

RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

SEPTEMBER 2022

WELCOME TO SV, OFFICER PIPKIN

The hallways of Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) are now filled with even more joy and camaraderie with the presence of their new school resource officer (SRO), Officer Chris Pipkin.

Officer Pipkin of the Jackson Township Police Department (JTPD) brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. He has been a police officer for 12 years and served at various local law enforcement agencies including Lancaster Township Police Department, Evans City/Seven Fields Regional Police Department, Point Park University Police Department and the Beaver County Sheriff's Office.

Known to the students as "Pip," you can find him handing out high-fives across campus and bonding with the kids through friendly games of basketball and the ever-popular arm-wrestling matches.

Story continued on pg. 3



We are happy to share that all Seneca Valley students will be eligible to receive a **FREE** breakfast beginning Monday, Oct. 3, and continuing throughout the 2022-23 school year. Read more on page 12.







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DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 3	School Roard Monting	Work Specian IHS Auditorium	7 n m

Oct. 5 Act-80 Day, No School for Students

Oct. 10 School Board Meeting, Regular Session IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 Homecoming Carnival and Parade. 5 p.m. (Parade starts at 7 p.m.)

Oct. 14 Homecoming Football Game vs. North Hills at NexTier Stadium, 7 p.m.

Oct. 21 SVAOC End of First Nine Weeks

Oct. 25 End of First Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12

Oct. 28 Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students

For more dates, visit:

www.svsd.net/WebCalendar

OCTOBER

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	31					

SV PAYS TRIBUTE

Seneca Valley celebrated Veterans and active members of the Military at the Annual Veteran Recognition Event during our home football game on Sept. 2. This representative group includes those who have served in Desert Storm, Operation Provide Comfort, Bosnia, OIF, OEF, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, Korean War, Operation Southern Watch and Operation Iraqi Freedom, just to name a few. They have continued to give of themselves as good citizens in our communities and the Seneca Valley School District salutes them.









On Friday, Sept. 9, the Seneca Valley Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) honored the memories of the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001. The annual commemorative event recognized the innocent men, women and children who lost their lives on an airplane, at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, in Somerset County and on the streets of New York.

JROTC Cadets also commended the civil servants, firefighters, police officers and military personnel who dedicated and lost their lives protecting our safety and freedom.







WELCOME TO SV, OFFICER PIPKIN

Story continued from pg. 1

Prior to his career in law enforcement, Officer Pipkin played basketball for Eastern Michigan University then went on to play in the National Basketball League (NBL) overseas for four years in Ireland, Austria and New Zealand where his team won the New Zealand Basketball Championship in 1995.

Officer Pipkin was later recognized for his superior athletic achievements when he was inducted into the New Brighton High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame in 2011 and the Pittsburgh Basketball Hall of Fame in 2019.

After his basketball career came to an end, Officer Pipkin soon realized that he not only wanted to work in law enforcement, but also wanted to work with kids.

"I became a police officer to make a difference in my community and protect people. I chose to be an SRO to be a mentor to young people and let them see the everyday human side of police officers," said Officer Pipkin. "As a police officer newly on SRO, I have to be pro-active, approachable, firm and fair," he explained. "But mostly, I have to be honorable both in and out of uniform."

Known to the students as "Pip," you can find him handing out high-fives across campus and bonding with the kids through friendly games of basketball and the ever-popular arm-wrestling matches.

"I have a deep sense of pride working for such an elite and diverse school district. It's a good day when students have positive interactions, learn as much as they can and leave feeling just a little bit better than when they entered the building," said Officer Pipkin.

Officer Pipkin and his wife are residents of Cranberry Township and are proud parents of current Seneca Valley students.

With the addition of Officer Pipkin, Seneca Valley now has three school resource officers (SROs) on the 7-12 secondary campus who are highly trained and certified police officers with the Jackson Township Police Department. These officers work closely with administration to assist with our security needs and have developed an excellent rapport with staff and students. They also work with students to encourage positive and productive behavior. Visit our Safety and Security webpage to learn more.









Pictured L to R: Officer Chris Miller, Officer Chris Pipkin and Officer Chris McGee.

VISITORS WELCOME!

Seneca Valley officials were excited to share Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School during a community tour event held on Saturday, Sept. 24, at the new state-of-the-art K-6 facility. Over 400 visitors took the opportunity to walk through the building, view the many learning areas and talk with administrators. Thank you to all who stopped in to see us!

If you haven't seen the building, get an inside look of Ehrman Crest by watching this video.















PBIS FIDELITY RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) on meeting the criteria as a Tier 1 School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) program on behalf of the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support (PAPBS) Network.

SWPBIS is a framework to make schools more effective places. By implementing evidence-based practices within a PBIS framework, schools support their students' academic, social, emotional and behavioral success, engage with families and use data to make informed decisions that improve the way things work.



Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support

During the 2021-2022 school year, ECMS successfully implemented a school-wide program that established and articulated clear and consistent expectations while recognizing students for their positive efforts. The teachers and staff have worked diligently to build a culture that focuses on the positive behaviors that students exhibit daily. Ehrman Crest Middle School looks forward to pursuing their Tier 2 recognition next!

IHS STUDENTS DIG IN, SPRUCE UP COURTYARD

Students, faculty and staff members at Seneca Valley Intermediate High School (IHS) are now able to enjoy their beautiful and tranquil courtyard just in time for the splendor of fall. But this wouldn't be possible without the help from the hardworking students in Ms. Carrie Ehrenberger's Foundations for Success class.

During the 2021-22 school year, Ms. Ehrenberger challenged students in her Foundations for Success course, a class specifically for ninth graders that focuses on the Six Pillars of Character. Students spent an entire semester learning about trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship; the last pillar which would include 10 hours of community service. Since students couldn't volunteer in the community last year due to the pandemic, they decided to work on beautifying their IHS courtyard, which would create a more positive learning environment and provide a place for students to hang out and eat their lunch.

