



RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

AUGUST 2022

Photo credit: Bill Paterson

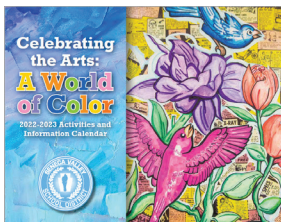
NEW BEGINNINGS

We welcomed our students with open arms as they embraced their first day of school and new beginnings at Seneca Valley. Take a look at some photos from the day and view more on our [website](#). We wish all SV students a wonderful year ahead!



CELEBRATING THE ARTS: A WORLD OF COLOR

If you're looking for an online version of the 2022-23 calendar, click [here](#). ■



MEDIA NOTICE

We wish to share good news of events and activities in our schools. If you do not want to have your child's name, photograph or other personal information appear in any media or district publication, please submit written documentation to your child's building principal. Thank you. ■

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- New Beginnings..... 3
- Ehrman Crest Grand Opening 4
- Summer Camps 5
- New Teacher Induction/Training for SV Faculty 10
- Raider Athletic Achievements 7

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 5 District Holiday, No School
- Sept. 9 Hall of Fame Night at NextTier Stadium – Home Football Game vs. Canon-McMillan, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 12 School Board Meeting, Work Session IHS Auditorium 7 p.m.
- Sept. 19 School Board Meeting, Regular Session IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.

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

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				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	27	28	29	30	

Seneca Valley SD 2022-23 Student/Teacher Calendar

BOARD APPROVED - 2-14-22

August 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	IS	A80	20
21	A80	FD	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

10 Staff Days; 7 Student Days (9 w/A80)
Aug. 23 - First Student Day

September 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	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	

21 Days

October 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	A80	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	IS	29
30	31					

21 Staff Days; 20 Student Days
Oct. 28 - IS/Staff Clerical Day

November 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	A80	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	H	H	H	26
27	H	29	30			

18 Days

December 2022						
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	H	24
25	H	H	H	H	H	31

16 Days

January 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	H	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	IS	14
15	H	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

20 Staff Days; 19 Student Days
Jan. 12 - End of First Semester

February 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	SM	18
19	IS	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

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

March 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	A80	18
19	SM	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

22 Days

April 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	H	H	H	8
9	H	H	A80	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

15 Days

May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	A80	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	H	30	31			

22 Days

June 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				LD-S	2	3
4	5	6	LD	IS	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

6 Staff Days; 5 Student Days
June 1 - Last Day for Seniors (Grad. Day)
June 7 - Last Day for K-11 Students

190 Work Days for Teachers

Snow (Emergency) Makeup Days:
 #1 - Feb. 17, 2023
 #2 - March 20, 2023
 #3 - Remote Learning
 #4 - Remote Learning
 #5 - Remote Learning

District Local Holidays:
 Nov. 23, 2022
 Nov. 28, 2022
 Dec. 23, 2022
 Jan. 2, 2023
 April 5, 2023

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

NEW BEGINNINGS

continued from page 1



A GRAND EVENT

Over 1,000 people attended as the Seneca Valley School District officially unveiled their beautiful K-6 building, Ehrman Crest Elementary / Middle School during a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, August 22.

The Grand Opening was combined with the District's annual All-Staff Welcome Back event which was themed as "New Beginnings," in recognition of the continued growth, evolution and progress taking place across the District. Seneca Valley's faculty, staff and administration were joined by representatives from education, architecture, construction and planning, past and present school board members, local dignitaries and Ehrman Crest student representatives to celebrate this momentous occasion.

"We are beyond excited to open the doors of Ehrman Crest as we welcome our faculty, staff and students to the building," said Dr. Tracy Vitale, Seneca Valley School District Superintendent of Schools. "We are incredibly proud of the many unique spaces and design concepts that Ehrman Crest offers and believe that it can stand as a model for other Pennsylvania K-12 schools across the country."



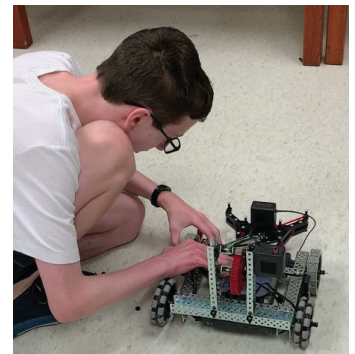
"We have been carefully developing and designing Ehrman Crest for over five years. This Grand Opening is a milestone in our legacy and it's quite fulfilling," explained Dr. Sean McCarty, Assistant Superintendent for K-6 Instruction. "What makes the school so unique for students is how the building is designed to be a learning tool. Everywhere children walk and everything they see provides them an opportunity to learn."

