

# RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

**SUMMER 2023** 

#### A MONTH OF CELEBRATING

#### **BRIGHT FUTURES**

The Class of 2023, nearly 600 strong, graduated at NexTier Stadium on May 26. Congratulations to all SV Graduates!

See more photos on the following pages.







## A BIRTHDAY TO LOOK BACK ON

The 2022-23 school year marked Rowan Elementary School's 70th Birthday, and everyone had a great time celebrating! Students and staff created a giant birthday sign, sang Happy Birthday and enjoyed a 1950s themed dress-up day. Happy Birthday, Rowan!

To watch the video, go to https://www. youtube.com/watch?v=EwTqibi7cAc&t=3s



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#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### First Day Reminder!

The 2023-24 First Day of School will be on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023.

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

#### AUGUST

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

#### **BRIGHT FUTURES** (continued from page 1)

Photo Credit: Bill Paterson

#### Of special note:

#### Speakers:

Peter Ko - Co-Valedictorian Haihan Xu - Co-Valedictorian Nguyen Nguyen - Salutatorian Virginia Fronk - Speaker At-Large

#### **Senior Class Officers:**

Avery Flood - President
Aana Winland - Vice President
Kate Glover - Secretary
Alexandra Krzan - Treasurer

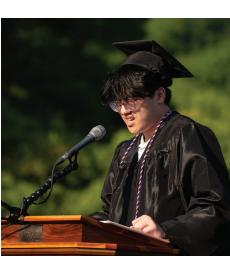


















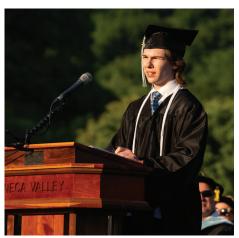
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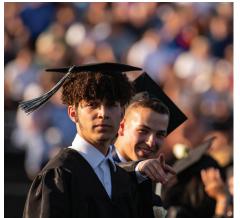














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#### **WAVING GOODBYE TO AN 'A+' CAREER**

During a recent school board meeting held on June 5, retirees were recognized for their combined total of 667 years of hard work and dedication to the Seneca Valley School District.

Members of the Seneca Valley School Board and Administration thanked the 2022-23 retirees for their unwavering commitment and service to students and staff members across the District.

Prior to the school board meeting, some retirees attended a reception where they enjoyed refreshments and shared stories about their time at Seneca Valley.

Retirees are as follows:

Christen Breski – Haine Elementary/Middle Paraprofessional – 10.5 Years

Valorie Burns – Ehrman Crest Elementary/ Middle Paraprofessional – 23 Years

Ron Butschle – SV Senior High Dean of Students – 19 Years

Valerie Danner – SV Senior High English Teacher – 17 Years

Raechel DeVinney – Ryan Gloyer Middle Industrial Technology Teacher – 25 Years, 4 Months

Diane Dunlap - Ryan Gloyer Middle Paraprofessional - 23 Years

Laura Fox – SV Intermediate High Biology Teacher – 20.5 Years

Jeff Hanlon – SV Senior High Social Studies Teacher – 23 Years

Colleen Kamarchik – Ehrman Crest Elementary Administrative Assistant – 27 Years, 3 Months

Pamela Krause – Ehrman Crest Elementary Learning Support Teacher – 35 Years

Dan Magill - SVIHS Custodian - 36.5 Years

Diana McCauley – SV Athletic Department Administrative Assistant – 16 Years

Susan McClure - Haine Elementary Paraprofessional - 23 Years



Herb McCracken – Ryan Gloyer Middle Social Studies Teacher – 33 Years, 9 Months

Sandra Millett – SV Athletic Department Administrative Assistant – 16 Years

Christi Rice - Ehrman Crest Elementary Paraprofessional - 29 Years, 7 Months

Joan Rinaman – Special Education Department Administrative Assistant – 31 Years, 4 Months

Patricia Ruggiero - Haine Middle Paraprofessional - 21 Years

Donna Schaefer - Connoquenessing Valley Elementary Third Grade Teacher - 25 Years

P. Lauren Sunday – Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle Cafeteria Staff Member – 23 Years, 7 Months

Gabriella Thorell – SV Intermediate High German Teacher – 18 Years

Sandy Turner – Haine Middle Paraprofessional – 18.5 Years





Mark Uhrinek – SV Intermediate High Physics Teacher – 32 Years

Beth Velte – SV Intermediate High Administrative Assistant – 24.5 Years

Valarie Wearing – Rowan Elementary Cook – 32 Years

Danette Yurich – SV Intermediate High Mathematics Teacher – 28 Years

Laura Zewe - Rowan Elementary First Grade Teacher - 34.5 Years ■







#### **LET THE SUMMER FUN BEGIN**

Rowan Elementary School students joined Ms. Rebecca Hester, Rowan Elementary K-4 Purpose Teacher, in cutting the ribbon on the newly renovated (and now open!) Cranberry CUP Kids Castle playground in Cranberry Park. It's sure to be a summer favorite of many SV students! A big shout out to Cranberry Township Community Chest, Cranberry CUP and Cranberry Township officials for their efforts (and the photos seen here)!









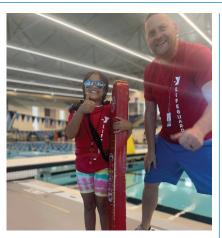
#### **USING YOUR NOODLE**

Seneca Valley students are "diving" into summer vacation. But, before they head to the pool, elementary students participate in Water Safety Days to teach the importance of water safety.

Rowan Elementary School (RES) teamed up with the YMCA in a visit to the SV Aquatic Center to help children learn about staying safe at the pool this summer, life-saving devices and techniques to help swimmers in distress. Students at Haine Elementary School (HES) also learned safety skills at the Aquatic Center.

Students at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) took a walk over to the Zelienople Community Pool for their lessons.





Ehrman Crest Elementary (ECE) students visited EDCO Park and Pool to learn from teachers, staff and SV Senior High students who assisted with the program. Read more about ECE Water Safety Day at Students learn water can be fun, risky – Cranberry Eagle.