Ms. Ehrenberger's students spent weeks designing and planning how they would improve the courtyard then presented their ideas to building administrators, student council, various school clubs, and the Seneca Valley Foundation. The SV Foundation awarded the class with \$2,700 in funding for their project and the student council provided the picnic tables for the courtyard space.

Students worked hard pulling weeds for several days, laying down landscaping fabric and painting rocks to bring color into the courtyard. They even worked with Mr. Jason Shorr, High School Art teacher and Mr. Joe Ehrenberger, IHS Applied Engineering and Technology teacher, to create a one-of-a-kind SV sculpture that is now a forever home in the IHS courtyard.

"My goal was to help students take ownership in their school and develop pride for their building. I thought if students were working hard to make the school beautiful, they would encourage their peers to also respect their school. I may have had a





small group of individuals working in the courtyard, but it had a significant effect on the building as a whole," said Ms. Ehrenberger.

"It was cool being a part of a new change in the school, knowing that future students will walk by and possibly think to themselves, when was that added? Has that always been here? Which are thoughts that I've had throughout past school years. Having a say in making the school a better place was an honor, and I've even seen more people use the courtyard this school year than I did all of last year which is rewarding and inspiring," said sophomore, Iliana James.

"This project was a great opportunity to make a positive change in our school. We hope that what we've done to the courtyard can make our school a friendlier and more welcoming space," said sophomore, Zach Garma.

Added Karley Schaefers, sophomore, "There is only one way to describe





working on the IHS courtyard - and that it was inspiring. It was a great way to communicate with my fellow classmates and learn some important life skills while also helping the school I love."

The IHS courtyard will continue to be maintained. Ms. Ehrenberger's current students have the opportunity to gain volunteer hours by weeding and adding flowers and/or fall decorations. The hope is to one day add a giant size chess board for students.

ERADICATE HATE GLOBAL SUMMIT

Seneca Valley teachers and administrators attended the Eradicate Hate Global Summit that was held Sept. 19-21 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. This event is the most comprehensive anti-hate conference in the world. It unites experts and leaders from around the globe who are dedicated to eradicating all forms of hate-fueled violence. The mission of the Eradicate Hate Global Summit is to identify and implement effective solutions for collective change.

Mr. Ashley Porter, Supervisor of Equity and Title IX Coordinator, along with Ms. Meagan Loewy, Mr. Ezekiel Stroupe and Mr. Gregory Smolinski, gifted Support Teachers from Ryan Gloyer Middle School, were in attendance with hundreds of others from around the Pittsburgh area. The Summit brought together leaders from government,

academia, journalism, business and the non-profit sector. The three days consisted of international keynote speakers, panelists and variety of break-out sessions that focused on deliverables that can enhance the efforts of those engaged in the battle against hate.

This event was very impactful for our SV faculty and staff. "After attending the Summit, I realized how many organizations and individual people of ALL cultures, races, religions and genders around the world, are working to dismantle systems of hate and violence. The experience was very encouraging and uplifting," said Mr. Porter.

"The biggest thing that I took away from the experts is that eradicating hate starts at home and the best thing we can do as mentors in kids' lives is just be active



Pictured L to R: Mr. Ashley Porter, Mr. Gregory Smolinski, Mr. Ezekiel Stroupe and Ms. Meagan Loewy

and intentional in our relationships with them," said Mr. Stroupe.

Ms. Loewy added, "It was fascinating to learn about experts from so many different fields – tech, healthcare, intelligence, education, and faith communities - coming together to prevent violence and eradicate hate."

SV STUDENTS TAKE PART IN PEACE POLE CEREMONIES

Seneca Valley students were honored to take part in recent Peace Pole ceremonies held across the District. The Cranberry Township Sunrise Rotary held a Peace Pole installation ceremony in the Municipal Center on International Peace Day, September 21. Brianna Moosa, senior (pictured here on left with Seneca Valley Senior High School Teacher Rebecca Mutschler), spoke during the ceremony as a youth representative and the importance of committing to peace all across the world.

Zelienople Rotary also installed a Peace Pole during a ceremony held at the Zelienople Community Park and which featured artwork submitted by students from Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School.

According to worldpeace.org, the Peace Pole is an internationally recognized symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family. Each Peace Pole bears the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in different languages on each of its four sides. There are estimated to be over 250,000 Peace Poles in every country in the world dedicated as monuments to peace.















SV DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION CLASS VISITS FUTURE HOLLYWOOD SITE

On September 16, students from Seneca Valley's Documentary Production class took a trip back in time with their cameras and equipment to catch a glimpse of Pittsburgh's industrial past. Fifteen students embarked on a self-guided videography tour of the Carrie Furnaces, a long-closed blast furnace and popular location for major film productions located along the Monongahela River in Swissvale. In addition to learning the history of the massive iron mill, students sought out the most interesting angles and details to complete their own poetic documentaries.

Inspired by a series of abstract films created in the early 20th century, these students' poetic documentaries required them to find a tremendous variety of interesting shots using multiple lenses and other equipment. The goals were to give students a unique location for honing



their shooting and editing skills, provide a bit of local history, and give them an outlet for expressing their creativity in unique ways. Additionally, their visit to the Carrie Furnaces gives them a sneak peek at a location that will house a state-of-the-art film production facility for major Hollywood films and shows in the coming years. The Documentary Production class is taught by Mr. Dan McKosky.



SV MARCHING BAND HOSTS 8TH GRADE BAND NIGHT

Our talented 8th grade band students joined the marching band on Friday, September 9, during the football game against Canon-Mac. The evening kicked off perfectly with a pizza party and distribution of the specialized band T-shirts made specifically for these musicians. The students met with upperclassmen and experienced the excitement and energy of a Friday night performance!

