



# RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

SUMMER 2022

Photo credit: Bill Paterson

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

To commemorate more than 80 years that the school has been open, students, faculty and staff of Evans City Elementary/Middle School took trips down memory lane during the "Evans City Memory Tours" that were hosted by the District throughout the month of May.

The public tours served as an invitation to give community members a final opportunity to attend walk-throughs of the building. Over 500 visitors reminisced and shared stories as they strolled through the hallways, took photos and viewed memorabilia, old yearbooks and other keepsakes in the Creativity, Innovation and Research Center (CIRC) Lab at school.

Students and teachers created decade hallways that represented the school's timeline and historic moments from 1940-2010. They then served as tour guides and gave out Evans City School stickers and button pins were available as keepsakes.

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### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### First Day Reminder!

The 2022-23 First Day of School will be on Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022.

For more dates, visit:  
[www.svsd.net/WebCalendar](http://www.svsd.net/WebCalendar)

### AUGUST

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			



## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

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Former teachers and administrators from Evans City School toured the building including retired science teacher, assistant principal and principal, Mike Botti. Mr. Botti began his career at Evans City School in 1965 as a sixth grade science teacher, then retired as principal in 2000. He reached out to other former retirees and invited them to join him for the “Evans City Memory Tours.”

“Walking these halls brought back lots of memories. Our teachers, staff and administration were a close-knit group,” said Mr. Botti. “We were more of a family than a faculty, and we had a great time together,” he added.

Other visitors included former students from years past. Richard Johnston, Evans City High School graduate of 1962 said, “It’s fantastic to come back and walk the halls again. My favorite memory from High School was all the friends I made. The kids were great, and it was a good time in history.”

Debbie Smith, Evans City High School graduate of 1974 said, “It’s nice to come back and visit. My children and grandchildren have come through this school. We will miss it.”

“It was fun, and I even found my kindergarten picture in the composite books. Thank you for opening the doors to the community; it brought back a lot of great memories,” said Shannon Zolkowski, Instruction and Intervention Specialist at Haine Elementary School.

Learn more about the students, staff and their memories at Evans City School by watching the video [“Thanks for the Memories.”](#)

Photo credit: Bill Paterson



Pictured above from L-R: Mr. Mike Botti, retired assistant principal and principal, Dr. Paul Chmara, art teacher in the 70s, retired principal from North Allegheny, Ms. Lefever, former principal at EC, Mr. Wayne Rocchia, retired sixth grade teacher, Dr. John Boylan, former fifth grade teacher at EC and retired superintendent of Norwin School District.





## THE END OF AN ERA

We wish all our teachers and students a much-deserved restful summer and want to give a special shout out to the staff at Evans City Elementary/ Middle School as they begin the move to Ehrman Crest. Both students and staff celebrated the building and their time together on June 3. ■

Photo credit: Bill Paterson





## A FOND FAREWELL

During a school board meeting held on May 9, retirees were recognized for their combined total of approximately 688 years of hard work and dedication to the Seneca Valley School District.

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

“As I retire and look back at my years here at Seneca Valley, I reflect on what has meant the most to me. As a special education teacher, it was absolutely rewarding to watch students learn, make progress, grow, and meet new goals. The other very important aspect that made my years here meaningful has been colleagues that I have had the opportunity to work alongside. Wonderful, caring, supportive folks to learn with, grow with, collaborate with, and most importantly laugh with,” said Julie Zajac, Haine Elementary School Learning Support Teacher.

Retirees are as follows:

Mr. Dan Bailey – School Psychologist – 20 Years

Ms. Carol Baptiste – Intermediate High School Secretary – 41 Years

Ms. Judy Baret – Senior High School Secretary – 23 Years

Mr. James Blontz – Rowan Elementary Maintenance – 16 Years

Ms. Sharon Bonavoglia – Ryan Gloyer Middle School English Teacher – 25.5 Years

Ms. Nichole Brandon – CVE First Grade Teacher – 29 Years

Ms. Darlene Carmack – Food Services Director – 12 Years

Ms. Jean Cook – Rowan Elementary Cafeteria Manager – 25 Years

Mr. Tim Dubovi – Evans City Elementary Instruction & Intervention Specialist – 32 Years

Mr. Kurt Ford – CVE Maintenance Employee – 25 Years

Ms. Barbara Gerginski – ECE/ECM/SVIHS Cafeteria Manager – 31 Years



Ms. Tammara Gill – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Mathematics Teacher – 21 Years

Ms. Sue Hilliard – ECM/HMS/RGMS/IHS/SHS Technology Assistant – 25 Years

Ms. Carolyn Huttinger – Senior High School Cafeteria Worker – 26 Years

Ms. Margaret Lockovich – Haine Elementary/Haine MS Speech and Language Teacher – 4 Years

Mr. Mark Macedonia – Intermediate High School Social Studies Teacher – 32 Years

Mr. Aaron Magill – Senior High School Music Teacher – 19 Years

Mr. Dennis McAnallen – Information Technology Analyst – 21.5 Years

Ms. Debra McDermott – Intermediate High School Gifted Support Teacher – 25.5 Years

Mr. James Pearson – Transportation Director – 11 Years

Mr. Michael Pendred- Ryan Gloyer Middle School Paraprofessional – 5 months

Ms. Patty Scherz – Rowan Maintenance Employee – 23 Years

Ms. Jill Schulz – Senior High School Nurse – 21 Years

Ms. Lisa Seibel – Evans City Elementary Kindergarten – 27 Years

Ms. Cindy Stacy – SVIHS Cafeteria – 14 Years

Ms. Rebecca Studds – Rowan Elementary Learning Support Teacher – 26 Years

Ms. Ann Tanda – Haine Elementary/Haine MS Learning Support Teacher – 18 Years

Ms. Susanna Wanamaker – CVE/HES/HMS Speech and Language Teacher – 10 Years



Mr. Clint Weltner – Haine Middle School Fifth Grade Teacher – 27 Years

Ms. Carla Wright – Evans City Middle School Secretary – 34 Years

Ms. Julie Zajac – Haine Elementary Learning Support Teacher – 23 Years.

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Retiree thoughts and memories continued from page 4

**Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Social Studies Teacher, Mark Macedonia** - *Twentieth century journalist Sydney J. Harris once wrote: "The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." In other words, the goal of education is not merely to provide a reflection of information for learners to absorb, but to offer students a window in which to comprehend and view the complexities, challenges, and truths of the world. After having served as an educator for over three decades within the Seneca Valley School District, I would like to believe that I contributed to providing students with the tools to view such windows. I will be the first to admit that I didn't see those windows as a new employee all those years ago; however, the district's consistent commitment to providing a quality educational experience for students, assisted in my growth as an educator and helped to bring those windows into focus for me. I consider myself very fortunate to have been given the opportunity for employment within the Seneca Valley School District, and I attribute the joy and success that I have experienced within the classroom to a great many individuals with whom I had the pleasure to encounter from School Board members, administrators, colleagues, parents, and staff, to the thousands of students who have passed through the doorway of my classroom. After all, the "window" of education with the most clarity is the humanity involved in the learning process acquired from a daily interaction with others. I can confidently say that throughout my career, Seneca Valley has invariably challenged itself to open more windows with impressive results. I was glad to be a part of it all.*

