognition at Reception</p>	<p>ADVERTISING SPONSORS</p> <p>FULL PAGE - \$200 HALF PAGE - \$100 Electronic Presentation during Dinner & Website</p>
<p>SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS \$3,000</p> <p>1 Complimentary Foursome & 4 Dinner Passes Signage at Reception, 1 Hole & Pin Flag Full-Page Ad in Presentation Recognition at Reception</p>	<p>GOLFER INFORMATION</p> <p>Foursomes: \$700 Solo Golfer \$175</p> <p>Registration: 8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Lunch provided at turn. Buffet dinner served at approximately 2 p.m.</p>

All proceeds benefit the Seneca Valley Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging excellence and innovation in the **Seneca Valley School District.**

JOIN US!

I will sponsor this event!

(check option below)

- Presenting Gold Silver
- Putting Skills Hole-in-1 Hole
- Lunch Cocktail Dinner
- Full-Page Ad Half-Page Ad

I will be there to play!

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Email: _____

Golfer 1: _____

Golfer 2: _____

Golfer 3: _____

Golfer 4: _____

Mail payment & this completed form to:

Seneca Valley Foundation
124 Seneca School Road
Harmony, PA 16037

Questions? Contact Annie Mersing, mersingam@svsd.net

VIRTUALLY REGISTER
TO PLAY OR SPONSOR



GIRL SCOUT HONORS

Seneca Valley freshmen Megan Trost and Jordan Courtney recently earned their Girl Scout Silver Awards.

Each project took at least 50 hours to complete and were developed as sustainable projects for the community. The Silver Award honor is earned by only 10% of Girl Scouts nationwide.

Miss Trost's project involved the revitalization of The Evan's City Sportsman Club pistol range by building necessary furniture, and Miss Courtney's project involved creating a "Gaga Pit" for North Boundary Park, where she taught the game to those that are unfamiliar with the dodgeball-like activity.

Great job to both for their time and dedication! ■



Jordan Courtney with her completed project



Megan Trost working on her community project

DEFENDING THE GOAL

Two Seneca Valley students traveled to Anaheim, California, this month to play in the Tier II USA Hockey Girls National Tournament. Freshman Maggie Longwell and sophomore Natalie Dolan both play for the Steel City Selects Girls Hockey Association, the only all-female ice hockey association in the Western Pennsylvania region.

Ms. Longwell is a defenseman on the 14U team and Ms. Dolan is a defenseman on the 16U team, two of only 72 teams throughout the nation that qualified for the tournament. Both Steel City teams finished their season ranked 10th in the country. ■



MAKING IT TO THE TOP

Eli Baugh, Ehrman Crest Elementary School third grader, has been playing hockey since he was four years old, and his hard work and dedication recently paid off as he was selected as one of the 15 players for the Pennsylvania Brick Hockey Team and related tournament. Both the Pittsburgh Penguins and Philadelphia Flyers sponsor the Team Pennsylvania Brick team, which is considered to be the most prestigious event for hockey players at his age level. ■



DEVELOPING THE TECHNOLOGISTS OF TOMORROW

Last month Seneca Valley sophomore, Max Wagstaff was named “CGI Pittsburgh Technologists of the Year” in the Pittsburgh Penguins Tech Academy, powered by CGI. Mr. Wagstaff was on Team Guentzel with other students from Mt. Lebanon, and their impressive group proposal about integrating the ‘Penguins Digitron’ into the in-game experience awarded Seneca Valley \$5,000 for tech services and upgrades.

“I couldn’t be prouder of Max,” said Ms. Jeanne Probst, Seneca Valley Intermediate High School teacher. “He stepped out of his comfort zone and took advantage of the opportunity provided to him. Max is an outstanding young man with enormous potential.”

The Pittsburgh Penguins Tech Academy powered by CGI hosted a Welcome Event at PPG Paints Arena in January where selected applicants were invited to meet one another and tour 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-the-field 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.

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.”

Mr. Wagstaff’s group proposed the idea of utilizing the jumbotron to give fans a more interactive experience by voting



on things like songs played in the arena, digital games and upcoming chants within the arena. Within the proposal, the group specified that fans could only get the interactive voting access if they have a ticket on the Penguins app to ensure security.

Lydia Miller, Seneca Valley junior also attended the Pittsburgh Penguins Tech Academy powered by CGI. “It was an amazing opportunity,” said Ms. Miller. “At the Welcome Event we formed ideas as to the struggles fans might face as they make their way through the arena and brainstormed what we could do to better their experience.”