The 8th grade students did a fantastic job playing the *Star Spangled Banner* and the *Alma Mater* on the field during pregame with the marching band. They also had a lot of fun playing stand tunes during the game to cheer on the football team. Morgan Stanton, a percussionist in the 8th grade band said, "I am really excited to join the marching band in 9th grade!" It was a wonderful evening to showcase such great students and to get a glimpse into the future successes of the band program!











THE IMPACT OF A COMMUNITY

To say Raider Athletics & Activities is off to a rousing start might just be a bit of an understatement. The brilliance of our Raider Marching Band has been on full display at Pie Fest and Friday Night Lights home football games. The enthusiasm of our home crowds has been energized by the spirit and talents of our cheer and dance squads. #SVRaiderPride has been evident in the sizable student-sections found at all home sporting events. In short, it has been a very proud start to the school year.

As I sit in this seat, I can share there are a few moments in my 11 years that resonate with me just how very special it is to have this role. In my time I have been privileged to witness so many outstanding, and at times unbelievable, athletic accomplishments. I, too, have shared in a few heartbreaking moments where the lessons learned would be appreciated in due time just not in the immediate moment. I would rank September 14, 2022 as one of those moments that will stay with me for a lifetime. In late August, our very own Virginia "Ginny" Fronk, a senior goalkeeper for our girls' soccer team, received a diagnosis no one ever wants to hear, "You have Hodgkin's Lymphoma." To say Ginny has attacked her treatment with uncommon courage and even greater grace does not do Ginny any justice. Quite simply she is an inspiration and my hero for staring cancer down and adopting the attitude, "You picked the wrong girl."

In a little over three weeks since the diagnosis, this community spearheaded by the Girls Soccer Booster Group, organized a Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness night for the September 14, 2022 game versus North Hills. T-shirts were made and bought not only by Seneca Valley residents but also by competing WPIAL teams and the greater soccer community at large. The love and support for Ginny escalated to a level very deserving for this tenacious and humble teammate.



A night full of fundraisers, awareness and education led to a donation of \$17,000 to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in Ginny's name. Yes, in three short weeks the unbelievable efforts of so many generated \$17,000 in donations. The sea of purple humanity was on full display September 14, 2022 and my pride in our community that evening is inexpressible. I want to thank everyone for their generosity, their love,



and their support for Ginny as she walks her journey with grace and courage befitting a champion. Ginny will be fine. How do I know? Because she is a warrior! **#GinnyStrong #SVCares**

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, SEPTEMBER 2022

The Female Athlete of the Month for September was junior girl's golfer Lihini Ranaweera. Lihini has had a stellar season so far on the links while shooting a match average of 37 including multiple matches shooting below par. She is part of a team that set a new SV Girls Golf record low score of 164. The standout performance of her month was a 1st place finish at the Climb the Ridge Golf Invitational, which in turn helped SV secure the team title. For a great month, we recognized Lihini as the September Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Lihini!



The Male Athlete of the Month for September was senior boys' soccer forward, Will Bruno. Will is part of a high-scoring Raiders offense that has scored 42 goals over 8 games so far. He leads the team in goals with eight with two hat-tricks coming in big wins over North Hills and Shaler. His goals have helped SV to an 8-0 start including a Kick-Off Tournament win at Chartiers Valley. We recognized Will as the September Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Will!



FALL SPORTS UPDATES

CROSS COUNTRY – Boys and Girls (Head Coach: Steve Strelick)

The season is still relatively young for the cross-country teams having competed in two dual meets and one invitational at the time of this issue of Raider Pride. On the boy's side, the Raiders took seventh overall (out of 32 teams) at the annual Red. White, and Blue invitational with senior Eli DeWitt coming in 25th and



sophomore Max Smith 27th out of 232 runners. In the girl's race, Seneca Valley came in 14th out of 33 teams with senior Abby Kreber (52nd) and junior Samantha Moury (59th) leading the way. In dual meet action the boys defeated both Butler and Pine-Richland while the girls team split, beating Butler while falling to Pine-Richland.

FOOTBALL (Head Coach Ron Butschle)

Raider football has opened the season splitting its first four games. Wins have come against Penn Hills and Pine-Richland with tough losses to Peters Township and Canon-Mac. Leading the way statistically for the Raiders are as follows: Graham Hancox is 67/120 in passing for 812 total yards; Wyatt Craver is averaging 78 yds/game on 68 rush attempts; Luke Lawson leads all receivers with 20 receptions for 217 yards and Jackson Wetzel has seven receptions for 188 yards and three touchdowns. Defensively TJ Border leads the team with 34 total tackles, including three sacks and four tackles for loss and Chris D'Appolonia is right behind him with 32 total tackles, including eight tackles for loss. The Raiders have remaining section games against Mt. Lebanon, Central Catholic, and North Allegheny and those results will go a long way in determining playoff seeding for November.

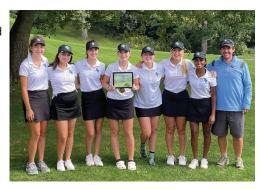
GOLF - Boys (Head Coach Dean Leventopoulos)

The boys' varsity golf team currently sits at 6-4 in dual match play with two remaining matches and their annual SV Invite remaining on the schedule. In recent sectional qualifying play, the Raiders had four golfers advance to the WPIAL Individual semifinals. Congratulations to Payton Brown, Lucas Bruns, Casey Clawson, and Marcos Lopez. These four will compete at Champion Lakes at the end of the month with the goal of qualifying for the WPIAL individual finals. Good luck!

GOLF - Girls (Head Coach Kevin Wildrick)

The girls' varsity golf holds an 11-3 match record and a championship title from the second annual Climb the Ridge Invitational that saw the Raiders sweep the top three spots!

Congratulations to Lihini Ranaweera (1st), Madison Sharek (2nd) and Sarah McCullough (3rd.) The



team begins qualification for WPIAL individual championship play later this month. Good luck to all.