#### **EYING THE DETAILS**

Second graders in Ms.
Angela Cardillo's class at
Rowan Elementary School
recently took part in an
EYE-opening experience
as Officer Cipriani led an
eye dissection lesson. The
students rotated through
optical illusion centers to
wrap up their health unit
on the parts of an eye.
They enjoyed participating



in these sensory centers and learning more about the parts of the eye. It was definitely a sight to see!





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#### FROM THE STORYBOOK TO THE STAGE

Ehrman Crest Elementary
School (ECE) students recently
took a whimsical journey in
Wonderland as they presented
their school play, "Alice's
Adventures With Idioms."
Third graders in Ms. Rebecca
Whitney's, Ms. Hannah
Hendershot's and Ms. Amanda
Breindel's class put on two
performances for the school
and family members. Each
student had a speaking line
and sang 10 different songs!

The play cleverly teaches its audience and aspiring actors

about figurative language, idioms, similes, metaphors and alliteration.

"In the play, all expressions are taken literally so the audience finds a lot of humor in the play when the students must literally 'hit the road' or 'hold their









tongues," stated Ms. Whitney.

The talented student actors and actresses did a great

job performing and had the audience grinning like the Cheshire cat!

















Announcing the 2023-24 RGMS Musical, "Finding Nemo," which will be performed in the IHS Auditorium November 10-12, 2023.

Somewhere beyond the sea is a musical waiting to be performed by Ryan Gloyer Middle School's (RGMS) most bubbly and fintastic actors and actresses! With songs such as "Big Blue World," "Fish are Friends Not Food" and surfer style "Go with the Flow," join Marlin, Dory, Bruce, Crush and friends as they learn to "Swim Together" and surf the East Australian Current (EAC) looking

for Nemo. Auditions for any interested rising seventh or eighth grade student will be held Aug. 28-30. Visit the SV Theater Website (senecavalleytheater.com – Entertaining the Seneca Valley Community) and/or show TEAMS page for RGMS Musical (Join conversation (microsoft.com)) for audition practice materials and show information. Be sure to return to the site when school begins to sign up for your in-person audition date and time.

#### **UNVEILING TALENT**

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) students recently displayed their extraordinary artwork during the 17th Annual Unveiling and Artists' Reception. The reception was held on Wednesday, May 31, for district employees, parents, students and community members to attend.

The RGMS Art Department hosted the event, and their department consists of art teachers Ms. Tabatha Karman, Mr. George Williams and Mr. Stanley Zimmerman. The Annual Unveiling and Artists' Reception began in 2005. The permanent art collection now showcases 85 pieces of prestigious artwork, filling the entire side of the art classroom hallway.

This year, six students were recognized including seventh graders







Kyla Biertempfel for her piece "Eight Days a Week," Van Ritenour for her piece "City With a View," Kaeleigh Tuell for her piece "Illuminated Letter," and eighth graders Christie Comstock for her piece "I Love R&R," Bella Landy, for her piece "Cube-ini Bottom" and Adrianna Leoni for her piece "Serenity."













#### A COLLABORATION OF ART

Ehrman Crest Elementary School (ECMS) celebrated a month-long series of creative art projects alongside the collaboration of a "Visiting Artist."



Different artists work with a "core group" on a variety of creative projects followed by







collaborative work with the second grade classes on the mobile made from recycled materials. Throughout the month, the artist also worked on display in the kiln room where passersby could observe artistic processes.





#### **FINDING YOUR FIT**

Fourth graders at Connoquenessing Valley
Elementary School (CVE) are getting an early
glimpse of what their futures might hold. Recently,
a panel of high school students representing
Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School
(BCAVTS) visited the elementary students to
share what their vocational programs look like.
These dedicated Senior High School (SHS)
students were nominated by their Vo-Tech
instructors to speak on the panel and many of
them brought along personal tools, props and
gear to share with the elementary students!















## A HISTORICAL WALK TO REMEMBER

This month, sixth grade students from Haine Middle School (HMS) showcased their projects during an Anne Frank Gallery Walk, which featured thematic and collaborative efforts from their studies of Anne Frank.

This event offered an in-depth look of Anne Frank through the facets of the student's 21st century learning skills. Two sessions were held for parents and guests, followed by teachers and students.

HMS students have been immersed in a cross-curricular study of the Holocaust, World War II and refugees from other nations. Students read a wide variety of self-selected historical fiction novels based on the Holocaust, participated in a Zoom meeting and virtual tour of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, crafted 3-D scaled models of the Anne Frank House and much more.

Another component of this thematic unit featured a community service project.
The team of students, in conjunction with







Jewish Family and Community Services, collected much needed personal items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, disposable razors, diapers and wipes to help replenish their supplies. Additionally, students organized a 'Butterflies of Hope' collection to send positive messages to refugees and families being supported through donations and the collaborations













with Jewish Family and Community Services.

The 2021-2022 school year was the first time the event was organized. This year, the community service component was added to further help students foster empathy. To read more about the event, visit Haine Middle School holds Anne Frank Gallery Walk – Cranberry Eagle

#### **WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER**

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) students wrapped up their year by giving back to the community as part of the first-ever "Community Grown" service project initiative that serves to strengthen connections with each of the nine communities within the Seneca Valley School District. Seventh and eighth grade students volunteered at various townships and municipalities on Monday, May 22.

Municipal leaders have been working with the RGMS administration to identify needs in their community. Once a need was determined, RGMS staff members and administrators worked with each of their 10 teams to plan a solution that would include community service. Some of the service projects students participated in included planting trees and shrubs, mulching, washing police cars, installing benches, weeding, building signs and much more.

The students enjoyed beautiful weather and the opportunity to give back to communities that have given so much for their education.

Photos courtesy of SVSD and Jackson Township



















#### **MOVING UP**

Eighth graders in Ms. Karissa
Lambert's class at Ryan Gloyer
Middle School (RGMS) took
a tour of the SV Intermediate
High School (IHS) last month to
prepare them for the transition
to high school. Additionally,
students enjoyed visiting
the Raider Roast and Raider
Gear shops at the senior high
school.







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#### **CLASS IN SESSION AT THE STREAM**

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) hosted several Stream Days this past month at the Little Connoquenessing Creek located behind RGMS.