At the end of February, the leading project was announced and Mr. Wagstaff’s group, Team Guentzel, was announced as the winner. Team Guentzel attended the championship ceremony in March where they were invited to a pregame reception to network and present their winning project.

“We went to PPG Paints Arena for a draft day, and we got to learn about what takes



place behind the scenes of a game, which gave us the idea of what we were going to try and add to the organization,” said Mr. Wagstaff. “Out of all 27 groups they decided we had the best overall idea. I was shocked and very excited we won.” ■

SV ALL-STAR

For April we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Ms. Tracy Vidnovic, front desk administrative assistant at the District Administration Offices.

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.

“It’s my honor and pleasure to nominate Tracy Vidnovic for this award, and in my opinion, she embodies the spirit of this award in every sense,” said Ms. Linda Andreassi, Communications Director. “As the front desk administrative professional, she is very often the first person to greet those interacting with Seneca Valley. Whether in-person or on the phone, she handles these calls and visitors with the utmost patience and professionalism. Since the start of her time with us, she has closely reviewed and updated protocols at the front desk. Doing so has allowed calls, in-person visits, deliveries and mail to be processed smoothly and with the utmost efficiency. She has also taken initiative to find better,

more helpful ways in which to serve our public. She trains and keeps all other central office administrative professionals updated with front desk procedures and expertly manages work from several departments at once, including communications, student registration, special education and human resources.”

In addition to her warm greetings and hospitality, Ms. Vidnovic also goes the extra mile to make her colleagues feel special. If there’s an event, a holiday or if it’s just been a long and busy week, she will send staff members uplifting notes, make and bring in food and write clever emails inviting the staff members at central office to gather.

For the Super Bowl this year, Ms. Vidnovic set up a lunch for everyone where she provided two different menus highlighting the best-known foods from Kansas City and Philadelphia. For March Madness, she created a “Meatball Madness” lunch. She also turned Thanksgiving into Turkey and Tacos Day and did it with a full taco spread. She always goes out of her way to help others and has also coordinated several denim day Fridays to help raise money for the Seneca Valley Foundation.

In her free time Ms. Vidnovic enjoys spending time with her family and attending baseball games at PNC Park with her daughter. In fact, Ms. Vidnovic



is a former Pittsburgh Pirate Pierogi. That’s right, she raced down the base lines as Jalapeno Hannah for two seasons. “Being a Pirates Pierogi was definitely my 15 minutes of fame, but the memories and conversations it provides will last a lifetime,” said Ms. Vidnovic.

Ms. Andreassi added, “Tracy is always giving to others with no expectation of anything in return, which is why it thrills me to give this to her today and to recognize her for being a valued employee who goes above and beyond in her role.”

“I was overwhelmed with gratitude when I learned I would be presented with the All-Star award,” said Ms. Vidnovic. “The All-Star not only recognizes my efforts, but also acknowledges the collaborative environment in which I spend my days with the most knowledgeable and supportive team. Thank you for inviting me to join the All-Star club.” ■

‘I LED THE PLEDGE’

Seneca Valley School District’s School Board meetings were held on April 17 and 24. 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 17 work session meeting, we were joined by Joey McCormick, a third grader at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School. Joey’s favorite subject in school is science and he would like to be a tech/game designer when he grows up. He enjoys Kung fu with his friends and figuring out how things work.

For the April 24 regular session meeting, we were joined by Lincoln Wilkerson, a fourth grader at Ehrman Crest Elementary School. His favorite subject in school is

social studies. He loves to draw, play with his friends, play video games and hopes to be a fashion designer one day. ■



Joey McCormick with, from L-R, Ms. Kathy Whittle, Board President, and Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent



Lincoln Wilkerson with, from L-R, Ms. Kathy Whittle, Board President, and Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent

SV MOCK TRIAL TEAM MAKES HISTORY

Seneca Valley's High School Mock Trial team made school history with their advancement to the State Championship, which took place March 24-25, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at the Dauphin County Courthouse. There were only 14 teams out of 312 from across the state who qualified, including Seneca Valley, ultimately earning them an eighth-place finish in the championship.

This extraordinary accomplishment marked the first time in which the SV Mock Trial team advanced from regionals to district finals then to the State Championship.