SOCCER - Boys (Head Coach George Williams)

The defending WPIAL champions and PIAA runner-up from a year ago currently sit atop the WPIAL rankings with an undefeated mark of 8-0 at the time of this writing. The Raiders opened the season defending their championship at the Inter-Section Kick-Off Tournament and have continued their roll through mid-September. The Raiders have scored 42 goals in eight games while conceding only three.



SOCCER - Girls (Head Coach Mark Perry)

Girls' soccer is off to a great start sitting at 6-0-2 and currently ranked fourth in 4A WPIAL soccer. Despite a rash of injuries that has taken its toll on the Raider defense, this team continues to battle each night. In eight games this season, SV has scored 20 goals while giving up only three. On the day of this writing the Raiders will host top-ranked North Allegheny in a mid-season key section battle.



TENNIS (Head Coach Eric Grove)

Girls' varsity tennis has been challenged this year in finding its rhythm, losing several close matches by one point. The team will close out its dual match season in early October with a home match against Peters Twp. In WPIAL individual section qualifiers Kylie Staudt and Anna Winland represented SV. Anna fell to the number two seed out of North Hills in the first-round while eighth-seeded

Kylie picked up a 10-2 first round win over the ninth seed from Shaler. In the quarterfinals Kylie lost a tough match to the top-seeded player from North Allegheny. WPIAL doubles section qualifiers will take place in late September.

VOLLEYBALL (Head Coach Brett Poirier)

To the surprise of many outside our gym but not to those practicing and competing every day inside the gym, the Raiders are currently undefeated in match play at 5-0 and have two tournament titles to their credit – winning the season-opening Canon-Mac tournament and, most recently, bringing home the team title from the Westminster (MD) Mason-Dixon Invitational. The end of September will feature key section clashes with top-ranked North Allegheny and Pine-Richland.



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT DATES FOR RAIDER ATHLETICS

Special Events

- Oct. 13, 2022: Homecoming Carnival and Parade
- Oct. 14, 2022: Homecoming Football Game vs North Hills
- Oct. 21, 2022: Annual Pink Game & Football Alumni Night vs Central Catholic

Winter Sport Information

- Oct. 26, 2022: Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals for Winter Sports in Senior High School
- 30 physicals offered 2:45 5:15 pm
- Nov. 9, 2022: Final Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals for Winter Sports in Senior High School
- 30 physicals offered 2:45 5:15 pm
- Nov. 10, 2022: Deadline for winter sport paperwork; all papers due in athletic office.
- **Nov. 18, 2022:** First official day of winter sports mandatory tryouts begin this day.
 - For tryout schedule, please contact the coach directly. Coaches contact information is located on athletics website under Participation Information tab.

REMINDERS for 2022-23:

- ALL paperwork for winter sports due in the athletic office no later than Thursday, November 10, 2022 by 3:00 pm. Coaches will not accept paperwork at the first day of tryouts.
- The PIAA mandates the CIPPE Section 7 form as the only permissible form for doctor's signature.
- All required paperwork for 2022-23 athletic participation is available on Parent Portal or Athletics website. Paperwork includes: PIAA CIPPE Sections 1, 2, 5, 6 & 7 and Drug Test Consent Form.
- IF a student played in a fall sport, the only paperwork needed is PIAA CIPPE Section 8 and, if applicable, PIAA CIPPE Section 9 these forms can be dated no earlier than Oct. 7, 2022.
- All student-athletes must register in the Parent Portal under "Sports Registration" before the start of each season.
- Tryouts are <u>mandatory</u>. Student-athletes are expected to attend every tryout session.

FUNDING THE FUTURE AT BUTLER COUNTY AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL CENTER

The Seneca Valley
Foundation (SVF) is
excited to encourage
more students to
attend the Butler
County Area
Vocational-Technical
Center. To do so, SVF



is committing \$5,000 for "Vo-Tech Student Equipment Mini-grants," where eligible students will be able to apply for funding that will alleviate the costs of attending the area's Vo-Tech School.

This project grew from a staff member in the Senior High guidance office, Ms. Kim Magill, alerting us to a student in need of financial assistance. This student started a vo-tech program this year but was struggling to find the money to pay for the work boots, shirts and pants required by the program. These costs can range from \$100 to over \$600.

Our trustees quickly decided it was time to provide assistance to students entering vo-tech programs, and is excited to offer these mini-grants to those eligible as they take strides to an exciting career. For additional information and to apply for a mini-grant, please contact SVF Development Director Annie Mersing, via email, at mersingam@svsd.net.

FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL EXPERIENCE

Students on the Cougar Team at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) traveled to the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA thanks to SVF funding. This educational experience provided students with the opportunity to learn about the diverse group of strangers who showed leadership, heroism, selflessness and service above self on September 11, 2001. These same qualities were demonstrated by their school's namesake, Ryan Gloyer, and what educators hope to instill in all RGMS students.

Mr. Donati, Mrs. Kotula, Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Loewy spearheaded the project and

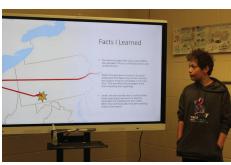


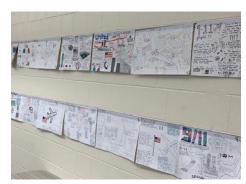
collaborated to create an interdisciplinary unit that culminated in a select group of students attending the field trip to the Flight 93 Memorial.

Students read non-fiction accounts and biographies from the book "Heroes of 9-11," created sketchnotes to visualize

major concepts and conducted in-depth conversations of the events surrounding that fateful day. Afterward, students created a presentation analyzing and explaining why it is important for middle school students to continue learning about this piece of American history and how they would individually benefit from attending this field trip.