The District will host a public tour of Ehrman Crest from 10 a.m. - noon on Saturday, Sept. 24, in which community members can take part in self-guided tours of the new building. Stay tuned for more details. ■



SUMMER FUN AT SENECA VALLEY

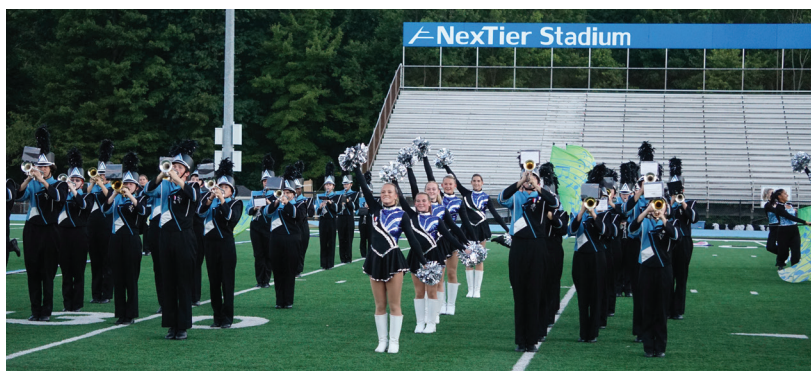
SV Summer Camps not only gave students the opportunity to “hang out” but they also provided a wide range of hands-on activities, arts and crafts, academic concepts, culinary creations, recreational activities and more! ■





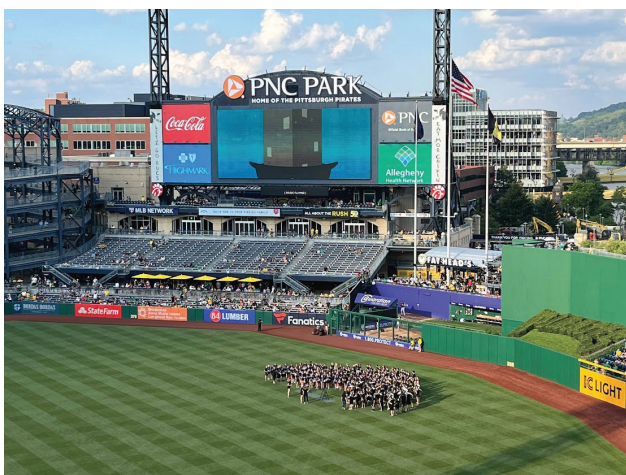
ANNUAL PIE FESTIVAL MARKS THE RETURN OF FALL ACTIVITIES

The Seneca Valley Band Boosters hosted the annual Marching Band “Pie Festival” on Thursday, Aug. 18. This event kicks off the fall season with the premier performance of the SV “Roaring” Raider Marching Band. As a special addition, the band invited members of the “SV Summer Band” to perform the National Anthem alongside the full Marching Band on the field. Under the direction of Mrs. Tracy Glass and Mrs. Kelly Levere, over 90 young band students performed. A full crowd was present to witness this cherished fall event and enjoy the band’s first full halftime of the season. If you have not attended the SV Band “Pie Festival” before, you are missing a fantastic evening with friends, family, pie and music! ■



SV MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND MEMBERS SHINE AT PNC PARK

On Friday, July 22 several members of the Seneca Valley Middle School Band performed the Star-Spangled Banner at PNC Park prior to the Pirates game! They rehearsed outside of the stadium then made their way to the field for an unforgettable experience they’ll always remember. ■





THE PRIDE OF #SVRAIDERNATION

If there is one singular thing to resonate with me at the start of our school year it is the endless school spirit in our hallways and within our community. Looking up from the sidelines this past Friday I was delighted, though not surprised, to see NextTier Stadium packed with Columbia Blue and Black Raider gear - #SVRaiderNation was out in full force.



The opening home football game, Senior Night versus the visiting Indians of Penn Hills, began with the recognition of 112 deserving seniors in marching band, cheer & dance, football, JROTC and SVTV. The game ended with community and student energy at a peak following a 17-15 win for Raider Football. Just as entertaining as the game was the halftime show performed by our very own Raider Marching Band! Throughout the night, our cheer & dance squads kept the energy high and the spirit soaring making for a great Friday Night Lights experience.



Photo credit: Laura Wise

In addition to Friday's thrilling win over the Indians, other Raider athletic teams opened their seasons securing two tournament trophies. Boys' soccer, the defending WPIAL champions, captured the InterSection KickOff Tournament with wins over Norwin (4-0) and host Chartiers Valley (8-0) while girls' volleyball followed suit going 9-0 at the Canon-Mac tournament to secure their tournament championship.



Our boys (3-1) and girls (5-1) golf teams have jumped out to a combined 8-2 record and both squads are poised to make a run at section and possibly WPIAL titles. Girls' golf set a program scoring record in their 164-168 win over the Tigers of North Allegheny. Raider girls' tennis opened with tough matches against West Allegheny and Beaver while cross country and girls' soccer teams will get their seasons underway this last week of August.