This annual environmental study event is a unique collaboration between the seventh-grade science department, Seneca Valley Senior High School science teachers and student volunteers. Each seventh-grade team was assigned one day to participate in this campus-wide stream study as students wrapped up their final weeks of school.

Stream Days featured a hands-on, enrichment opportunity for all seventh

graders and encompassed a six-station rotation which included fish dissection, chemical testing and analysis of stream water, macro invertebrate collection and identification, a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activity (boat building and testing), crayfish collection and identification and velocity/depth calculations.













#### **HOOKED ON COMMUNITY SERVICE**

A recent community service project provided seventh graders from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) the opportunity to work with the PA Fish and Boat Commission and build 40 fish habitats for Lake Arthur at Moraine State Park.

In 2019, RGMS science teacher, Mr. Matt Durst, reached out to Mike Shaffer, Environmental Education Specialist at Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks, to ask him about possible service projects that his seventh graders could participate in at the park. Mr. Shaffer had the idea of connecting the students with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to build the fish habitats that would be placed in Lake Arthur.

The team of RGMS teachers Mr. Michael Conlon, Ms. Lauren Hackett, Dr. Ashley Pile, Ms. Jessica Phillips, Mr. Jay Roman, Mr. Durst and team guidance counselor, Ms. Jennifer North, worked together to make this service project happen again this year.

The students and teachers were both excited to again collaborate with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to continue working on the fish habitats.

The structures built by students will begin to grow algae, which will provide protection and food sources to attract and support the growth of larger game fish to the waters of Lake Arthur.













#### **FIELD DAY FUN**

Seneca Valley students in grades K-6 participated in their school's field days this month. Students worked as teams that emphasized sportsmanship, cooperation and social skills, all while having fun.



































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## PASSPORTS READY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE LAST WEEK

Haine Elementary third graders began their summer travel plans early as they celebrated the last week of school with adventurous theme days. Students ended the year with imaginative trips to the beach, the carnival, Disney World, the zoo and even camping! They took a trip to the farm with "Charlotte's Web" and ended their time together with Glow Day.



















#### SPRING SEASON SPORT RECAPS

#### **Baseball**

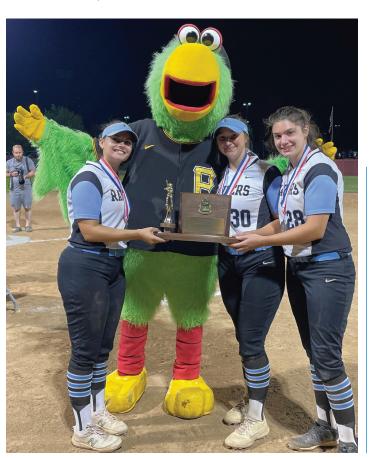
The Raiders entered the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) championship bracket as the number four seed and squared off against fifth seed, Mt. Lebanon. In a tightly contested game that featured brilliant pitching on both sides, the Raiders were unable to get a second run on the Blue Devils and fell to the eventual



WPIAL 6A Champions 2-1. We congratulate the team on a great season, finishing 16-5 overall.

#### Softball

In a battle of the two top teams in the state, the Raiders squared off against the Hempfield Spartans - the only team to defeat SV all season - in the WPIAL 6A championship game. Hempfield went up early, 1-0, and held the lead through the five innings until Bella Gross singled home Morgan Dunn to tie the score 1-1 through six innings. Holding the Spartans scoreless in the top of the seventh, the Raiders had a runner on second base with one out - courtesy of a Kylie Staudt pinch-hit double - but were unable to bring her home. In extra innings, Hempfield's designated player got a hold of a Lexie Hames pitch and sent it over the left field wall and the



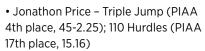
Raiders were unable to answer in the bottom of the eighth. For only the second time all season, SV felt defeat, 2-1, and brought home the WPIAL runner-up trophy. Unfortunately, only the WPIAL champion in 6A softball enters the PIAA bracket. We congratulate this team on a remarkable 2023 campaign ending with a 17-2 overall record.

#### Track & Field

Congratulations to Jonathan Price for finishing fourth overall in the triple jump at the PIAA boys AAA Track & Field Championships. Jonathan's medal-winning jump was 45-2.25.

The following are results from the 2023 PIAA Track & Field Championships held at Shippensburg University over Memorial Day weekend. Congratulations to all our student-athletes who competed in the AAA championships.





• Boys 4 x 800 Relay (PIAA 16th place, 8:00.64) - Eli DeWitt, Ryan Karpinsky, Ryan Domencic, and Ethan Barnett.





#### **POST-SEASON HONORS**

#### **Boys Lacrosse All-WPIAL** 1st Team

Evan Vetter - Face Off Specialist

#### **Boys Lacrosse All-Section**

Colton Garner - Attack Dylan Kunkelmann - Goalkeeper Evan Vetter - Face Off Specialist

#### Girls Lacrosse All-WPIAL 1st Team

Anna Johnson

#### Girls Lacrosse All-Section

1st Team

Anna Johnson

#### 2nd Team

Macy McMullen Kendall Walton

#### Honorable Mention Mia Berg

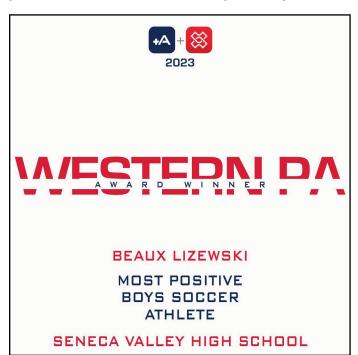
#### **Boys Volleyball All-WPIAL** 1st Team

Grant Hoover

## **CONGRATULATIONS, BEAUX LIZEWSKI –** *Positive Athlete*

#### Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League

The Positive Athlete program recently recognized senior boys soccer standout Beaux Lizewski as its 2022-23 Western PA Positive Athlete in the sport of boys soccer. Such a deserving honor for Beaux! Congratulations, Beaux, and good luck with your academic and soccer career at Lafayette College.



## **CONGRATULATIONS, TYLER CHAPPELL -** *Academic All-American*

The National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA) recently recognized senior wrestler Tyler Chappell as Academic All-American. Congratulations, Tyler, and good luck with your academic and wrestling career at the University of Pittsburgh.