**Evans City Elementary School Instruction & Intervention Specialist, Tim Dubovi** - *I came to the Seneca Valley School District in 1990 after teaching in the Mars Area School District. I did not know what to expect as I joined the staff at Evans City Elementary. I also joined the high school football coaching staff and had the opportunity to influence students at the secondary level and form friendships with colleagues at the secondary level. The staff at both elementary and secondary surrounded me with support and quickly made me feel like a member of the team. I formed many great bonds with both elementary and high school students during my 32 years. Everyday has been a learning experience for me. Many changes have occurred and some things in education have gone away and come full circle and returned in my 32 years in the district. I feel like the students I have taught and coached have helped me to grow as a teacher, coach, parent and as a grandparent. The one thing that I hope I demonstrated to my students and players is to persevere when things are tough. The past 32 years have gone quickly, and I am thankful for all the colleagues and students that have touched my life.*

**Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Secretary, Carol Baptiste** - *My time at Seneca Valley has been very rewarding. I have seen the district grow in size and face challenges with resiliency during my time here. I have worked with many dedicated and wonderful people, including my mother who was a substitute teacher. I am wishing the best for the Seneca Valley School District.*



**Seneca Valley Haine Elementary School Learning Support Teacher, Julie Zajac** - *As I retire and look back at my years here at Seneca Valley, I reflect on what has meant the most to me. As a special education teacher, it was absolutely rewarding to watch students learn, make progress, grow and meet new goals. The other very important aspect that made my years here meaningful has been colleagues that I have had the opportunity to work alongside. Wonderful, caring, supportive folks to learn with, grow with, collaborate with, and most importantly laugh with!*

**Evans City Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher, Lisa Seibel** - *As the school year comes to a close, I am experiencing many emotions! I am brokenhearted to leave a position where I spend endless moments smiling and laughing at what five and six-year olds say and do. I am grateful and blessed to have been given the opportunity to make an impact on the future of over 1000 students. I will miss and treasure the friendships that I've experienced with co-workers, parents, and administrators in the four buildings in which I have taught. Thank you to all who have been a part of my life over the past (almost) 30 years! ■*



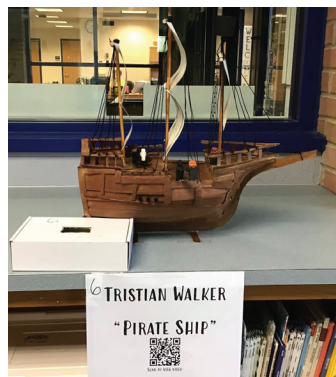
## THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

Students and their families put their heads together to celebrate creativity, critical thinking and innovation for the second annual Family Cardboard Challenge at CVE.

All families were challenged to use their imagination to create and build anything using cardboard and recycled materials. Students also had to make a 30-second Flipgrid video explaining their creation.

These innovative masterpieces were put on display during CVE's Open House where everyone had the opportunity to vote for their favorite creation.

There was a total of 25 entries and the top three designs won generous prize packages to these local businesses. The winners included the Ewing Family who placed first for their Carousel, second place went to the Edmisten Family



for their VW Bus, and third place was awarded to Tristian Walker for his Pirate Ship. ■



## FAR OUT

First graders at Haine Elementary School creatively closed out their year by tie-dyeing shirts to wear on the last day of school.

Students in Ms. Diane Fencil's class had a blast designing their T-shirts and even more fun wearing them with the logo "SV Class of 2023" proudly displayed on the front. ■



## GOING TO THE CHAPEL

CVE Kindergarten teacher Ms. Stephanie Schultz is getting married this summer. The icing on her wedding cake – her students were involved!

While discussing her upcoming nuptials, some of her sweet students didn't know what a bridal shower was, so she invited them to a surprise one at school.

During the event, her kiddos played bridal bingo, the "shoe game," had Play-Doh wedding cake and design-the-dress contests and even wrote her and her soon-to-be husband wedding advice.

Best of all, her students got a personal invitation to attend the wedding in July! Congratulations, Ms. Schultz on your marriage! ■



## SAFETY FIRST

Seneca Valley students received an important lesson before "diving" into summer vacation.

The District hosted Water Safety Days at the new SV Aquatic Center to teach the importance of water safety to elementary school students.

Presentations included safety around bodies of water, how to get help in a water emergency situation, weather safety around water, boat safety and more.

Students had a great time taking a field trip to the SV Aquatic Center and learning from their physical



education teachers, swim coaches and former and current SV swim team members. ■





## IMPACTFUL LESSON

A unique approach to the “Four Cs” of 21st century learning skills paved the way for an impactful showcase during an Anne Frank Gallery Walk at Haine Middle School (HMS), which featured thematic and collaborative efforts from students’ studies of Anne Frank.

The students were led by their team of teachers, Ms. Julie Fornadel, Ms. Sharon Kramer and Ms. Lauren Miloser. HMS sixth graders read novels about World War II and the Holocaust, watched a video about Anne Frank, took a virtual field trip to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and studied quotes from her famous diary. They then used the “Four Cs” of 21st century learning as they worked in teams to create artwork, gather research, and build models of the small annex Anne Frank’s family hid inside before being captured.

“We wanted to integrate our curriculum with 21st century learning skills. The “4Cs” of 21st century learning skills include critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. The team developed a thematic unit based on the core competencies students will need to be successful in life, citizenship, and work,” said Ms. Fornadel, Haine Middle School Math teacher. She added, “Our goal was to enable students to develop soft skills they will need in the



future such as solving complex problems, responding to change, working in teams, communicating effectively in multiple modalities, and ultimately creating in the face of challenges.”

The Anne Frank Gallery Walk took place on June 1 in the HMS CIRC Space. Both parents and students were able to walk through and observe the cardboard and paper models of Anne Frank’s secret dwelling. ■



## ‘THIS IS WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF’

Prior to the school year ending, students in Amanda Bondi’s class participated in an end-of-year A-Z countdown.

They began in May when there were 26 days of school left.

As the last days of school ticked down, the class celebrated the day based on a specific letter of the alphabet.

For the letter V, the theme was vision boards.

“V and the idea of vision boards came to mind because we have been talking about our hopes and dreams as well as what makes us happy,” said Ms. Bondi. “My class this year loves to create things and showcase what makes them unique. The only guideline I gave them for their boards was they had to



bring things to school that represented them, their family and what they love. We spent an entire morning creating our vision boards and my entire class said they can’t wait to hang up

their board in their homes to look at each day. Many students brought things that represented places they have been or want to go, future careers they want to hold and their favorite furry

friends! My hope is that they will have their board to look at for years to come on the good and bad days and that they always remember they are special, valued and loved.” ■



## JUMPING IN AND RAISING THE BAR

Evans City Elementary and Middle School students jumped in feet first and set records in the Kids Heart Challenge Program (formerly known as Jump Rope for Heart). In total, students were able to bring in \$9,082.88 for the last Kids Heart Challenge at Evans City Schools, which was one of the highest totals in the school's history.

"We had two students, one kindergartener and one fifth grader that collected over \$1,000 each. This was the first time in a long time that we had a student in both buildings collect this amount," said Lee Mullett, Evans City Elementary School Health/Physical Education Teacher.

Students had several opportunities over the past few months to raise funds,

collect donations and of course jump rope and participate in other activity stations during their PE classes.

The Kids Heart Challenge Program is a great community service project where students get to collect funds for the American Heart Association. The funds are used to support the fight against childhood obesity, heart disease and stroke through education and life-saving research.