Without a doubt, Raider Athletics is positioned for another remarkable year on the fields, the courses and courts. The positive energy we can all provide will lift our student-athletes and student-performers to heights unimaginable. While perfection may not be attainable, their pursuit will certainly lead to excellence which we can all admire and take pride in being a part of #SVRaiderNation! ■



SAVE THE DATE!

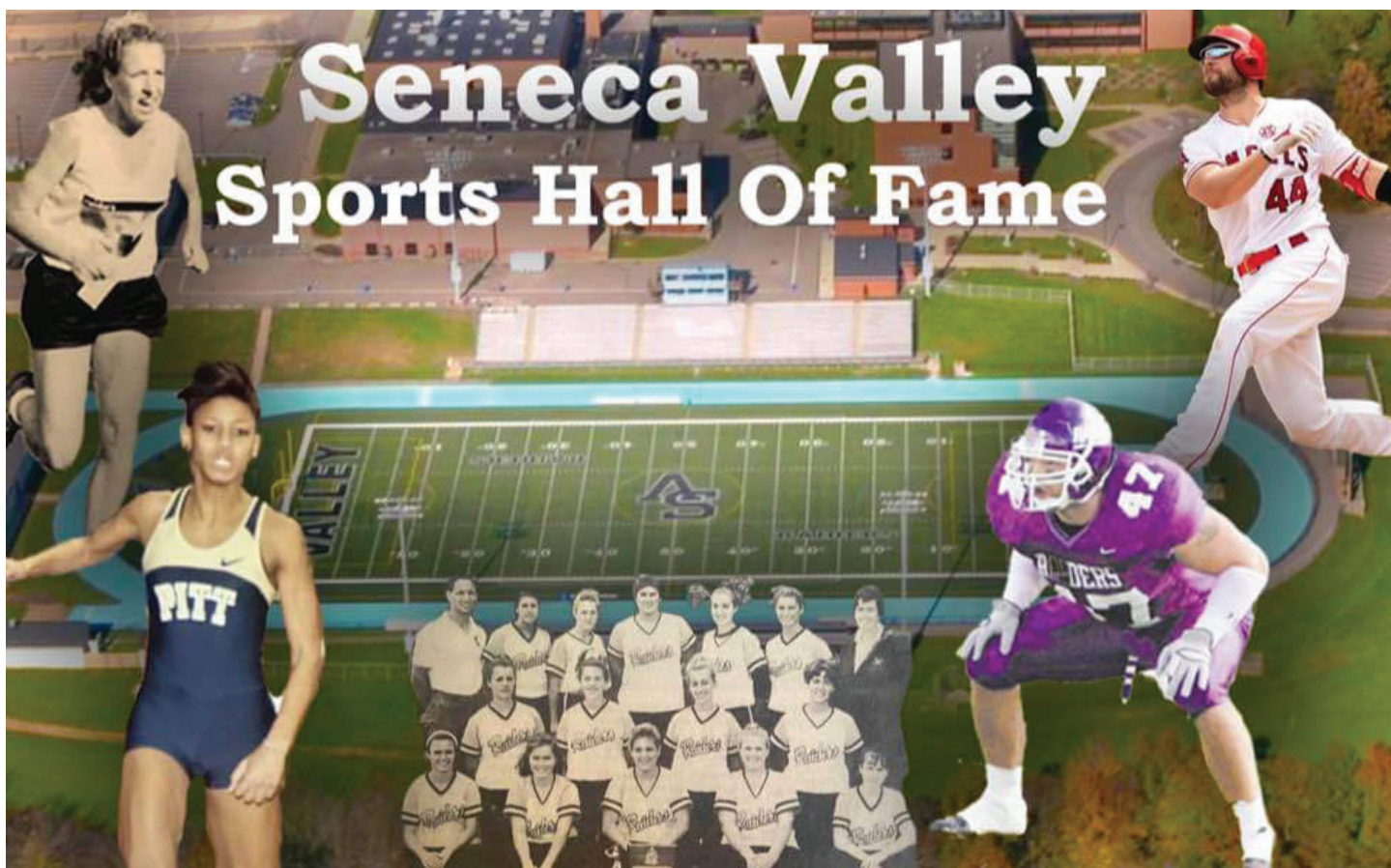
Seneca Valley Alumni will return to their “home turf” to be recognized for their outstanding athletic achievements made during their time as students at the 2022 Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame (HOF) Induction Ceremony.

This year’s 2022 Induction Class includes Da’Lynn Mills (2007), Kevan Smith (2006), Tony DeRiggi (2004), Roberta Pickens Groner (1996) and the 1992 Girls Fast Pitch Softball Team. The SV Sports

HOF committee will be honoring these inductees the weekend of Sept. 8-9.