FREE BREAKFAST FOR ALL STUDENTS

We are happy to share with you some great news from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)! Starting Monday, October 3, every student will be eligible to receive a breakfast meal at school at **NO COST** regardless of qualification for free/ reduced meals. While every student is eligible to receive their first meal at no cost, a la carte items and extra meals/ food items will continue to be charged to student accounts as they have been in the past.





free/reduced meals, we strongly encourage you to complete the application at Food Services / Free & Reduced Price Meals Application (svsd.net). As always, we appreciate the opportunity to provide meals to your child(ren).

PLANNING FOR CLASSROOM PARTIES

Are you already thinking about what food to bring for upcoming classroom parties? Visit our website for the SV approved snack lists or leave the planning to us! Seneca Valley offers healthy party packages that include fruit, veggies, warm soft pretzels and more! For additional information or to place your order, please contact your child's building cafeteria manager.

Jutritious Celebrations

Seneca Valley offers healthy party packages for you to purchase for a classroom celebration or a take home treat!

For more information or to order, please contact your child's building cafeteria manager.

Contact information can be found under Food Services at www.svsd.net

Veggie-licious Party ~

A one cup assortment of fresh raw veggies, low-fat ranch dip. \$1.75 per person

Fruitabulous Party~

A one cup assortment of fresh in season fruit served with low-fat yogurt dip. \$2.25 per person

String Cheese and Pretzel Bag~

Mozza<mark>rella or Cheddar string cheese with an individual b</mark>ag of heartzles. \$1.50 per

<u>Pretzel Party~</u>

Warm 3 ounce soft pretzel served with mustard or cheese sauce. Includes beverage ~small water. \$1.75 per person

Under the Sea Party~

A package of goldfish crackers and a Trix yogurt cup. \$1.50

Nutritious Friendly Snack Assortment~

Your choice of assorted Baked Chips, Fruit Snacks, Popcorn, & or Pretzels. \$1.00

<u>Pizza Party Plan</u>—White whole grain pizza slice. Tomato or white pizza to include one topping. One package of sliced bagged crisp apples. Includes beverage ~ \$2.25

Having Fun Keeping It Healthy!

All Snack Parties Include a Small Water!

WHAT'S IN A LUNCH?

The Seneca Valley School District follows the Nutrition Standard Guidelines that the Department of Education has put in place for the National School Lunch Program as well as for Competitive Foods in Pennsylvania Schools. The keys for success to a healthy diet are moderation, balance and variety. Please encourage your child to make healthy choices and choose a variety of foods from each food group so that they receive the daily nutrients needed for health.

Students are offered all five food groups each day-grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy,

meats and protein alternatives. The students have the option to decline some of the food groups available, however they must choose at least three food groups for the meal to be considered a balanced meal; with one of the options being a 1/2 cup fruit or 1/2 cup vegetables.

To review the menu in greater detail, here are a few examples of the types of foods being served:

- Pizza Assorted varieties, 100% whole grain
- Fruit Bar- Unlimited assorted fruits served daily

- Vegetable Bar Unlimited assorted steamed or fresh vegetables served daily
- Bread and Buns Wheat and whole grains are offered daily
- Cereal General Mills whole grain cereals are offered daily
- Snacks Assorted healthy snacks approved through the USDA's Smart Snacks in Schools program
- Beverages Water, Milk and 100% Juice

The current lunch menu is always available by visiting: Food Services / Menus (svsd. net)

Getting to know... TAYLOR SCHMIDT

Seneca Valley would like to give a warm welcome to Taylor Schmidt, Project Manager and Supervisor of Maintenance. o Mr. Schmidt brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in both commercial and residential construction. He received his undergraduate degree from Seton Hill University and his master's degree in Business Administration from Central Michigan University.

Mr. Schmidt began his career at Poerio Inc, a Pittsburgh-based general contracting firm. While there, he was a project engineer and was promoted to project manager. In 2020, he began working for SMS Assist LLC, a residential construction management company. During his tenure, he served as project manager, senior project manager and area construction operations manager, in which he oversaw all markets in the northeast region.

We're thrilled to have Mr. Schmidt join us. We asked him to share a little more about himself, and here's what he had to say:

Q: What attracted you to this role?

A: Since I began my career in construction, I have always wanted to get involved in the maintenance and grounds side of buildings and facilities. In a previous job as a project engineer, I worked closely with all of the FedEx Ground maintenance staff at their facilities across the country. I think this opened my eyes to how heavily involved they are at assuring their buildings are properly operating on a day-to-day basis.

Q: What are your overall goals for this position?

A: My goals for this position are to continue to help improve and maintain the functionality of each building throughout the District. We have a knowledgeable Building and Grounds team that take pride in their work, and I want to support them in making their buildings top-notch.

Q: Now that you've been here for a little while, what are your impressions of Seneca Valley?

A: So far, I am really enjoying my time



here. It has been great getting to know our leadership team and everyone has been very welcoming. I love the fast-paced environment and learning how each building operates.

Q: Describe for us what you call a "good day" at work.

A: This answer can vary on a day-to-day basis, but overall, I think a good day is seeing consistent progress throughout our District to keep our buildings in good shape, which allows our students to learn in a clean and safe environment.

Q: When you're not at school, you most likely can be found doing what?

A: I love the outdoors. When I am not at work, I am most likely hunting, fishing or thinking about one of the two. I am also



an avid baseball fan, although I don't play anymore, I love watching college and MLB throughout the spring and summer.

Interested in renting facilities in the District? Visit our website to learn more.

STAFF OF SV

Be sure to check out the latest 'Staff of SV,' a light-hearted feature that was created to share with our followers the more human-interest side of our staff that parents and students don't always get to see. This month features Tracy Vidnovic, Administrative Offices Front Desk Receptionist and her time as Pittsburgh Pirate Pierogi, Jalapeno Hannah. Read more at www.sysd.net/StaffofSV.