"I am immensely proud of my mock trial students for their outstanding teamwork and dedication, which has led them to the state championship in Harrisburg, marking a historic first for our school," said Seneca Valley Senior High School gifted support teacher Ms. Brieana Nassan. "Their tireless efforts and commitment to perfecting their case have been truly remarkable, and I am thrilled to see their hard work pay off in such a significant way. These students are a true testament to the power of teamwork and the rewards that come with unwavering perseverance."

The SV Mock Trial team comprises of students in grades 9-12 in the gifted program and is advised by Ms. Brieana Nassan, senior high school gifted support teacher.

Members of the SV Mock Trial team include Leo Slacker, Calleigh Foulkrod, Jacob Hensley, Julia Acker, Sydney Kratsas, Kacy Christensen, Grant Hoover, Nick Porter, Sonya Dietz, Benjamin Carnino, Friyana Sepai, Lilly Hudac, Julia Gibilisco, Katie Mack and Morgan Dunn. ■



EXPERT SKILLS

Two Seneca Valley students recently came out on top at both the 2023 SkillsUSA Competition and the Hosa-Future Health Professionals State Leadership Competition, programs offered through the Butler County Vocational Technical School.

SV junior Viktoriya Semenko earned gold medalist awards for Graphic Design in the Advertising Design Category at the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania Leadership & Skill Conference held in Hershey, Pa. Gold Medalists will move on to the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, Ga., June 19-23.

SV senior Desiree Jo Dear received bronze medalist awards for her work in the Life Skills Category of the



2023 Hosa-Future Health Professionals Competition held in King of Prussia, Pa.

Congratulations to our skilled student standouts! ■

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Seneca Valley is a place where education and opportunity collide. Seniors Rylan Wagner and Alex Drozynski recently completed site visits to four different manufacturing companies throughout Butler County and also served as student representatives on the Community Development Cooperation Student Advisory Board, a board comprised of students from different school districts across Butler County.

The intent of the board is for student representatives from Butler County school districts to visit Butler County businesses, followed by advising the Community Development Cooperation Board and various consortiums and business associations on how to best communicate, share and educate other students about the opportunities that exist in Butler County.

This Butler County Manufacturing project was organized by the Butler School District and all Butler County schools were invited to take two students for each site visit. Throughout the school year, students attended workplace visits to CID Buildings



and Controls, Coherent (II-VI) Corp., IDL Worldwide and Butler Technologies, Inc. During each site visit, the businesses provided overview presentations, in-depth tours of their facility and debriefing sessions with the students.

To wrap up their year, participants of the Butler County Community Development Corporation Student Advisory Board attended a culminating event at Butler Intermediate High School where they sat on a panel and discussed their experience with members of the Butler County Manufacturing Consortium. Students also shared their views of manufacturing careers, jobs and wages and ways that businesses could discuss career options



with students in the future.

“I think the experience of being able to go to all the manufacturers was eye opening,” said Mr. Wagner. “I saw first-hand the variety of companies that do such large products, and it all comes from right here in Butler County.”

Mr. Wagner and Mr. Drozynski, both also students of Butler County Area Vocational Technical School, greatly benefited from this unique program and plan to work within the manufacturing industry after high school, with Mr. Wagner specializing in HVAC and Mr. Drozynski in construction and heavy equipment. ■

SV STUDENTS AWARDED AT PITTSBURGH REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Eight Seneca Valley students presented their research projects at the 84th annual Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF) last month at the Carnegie Science Center. They joined over 450 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 Dallas, Texas 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.

Three students from Seneca Valley came home with awards: junior, Alexander

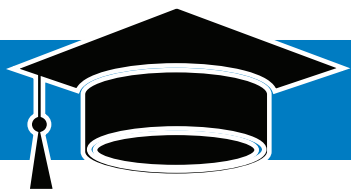


Kim received an affiliate award from the US Navy/Marine Corp, a scholarship award from Mt. Aloysius College and a student choice award for his research on leveraging dense neural networks for improved Hamiltonian Monte Carlo sampling. Junior, Shivani Umesh received a sponsor award from the Spectroscopy Society and won three scholarship awards from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, Thiel College and Washington & Jefferson College for her research on finding the limit of detection of a qPCR using eDNA. Eighth grader, Albert



Pimenov won second place in Intermediate Chemistry for his research on flexible aluminum-air batteries.