The Induction Ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 8, in the senior high school (SHS) auditorium and is free for all to attend. This ceremony will be preceded by a dinner at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) in the SHS cafeteria. Dinner tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.svsd.net/domain/1894>. Tickets MUST BE purchased by Friday, Sept. 1.

Inductees will also be recognized at the football game at NextTier Stadium on Friday, Sept. 9. All are welcome to attend and recognize these inductees for their contribution to Seneca Valley Raider athletics! For more information, please contact Wayne Roccia at 724-816-0698 or via email at wroccia@zoominternet.net. ■



A BIG WIN 'FORE' THE FOUNDATION

The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) hosted its 10th annual Gift of Hope Golf Classic presented by BATAVIA MUSIC STUDIOS on Thursday, Aug. 4 and is so proud to share the annual event raised a record-breaking \$50,000 profit! These proceeds will allow us to continue and increase our efforts for the benefit of all Seneca Valley students and staff.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor – Batavia Music Studios and Gold Sponsor – ComDoc for leading the way to this success. We are also grateful



for all of our silver, green, tee, specialty, advertising and raffle sponsors as well! The full list of generous donors as well as a



pictures from the event can be found here: www.svsd.net/golfclassic. ■

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

Thank you to SV staff for stopping by our station in Ehrman Crest's Movement Studio at the Welcome Back Event! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces, especially in those stylin' SVF sunglasses! Click [here](#) to view the fun photos taken in the Open-Air Photo Booth provided by Events of Pittsburgh.

Congratulations to Dana Hadley in the Sr. High School for winning the Foundation's prize package donated by Fun Fore All and Dairy Queen Grill & Chill (Cranberry)!

Please know that funding teacher projects is an important part of the SV Foundation's mission of providing the *gift of hope and promise of excellence*, and we look forward to lending our support this school year and into the future. Staff members are encouraged to reach out to us with their impactful ideas. ■



NEW TEACHER INDUCTION

Seneca Valley welcomed nearly 50 new educators to the District for the 2022-23 school year!

These new-to-SV educators attended the annual SV New Teacher Induction Program Aug. 16-17 where they learned more about Seneca Valley, met several colleagues and administrators and attended various training sessions. ■



NEW BEGINNINGS FOR OUR STAFF

We welcome these new teachers to the Seneca Valley Family for the 2022-23 school year!

Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School

Melissa Cipollone - Grade 3
Cameron Herrmann - Grade 2
Katherine Webb - Grade 2
Shauna York - Learning Support

Ehrman Crest Elementary School

Louis Cammisio - Grade 4
Teresa Coleman - Grade 4
Nanet Edge - Grade 2
Emily Murphy - Kindergarten
Emily Thelen - Grade 1
Christopher Eden - Physical Education

Ehrman Crest Elem/Ehrman Crest Middle School

Katelyn Gall - Multiple Supports

Ehrman Crest Middle School

Forrest Haffey - Grade 5
Casey Ridgley - Grade 5

Haine Elementary School

Chelsea Bennardo - Instruction and Intervention

Amy Brown - Grade 1
Alyssa Ceraulo - CIRC
Emily Delaney - Grade 1
Adelina DiTullio - Kindergarten
Hanna Forrester - Grade 3
Madison Hoffman - Grade 1
Kaitlyn Jarvie - Grade 3
Chelsea Koryak - Kindergarten
Amanda Oliver - Kindergarten
Megan Orloff - Grade 1
Ashley Nardone - School Counselor

Haine Elementary/Haine Middle School

Cortney Lambert - Learning Support

Haine Middle School

Suzanne Duer - Floating School Nurse
Julie Tomasovich - Grade 5

Intermediate High School

Rachel Sager - Social Studies
Madelyn Cornman - Biology

Rowan Elementary School

Jessica Scerbo - Instruction and Intervention Specialist
Rachael Belschner - Art
Hannah Croft - Grade 2
Caroline Dillon - CIRC

Mackenzie Kacsur - Learning Support/
Emotional Support Specialist
Colleen Lefler - Grade 1
Ava Mosbacher - Spanish

Ryan Gloyer Middle School

Zach Cene - Social Studies
Skylar Meier - Health and Physical Education
John Mabold - French
Gianna Serignese - School Counselor
Blake Walter - Mathematics

Senior High School

Anne Bernacki - School Nurse
Col. Howard Keebler - JROTC
Carissa Miller - Learning Support

Long-Term Substitutes:

Haine Elementary School

Taylor Marsinetti - Grade 4
Susan Werner - Gifted

Haine Elem/Haine Middle/Rowan Elementary School

Owen Nash - Music/Strings

Senior High School

Alexandra Goldbach - Mathematics ■

SV HIRES FOOD SERVICES DIRECTOR

During Seneca Valley's School Board Meeting on May 2, board members approved the appointment of Mr. Nolen Fetchko as the District's new Director of Food Services.