SENECA VALLEY FOOD SERVICES JOB FAIR

Date: October 19, 2022 Time: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: Administration Offices

124 Seneca School Rd. Harmony, PA, 16037

Attendees will learn about the roles/responsibilities and benefits of becoming a member of our food service team! In addition, they will be able to apply and interview for an opening within our buildings.

RSVP to carlinsl@svsd.net.



Parents can work in the cafeteria while their child is at school and still be home in time for bus drop-off!

Responsibilities include food preparation, serving and end-of-day cleaning at a competitive rate of \$14.50/hour.







APPLY TODAY!

Please submit required information to www.svsd.net/Employment

Benefits of working at Seneca Valley:

- An opportunity to make a strong impact in the life of a child
- Competitive pay (\$14.50/hr)
- Excellent medical package for full-time classification vacancies
- · Weekends and holidays off
- Flexible hours
- Generous allocation of paid time off (sick and personal days)

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

SV ALL-STARS: STAFF MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR SAVING STUDENT

For the month of September, we are pleased to announce the newest members inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Ms. Beth Craig and Mrs. Madeline Nowak, paraprofessionals at Ehrman Crest Middle School.

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

Mr. Tim Eiler, Principal of Ehrman Crest Middle School shared, "Day in and day out, our schools could not operate without our paraprofessionals' hard work and dedication to our staff and students. We have the best of the best, and they step up and prove it repeatedly. With that said, what Beth Craig and Madeline Nowak did on Friday, September 2nd, took the high regard in which we hold our paraprofessionals to an entirely new level. They didn't just step up and do the right thing - they saved a life.

"On that day, Ehrman Crest had a serious and dire situation in which a student was choking on his lunch. The student's airflow became restricted, and he was not breathing. When these situations occur, they are obviously extremely jarring, but they solidify that we have great kids and great people who do the right thing."

Mr. Eiler explained, "Students got the attention of the adults in the cafeteria. Ms. Craig stepped up and began to administer the Heimlich maneuver. Though she was at first unable to remove the obstruction, she never gave up. Mrs. Nowak was then able to step in and relieve her, continuing the Heimlich. Within moments, the obstruction began to clear, airflow moved again, and color returned to the student's face. Our school nurse was able to take over at that point, and although she sent the student home early that Friday, he returned the following week without complications," said Mr. Eiler.

Mr. Eiler added, "This incident served as a reminder of how much we need each other. It wasn't just training that saved a student's



Pictured from L-R: Principal of Ehrman Crest Middle School, Mr. Tim Eiler, Assistant Principal at Ehrman Crest Middle School, Mrs. Bridget Miller, paraprofessionals Ms. Beth Craig and Mrs. Madeline Nowak, Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tracy Vitale and Seneca Valley School Board President, Mr. Jim Nickel.

life; it was individuals looking out for each other, working in tandem, and exhibiting the willingness to be selfless. As one student put it when Mrs. Bridget Miller, Assistant Principal at Ehrman Crest Middle School, and I talked with classes who witnessed the event, "I feel a whole lot safer at school knowing that they know how to do that."

"What Beth and Madeline saw that day was unimaginable. But what they did was nothing less than heroic - they literally saved a life. We are honored to know and work with these ladies, and it's a pleasure to help recognize them for being so loving, caring and willing to step up when they were needed," said Mr. Eiler."

'I LED THE PLEDGE'

Seneca Valley School District's School Board meetings were held on Sept. 12 and 19. 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 Sept. meetings, Haine Elementary School first grader Dj Kirkland, Jr., and CVE first grader Amaya Menon did the honors. Both of these students did a fantastic job!



Dj Kirkland, Jr. with, from L-R, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent and Mr. Jim Nickel, Board President



Amaya Menon with Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2022-2023 ACTIVITIES & INFORMATION CALENDAR

The Seneca Valley School District is proud of its well-established and award-winning fine arts program! That is just one reason why the 2022-23 activities and information calendar pages are all about "Celebrating the Arts: A World of Color." From basic art skills at the elementary level to the more advanced techniques found in secondary courses, students build and expand their art skills through a variety of creative mediums. The ongoing success of this program would not be possible without the skillful direction of a talented art staff and we thank them for their continued guidance of our students. Click here for an online version of the 2022-23 calendar.

Pictured are supplemental photos from the 2022-2023 Activities and Information Calendar.



Sophie Byrd, SV Class of 2022 (Honorable Mentions in the 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards).



Emma Bedell, grade 12 (Silver Key winner and five Honorable Mentions in the 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.)



Regan Ridenour, grade 12 (Honorable Mentions in the 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.)



Natalie Camilli, SV Class of 2022 (Silver Key winner and two Honorable Mentions in the 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.)



Ashlyn Gianfrancesco, grade 12 (Gold Key winner AND 2022 National Key winner in the 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for her ceramic sculpture "Up, Up and Away.")



ALUMNI Q&A

Sara Panetta, SV '17, is currently working as a Merchandise Planner for Duluth Trading Company and is also a full-time student enrolled in Kent State's MBA program. We asked her to catch us up on what she is doing and how Seneca Valley influenced her life and career.

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

A: I attended Kent State University to earn a bachelor's degree in Fashion Merchandising. After graduating in 2020, I enrolled in Kent State's MBA program where I will graduate this December. In addition to being a full-time student, I am currently working as a Merchandise Planner for Duluth Trading Company in Madison, WI. In this role, I am responsible for managing current and future season sales forecasts, placing orders to ensure that we have adequate inventory, and identifying pricing strategies for new and existing products.

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

A: My family still resides in Cranberry Township along with our two cats. My brother is currently a sophomore at SV and my stepdad is a teacher in the district.

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

A: Before working for Duluth, I completed several marketing internships. I got the opportunity to manage social media accounts for KeyBank Pavilion (now the Pavilion at Star Lake) and Barstool Sports, where I fell in love with marketing. These internships ultimately influenced my decision to go back to school. I also participated in Kent State's study abroad program, where I spent four months living in Florence, Italy. I loved my time there and look forward to the day I can return!