## CONGRATULATIONS, VIRGINIA 'GINNY' FRONK - WPIAL Hall Of Fame

On the night of Friday, June 2, the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) held its 16th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and senior girls soccer goalkeeper Virginia "Ginny" Fronk (pictured front row, third from left) was inducted in the Courage category in recognition of her overcoming a Stage 2 Hodgkin's Lymphoma diagnosis at the start of her senior soccer season. Now, cancer free, Ginny will take her academic and athletic talents to George Mason University (GMU) where she will major in environmental science and continue her soccer career as one of the goalkeepers for the GMU Patriots. A well-deserved honor for Ginny, we wish her all the best at George Mason next season!

#### WPIAL Hall of Fame Class of 2023





#### ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

#### May 2023

The Female Athlete of the Month for May was softball player Lexie Hames. The sophomore pitcher had a stellar end to the season, helping the Raiders clinch a WPIAL Softball 6A Section title and runner-up at the WPIAL 6A Softball Championships. She went 5-0 with 178 strikeouts and a .368 Earned Run Average (ERA) during regular season play in the month of May. Lexie was also a force at the plate when she was not intentionally walked, leading the team with



five home runs and 14 Runs Batted In (RBI) on the season. Lexie's standout performance came in a 3-0 win over rival Hempfield where she had 18 strikeouts and hit a three-run home run. In two WPIAL playoff games, Lexie went 1-1 with 19 strikeouts and a 1.20 ERA, along with a .500 batting average. She was also recognized on the Big 56 6A All-Section Team. We recognize Lexie as the May Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Lexie!

The Male Athlete of the Month for May was baseball pitcher **Zach Tkatch**. As a junior, Zach had a breakout year on the mound quickly becoming SV's leading pitcher. Zach went 1-1 in May with the win coming in an effort against Butler, where he struck out nine in seven innings with one earned run. His lone loss on the season came against eventual WPIAL 6A Baseball Champion Mt. Lebanon in the WPIAL quarterfinals where he pitched seven innings giving up five hits, two unearned runs



and striking out three batters. On the season, Zach was 6-1 with 38 strikeouts and a 0.63 ERA, all team-leading stats. His efforts on the season were recognized by the Big 56, as he was named on the 6A All-Section 1 Team. For an impressive end to a great season, we recognize Zach as the May Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Zach!

#### **WE ARE PLANNING FOR 2023-24**

#### Physical, drug & concussion test dates

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

#### REMINDERS for 2023-24:

- All required paperwork for athletic participation in 2023-24 will be available on SV Portal starting Thursday, June 1 -- no paperwork may be completed prior to June 1.
- ALL fall sport paperwork is due in the athletic office no later than 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3. Coaches will not accept paperwork at the first day of tryouts.
- Dates for physicals are not confirmed yet. Once dates are set, we will announce. Please note physicals are first come, first served - we do <u>not</u> take reservations in advance. We encourage families to have their physical completed as soon as possible after June 1. You may visit your PCP or any Urgent Care Clinic for an athletic physical.
- The PIAA mandates the CIPPE form as the only permissible form for doctor's signature.
- All student-athletes must be registered in the SV Portal under "Sports Registration" before competing. Registration begins Thursday, June 1.

- Complete information will be available on the District's Athletics website under "Participation and TRYOUT information" starting Thursday, June 1.
- Concussion baseline testing only needs to be done <u>every</u> <u>other year</u>. Parents may call the Athletics Office at (724) 452-6040, x1752 to confirm the status of their child's baseline concussion test.

## Drug Testing, Athletic Physicals, and Baseline Concussion Testing Dates – Senior High School

- **Tuesday, July 11**, from 3 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 12, from 8 a.m. Noon and 1 3 p.m.
  - 60 physicals from 8 a.m. Noon; 30 physicals from 1 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 1, from 3 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 2, from 8 a.m. Noon and 1 3 p.m.
- 60 physicals from 8 a.m. Noon

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## 1ST ANNUAL RYAN GLOYER MEMORIAL RUN

In memory of Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Gloyer, the Seneca Valley Foundation is proud to announce the 1st Annual Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run presented by Westinghouse. The mission of this incredible event is to spread community awareness of Mr. Gloyer, the namesake of Ryan Gloyer Middle School. The run/walk will take place on Sunday, Nov. 5, on the beautiful grounds of Seneca Valley's Secondary Campus. All proceeds benefit Ryan Gloyer Middle School and the Ryan Gloyer Memorial Scholarship.



Thank you to these fine businesses for their sponsorship commitments:

Presenting - Westinghouse

T-Shirts - Eckles Construction

Mile Markers – Communications Consulting Incorporated, The Georgie Smigel Group, Neofes Insurance Group

Additional sponsorship opportunities are still available! If you or your organization would also like to sponsor this event, please email SVFoundation@svsd.net to secure your spot.

Runner registration will open on July 4 via www.

RunSignUp.com − Let's Run for Ryan!

#### MURAL EDUCATION AND INSTALLATION

The SVF was thrilled to help brighten the secondary campus through Mr. Jason Woolslare's mural art education project. With the help of Pittsburgh-based muralist, Ashley Hodder, students were immersed in mural creation demonstrations and "art talks" as they completely transformed a portion of the Senior High School's exterior. Mr. Woolslare's vision was to transform a once dreary part of the school to a vibrant inspiration-station with a one-of-a-kind mural gallery similar to Wynwood Walls in Miami, FL. Using SVF funding for supplies and materials, he utilized the skills and talent of SV art students in collaboration with Ms. Hodder to successfully execute this project. Thank you, Mr. Woolslare, for bringing this idea to life and beautifying SV!

















#### **POWER PLAYERS**

These students are at the top of their game! Seneca Valley's first-ever Chess Invitational for grades 1-8 was a successful endeavor with over 50 students competing in the May 20 event. Each age/grade division recognized the top players, as seen here.