Evans City Schools has been involved with this program for almost 20 years. Students, faculty and staff are looking forward to raising even more funds for the American Heart Association and building new memories as they transition to Ehrman Crest for the 2022-23 school year. ■



## SERVICE DOG SPREADS JOY AND PAWS-ITIVITY AT CVE

Man's best friend joined the team at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) this year to provide additional support to a small group of students. Zach is a service dog that was graciously provided by the Souza family, parents from CVE.

"Our school community is so grateful to the Souza Family for sharing Zach with our students. Mr. and Mrs. Souza have provided not only the use of their service dog for our students but also dog treats, games, books and even a musical instrument that our sweet students can use to entertain Zach during their sessions. It is caring families like the Souza's that make CVE the best place to learn and grow," said Mrs. DeeAnn Graham, Principal of CVE.



After training with teachers and staff members, this beautiful English Lab visited CVE twice a week during the end of the 2021-22 school year. A select group of students met with Zach individually in the main office for 10-15 minutes where they were given the opportunity to give him treats, read to him, brush him or just enjoy cuddles.

CVE School Counselor Ms. Christina Karmecy added, "Zach has brought more love to our building, and the experience has been a win-win. He has provided our students with another avenue of strength and comfort. It is special how our community and school can come together to ensure our students build effective coping strategies to use as they continue to grow and learn."

Both students and staff members benefited from Zach's calming presence, and they are looking forward to welcoming him back for the 2022-23 school year.

"Zach's calm, loving and silly nature offers a social-emotional outlet for a small group of students at CVE. It is beautiful to see our students counting down the days until their visit with Zach and then leaving with a huge smile on their face once it's over," said Ms. Quincy Gildea, Acting Assistant Principal of CVE. "We hope to spread the 'Zach effect' and expand the reach to more students in the upcoming years." ■

## NOT THE SAME SONG AND DANCE

Third-grade students from Evans City Elementary wrapped up their year by putting on a play, "Alice's Adventures in Idioms." Performances took place in the morning and afternoon hours. Family members were able to watch the students perform a variety of songs and dances that made for an unforgettable experience. ■





## FIELD DAY FUN

Seneca Valley students in grades K-6 participated in their school's field days in late May/early June. Students in the classrooms worked as teams that emphasized sportsmanship, cooperation and social skills, all while having fun. ■





## GAME ON

And they're off!

Students from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) competed in an Olympic Day to celebrate the Greek Olympics, an important part of the middle school social studies curriculum. A total of five teams (Sparta, Athens, Corinth, Thebes and Argos) were represented and events took place at NextTier Stadium.



Students designed team logos, created and memorized team chants, and demonstrated the importance of teamwork and support

for their peers. Corinth scored the most overall points and won the team trophy! ■



## HOT, HOT, HOT

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) students turned up the heat in science class by making homemade salsa. Students were divided up into teams and used the vegetables that they grew this year in the school's greenhouse to make their own delicious recipe. The top six salsas made it to the final round where judges (RGMS faculty and staff) voted for their favorite in a blind taste test to determine the winning team. After many samplings (with chips generously donated by Moe's Southwest Grill), it was determined the overall winner was group two, Adam Kaluzny and Anna laquinta. ■



## ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS...

"Rock, paper, scissors, shoot" was the chant by former seventh graders on the Lions team at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) during a Rock Paper Scissors tournament which was part of end-of-year activities. Students played a round-robin style game, and the best

win percentages were ranked in a 32-team bracket. Cheers from team members and peers could be heard down the halls during the finals.

The winners were Aaden Heneghan in first place, Anthony Greene in second place and Emma Gallie in third. ■



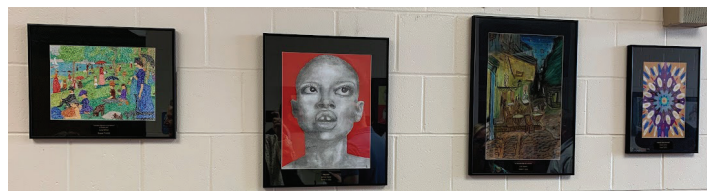


## ON DISPLAY

Six students in seventh and eighth grade recently had their artwork chosen for inclusion in the prestigious and permanent art gallery collection at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS). Their artwork was officially displayed on June 1, during the 16th annual Unveiling and Artists' Reception, where District employees, parents, students and community members were invited to attend.

The reception honored former seventh graders Ethan Kamau for his piece "Linear Perspective," Julia Miller for her piece "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte," Sydney Senko for her piece "Navajo Sand Painting," Julia Valasek for her piece "La Terra del Café por la Noche," former eighth grader Allison Patinski for her piece "Girl with a Pearl Earring," and former ninth grader Cortlan Harrell for his piece "Portrait" that was completed in years past.

The RGMS Art Department consists of art teachers Ms. Kathy Pitluga, Ms. Tabatha Karman, Mr. George Williams and Mr. Stanley Zimmerman. They have been hosting this event since 2005, and the permanent art collection now showcases 79 pieces of prestigious artwork. ■



## HOOK, LINE AND SINKER

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. John 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 reconnect with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to resume their work on the fish habitats after a two-year hiatus from field trips due to the safety precautions of the pandemic.

"This project has given our students a meaningful connection to this local state park," said, Mr. Durst. "Moraine State Park is just a few minutes from our school district and our students have the opportunity to not only discover the park itself but make a positive impact there that benefits the lake and those wishing to fish there. We're teaching them to be good stewards of the environment."

The structures built by students will begin to grow algae, which will then attract insects,



baitfish and eventually larger game fish to the waters of Lake Arthur. ■

## CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP AREA LIONS CLUB HONOR TOP STUDENTS

The Cranberry Township Area Lions Club held their annual SEI Night Ceremony on May 24, recognizing Ryan Gloyer Middle School students for their outstanding service, effort and initiative, both in and out of the classroom.

King Lion Clyde Cameron presided over the ceremony, along with fellow Lions Andy Newell, Kevin Sukits, Elmer Ebeck and Gregg Otto. Township Supervisor Mike Manipole shared the accomplishments of each student.

Honorees were presented with a certificate of recognition and a \$50 gift card to Barnes & Noble. ■



(L-R) Clyde Cameron, Flynn O'Donnell, Caden Truez, Autumn Holmes, Jeb Kellar and Abbi Speicher.



## COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Seneca Valley's community partnerships are helping exceptional students expand beyond the classroom by offering on-the-job training to help them gain skills for integrated, competitive employment.

SV's Community Based Vocational Training (CBVT) program distributed certificates of appreciation to their local business partners, UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex, Fun Fore All Family Fun Park, Cranberry Dairy Queen, Pittsburgh Marriott North, Fresh Thyme, Walgreens, CVE Cafeteria, CVE library, The Strand Theater and Gardner's Farm and Greenhouse.

The purpose of the CBVT program is to provide students with the opportunities to acquire job skills in natural environments in the student's home community. To accomplish this, vocational training is taught in the business community with the support of a job coach. Business standards regarding work quality, production, safety, work attire and appropriate work behaviors are emphasized. Job training is part of the student's educational program; therefore, no monetary compensation is given. By the time a student graduates, the goal is for the student to apply for integrated competitive employment.

"Students that participate in CBVT gain skills and confidence in the workplace. CBVT benefits the students as well as the employer. It is a win-win for everyone. We are so proud of our students and the work they continue to accomplish at the sites, that we have maintained many sites long-term," said Jessica Pyle, Seneca Valley Coordinator of Transition Planning, Career, and Vocational Education.