A native of Freeport, Mr. Fetchko planted his roots in western Pennsylvania and has over 10 years of experience in the food service industry. Mr. Fetchko served as the Director of Food Services for the Mt. Lebanon School District for the past five years. He also has prior experience in overseeing operations, menu planning and training of food service directors for multiple school districts when he worked as a Regional Assistant at The Nutrition Group.

Additional food service experience includes his work at UPMC Heritage Place where he provided the necessary meals to residents that pertained to their dietary needs and preferences. He also worked as a supervisor at Ambrose Farmer's Market where he oversaw the day-to-day tasks, assisted customers and spent time on the farm planting and harvesting the crops.

Mr. Fetchko received his Master of Science in Food and Nutrition from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and his Bachelor's in Nutritional Sciences from The Pennsylvania State University.

"We are very fortunate to have Mr. Fetchko join our team, and we are looking forward to the vision and insight he brings with him. His extensive background in food services and nutrition is important as we continue to provide healthy meals for the students and staff members of the Seneca Valley School District," said Dr. Marie Palano, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment, Grades K-12.

"My dad was a teacher here for 30 years. He enjoyed every second of being a part of the Seneca Valley School District and always spoke glowingly of the people he worked with," stated Mr. Fetchko. "Seeing how much he enjoyed being part of this District always left me interested in becoming part of the District as well. As the Director of Food Services, my goal is to continue the great work of Darlene



[Carmack] and our team by providing our students with nutritious meals to fuel their education."

Mr. Fetchko replaced Ms. Carmack who retired this past summer after 12 years of service to the Seneca Valley School District. ■

SV COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AWARDED IN PENSPRA, NSPRA CONTESTS

The Seneca Valley communications department earned a combined total of 19 awards in the National School Public Relations Association's (NSPRA) 2021 Publications and Digital Media Contest and in the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association's (PenSPRA) "Excellence in Education Communications" 2021 Contest.

Seneca Valley earned 10 awards in NSPRA's Contest. They received two Awards of Excellence for the SV Raider Pride E-Newsletter and the 2021 SV Annual Report, "OUR Impact." Additionally, the communications department received four Awards of Merit for SV social media, their Aquatic Center Informational Booklet, 2021-22 Activities and Information Calendar "Successful Journeys Start Here" and their video "We Remember." Lastly, they were

awarded four Honorable Mentions for their videos "Building for the Future," "We're Hiring," "I Love My Teacher" and the "SV Future Makers: Lightning Round Playlist."

NSPRA's Publications and Digital Media Awards recognize outstanding education publications and marketing/informational materials (print and electronic), video/TV/radio programs, social media and websites.

In PenSPRA's Contest, the Seneca Valley communications department earned nine awards. They received three Awards of Excellence for a Veteran Recognition Event Photo (photo credit: Bill Paterson), the SV Raider Pride E-Newsletter and "We Remember" video. They also received two Awards of Honor for "An Inside Look" video and their "In School and 'On

the House'" Press Release. Lastly, they received four Awards of Merit for "I Love My Teacher" video, "Voices" Podcast, the 2021-22 Activities and Information Calendar "Successful Journeys Start Here" and the Seneca Valley Future Makers series.

PenSPRA was chartered in 1969 and, much like NSPRA, is an organization of school public relations professionals whose goal is to improve educational communication and support student achievement through systematic, proactive and responsible public relations programs. Both organizations annual sponsor separate Excellence In Education Communications Contests. ■

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to both Dr. Erin Wilcher, Haine Middle School Principal, and Dr. Kristen White, Haine Elementary School Principal, on receiving their doctorate. ■



Dr. Erin Wilcher



Dr. Kristen White

MENTAL HEALTH

On Aug. 17, many SV staff members attended a Youth Mental Health First Aid class, a program designed to help adults support youth who may be experiencing mental health challenges. A team of Seneca Valley School Psychologists, Dr. Lindsey Kisucky, Dr. Jaclyn Macioce and Ms. Claire Zovko led the training session. The training specifically touched on the following:

- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, eating disorders and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD).
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- How to interact with a child or adolescent in crisis.
- How to connect youth with help.
- Expanded content on trauma, substance use, self-care and the impact of social media and bullying. ■



STOP THE BLEED - HANDS-ON TRAINING

As part of a broader effort to keep students foremost in our plans and preparedness, Seneca Valley administrators participated in CPR refresher courses and “Stop the Bleed” training throughout the summer months.

Participants practiced the very vital and proper steps for CPR along with the basics of bleeding control, how to use dressings and how to use a tourniquet properly.



The training is conducted by our school nurses, who are also CPR and “Stop the Bleed” instructors.