#### **Black Division (Grades 6-8):**



**Albert Pimenov - First Place** 



**Devin Busch - Second Place** 



**Jacob Hart - Third Place** 



Lucas Ahern - Fourth Place

#### Blue Division (Grades 4-5):



**Garvin Whetzel - First Place** 



James Conti - Second Place



**Andrew Senor - Third Place** 



**Colton Tressler - Fourth Place** 

#### White Division (Grades 1-3):



Panav Ezapa - First Place



Kota Furukawa - Second Place



Luke Fantauzzi - Third Place



Ruhan Boopathi - Fourth Place

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#### **MAKING A WISE INVESTMENT**

Seneca Valley eighth graders made great investments that led to a win in a recent Stock Market Game. Students from Ms. Kayla Robinson's Personal Development classes competed in Butler County Community College's (BC3's) Stock Market Game. One team won first place in Pennsylvania and placed first in the region with an equity of \$125,404.49, and another team placed third in Pennsylvania and third in the region with an equity of \$122,482.07.

The Stock Market Game is an online simulation of the global capital markets that engages students grades 4-12 in the world of economics, investing and personal finance. Students competing in BC3's Stock Market Game receive a hypothetical \$100,000, make buy-and-trade decisions and track how those decisions would have played out in the market had they been real.

This year-long program runs from September through April and students in Ms. Robinson's class worked together in teams and tracked their money throughout the school year.



"The students enjoy participating in The Stock Market Game, thanks to BC3," said Ryan Gloyer Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Ms. Kayla Robinson. "They like being given a sum of money that they get to invest based on their own opinions and what we have learned in class. It is a great handson experience for them to see how

investing works."

The Stock Market Game is presented by the Foundation for Free Enterprise. Their mission is to heighten the awareness of Pennsylvania's youth about their future role in the American free enterprise system by delivering high-quality and practical handson learning experiences.





#### SETTING A STAGE FOR THE FUTURE

The 2022-23 school year was filled with new beginnings, including the launch of a brand new after school program, Robotics Club. This in-house club was open to any interested fifth or sixth graders at Haine and Ehrman Crest Middle Schools, and it attracted 170 participants.

Seneca Valley elementary students are introduced to basic coding, engineering, programming, communication and graphic design through the Creativity, Innovation & Research (CIRC) spaces at Haine, Rowan, Ehrman Crest and Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) Schools.

The goal of the robotics program was to get robots into the hands of as many students as possible. During the Robotics club at both Haine and Ehrman Crest Middle Schools, students learned how to design, build and program the Lego Spike Prime robot. They also collaborated in teams and worked together to solve mission challenges.

The next step is to develop teams, who will compete against other schools in Western Pennsylvania through FIRST LEGO League Challenge events in the fall. FIRST LEGO League (FLL) introduces science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to children through fun, exciting hands-on learning. FIRST LEGO League Challenge provides a friendly competition as teams of students ages 9-16 engage in research, problem-solving, coding and engineering – building and programming a LEGO robot that navigates the missions of a robot game.

Jeremiah Friday, Haine Elementary School gifted support teacher, advised the Robotics Club at Haine Middle School while Beth Allen-Boyle, Ehrman Crest Elementary School second grade teacher, advised the club at Ehrman Crest Middle School.

"I have used robot design, building and programming as an integral component of my gifted support classroom for many





years," said Mr. Friday. "My students have gained academic knowledge and collaboration skills, as well as confidence and communication skills through their participation in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge program."

"We are trying to help robotics continue to grow at Seneca Valley, and that begins with inspiring our youngest learners," said Ms. Allen-Boyle. "Our district offers so many wonderful opportunities in STEM and robotics in the older grades and we are hoping to inspire more kids to seek those opportunities out by building confidence and robotics basics through the club."

On the last day of the Robotics Club at Ehrman Crest, SV rising senior Lucas Boyle worked with several students by helping them with programming, coding and more. Recently, Mr. Boyle attended the FIRST Robotics World Championship and was selected as a FIRST Dean's List winner, the most prestigious honor in the FIRST robotics community (see next page).





"In fifth grade, I started my robotics journey through FIRST LEGO League, advancing to international competitions throughout the next three years, said Mr. Boyle. "In eighth grade, I started doing FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) with the BrainSTEM robotics teams, which I am still on today. This past year, I also started doing FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) with BrainSTEM. I find that all these competitions not only prepare me for my future, but they are also a ton of fun to prepare for and expose me to other students and community members interested in robotics."

The new Robotics Club, brought to Seneca Valley by Dr. Sean McCarty, assistant superintendent for K-6 instruction, was grant funded through the generous donations of the Grable Foundation, and it has been a goal to offer this outstanding opportunity to more students throughout the district.

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#### WIRED FOR THE WIN

Lucas Boyle, a rising senior at Seneca Valley High School, is a worldwide FIRST Dean's List Winner!

Mr. Boyle represented his robotics team, The Giant Diencephalic BrainStem Robotic Team, which is a team consisting of members from multiple western Pennsylvania school districts, based in Baden, PA.

FIRST®, a robotics community that prepares young people for the future, brought together approximately 50,000 people from around the world as hundreds of student robotics teams put their innovation, teamwork and robotics skills to the test at the 2023 FIRST Championship, which was held April 19-22, in Houston, TX.

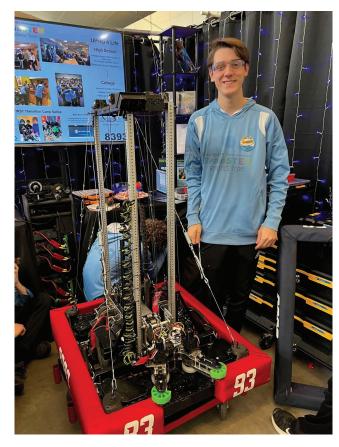
More than 18,000 students, and 974 student robotics teams from 59 countries competed and exhibited across FIRST programs. Many FIRST LEGO League (FLL), FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), and FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) teams earned honors for design excellence, competitive play, research, business plans, creativity and teamwork.

"When I won the Dean's List Award, I was shocked but also very grateful," said Mr. Boyle. "Being one of 10 FTC winners out of the entire world and over 130,000 applicants was not something that I ever expected to happen. When they called my name, I felt a sense of pride but also responsibility. I now help to represent the tenants of FIRST and the amazing experiences that come from it. Winning this award has been a nice forum for them to recognize my technical skills and leadership in robotics that I intend to continue with for the rest of my life."