She continued, "We take pride in our community partnerships and have maintained many of our relationships for several years. Gardener's Farm and Greenhouse was a great new site addition this year, and they recently hired a Seneca CBVT student for summer employment."

Additionally, the Seneca Valley Food Services Department has been a huge supporter of integrated paid work experiences since 2014. As part of students' school day, they offer paid employment to students who look to gain vocational skills.



Of the CBVT Class of 2022, two graduates have secured competitive employment and one is seeking post-secondary training.

The CBVT is always looking to expand their program. If you're a community business and are interested in having students and a job coach volunteer, please contact Jess Pyle at [pylejm@svsd.net](mailto:pylejm@svsd.net) or 724-452-6041 x1402. ■



## SISTERS GO FOR GOLD

Yasmeen Fahs, an upcoming fourth grader at Rowan Elementary, earned the Award of Outstanding Interpretation in Film Production at the National PTA Reflections Awards. This award is the highest ranking within this competition. Ms. Fahs was one of seven students across the country who won this award and one of three students who represented Pennsylvania at Nationals.

For her accomplishment, Ms. Fahs received an \$800 Young Artist Scholarship, a gold medal, certificate, a feature in the virtual exhibition and \$200 for Rowan Elementary PTA.

Elina Fahs, sister of Yasmeen and an upcoming eighth grader at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), placed first at the Annual Western Pennsylvania Olympiada of Spoken Russian, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. Ms. Fahs competed in the Pre-College Division (level 2) and received a gold medal and a certificate for her achievement.



Yasmeen Fahs



Elina Fahs

Ms. Fahs is a member of the Slavic Languages & Visibility Club at RGMS, an organization that provides students with the opportunity to learn about Slavic-based languages, culture and history. ■

## RISE UP

Former ninth and tenth-grade students who were Recognizing IHS Student Excellence (R.I.S.E.) award recipients attended an end of school year party in which their achievements were honored and celebrated.

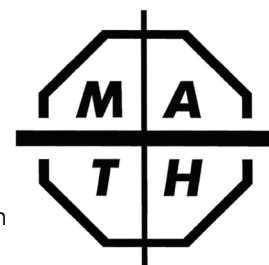
R.I.S.E. is a recognition for students who have gone above and beyond to spread positivity, kindness and inclusion at SV or who have shown exemplary personal growth.

Students can be nominated for R.I.S.E. at any time by a staff member at the intermediate high school. Following a nomination, students are invited to meet with a school administrator or counselor where they are presented with a certificate. ■



## BY THE NUMBERS

The Seneca Valley Math League team, comprised of students in grades 9-12, won first place in their region and earned the 17th best cumulative score (of 96 participating districts) in the state.



The Math League competition consists of six separate six-question exams. One exam is taken each month, October-March. The first three or four questions of each exam should be able to be answered by a typical general education student, while the fifth question is significantly more challenging, and the sixth question should prove challenging for even the most gifted students.

Alexander Kim, an upcoming junior, was the team's top scorer. Mr. Kim finished the year with the best cumulative score in the region and the sixth highest cumulative score in the state, earning a perfect score on three of the six exams. Kason Kunkelmann, '22 graduate, also scored a perfect score on his exam.

The following students contributed scores toward the team's official results (in order of cumulative score): Upcoming junior, Alexander Kim; upcoming seniors, Eric Combs and Nathan Craig, '22 graduates, Kason Kunkelmann, Nicholas Foulkrod, Rayan Ghaffar, Victor Myrna and Shanker Pillai; upcoming junior, Zachary Tollerton; upcoming sophomore, Niko Papakirk and upcoming senior, Ella Butterfield. ■



## BEFORE YOU GO

Seneca Valley '22 graduates are already embarking on new adventures, but before they took the final steps to close out their academic year, they presented their Graduation Projects in front of a panel of judges that consisted of SV faculty, staff and community members.

Seniors worked on their Graduation Project throughout the year then got the opportunity to talk about their projects and what they've learned.

We asked a few graduates to share their biggest takeaways from their Graduation Project along with their plans for the future and favorite memories from Seneca Valley. Here's what they had to say:

### Ria Dietz

#### What was your Graduation Project about and what was your biggest takeaway?

My Graduation Project was interviewing and researching five different physicians but as the project went on, I changed it to interviewing three physicians. I then researched and interviewed them followed by researching physical therapists. My biggest take away from my Graduation

Project was that I no longer want to become a physician, I would like to become a physical therapist. After interviewing and researching the different positions I realized that about 12 extra years of schooling was very intimidating for me and I wanted to start my career sooner. So whenever I was looking into physical therapy, I saw it was only about four years of undergraduate schooling then three years of graduate, which seemed much more manageable for me.

I have a history of shoulder injuries and I've been going to physical therapy since I was 11 years old. So I've always been around physical therapy and I realized that I would love to help people get back into their sport just like my physical therapist helped me get back into mine.



#### What are your plans after graduation?

My plans after graduation consist of attending Illinois State University. I'll be majoring in exercise science, and I will be swimming on the swim team as well.

#### What is your dream job?

My dream job would be to be a physical therapist on a professional sports team either in the NFL, MLB or NBA.

#### What's your favorite memory from Seneca Valley?

My favorite memory from Seneca Valley would most likely be whenever I was a sophomore. I had just come back from a shoulder dislocation, and I made it to WPIALS and states. At states my 200 medley team made it back to the finals and we placed 8th and earned a stated medal. I will never forget that moment with my teammates, it was one of the most surreal moments.

Overall, Seneca Valley has taught me many life lessons that will help me when I go off to Illinois State University. The school district has taught me how to manage my time between school and swimming, taught me how to make friends and to always be myself.

### Alyson Rosell

#### What was your Graduation Project about and what was your biggest takeaway?

For my Graduation Project I hosted a kickball tournament including concessions and basket raffles to raise money for the Lung Cancer Research Foundation. In total we raised \$2,218 but we did cover our own expenses including the field permit, food, drinks and T-shirt expenses. So, after expenses we donated \$1,522.23.

I chose my Graduation Project idea based off the passing of my grandfather in 2013. I wanted to do something that would honor his life along with creating solutions for other families that are struggling with the consequences of lung cancer.

My biggest take away from my Graduation Project was gaining organizational skills along with reliability. There were many obstacles that could have been avoided if I put more responsibility toward myself rather than others. However, the 'Kick to Cure' event was very successful, and I couldn't have asked for better friends and family to attend.

#### What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation I plan to attend Penn State University and gain my bachelor's degree in criminology. I then plan to attend law school and earn a law degree.

#### What is your dream job?

Since I was a child, I have always wanted to be a lawyer and fight for social justice. I plan on making that dream into a reality in the near future.

*continued on page 15*



continued from page 14



### What's your favorite memory from Seneca Valley?

My favorite memory from Seneca Valley would have to be attending all the football games. Watching some of my friends on the field under the Friday night lights is one thing I will never forget. I was surrounded by my closest friends screaming and chanting with support for our team.

As a Seneca Valley student, I was able to grow as an individual both academically and socially. Being able to graduate with all the friends and faculty who made my success possible is a privilege I will never take advantage of. I wish all the best to the graduates of 2022 and hope to see them continue to grow and become successful in their own ways.



### William Gillespie

#### What was your Graduation Project about and what was your biggest takeaway?

My Graduation Project was about what I'll be doing in the future.