Seneca Valley participants included seniors, Peter Ko, Maggie Monahan and Nancy Chen; juniors, Alexander Kim, Lihini Ranaweera, Shivani Umesh; freshman, Roshini Umesh and eighth grader, Albert Pimenov. ■



ALUMNI Q&A

Charles Lisella, SV '17, is a full-time student enrolled at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa, and is completing his student teaching requirements while also holding many on-campus leadership roles. We asked him to catch us up on what he is doing and how Seneca Valley influenced his life.

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

A: Currently, I am a Senior Music Education Major at Westminster College with a focus in trumpet and will be finishing up my time soon with my recital and student teaching. After that I plan to find a job teaching music so I can influence and teach the future musicians in our schools. Then, later getting a Master in Music Ed., Performance or Conducting.

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

A: My older Sister Gabrielle Lisella, SV Grad '15, is the Events Marketing Communication Manager at Carnegie Science Center. My whole family enjoys the arts. Sometimes all of us sing and play music together in our makeshift studio in the basement with the many guitars, trumpets and pianos we have.

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

A: I joined a social fraternity in college and have held positions as the House Manager, Alumni Chair and Philanthropy Chair in Phi Kappa Tau and Interfraternity Council (IFC) President.

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

A: All the organizations I was in helped me stay organized and experience what it would be like to be a busy student and still able to manage my commitments outside of school. Personally, my life in music has been directly linked to how I was taught and how I want to teach.

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

A: The tradition and excellence of teachers preparing students for their (in my case musical) career, makes Seneca Valley a special place to learn.

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

A: Mr. Bob Babick, my trumpet teacher from seventh grade until I graduated, taught me so much and helped me grow as a musician and transition from high school to becoming an independent musician. We play in a band together now in New Castle during the summer. He's a great mentor.

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: I would say that when I was awarded the National Choral Award at my last concert at Seneca Valley was my favorite memory.



That truly stood for what I aspire to be: a dedicated and passionate musician.

Q: If you had one message for students, what would it be?

A: Don't let those who are jealous of you, or who don't believe in your abilities, stop you from your dream. As long as you have a strong will to do it and earn it, you can accomplish anything in your life.

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

A: I want people to know how valuable of a music department we have. I can say there is nothing like being in the Seneca Valley Band, it's a special place with a sound that always rings in my memories.

Q: This question is being asked because the 22-23 school year marks the 25th year of SV's Senior/Graduation Project. What did you present during your Senior/Graduation Project and what did you learn from it?

A: I designed and built a Fourth of July float to promote my Boy Scout Troop (399) in Evans City and scouting. I showed the process of getting building materials, designing the float and planning how to partake in the parade. I learned how to manage a work plan over many months, schedule and correspond with the Rotary Club and Boy Scout Troop to communicate to everyone about the event.

I have been an assistant scoutmaster in my troop since 2017 and have been actively doing that for six years. ■



FYI

April is National Counseling Awareness Month and the Seneca Valley School District is committed to supporting every student through counseling services and other mental wellness programs. Community resources are also available in addition to our school psychologists, school counselors, behavioral specialists, school administrators and Youth Education Support Services (YESS) teams in each building.

Therapy is recognized as a supportive service to address mental health concerns or behavioral problems. Services offered in the District and in the community emphasize mental wellness to ensure that our youth can successfully access their education. The various service offerings are described below.