Mr. Boyle has been active in FIRST Robotics since fifth grade and has competed in FLL, FRC and FTC. After Mr. Boyle graduates next year, he intends on going to college for engineering and would like to continue working on robotic projects or join a collegiate level robotics program.

"In terms of my future career, I am not entirely sure if I want to do something with robotics or just general engineering, but I will definitely continue to share my experience of FIRST with others," explained Mr. Boyle. "My goal is to continue to mentor and help FIRST robotics teams,





sharing the experience that I think has been the most impactful during my high school years."

Students who earn FIRST Dean's List Award status are great examples of student leaders who have led their teams and communities to increased awareness for FIRST and its mission and have also achieved personal engineering and technical expertise and accomplishment.



#### **HIGHEST SCOUT HONORS**

Seneca Valley former seniors were recently awarded highest honors in Scouting.

Alexis Marcotte was honored by Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania (GSWPA) with the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn.

Each Gold Award project takes at least 100 hours to complete and must show leadership. The



Gold Award Honor is earned by only 5.4% of Girl Scouts nationwide.

Miss Marcotte's project focused on dog allergy awareness. She educated the community on the causes, symptoms and treatments of dog allergies through videos, a pamphlet and workshops. She also created videos on making healthy dog treats for dogs with food allergies.

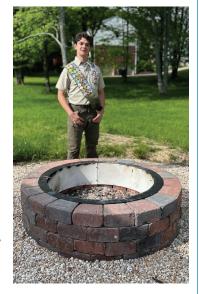
"I was inspired to do this project by my own dog, Rosie, who also has many allergies. Through this project, I learned that many people are not aware of the dangers associated with dog allergies, so I sought to inform them," said Miss Marcotte.

Miss Marcotte began her project in March 2022 and her accomplishments were celebrated this spring for new Gold Award Girl Scouts in the GSWPA Council.

Andrew Bogdon was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank achievable in Boy Scouting.

As a Life Scout, Mr. Bogdon was required to develop, coordinate and lead a service project that would benefit the community. The rank of Eagle Scout is earned by fewer than 5% of Scouts nationwide.

Mr. Bogdon wanted to address the issue of his neighborhood wanting a firepit for community gatherings. From his many years of campouts, Mr. Bogdon knew the importance of sitting



around a campfire, deepening connections with friends, building community and sharing fellowship. He wanted to provide this beneficial experience to the community that had supported him throughout his years in Scouting.

Congratulations to both of these students on their honorable achievements!

#### **BRIGHT DAYS AHEAD**

It's not every day that lightning strikes and a bolt of inspiration ignites a lifelong passion, but that was the case for recent graduate Ethan Myers, who will be attending Penn State University to study Meteorology.





Over seven years ago, local meteorologist Mike Harvey visited Haine Middle School to give a presentation on his role as a meteorologist. Following the presentation, Mr. Myers had the opportunity to interview Mr. Harvey which sparked his interest in weather science.

"It gave him a focus and sparked him in a way that nothing else had in his schooling," stated Haine Middle School teachers Ms. Susan Huber and Ms. Julie Kaufman.

Now, years later, Mr. Myers is still as excited about meteorology and can't wait to start college. His forecast calls for a future of success!



#### **HIGH FLYER**

For this Seneca Valley graduate, there is no limit to how high she can go. Read more at The sky is just the surface for Navy pilot – Cranberry Eagle.

#### THE FUTURE OF STEM EDUCATION

Dr. Sean McCarty, assistant superintendent for K-6 instruction, recently appeared as a guest speaker for the Challenges in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Teaching session, hosted by the STEM Education Coalition.

The event took place on Wednesday, May 24, at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C., where nearly 100 attendees from the congressional staff and officials from various federal agencies gathered to listen as panelists discussed imperative insights about STEM education.

While Dr. McCarty spoke about how Seneca Valley combines STEM education strategy with its Creativity, Innovation & Research (CIRC) centers to create dynamic learning environments, other esteemed speakers discussed the challenges they are seeing among STEM educators. The main purpose of this event was to provide examples of how STEM and CIRC can work together while also shedding some light on the recruitment, retention and professional life challenges the STEM teacher workforce faces.

Six years ago, Seneca Valley collaborated with Pittsburgh-based Inventionland Institute to design innovative spaces and introduce creative resources to help students find inspiration in their academics.

In Sept. of 2017, Seneca Valley's first CIRC space was officially unveiled at Haine Elementary/Middle School and was the only K-12 public school in the nation to receive an Edison Award, which is one of the most prestigious accolades honoring excellence in new product and service development, marketing, design and innovation.

This state-of-the-art facility was the first of its kind within the District and now Rowan, Ehrman Crest and Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) Schools have their own unique CIRC spaces, where students are introduced to basic coding, engineering, programming, communication, graphic design and more.

"I'm honored for the opportunity to present some of the great work our team has accomplished over the years in STEM," said Dr. McCarty. "My purpose was to give concrete examples of how these STEM efforts can be created and maintained in a public school system. Hopefully the results of a presentation like this will provide resources to schools who do this kind of work and demonstrate to policymakers the importance of these initiatives."





#### 'I LED THE PLEDGE'

Seneca Valley School District's School Board meetings were held on June 5 and 12. 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 June 5, work session meeting, we were joined by Haine Elementary rising fourth grader, Jesse Grabill.

Jesse loves to read and his favorite subject is phonics. His favorite special is music. When he grows up, he would like to study ocean animals as well as "bugs, spiders and frogs." Jesse is a member of Cub Scout troop 403, where he just ranked up to Webelos.

For the June 12, regular session meeting, we were joined by Eli Zajacs, a rising third grader at Rowan Elementary School.

He loves to play baseball, basketball and football. He enjoys going to the beach, riding big roller coasters, swimming and



playing the piano. A friendly and social student, Eli shared that he loves Rowan and Seneca Valley. His favorite subject in school is science and when he grows up, he wants to be an anesthesiologist just like his dad!