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

A: Seneca Valley helped me become the person that I am today by providing a great environment to learn and thrive. In high



school I was able to take advantage of the advanced placement (AP) courses that SV offers, which allowed me to graduate college a semester early. These courses taught me how to properly study, which made my time in college easier. When I compare my high school experience to that of my peers, I can appreciate the quality of education that SV has to offer.

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

A: The amount of academic, athletic, and professional resources available at Seneca Valley gives everyone the ability to find their place. The teachers are supportive and encourage you to pursue anything.

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

A: My favorite teachers were Ms. Heidi Thomas (grades 7-8), Ms. Lisa Tyson (grade 8), Mr. Ron Butschle (grade 11), and Mr. Eric Semega (grade 11).

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

A: During my time at SV, I was involved in multiple choral groups that competed at different locations around the country. We were able to perform in Chicago, Myrtle Beach, Toronto, New York City, and even Disney World. Those trips gave me the opportunity to meet people that I am still friends with today, for which I am grateful. I also played tennis and look back on many great memories with my teammates. We became so close over the course of each season, so it was difficult to watch the seniors graduate!

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





A: Don't lose faith! Teaching is a difficult profession, and it can be hard to see the good in a tough school year. However, your impact is immeasurable, and your actions can really influence students to find their passion. One supportive teacher is all it takes to turn someone's life around, so be that light and encourage students to pursue their dreams!

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

A: Although Seneca Valley is a very large school district, there are so many ways to get involved and find your home. The number of resources available as well as the structure allows students to try different things and meet new people. The staff works hard to ensure that every student has an opportunity to succeed, which can sometimes be difficult at a large school. I would not be the person I am today had I not taken advantage of the opportunities available at SV. Don't be afraid to try something new because you never know where it may lead you!



FBI WARNS OF KIDNAPPING SCAM

This comes directly from the FBI and has been occurring throughout our country and there have been cases in Western Pennsylvania including Butler and Allegheny Counties.

Virtual kidnappers can be very convincing, often representing themselves as members of drug cartels or corrupt law enforcement. Victims may hear screams in the background of a call, but virtual kidnappers have been known to use recordings to sound more realistic. Virtual kidnappers often request payment via wire transfer and push victims to act quickly.

FBI Chicago offers the following tips to help prevent virtual kidnapping scams:

- Never post news of upcoming travel dates and locations online.
- Discuss virtual kidnapping with family members prior to any travel.
- Have a "password" that family members can ask for in an emergency to confirm that a loved one is really in trouble.
- Be wary of providing financial information to strangers over the phone.

Hallmarks of a virtual kidnapping include:

- The calls may not come from the kidnapped target's phone.
- Callers go to great lengths to keep victims on the phone.
- Callers are usually unable to answer simple questions about targets such as what they look like.
- Ransom money is only accepted via a wire transfer service.
- Callers request that the ransom funds be wired to multiple people in several small amounts.
- Using profanities and/or yelling to stir emotions to confuse your though process.

Information Credit from FBI Special Agent Siobhan Johnson News Release 4/4/2022



FBI DETAILS LAW ENFORCEMENT SCAM

The scammers claim they have an outstanding warrant for arrest that will need to be paid immediately or the victim will be arrested.

Law enforcement **will not ask** for payment over the phone, through wire transfers, gift cards, or websites not affiliated with law enforcement. If you get a call that you suspect is fraudulent, don't make a payment through these methods.

Police officers will not demand that you stay on the phone, and if you get a call about a criminal or civil accusation that you don't recognize, it probably is not true. Law enforcement officers will not threaten you or family members with additional criminal charges, police say.

If you get a call you suspect is fraudulent, you are urged to contact the respective law enforcement agency to determine if the call is legitimate. You should not confirm any identifying information about yourself to the scammer.

Information Credit from Galveston Police Department 8/30/2022

BECOME A SENECA VALLEY GOLD CARD MEMBER

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.*



Membership is free and proof of residency is required at the time of application. Acceptable proof of residency includes: a copy of a valid PA driver's license or identification card with a Seneca Valley School District community address, lease, or utility bill (name of the application must match the name on the license/identification). A

Gold Card application can be made by mail and must include a copy of proof of residency.

*Please be aware that many fine arts performances such as band, orchestra and choir concerts offer free admission, but some events such as plays, musical productions or dance reviews may require an admission charge. Reduced-price admissions to these events are available to Gold Card members. Reservations may be required and some performances may have limited free-admission seating for Gold Card members.

To apply for a gold card, please visit Parents/Community / Gold Card Club (svsd.net).

School Based Mental Health

Frequently Asked Questions for Seneca Valley Parents



About Glade Run

Glade Run currently contracts and provides outpatient counseling services in several school districts located in Allegheny, Butler and Beaver counties, including Seneca Valley School District.

Glade Run operates three school-based outpatient program models: Mental Health Partnership (MHP); Therapeutic Classroom; and Modified Therapeutic Classroom. The school-based therapists conduct initial psycho-social assessments and then provide individual, family and group therapy as determined by the individual student's treatment plan.

What is School Based Mental Health (SBMH)?

SBMH refers to mental health services for school age youth addressing social, emotional and behavioral health along with the ability to cope with life's challenges. Services are delivered in the school setting during the school day and, if needed, can continue during the summer months.

Why is Seneca Valley partnering with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide school based mental health services?

Seneca Valley cares about it's students and recognizes the need to provide access to services that will support mental wellness within the classroom. Research demonstrates that students who receive mental health support achieve better academically. In addition, classroom behavior, on-task learning, and students' sense of connectedness and well-being all improve as well.

Who will be providing mental health services to my child?

School based mental health services will be provided by licensed therapists through Glade Run Lutheran Services.

As a parent, do I have any financial obligation?