#### What are your plans after graduation?

My plan after graduation is to study for my drivers permit and visit my one-year-old niece, Remi. I'd also like to attend Butler County Community College.

#### What is your dream job?

My dream job is to be a football coach.

#### What's your favorite memory from Seneca Valley?

My favorite memory from Seneca Valley was meeting new friends. ■



## SV GRADUATE NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced over 2,600 winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities, including Seneca Valley's own Mr. Daniel Spear, a recent 2022 graduate, who has been offered a National Merit Purdue University Scholarship.

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the Finalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institution. These awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. An additional group of Scholars will be announced in July, bringing the total number of college-sponsored



Merit Scholarship recipients in the 2022 competition to about 4,000.

This year, 155 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 82 private and 73

public institutions located in 42 states and the District of Columbia.

"I'm excited to study computer science at Purdue University. They have helped with this goal by presenting me with a Purdue Merit Scholarship based upon my qualifications as a National Merit Scholar finalist for my high PSAT score," said Seneca Valley '22 graduate, Daniel Spear.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarship winners are a part of the distinguished group of about 7,500 high school seniors who will receive National Merit Scholarships for college undergraduate study worth nearly \$28 million. Earlier this spring, NMSC announced winners of corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards and National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships. ■

## ON BOARD

The Seneca Valley School District continues to prepare students to be successful beyond their walls. One such example is Seneca Valley graduating senior, Tyler Yurich, who earned appointments to both West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), while also being recruited by both institutions to run track.

Mr. Yurich recently accepted his offer to the U.S. Naval Academy, and he will also be competing on the Naval Academy track and field team as a short sprinter and long jumper.

Mr. Yurich has been a three-sport athlete since he was a freshman, all while earning a 5.0477 GPA. The academic courses and athletic opportunities offered at Seneca Valley gave him an advantage to fulfill the requirements of the application to the military academies.

Multiple teachers and SV staff helped Mr. Yurich to succeed, including teachers Ms. Rebecca Ruggeri, Ms. Cheri Mihalik, Ms. Kelly Weston and Mr. Barry Murray. He was also assisted by Ms. Michelle Kostlich, school counselor, Ms. Darla Ramirez-Lightner, coordinator of collegiate and career affairs, Mr. Matt Cellitti, athletic

trainer, and Seneca Valley Senior High School Principal, Mr. Bob Ceh. Each of them assisted in helping Mr. Yurich meet his deadlines in a variety of ways like writing letters of recommendation, sending transcripts, administering physical fitness tests, submitting important documents and more.

"First and foremost, I am very honored to be in my position," said Mr. Yurich. "I am very thankful for all the help that I have received from teachers, coaches and family along the way, and I'm extremely excited for what lies ahead."

"My husband and I are extremely proud of Tyler's unwavering commitment to his academics as well as his athletics throughout his years at Seneca Valley. We are equally proud of his humbleness as he has experienced success, and his perseverance and grace as he has experienced disappointment. We are so excited about the man he will become and the opportunities that lie ahead of him as he graduates from the Naval Academy and serves his country. However, none of this would have been possible without the challenging curriculum and the amazing teachers, coaches, guidance counselors, principals, athletic trainers, and the athletic



department that we have here at Seneca Valley," said Tyler's mother Danette Yurich.

Mr. Yurich will be leaving in June for seven weeks to attend U.S. Naval Academy boot camp. He will then be attending the USNA in Annapolis, Maryland, and will be majoring in Electrical Engineering and competing on their track team. His plan is to graduate in four years with a Bachelor of Science degree after which he will be serving our country for at least five years or more if he chooses the Navy as a career.

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



## STANDOUT SCHOLAR

Mr. Chris Helmsen, a recent 2022 Seneca Valley graduate, has been named a National Cyber Scholar by the National Cyber Scholarship Foundation (NCSF) for his performance in a challenging online cybersecurity training program.

Mr. Helmsen competed for a top score against thousands of high school students across the nation by solving real-world cybersecurity problems. Over 45,000 students nationwide sought to qualify for a National Cyber Scholarship.

As a result of his achievement, Mr. Helmsen is one of only 20 students in the state that has earned a \$3,000 scholarship to attend the Cyber Foundations Academy, a multi-week online program based on the nationally recognized SANS Foundations training course and certification. At the end of this course, he'll take the GFACT exam to earn his GIAC Foundational Cybersecurity Technologies certification and become eligible to compete for the title of National Cyber Scholar with Honors.

"The National Cyber Scholarship Foundation recognizes high school students who have demonstrated exceptional cybersecurity prowess and

who wish to pursue a career in a growing field in critical need of their talent," noted David Brown, executive director, National Cyber Scholarship Foundation. "The NCSF mission is to identify and develop the next generation of cyber professionals. Each and every student who participated in this competition has the potential to develop their skills and build a successful career in cybersecurity."

"I'm very impressed by Christopher's accomplishment. His discipline, rigor and persistence in learning the necessary skills to complete these cybersecurity challenges has been unparalleled. Chris has shown incredible growth over the past few years, and I'm excited to see where he goes from here," said Mr. Dean Walker, Seneca Valley Senior High School Gifted Support teacher.

There are several qualification pathways to gain a National Cyber Scholarship, including CyberStart America, a free online program that helps students discover their interest in cybersecurity and develop their talent and skills. The NCSF offers \$5 million in scholarships to top-ranking competitors. The top 1,000 highest-scoring eligible



CyberStart players will become National Cyber Scholars and will be invited to participate in the Cyber Foundations Academy. To learn more visit: [National Cyber Scholarship Foundation](https://www.nationalcyberscholarshipfoundation.org).

To learn more about CyberStart America, visit their website at [www.cyberstartamerica.org](https://www.cyberstartamerica.org). ■

## IN PRINT

Recent '22 SV graduate, Nick Nedzesky, had his research published in the *Journal for Student Research*, a national journal devoted to the rapid dissemination of current research published by high school, undergraduate and graduate students.

Mr. Nedzesky did some work with trying to understand the dynamics of biofilm-producing bacteria. Bacteria that produce biofilms gain a measure of antibiotic resistance since biofilms act as shields to such chemicals. The issue is that relatively recently, we have discovered that biofilm-producing bacteria possess intricate signaling communication pathways that control the production of the biofilm. Bacteria can use this signaling system to even "talk" to other bacteria, telling others to swim, or stop swimming and produce biofilms. Mr. Nedzesky's research was directly involved in assisting the scientific community to better understand what triggers this bacteria "chatter" and biofilm production. [Read more here.](#)





## NOT YOUR AVERAGE SCIENCE LAB

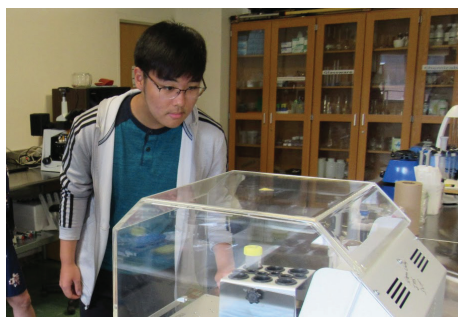
Students presented on Biofilms and their eDNA research projects in a seminar which showcased their work in the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology Research.

The Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology Research is a collaborative concept engineered by teachers and supported by administrators with guidance from professionals in academia and business. The Center offers an exceptional research space and experience, unique to Seneca Valley and beyond, by introducing students to technologies and techniques utilized in biological and medical research laboratory settings. Some of these technologies include PCR and QPCR thermocyclers, microcentrifuges, micropipettes, horizontal and vertical electrophoresis cells, a transformation machine, an incubator, an autoclave, and a dual beam spectrophotometer.