Care Solace

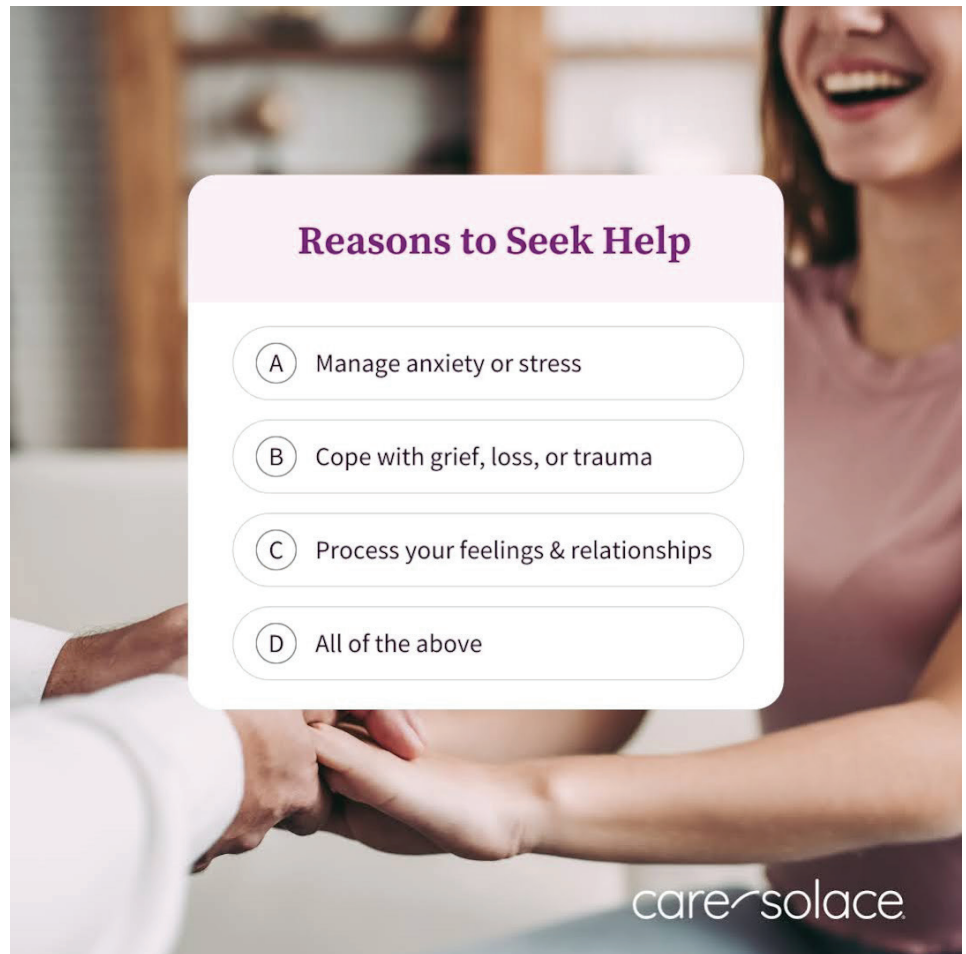
Care Solace helps individuals find mental health care providers and substance use treatment centers. Their Care Companion™ team is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year to quickly connect you to carefully verified providers in the community.

Students, staff, and families may access Care Solace services in two ways:

- Call (888) 515-0595 at any time. Support is available in 200+ languages. A dedicated Care Companion™ will help you every step of the way to research options, secure appointments, and follow up to make sure it is a good fit.
- For an anonymous search, answer a few questions to get matched with an extensive list of care providers at www.caresolace.com/Seneca.

Group

Group involves one or more therapists working with several school-age youth at one time. Group is intended for specific populations who require support with remediating or preventing shared problems, such as anxiety or to teach behavioral skills. Some group options that



take place in our buildings include groups focused on friendships, grief and study skills. The [school counselors](#) can assist with connecting you to an appropriate group.

School-Based Mental Health

School-based mental health counseling is individual therapy provided by qualified providers in the school setting during the school day. Social, emotional and/or behavioral challenges are addressed during individual therapy sessions that occur one-on-one with the school-age youth and the therapist. Contact your child's school counselor or contact [Glade Run Lutheran Services](#) directly.

Outpatient Mental Health Treatment

Outpatient mental health treatment is

delivered by qualified providers in an office or clinical setting. Social, emotional or behavioral challenges are addressed during individual or group therapy sessions and can range from short-term counseling to long-term treatment. Treatment might also include medication management. Seneca Valley provides a [list of resources](#).

Hospitalization (Partial or Inpatient)

Hospitalization programs are designed to address significant psychiatric difficulties. School-age youth receive short-term intensive care from a specialized team of doctors, therapists, psychologists and other mental health experts. Services might also include family, individual or group therapy and medication management. The [resource list](#) includes hospitalization providers. ■



WHY PARENTS' #1 DISCIPLINE ACTION IS OFTEN UNWISE

In *Screenagers Under the Influence: Addressing Vaping, Drugs, and Alcohol in the Digital Age*, adolescent psychologist and author Laura Kastner discusses the topic of consequences, emphasizing the importance of natural and logical consequences. Natural consequences directly respond to a person's actions or inactions, while logical consequences have some connection to the behavior being addressed.

Kastner says, "Natural would be if they lose their cleats three times, they're going to pay for it."

In the context of cannabis use, Kastner notes in the film that parents have the right to take away drug paraphernalia as a natural consequence. She says, "If you just happen to find a pipe, the natural consequence then is to take the pipe."