#### **RED, WHITE AND SCHOOL'S OUT!**

Oh say, can you see? Central Office staff celebrated the last day of school and waved goodbye to SV STAR students, USA style!











#### **WORKFORCE INNOVATION FROM LOCAL TECHNOLOGIES**

SV's Leadership Team had an excellent outing earlier this month when they headed to Pittsburgh to learn about robotics and workforce innovation, as well as engineering technologies; all things that are clearly game changers for the way we work and live. Special thanks to ARM Institute, Carnegie Mellon University's College of Engineering, and the Roundhouse at Hazelwood Green for their time and expertise. And a shoutout to Community Kitchen Pittsburgh for an outstanding lunch!







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#### SV RELEASES DRUG TESTING RESULTS

#### Rates fall under national average

The results from the 2022-23 Seneca Valley School District Random Drug Testing Program indicate that the district random drug testing average is at 1.1%, which is a drop from last school year's rate of 1.9%, and at a noticeably lower rate than the national average of 4.0%.

In the 2022-23 Seneca Valley report, there were 55 positives for marijuana, seven for medical marijuana and two for alcohol. Any student who has a positive test must complete follow-up tests. Of the 131 follow-up tests, there were 14 individuals who tested positive or refused testing. This puts the Seneca Valley follow-up rate at 10.7% where the national average is 20%.

According to Matthew Franz, director of Operations for SPORT SAFE Testing Services, the Ohio-based drug testing service that serves as the vendor for the Seneca Valley testing program and many other schools around the Country, was pleased to also see a drop in the follow-up positive test rate.

"It's the rate we track the closest, as it indicates how effective the District is at dealing with a substance abuse problem once it's discovered," Mr. Franz explained. "And we're happy anytime the rate is below 20%."

The SV random drug testing policy was started 21 years ago and has been recognized by state and national organizations for the implementation of a grade 7-12 drug testing policy for athletics, extracurricular activities and driving to school. The current program reaches nearly two-thirds of the secondary campus student population. Of course, any program's success is largely dependent on the integrity of the test, and not only in the collection of it, but in the identification of those students who participate. The process begins at the testing company where student identification numbers only - no names - are chosen in a lottery format. Those numbers are submitted to the school administration, who matches them with the corresponding student name. Those students are immediately tested through the collection of a urine sample, which continues to be the industry standard. Each collection is sent to a certified laboratory for screening and confirmation, and each result is then verified by a medical review officer. In the case of a positive result, the first call is made to the home.

"There are consequences associated with the policy, but the purpose of the program has never been punitive," said Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent and author of the District's policy. "The program has given and continues to give families the gift of early detection."

# **VOICES**



## A podcast from the Seneca Valley School District

Want to hear directly from the voices at Seneca Valley on the most current topics and updates? Join us in listening to Voices, a podcast brought to you by the Seneca Valley School District.

Check out our most recent podcasts highlighting Seneca Valley's JROTC program as well as SV summer camp opportunities, here.





# **Voices, a Podcast from the Seneca Valley School District**

Want to hear directly from the voices at Seneca Valley on the most current topics and updates? Join us in listening to Voices, a podcast brought to you by the Seneca Valley School District. This podcast interviews guests who share an inside look at what is happening at SV.









#### PUTTING AN END TO CHILD TRAFFICKING

The phrase "human trafficking" was introduced decades ago with relatively few people tracking the issue. But today, many know about this horrific crime. The number of reports about children being trafficked is skyrocketing. It can seem like the issue is getting worse as new stories are unearthed. But the more deeply we understand the issue of child trafficking, the closer we are to ending it.

More research is desperately needed. But the problem is real. The problem is big. And behind

every estimate is a real person who cannot be dismissed. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated in 2022 that 3.3 million children are being exploited and sex trafficking and labor trafficking at any given moment. However, in 2022, the ILO expanded their reporting on trafficking & exploitation to include forced marriage. Under that definition including forced marriage, 50 million are estimated to be victims, including over 12 million children.

#### 10 Facts about Child Trafficking:

- At any given moment, an estimated 50 million people are being victimized in situations of trafficking and exploitation (including forced marriage) worldwide.
   25% of these are children. (ILO, 2022)
- Human trafficking is any situation of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power. (ILO, 2022) In the case of child sex trafficking, force, fraud, or coercion do not need to be present, and the crime is simply the exchange of any sex act with a child for anything of value.
- Traffickers exploit vulnerabilities and being a child is an inherent vulnerability.
   Under US federal law, all children

A FEW RISK FACTORS INCLUDE...

Food insecurity

Housing instability

Family rejection

History of abuse, especially sexual abuse

Child welfare or juvenile justice involvement

Substance dependance

Family or friends involved in trafficking

Undocumented or temporary immigration status

involved in commercial sex are victims of human trafficking. Sadly, only about half of US states have laws that protect sexually exploited children from being prosecuted for prostitution.

- You'll often hear about trafficking
   "hotspots." The truth is that trafficking
   occurs wherever there are people.
   Spikes in reported trafficking may also
   be influenced by an increased focus in
   that region on research, training, or an
   awareness campaign promoting the
   national hotline.
- Sex trafficking is not just a "women and girls issue." About 15% of those in our US survivor care have been boys and non-binary youth.
- Children from culturally and linguistically diverse communities are more than 2x as likely to experience sex trafficking as children who identified as white. (JAMA, studies from US, Canada, and Sweden)
- Traffickers can look like anyone and don't fit one stereotype. Love146 has connected with situations of trafficking in which exploiters have been family members, peers, romantic partners, educators, employers, community leaders, and clergy.



- Sometimes youth continue going to school, living at home, and participating in extracurricular activities – even while they are being trafficked.
- Often, a "rescue" isn't the only (or best)
  way to freedom. Training to recognize &
  respond appropriately to trafficking, as
  well as trauma-informed spaces to heal
  help create pathways for more victims to
  exit exploitation.
- Child trafficking is not a new phenomenon. Human Trafficking has been happening forever. In 2003 the United Nations introduced the Trafficking Protocol, introducing a universally agreed upon definition of trafficking in persons. (UNODC)

The information found here is provided by Love146. To learn more about Love146 and to access their free parent resources, including an online safety guide, please visit Quick Resources for Parents to Prevent Child Trafficking - Love146.