Payment is based on individual insurance similar to your medical insurance. After completing the referral and during the initial phone call from the therapist, parents will be informed of any financial obligation prior to the start of any services.

Where will my child's services take place?

Services are delivered in approved spaces within the school. These spaces have been approved by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OMHSAS).

Will my child miss class or need to stay after regular school hours?

Appointment times are determined by the student, parent and school counselor and are typically during the school day unless the therapist, student and parent make other arrangements.

Can I participate in my child's therapy?

Therapy is confidential but Glade Run offers Family Therapy as well if the team determines it necessary and/or with a parent/guardian request.

How do I get started?



Referrals may be completed by parents/guardians, teachers, nurses, counselors/social workers or the student him/herself.



This referral is forwarded to Glade Run's outpatient referral coordinator, who verifies student insurance and forwards to the program supervisor for staffing.



At that time, the assigned therapist will contact the student's family to set up intake, which will take place at your child's school. This process is typically completed within 24-48 hours.

For more information about school based mental health services, contact us at 412-661-1827, ext. 113.



www.gladerun.org

Seneca Valley | September 2022



- Ehrman Crest Elementary / MiddleSchool Grand Opening
 & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony YouTube
- 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)
- Ehrman Crest featured in National interview on AccuWeather
- 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



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.

We're here for you.



IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP



Calming the Chaos of

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.

Find the right help at the right time.



24/7/365 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT

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



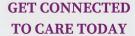
CARE REGARDLESS OF INSURANCE

Connect to care with any coverage including Medicaid, Medicare, and sliding scale options for those without insurance.



EASY ACCESS TO CARE

Use Care Match, the selfserve website, to find a provider on your own.



888-515-0595

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.



Seneca Valley Academic Games Team News

JOIN US FOR ACADEMIC GAMES! We compete against other schools in the following games:

PROPAGANDA
EQUATIONS
PRESIDENTS
ON-SETS
CURRENT EVENTS / THEMES
LINGUISHTIK

THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL TOURNAMENT WILL BE IN ORLANDO FLORIDA!

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU CAN REACH OUT TO OUR TEACHER ADVISORS:

Mr. Michael Stebbins – Sr./Intermediate High School Division at stebbinsmd@svsd.net Mrs. Julie Smith - Middle School Division at smithjd@svsd.net

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW FOR INFORMATION ON NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (AGLOA):

http://agloa.org/ ACADEMIC GAMES LEAGUES OF AMERICA

For SVAG Booster information please contact Milan Grupp at dmhome@zoominternet.net

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND WEAR PINK THIS OCTOBER WITH OUR NEW BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DROP



JOIN LITTLE TWISTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER

HALF OF ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO BREAST CANCER RESEARCH AND FAMILIES AFFECTED





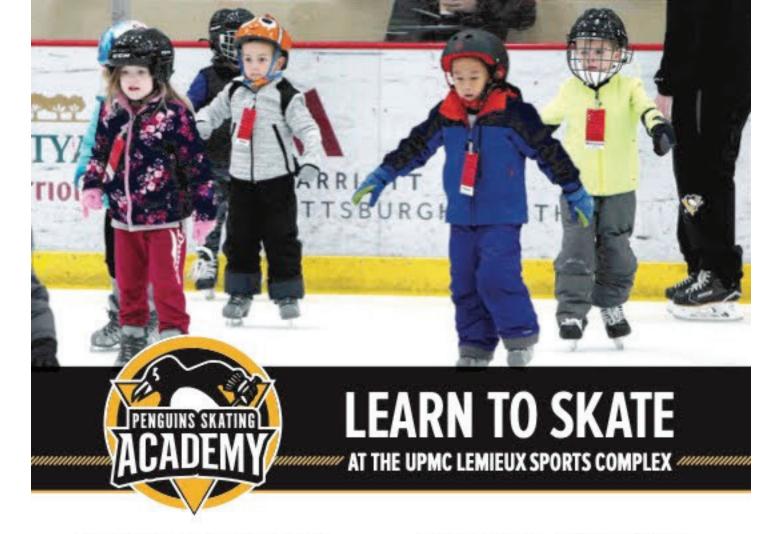




SHOP THE DROP AT LITTLETWISTS.COM OR SCAN THE QR CODE

PINK-OUT GAME MERCH OR SHIRTS/HOODIES/CREWS

Little Twists was founded by four Seneca Valley graduates



The UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex is proud to host Learn to Skate USA, endorsed by U.S. Figure Skating, USA Hockey and US Speedskating and the Special Olympics. All classes include skate rental.

// FALL 2022 //

TUESDAY - October 4 - November 8 (6 weeks)

- 5:40 6:10pm, Basic 1-4
- 6:10 6:40pm, Hockey 1-4
- Fee: \$126
- Class Dates: October 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 1, 8

SATURDAY - October 1 - December 10 (8 weeks)

- 8:00 8:30am, Basic 1-4, Pre-Free.
- · 8:35 9:05am, Hockey 1-4, Adult Learn to Skate
- Fee: \$168
- Class Dates: October 1, 8, 15, 22, Nov 5, 12. December 3, 10

DAYTIME SCHEDULE - WEEKDAY WADDLERS

Join us for our daytime learn to skate program. After class enjoy a healthy snack from the Training Table or watch some hockey.

TUESDAY - October 4 - November 8

- 11:00-11:30am
- · 11:30am-12:00pm
- Fee: \$126
- Class dates: October 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov 11, 8

WEDNESDAY - October 5 - November 9

- 11:15-11:45am or 11:45am-12:15pm
- · Fee: \$126
- Class dates: October 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9

THURSDAY - October 6 - November 10

- + 12:30-1:00pm or 1:00-1:30pm
- · Fee: \$126
- Class dates: October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10

VISIT UPMCLEMIEUXSPORTSCOMPLEX.COM TO REGISTER!





The Official Practice and Training Facility of the Pittsburgh Penguins'