“Every two years we recertify staff on both training courses,” stated Seneca Valley Student Services Director, Dr. Jeff Roberts. “Part of the success of the training is making sure that our buildings are stocked with AED’s and ‘Stop the Bleed’ kits. Not only are these skills valuable for our staff to have for their work at school, but they can also utilize their skills in the community as well.”

The “Stop the Bleed” program is ongoing. The District utilizes the summer months for this training so that administrators can be available in the buildings during the school year. ■

LOCAL LONGTIME PIAA OFFICIAL, SV ADMINISTRATOR RECOGNIZED

Randy Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds, has been a referee/official for the PIAA, WPIAL, and NCAA for over 30 years. On Aug. 6, 2022, he was recognized at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Banquet for his decades of dedicated service and for officiating three different WPIAL championship sports.

Miller began his PIAA officiating career in 1986. During his 30+ year career, he has officiated PIAA basketball, football and baseball, while also officiating NCAA basketball and football. On June 16, 2022 he was selected to umpire the PIAA 6A Championship Baseball game at Penn State University, which completed his officiating “trifecta” of sports championships.

“What a tremendous end to the 2022 Baseball season,” exclaimed Mr. Miller. “Athletics has always been a huge part of my life and who I am. Once my playing days were over, I decided to stay involved with athletics and give back by officiating and coaching.”

Mr. Miller went on to explain that there is a national shortage of officials for all sports. “I try to be an ambassador for officiating by encouraging as many people as possible to get involved with officiating,” he said. “The



game needs you; the student-athletes need you – please consider becoming a PIAA official. You really can make a difference.” ■

FINNISH EDUCATOR AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTER MEETS WITH SV LEADERSHIP TEAM

A different perspective. That’s what Mr. Petteri Elo, a Finnish educator and international speaker, recently shared with the 47 members of Seneca Valley School District’s Leadership Team. In the United States for several speaking engagements, Mr. Elo spent his time at Seneca Valley presenting and discussing phenomenon-based learning and emotional learning from a systems approach.

The phenomenon-based learning framework offers a great perspective on how to increase student involvement, voice and choice in designing project-based learning experiences for students. Mr. Elo shared several examples of phenomenon-based learning and brainstormed with the group how to implement it in schools and through their Professional Learning Community (PLC), a team of educators who share ideas to enhance their teaching practice and create a learning environment where all students can reach their fullest potential.

“We were quite fortunate to have Mr. Elo speak to our Leadership Team and share his knowledge and educational insights with us,” said Dr. Tracy Vitale, Seneca Valley School District Superintendent of Schools. “I had the distinct pleasure of meeting and working with him previously. I’m thrilled he was able to provide an opportunity for our Leadership Team to reflect and discuss how these concepts might be applied.”

Mr. Elo is CEO, Consultant/Trainer in PedaNow - Educational Consulting. He conducts presentations, workshops and consultations on educational issues such as curriculum development, curriculum implementation, phenomenon-based learning, teacher-student roles and high-quality pedagogy from different viewpoints. ■



SENECA VALLEY CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY USED FOR SUMMER RESEARCH

On July 15th, the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology had the privilege of hosting naturalists and college interns from the Latodami Nature Center in North Park. During the visit, the group received a tour of the laboratory and assisted in an eDNA study. The eDNA research is centered upon purifying DNA from the environment with the purpose of finding the whereabouts of organisms that are difficult to locate. After the tour, the naturalists and interns contributed to a two-hour aquatic animal survey of a section of the Little Connoquenessing Creek that wraps around the upper campus.

“It was very rewarding to find so many pollution intolerant fish species in the creek. More than that, it is always a joy to work with the naturalist teams from Latodami Nature Center. Over the past few years they have assisted me with creek surveys in North Park which has allowed us to make a number of significant discoveries related to North Park’s aquatic wildlife,” said, Mr. Tom Lavelle, Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Science teacher.



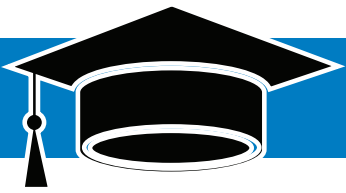
Mr. Tom Lavelle

“Tom is such a joy to work with and recently seeing the work he does with students at the e-lab was really awesome - I’m jealous, I would have loved that in high school,” said Julie Buchanich, college intern and graduate from University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. “The stream survey we completed was actually one of the best I’ve been a part of. We discovered a lot of new and exciting biodiversity right on the SV campus! SV students are really lucky to have a teacher as passionate and knowledgeable as Tom.”

Over the summer, Mr. Lavelle was asked to serve as a mentor teacher for the University of Pittsburgh’s Cooper Laboratory, one of the nation’s premiere bacteria biofilm research institutions and very strong supporters of the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology.