Are you or someone you know in need of urgent help? Call the US National Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-3737-888.

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- Seneca Valley and, more specifically, Ehrman Crest, was recently featured in "District Administration" Magazine, a national print and digital publication for K-12 leaders. Superintendent Dr. Tracy Vitale was asked to author a column that would shine a light on Ehrman Crest and the many individuals who played a part in seeing the building come to life in August 2022. She was thrilled to have the opportunity, and in addition to sharing our story, was able to provide planning and collaboration tips to educational leaders across the United States. To read the article in its entirety, please go to: Reflecting and listening: What we can learn from Fred Rogers (districtadministration.com).
- The American Association of School Administrators (AASA),
   The Superintendent's Association, is in its second year of
   partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Learning 2025
   Alliance. Through this partnership, a wonderful article was
   recently written highlighting the successful efforts of Ehrman
   Crest Elementary/Ehrman Crest Middle School. To read the
   complete article, please visit Proving What's Possible Within
   the Walls of a School.
- Free musical theater camp for students eligible for free and reduced lunches.
- SV offers voluntary student accident insurance. To learn more and apply, visit: Backpack Fliers / Education/Resources (svsd.net).
- Effective October 1, Pennsylvania will increase the income threshold for all applicants to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG). With this change, more than 420,000 additional Pennsylvanians in more than 174,000 households will be newly eligible for SNAP and will

- receive, on average, \$63 a month. To learn more, visit Wolf Administration Marks Hunger Action Month by Expanding Eligibility for SNAP Benefits, Securing Food Assistance for More Pennsylvanians.
- Seneca Valley residents 62 years of age or older are



Subscribe

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



#### 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.

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# JOIN THE SENECA VALLEY TEAM! PARAPROFESSIONAL JOB FAIR

Date: July 18, 2023

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Ehrman Crest Elem./MS School, 2070 Ehrman Rd, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066 Learn about the responsibilities and benefits of becoming a paraprofessional. Receive paid training from our District's BCBA certified Behavior Specialist to become a registered behavior technician (RBT). RBT training provides a foundation to assist you in supporting students with special education needs. Additionally, apply and interview, on-the-spot, for an opening within our buildings K-12.

RSVP by July 14 to carlinsl@svsd.net

## Benefits of working at Seneca Valley

- Impact the life of a child
- Competitive Pay
- Excellent medical package for full-time classification vacancies
- Flexible hours
- Paid time off (sick & personal days)
- Supervising students' daily routines at a competitive rate of \$15/hour.
- Parents can work while their child is at school and still be home in time for bus drop-off!
- Say goodbye to rushing through daycare pickups or missing important family & school events.

#### **APPLY TODAY**

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



# REMOTEAREAMEDICAL



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED; JOIN THE MISSION TODAY!



- Dentists
- Oral Surgeons
- **Dental Assistants** 
  - Hygienists



### **VISION**

- **Optometrists**
- **Ophthalmologists** 
  - **Opticians**
  - **Vision Techs**



### **MEDICAL**

- Physicians
- **Physician Assistants**
- **Nurse Practitioners** 
  - Nurses



### **General Support**

- Interpreters
  - Guides
- Data Entry & Much More!



# **Butler, PA**

November 11-12, 2023

**Butler Intermediate High** 551 Fairgrounds Rd. **Butler, PA 16001** 

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

- RAM's Mission





Thiel College's innovative programs get you to your goal faster

Communication & Leadership M.A.

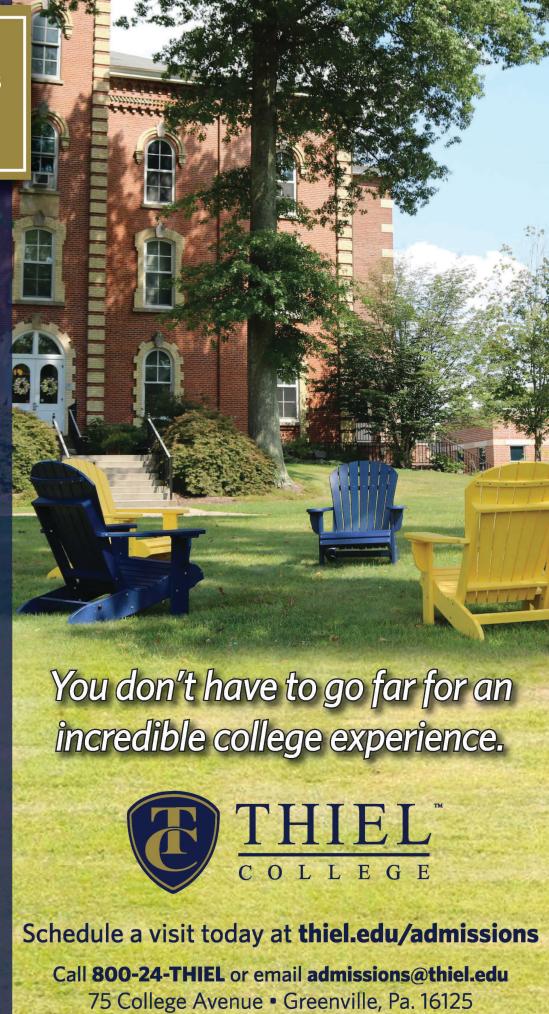
Counseling M.A.

Management M.B.A.

Nursing

Physician Assistant M.S.

Speech-Language Pathology M.S.









Groceries at no cost! Hosted by Moniteau, Knoch and Karns City School Districts. No ID or preregistration required.

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Dates	School	Location	Time
6/20, 7/18, 8/15	Dassa McKinney Elementary School	391 Hooker Rd, West Sunbury, PA	4 p.m 6 p.m.
6/23, 7/19, 8/16	Knoch Primary School	328 Knoch Rd, Saxonburg, PA	4 p.m 6 p.m.
6/12, 7/25, 8/18	Karns City High School	1446 Kittanning Pk, Karns City, PA	4 p.m 6 p.m.

Our mission is leverage the power of community to achieve lasting solutions to hunger and its root causes.

pittsburghfoodbank.org