These aforementioned technologies allow for students to be immersed in a myriad of experiences related to biotechnology. Some current examples include eDNA (environmental DNA) research with samples taken from local waterways in order to assess environmentally sensitive animal populations, chemical analysis of eDNA water samples to test for toxic compounds potentially affecting sensitive animal populations, and biofilm studies that contribute to understanding antibiotic resistance and related diseases.

One student made a documentary video highlighting the eDNA research conducted by high school students in the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology Research. Specifically, [this video](#) provides an in-depth look into what students are learning about the Eastern Hellbender through eDNA research. It also overviews the eDNA process, the nature of research, and how experiences in SV's Center for Biotechnology Research are preparing students for their future.

"I am very interested in telling stories through a lens, especially with documentaries because telling real,



unplanned stories is a creative challenge. As a researcher in the lab, I was intrigued by the idea of capturing what we do on camera and showing both the process and importance of eDNA studies. Honestly, I was most excited to dial down the science terminology and use this video to show the research in an understandable, relatable, inspiring way. I hope the lab can continue using this video to spark the interests of future researchers," said Seneca Valley '22 graduate, Molly Ussia.

On average, students spent about 3.5 hours per week (of their free time) working in the lab. When asked about the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology Research, several students stated, "Having this lab teaches me direct skills that can be used in a variety of ways. It not only prepares us for right now, but for years and years down the road." One student added, "Having the opportunity to research in this lab will give me an advantage when I go to college. It has steered me in the direction of what I want to do in the future."

"The Center for Biotechnology began by offering Purpose students enrichment experiences in Genetics. These ranged from transformations to human genotyping. Over the following five years, there has

been a gradual shift away from enrichment experiences to a more focused approach upon building research skills as well as engaging in authentic research projects," said Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Science teacher Tom Lavelle.

Mr. Lavelle added, "It is important to note that this change in focus is student initiated as they often naturally possess a strong appetite for research. This is exemplified by the incredible laboratory attendance demonstrated by our technicians, often coming in during study halls, lunch periods, and before school. Additionally, a considerable number of technicians pursue science related career pathways beyond graduation."

The Center's student goals are to develop advanced research skills and to connect the students to the broader world of research by sharing their work with peers, the school community, and other professionals within the field.

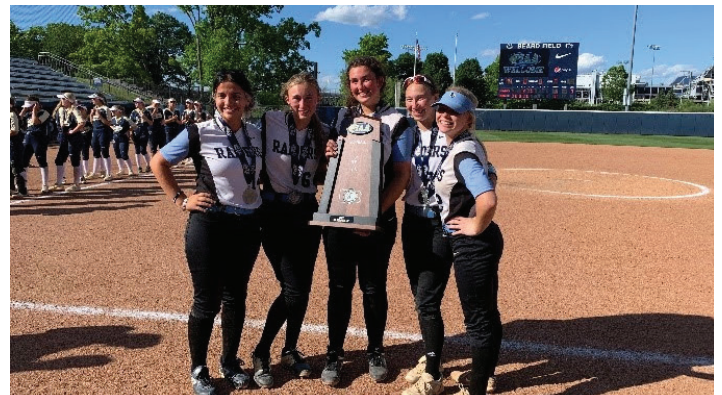
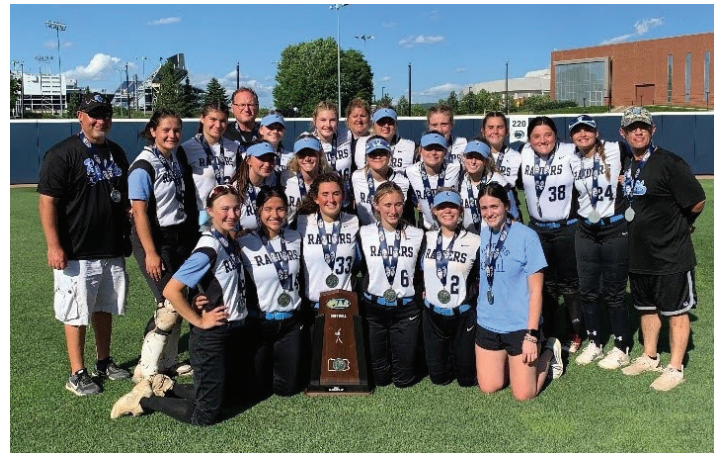
If you're a local business or institution and are interested in donating or being involved with the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology Research, please contact us at [Communications@svsd.net](mailto:Communications@svsd.net). ■





## RAIDER SOFTBALL FALLS IN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Following an impressive run through the WPIAL tournament, culminating in the program's first WPIAL title since 1999, Raider softball started the PIAA state championship tournament with a resounding 8-2 opening round win over visiting Central Dauphin. Next up was Quakertown on the campus of Messiah University where a first-inning sacrifice bunt by Mia Ryan led to the game's only run and the Raiders came home a 1-0 winner. In the state semifinals held in Chambersburg, PA the bats got going in the top of the fourth and fifth innings leading Seneca Valley to a 9-0 over Pennsbury and a spot in the PIAA 6A State Championship game versus Spring-Ford. As sport sometimes proves, the game can be cruel and on a beautiful sunny day on the campus of Penn State University, the Raider bats fell silent in a tough 5-0 loss to Spring-Ford. There should be no heads hanging down, though, as this team was brilliant throughout their post-season run and certainly proved how teamwork and togetherness can lead to wonderful results. We congratulate our departing seniors and wish them well - Angelina Chardella, Maddie Gross, Ainsley McLane, Izzy Roule, and Hayley Walter - and we thank them for their leadership. A great run this season Raiders! #SVRaiderPride ■



## BOYS VOLLEYBALL

As detailed in our May 2022 *Raider Pride* issue, Raider boys' volleyball suffered a devastating five-set loss in the WPIAL championship game. Following Memorial Day weekend, Seneca Valley went on the road to host McDowell in the opening round of PIAA championship play and were unfortunately and unexpectedly upset in four sets by McDowell. While the day was not representative of this team's play all season, I hope for each coach and player they can look back with fond memories of just

how exceptional a team they were in 2022. In as much, the following players were named 2022 All-WPIAL by coaches:

1st Team	2nd Team	3rd Team
Nathan DeGraaf, Co-MVP	Austin Tatusko	Grant Hoover
Coleman McDonough, Co-MVP	Aidan Uher	
Dawson Ward ■		



## TRACK AND FIELD

The follow are results from the 2022 PIAA Track & Field Championships held on the campus of Shippensburg University over Memorial Day weekend. Congratulations to

all our student-athletes who competed in the 3A championships:

- Jonathan Price - Long jump, 8th place and Triple jump, 8th place

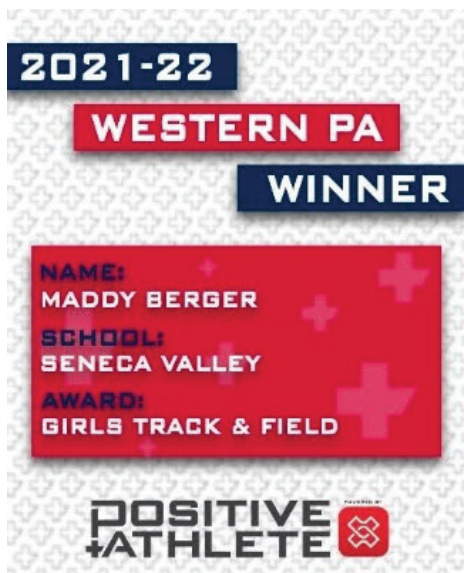
- Luke Simpson - 800 meters, 8th place

- Tyler Yurich - 100 meters, 6th place ■



## CONGRATULATIONS MADDY BERGER - POSITIVE ATHLETE

The Positive Athlete Western PA program recently recognized senior track & field standout Maddy Berger as its 2021-22 Western PA Positive Athlete for the sport of girls track & field. Such a deserving honor for Maddy - congratulations! ■



## THREE-SPORT ATHLETES - SOMETHING SO RARE

On Thursday, May 19, 2022 the Northern Area Athletic Directors Association (NADA) recognized those student-athletes who competed in three sports their senior year. Seneca Valley honorees included Zoe Simpson and Tyler Yurich. Zoe was team captain and an All-Big 56 1st team performer in girls' soccer and was a member of the indoor and outdoor track & field programs where she was a team captain and top-10 performer at the WPIAL championships in the 800m in 2022. Yurich collected WPIAL medals in the 100m (3rd place), long jump (8th place), and 4 x 100 relay (3rd place) in 2022. At the 2022 PIAA championships Tyler brought home a 6th place medal in the 100m. Following their graduation, Zoe will enroll at the University of Pittsburgh in their pre-dentistry program and Tyler will attend the University States Naval Academy to continue his track & field career while majoring in electrical engineering. Congratulations Zoe and Tyler and best of luck in your future endeavors. ■





## ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, MAY 2022

### The Female Athlete of the Month for May was freshman softball player Lexie Hames.

Despite being only a freshman, Lexie has been a dominant force at the plate and in the pitcher's circle. For the month of May, she batted .483 with four home runs and 18 RBIs. Pitching 37 innings, Lexie gave up just two earned runs while throwing 62 strike outs. Her form continued into playoffs as she had 29 strikeouts during the team's run to their first WPIAL 6A Softball title since 1999 and a .64 ERA over four games as Seneca Valley finished runner-up at the PIAA 6A Softball State Championship. For a stellar month, we recognized Lexie as the May Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Lexie!



### Male Athlete of the Month for May was senior track & field athlete, Luke Simpson.

A middle-distance runner, Luke has consistently placed in his events at each meet this season leading him to further success in postseason. He placed second and third, respectively, in the 1600 meter and 800 meter runs during the WPIAL Individual Championships, earning a berth at the PIAA Championships. At the state meet, Luke was one of three SV athletes to place in an event, coming in eighth place in the 800 meter run with a time of 1:54:50. Luke ended his career with the second all-time 800 meter and third all-time 1600 meter times in SV Track & Field history. We recognized Luke as the May Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Luke! ■



## WE ARE PLANNING FOR 2022-23 – PHYSICAL, DRUG & CONCUSSION TEST DATES

The athletic department has announced its summer physical, drug testing and baseline concussion testing dates for 2022-23. Please note these plans are subject to change.

### REMINDERS for 2022-23:

- All required paperwork for athletic participation in 2022-23 is now available on the SV (Parent) Portal.
- **For FALL SPORTS, ALL** paperwork is due in the athletic office **no later than 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022**. Coaches will not accept paperwork at the first day of tryouts.
- Physicals are first come, first served on dates noted – see schedule below. We do not take reservations in advance. *We encourage families to have their physical completed as soon as possible. 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 Parent Portal under "Sports Registration" before competing. Registration is **now open**.
- Complete information available on the District's Athletics website under "Participation and TRYOUT information."
- Concussion baseline testing only needs to be done every other year.

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

- **Tuesday, July 12, 2022** from 3 – 7 p.m. - *Drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered – **NO** physicals this session.*
- **Wednesday, July 13, 2022** from 8 a.m. – Noon - *Physicals, drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered this session. **Note:** Physicals limited to 60 total between the hours of 8 a.m. – Noon.*
- **Wednesday, July 13, 2022** from 1 – 3 p.m. - *Physicals, drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered this session. **Note:** Physicals limited to 30 total between the hours of 1 – 3 p.m.*
- **Tuesday, August 2, 2022** from 3 – 7 p.m. - *Drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered – **NO** physicals this session.*
- **Wednesday, August 3, 2022** from 8 a.m. – Noon - *Physicals, drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered this session. **Note:** Physicals limited to 60 total between the hours of 8 a.m. – Noon.*
- **Wednesday, August 3, 2022** from 1 – 3 p.m. - *Drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered – **NO** physicals this session. ■*



## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GIFT OF HOPE GOLF CLASSIC

The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) is incredibly excited to invite you to our annual **Gift of Hope Golf Classic** presented by **BATAVIA MUSIC STUDIOS** which will be held at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course on **Thursday, Aug. 4**. Please consider joining us on this day of fun and socializing, all for a great cause.

As you know, the SVF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing the gift of hope

and promise of excellence to the Seneca Valley School District. Over the past ten years, we have donated over \$900,000 to teacher projects, classroom enhancements, capital improvement projects, professional development and STEM activities, and we are eager to do more. Proceeds from this year's golf outing will allow us to continue, **and increase**, our efforts for the benefit of all Seneca Valley students and staff.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available! Click below for additional information about how you can be a part of this important event: <https://www.svsd.net/Page/28104>.

Raffle prizes are also needed! If you, your business or community organization is interested in donating a gift card or raffle prize, please contact Annie Mersing, SVF Development Director, at [mersingam@svsd.net](mailto:mersingam@svsd.net).