The concepts of logical and natural consequences overlap, and often they are actually one and the same. For example, when your consequence is to have your teen pay for something they keep losing, that is both logical and natural.

Many parents default to taking away their child's device as the go-to consequence for any transgression, even if it is unrelated to phone rules. For example, a kid might have lied and said he went to the library after school, and the parent learns she actually went to a hang-out spot. A parent might exclaim, "That was completely not ok, and I am taking your phone away for the next week!"

Kastner says **in the film**, "Often parents know that since the phone is the most sacred, wonderful device in the teenager's life, it's sort of loose logic, just like, take that away, and that's the best punishment. But it's not very logical."



Not only is it not very logical when we resort to taking devices as the go-to consequence, but it can really backfire. It is normal that our kids might be mad at us for enforcing a consequence. But if our consequences feel arbitrary or excessively harsh, and always about devices, it can cause the child to focus on their anger towards us instead of reflecting on their misbehavior. This can take a serious toll on the relationship.

I often hear from young people about their frustration about devices being taken away when they didn't break a rule around the device. What's worse is that they tell me that the prospect of this punishment can deter them from disclosing thorny situations to their parents because they fear that they will get in trouble and lose their device privileges.

Kastner says, "If they have misused the phone like there is a rule of not having it in

the bed all night, they then used it, so take the phone."

When rules about device use get transgressed, removing privileges around device use for a short time is logical.

I want to be clear that I am not saying youth should have 24/7 access to their phones or other tech. I am just talking about the risks of using it as the default disciplinary move.

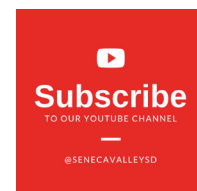
Questions to get the conversations started:

1. Have I ever had a consequence that you thought was too harsh or not harsh enough?
2. How do you think parents should decide what consequences to give for different rules being broken?
3. Can you think of a time when you broke a rule, and the consequence helped you learn from your mistake? ■



- Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School has been named a recipient in the **2023 American Institute of Architects Education Facility Design Awards program!** This national award showcases innovation across the entire learning continuum. From early childhood facilities to higher education and throughout the learning continuum, architecture can be used to inspire learners, educators, administrators and campus communities alike. Ehrman Crest was one of only two K-6 facilities to be recognized and was said to be a vibrant example of contemporary educational architecture.
- **The SV spring play is almost here!** *Midsummer/Jersey* will take place at 7 p.m. on May 5-6, in the Senior High School Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased at the door, \$5 for students and \$8 for adults.
- **Free musical theater camp** for students eligible for free and reduced lunches.
- Breakfast is now **FREE** for all students. Click to learn more: [Food Services / General Information \(svsd.net\)](#)
- SV offers voluntary student accident insurance. To learn more and apply, visit: [Backpack Fliers / Education/ Resources \(svsd.net\)](#)
- Effective October 1, Pennsylvania will increase the income threshold for all applicants to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG). With this change, more

than 420,000 additional Pennsylvanians in more than 174,000 households will be newly eligible for SNAP and will receive, on average, \$63 a month. To learn more, visit [Wolf Administration Marks Hunger Action Month by Expanding Eligibility for SNAP Benefits, Securing Food Assistance for More Pennsylvanians.](#)



- 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! Sign-up bonuses are now being offered.](#)
- Join the SV Team! [Watch here](#) or visit www.svsd.net/HumanResources to learn more and apply.
- Visit [Niche](#) to view SV rankings ■

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
WATERPARK

OPENING
OPENING
OPENING
OPENING DAY
OPENING DAY

SATURDAY
MAY
27

CRANBERRY4FUN.COM/WATERPARK

U.S. DEPT. OF DEFENSE-FUNDED INITIATIVE

DETECT & PROTECT

Learn how to secure networks ...
and earn free professional
certifications at BC3.



Justin Choltco
BC3 networking and cybersecurity student
Financial award recipient

Financial awards available for 2023-24! bc3.edu/cybersecurity



The PC4A Project is proudly funded by the U.S. Department of Defense.



CRANFEST

a celebration of cultural diversity

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

11AM - 3PM

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

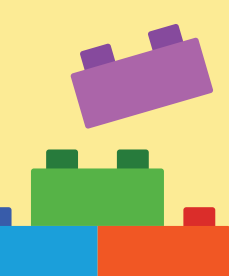
MUNICIPAL CENTER



Join us for an afternoon filled with beautiful music, striking
dance performances, and foods from across the globe.