Mr. Lavelle mentored teachers through a program called EvolvingSTEM Summer Teacher Training Program where City of Pittsburgh School District Science teachers are trained in microbiology and genetics using cutting edge technology. He helped educators design research scenarios for their students as well as demonstrate how EvolvingSTEM has been successfully implemented in the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology. ■





SV ALUM NAMED 'FORGED IN FIRE' CHAMPION

Eric Finch, a 2019 SV graduate competed on a recent episode of “Forged in Fire”, a national television show on the History Channel where four bladesmiths compete in a three-round elimination contest to forge bladed weapons. Despite his odds of being the youngest competitor, and only having three years of experience making knives, Mr. Finch won! He received \$10,000 and earned the title of a “Forged in Fire Champion”!

Mr. Finch, a self-taught blacksmith and bladesmith, started this hobby by taking a blacksmithing course at Camp Lutherlyn that his mother had signed him up for along with a welding class at Seneca Valley High School.

Mr. Finch's fellow bladesmiths and social media presence — (670,000 followers on TikTok) helped land him a spot on the show.

“It feels crazy to say that I’m a ‘Forged in Fire Champion’. I’ve only been doing this



for three years,” said Mr. Finch.

“My Uncle Chuck was a huge part of my success. He gave me my first anvil and bought me a gas forge and belt sander, explained Mr. Finch. “The only thing he asked of me was to compete on ‘Forged in Fire’. Going on the show was my biggest goal and winning was more than I could ever hope for.”

Mr. Finch has a booth set-up during the Open Air Market in Zelienople on Thursday nights. He plans on using the money he



won to purchase more tools and pay for his schooling at Slippery Rock University.

The show aired on Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 9 p.m. [Watch](#) it here or read more in the [Cranberry Eagle](#). ■

ALUMNI Q&A

Michael Palaski, SV '15, is currently stationed in Jacksonville, Florida flying the P-8A Poseidon. We asked him to catch us up on what he is doing and how Seneca Valley influenced his life and career.

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

A: After graduating from Seneca Valley, I attended the United States Naval Academy, where I majored in Mechanical Engineering. While at the Academy, I was a member of the rowing team and played the piano in the jazz band. I also served as the 21st Company Commander, leading our 150 person unit for a semester. Following my time in Annapolis, I attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, earning my Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering. From there, I entered naval flight training, where I flew the T-6B Texan II and T-44C Pegasus trainer aircraft. Upon completion of flight training, I earned my “Wings of Gold” and

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reported to Naval Air Station Jacksonville. I am currently stationed in Jacksonville, Florida flying the P-8A Poseidon, the Navy's maritime patrol aircraft.

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

A: My parents still live in the area, and I try to visit as often as I can. My sister was also a Seneca Valley grad ('16) and currently lives and works in Washington DC. My bother recently graduated college and is working in accounting in Pittsburgh. Also, my aunt is a chemistry teacher in the senior high school.

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

A: During the pandemic, I picked up painting as a hobby. I enjoy most creating landscapes, a la the great Bob Ross.

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

A: Seneca Valley left me well prepared to take on my future. The classes I took transitioned quite nicely to those I took in college. I was also exposed to many different people, skills, and schools of thought, which was helpful in the transition to post-high school life.

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

A: The sheer volume and variety of options. There are many AP/honors classes available to receive future college credit, but I think this is evident in the arts and technology class selection. From music and the visual arts, to graphic design and coding, the option to take classes like this in high school prepares students well for their futures.

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

A: Dr. Schuster had a combination of life experience with and enthusiasm for her class material that made her one of the best teachers I have ever had. I was fortunate to take two classes with Dr. Schuster: argument and aviation. Both have benefitted me immensely in my life. Learning to craft an



argument, especially in favor of a view you do not personally hold, has taught me to do research on both sides of the debate, better informing my own opinion on the matter. And I think it is pretty evident how aviation class has influenced my life choices...

I would be remised if I did not also mention my swimming coach, Brian Blackwell, from whom I learned many leadership lessons. His mentorship during my tenure as swim team captain formed me as a leader and taught me many skills that are indispensable in my career .

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Seneca Valley?

A: Sophomore year, I performed Billy Joel's "Piano Man", harmonica and all, for the talent show. It was the first time I had sung in front of an audience. Following that performance, some of the choir members encouraged me to join them in the choir. This ignited a previously unknown love for singing. Thanks to the guidance of Mr. Aaron Magill, my skills improved, and now when I move to a

new town, one of the first things I do is find a choir.

Close second goes to WPIAL swimming finals junior year, where I was part of the swimming relay team that set the (then) school records in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays.

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

A: Be passionate. Teaching these days is so difficult, but the passion you share with your students will affect them much more than any lesson material.