All are welcome!





Academy of Choice

SUMMER CAMPS

Camp Offerings

June 12-15 week 1

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

Culinary Arts I
Grades 5-12 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
SHS Kitchen

Pastry Arts Camp
Grades 5-12 | 12:30 pm – 4 p.m.
IHS Kitchen

Building Up Your Imagination LEGO® 1
Grades 1-2 | 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
AOC Drop-In Center

Building Up Your Imagination LEGO® 2
Grades 3-4 | 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
AOC Drop-In Center

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

Sign up for both!

June 19-22 week 2

Fitness Fun!
Grades 1-6 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
ECE

Camp Confidence
Grades 2- 5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
CVE LGI

June 19 – 29

HMS Summer Band Camp
4th-6th grade band students
9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Monday-Thursday 2 weeks
HMS

June 26-29 week 3

The Art of Photography
Grades 7-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
IHS

FIRST Robotics & Programming
Grades 7-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
SHS

Camp Chill
Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
CVE

SV Summer Orchestra Camp
4th-6th grade orchestra students
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
ECMS

July 10-13 week 4

Camp Chill
Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
ECE

Fitness Fun!
Grades 1-6 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
HES

First Lego League
Grades 7-8 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
SHS

July 24-27 week 5

Art
Grades 5-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
IHS

July 31-August 3 week 6

Culinary Arts II
Grades 5-12 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
RGMS Kitchen

August 1-3

Kinder Kids
Students entering kindergarten
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
HES



38TH ANNUAL ALL DISTRICT K-6 TRACK AND FIELD MEET

MAY 12, 2023

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!

Field Events: 6:15 P.M. - 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:

K - 2nd grade: 60 meters
3rd and 4th grade: 80 meters
5th and 6th grade: 100 meters

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

DISTANCE:

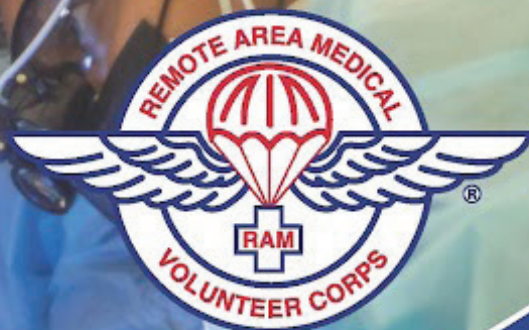
K-2 Grade: 400 Meter Run
3rd - 4th Grade: 400 Meter or 800 Meter Run
5th and 6th Grade: 400 Meter, 800 Meter or 1600 Meter Run

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

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

RUNNING • JUMPING • THROWING • SPRINTING

REMOTE AREA MEDICAL



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED; JOIN THE MISSION TODAY!



DENTAL

- Dentists
- Oral Surgeons
- Dental Assistants
- Hygienists



VISION

- Optometrists
- Ophthalmologists
- Opticians
- Vision Techs



MEDICAL

- Physicians
- Physician Assistants
- Nurse Practitioners
- Nurses



General Support

- Interpreters
- Guides
- Data Entry & Much More!



Butler, PA

November 11-12, 2023

Butler Intermediate High

551 Fairgrounds Rd.

Butler, PA 16001

"To prevent pain and alleviate suffering by providing free, quality healthcare to those in need."

- RAM's Mission

FOR MORE INFO: RAMUSA.ORG | 865.579.1530



SENECA VALLEY MUSIC DEPARTMENT
SPRING 2023

RGMS BAND CONCERT APRIL 25TH

ORCHESTRA CONCERT (GRADES 7-12) MAY 2ND

BAND CONCERT (GRADES 9-12) MAY 4TH

SHS CHORAL CONCERT MAY 9TH

IHS CHORAL CONCERT MAY 11TH

RGMS CHORAL CONCERT MAY 16TH

JAZZ BAND CONCERT (GRADES 7-12) MAY
17TH*

SHOW CHOIR CONCERT MAY 24TH*

ALL CONCERTS ARE HELD IN THE IHS AUDITORIUM AT
7:00 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

* SHS AUDITORIUM

TICKETS AT DOOR \$5.00 FOR ADULTS \$3.00 FOR STUDENTS

WWW.SVSD.NET