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

A: This place is a great place to grow and find new interests. I would encourage students to branch out and take a class that intrigues you that may not be something you would normally take. You may find a new passion or hobby, helping you become a more well-rounded individual. Also, the new pool is amazing. Money well spent. ■



WHO IS THE 'YOU' IN YOUTUBE?: MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN RACE AND REPRESENTATION IN CHILDREN'S YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Online video viewing has exploded in the last four years among kids of all ages. In fact, teens report that YouTube is the one platform they simply can't live without. At the same time, we know the entertainment industry has fallen short on telling authentic stories that represent the world we live in.

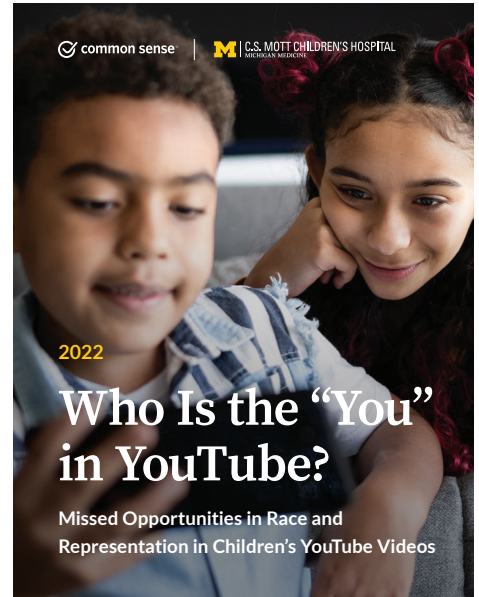
The popularity of YouTube creates a unique opportunity for user-generated content to tell different, diverse, representative stories. But unfortunately, YouTube is missing that opportunity. This report, conducted in partnership with the University of Michigan, looks at a large sample of videos watched by kids ages 0-8 and 9-18. The analysis reveals that kids are watching content that doesn't reflect the diversity of the United States, as well as content that presents

biased and stereotypical representations of race and ethnicity.

YouTube can be a source of empowering and inspiring real-life stories and representations of BIPOC communities, but while families can do a lot to seek out the right stories, YouTube could also make them easier to find by elevating BIPOC creators and making YouTube a destination for representation in media. In the meantime, it's critical to help parents, caregivers, and educators find the very best content on YouTube that elevates diverse voices.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Article and photo provided by [Common Sense Media](#).



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.



No matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org/chat to chat with a caring counselor.

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IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP



Care Solace connects students, staff, and their families to care. At no cost to you, Care Solace will quickly and confidentially find available mental health and substance use providers matched to your needs.

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A multilingual team is available 24/7/365 to help you understand options, call providers on your behalf, and schedule an appointment.

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caresolace.com/



Please note: Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider. In the event of a life threatening emergency, call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255.



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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.

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

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

www.svsd.net



• CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP •

KIDS CLUB

A Parks & Recreation Program

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Designed specifically for Seneca Valley School District families

Starts August 23, 2022

7:00 - 9:00 AM or 3:45 - 6:00 PM



ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR 2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTER

2525 Rochester Road,
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

MUST REGISTER IN PERSON OR OVER THE PHONE

Parks & Recreation Customer Service
(724) 779 - 4FUN



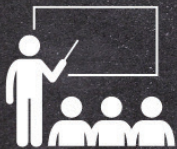
WWW.CRANBERRY4FUN.COM/KIDSClub



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***Show your student ID, get

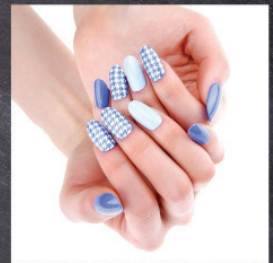
10% Off

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Follow us on Facebook & Instagram to learn how to enter into the drawing for a chance to win on Sat Sep 17th 2022



SCAN ME





Bark your calendars!

September is going to the dogs



Sunday, September 11



Puppy Plunge

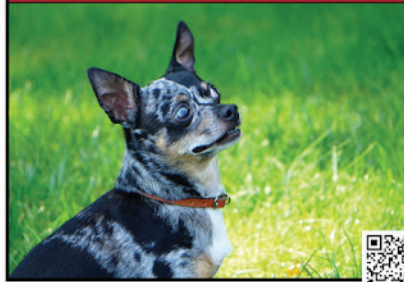
9 AM - 12:30 PM

Cranberry Township Waterpark

Registration required

\$12 per dog | \$10 Resident Discount

Saturday, September 24



Cranberry Twp. Rotary Dog Park Grand Opening

10 AM

Community Park

Visit www.cranberry4fun.com

for Grand Opening information

Friday, September 30



Barktoberfest

3 PM - 7 PM

Cranberry Township Farmers

Market - Cranberry Township

Municipal Center