All proceeds benefit SVSD. ■

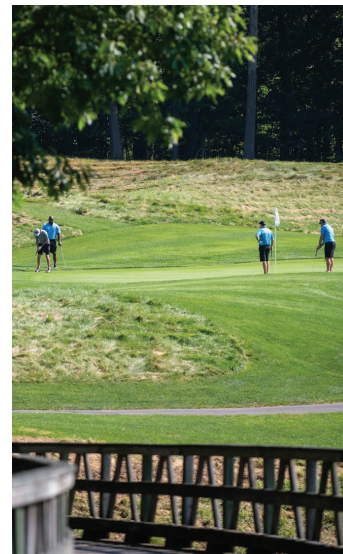


Photo Credit: Bill Paterson

**Presented by:** **BATAVIA STUDIOS**

**Cranberry Highlands Golf Course**  
**August 4, 2022**

Sponsorship Levels & Golfer Fees		Gift of Hope Golf Classic – August 4
<p><b>Presenting Level Sponsor: \$10,000</b>                      Package includes:                      • Three Foursomes at the Outing (12 Golfers)                      • Company Name/Logo on non-golf ending media                      Signage at Registration and Reception                      Full Page ad in Golf Event Presentation                      Premium Signage on Holes 1 and 10 at the Outing                      Pin Flag on multiple Holes at the Outing                      Verbal Acknowledgment During Awards Presentation                      Twelve Complimentary Dinner Guest Passes                      Company Ad in SVSD Activities/Info. Calendar (8,000 Distribution)                      Recognition on all event correspondence</p> <p><b>Gold Level Sponsors: \$5,000</b>                      Package includes:                      • Two Foursomes at the Outing (8 Golfers)                      Signage at Registration and Post-Golf Reception                      Full Page ad in Golf Event Presentation                      Pin Flag on One Hole at the Outing                      Tee Sponsor Signage at the Outing                      Verbal Acknowledgment During Awards Presentation                      Eight Complimentary Dinner Guest Passes</p> <p><b>Silver Level Sponsors: \$2,500</b>                      Package includes:                      • Signage at the Outing (4 Golfers)                      Signage at Registration and Post-Golf Reception                      Full Page ad in Golf Event Presentation                      Pin Flag on One Hole at the Outing                      Tee Sponsor Signage at the Outing                      Verbal Acknowledgment During Awards Presentation                      Four Complimentary Dinner Guest Passes</p> <p><b>Putting Contest Sponsor: \$1,500</b>                      Package includes:                      • Signage on Putting Green                      Full Page ad in Golf Event Presentation                      Verbal Acknowledgment During Awards Presentation</p> <p><b>Skill Prize Contest Sponsor: \$1,500</b>                      Package includes:                      • Signage on six (6) Contest Holes (four closest to the pin, one long drive, one long putt) featuring Sponsor Name/Logo                      Full Page ad in Golf Event Presentation                      Verbal Acknowledgment During Awards Presentation</p>	<p><b>Hole-In-One Contest Sponsor: \$1,000</b>                      Package includes:                      • Full Page ad in Golf Event Presentation                      • Signage on four (4) Contest Holes                      • Verbal Acknowledgment During Awards Presentation</p> <p><b>Green Sponsors: \$300</b>                      Package includes:                      • Pin Flag with Company Name/Logo placed on Green                      • One Sign with Company Name/Logo placed near Green</p> <p><b>Tee Sponsors: \$150</b>                      Package includes:                      • One Sign with Company Name/Logo placed on Tee Box</p> <p><b>Lunch/Cocktail/Dinner Sponsors: \$1,500/\$1,500/\$3,000</b>                      Package includes:                      • Signage with Event Logo and Sponsor Name/Logo at Lunch/Cocktail/Dinner Location                      • 1/2 Page ad in Golf Event Presentation                      • Verbal Acknowledgment at the Outing                      • Four Complimentary Lunch or Cocktail/Dinner Guest Passes</p> <p><b>Ad Sponsor: \$100, \$200</b>                      Package includes:                      • 1/2 Page ad in Golf Event Presentation - \$100                      • Full Page ad in Golf Event Presentation - \$200</p> <p><b>Golfer Fees</b>                      Foursomes: \$700 (early bird discount) (\$500 if registered after July 1)                      Individual Golfer: \$175 (\$200 if registered after July 1)</p> <p><i>All proceeds benefit the Seneca Valley Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging excellence and innovation in the Seneca Valley School District.</i></p>	<p><b>Count me in as a Sponsor! (check below)</b>                      Presenting _____ Platinum _____ Gold _____                      Silver _____ Skill _____ Putting _____                      Hole-In-One _____ Green _____ Tee _____                      Lunch _____ Cocktail _____ Dinner _____                      Ad (1/2) _____ Ad (Full) _____</p> <p><b>8:30 a.m. – Registration Begins</b>  <b>9:30 a.m. – Shotgun Start</b>                      Lunch will be provided at the turn and a buffet dinner will be served at 2 p.m.</p> <p><b>I would like to play in the Golf Outing:</b>                      _____ Individual Golfer _____ Foursome _____</p> <p><b>I would like the following in my foursome:</b>                      Name: _____                      Name: _____                      Name: _____                      Name: _____                      Company: _____                      Contact Name: _____                      Email: _____                      Phone #: _____</p> <p><b>Mail Payment and Registration to:</b>                      Seneca Valley Foundation                      124 Seneca School Road                      Harmony, PA 16037</p> <p>Questions? Contact Annie Mersing via email at <a href="mailto:mersingam@svsd.net">mersingam@svsd.net</a>.</p> <p><b>Thank you for supporting this important event!</b></p>



## AN EPIC GOODBYE

Buses have officially rolled out. As staff waved good-bye for the final time this year, the District also said good-bye to three individuals who have had an incredible impact on the Seneca Valley School District.

Together Jim Pearson, Kurt Scheidemantle and Dick Jones have given 116 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Pearson was Seneca Valley's Transportation Director for the past 11 years and will be retiring in July.

ABC Transit Terminal Manager, Mr. Scheidemantle, is retiring this year. He started working in the bus garage when he was just 13 years old. During that time,



his father was the bus garage manager for Wayne's Bus Line.

Mr. Jones, also an ABC Transit school bus driver/dispatcher, has driven for 60 years and is retiring this year too.

We wish them all the best of luck on the next chapter of their lives and thank them for their tremendous service to Seneca Valley! ■



## ALOHA, SV!

Central Office staff had a beach-themed send-off as they waved good-bye to students and hello to summer on June 3. ■







# JOIN THE SENECA VALLEY TEAM!

## DRIVERS WANTED!

Have a family member or know someone who would be a great bus driver? The success of SV comes from the collective efforts of a school community. Please encourage others to join us in serving our community by becoming a school bus/van driver. ABC Transit and Valley Lines are looking for drivers to start immediately. **Get free CDL training and earn signing bonuses of up to \$2,500!** To learn more, visit [www.svsd.net/DriveForSV](http://www.svsd.net/DriveForSV).



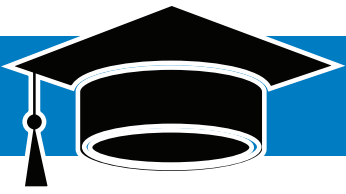
### APPLY TODAY!

To learn more and apply, visit  
[www.svsd.net/HumanResources](http://www.svsd.net/HumanResources)  
or call (724) 452-6040

### Positions include:

- CDL Driver with S&P endorsements
- Van Driver
- Mini Bus Driver
- Monitor/Aides





## ALUMNI Q&A

**Shanea Clancy, SV '04**, is currently enrolled at The University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Executive School of Business in the Executive MBA in Healthcare (EMBA-H) Program with an anticipated graduation date of December 2023. 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: It has been quite a ride since graduating from Seneca Valley in 2004. Since that time, I attended Butler County Community College (BC3) following graduation to complete a few pre-nursing requisites and to obtain my Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification. I then went on to graduate from The Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing in 2009. After nursing school, I did not sit for the PA NCLEX-RN exam until 2012, passing the first time. I then went on to attend Clarion University to obtain my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in 2015. I continued my schooling by graduating from Duquesne University with my Master of Science in Nursing in Forensic Nursing (MSN) and then my Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in December 2021. I am currently enrolled at The University of Pittsburgh Joseph M. Katz Executive School of Business in the Executive MBA in Healthcare (EMBA-H) Program with an anticipated graduation date of December 2023. I am currently employed by the Veteran's Health Administration, humbly serving as the Suicide Prevention Coordinator (Team Lead) at the Butler VA HCC as well as the facility Director appointed Hispanic Heritage Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM). I am also an active volunteer Mediator/Facilitator with the PA Department of Corrections Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) Program as well as the Center for Victim's of Violent Crimes (CVVC) in Pittsburgh, PA. Over the years I have also trained as a Mediator with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Pittsburgh office.

I am currently working on my memoir that I feel will be a compelling read to all those

facing adversity in life. My hope is that my perseverance through challenging times will help other young people.

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

A: My most proud personal accomplishment in life is marrying my amazing husband, John (who I was introduced to while teaching as an Adjunct Clinical Professor at Duquesne University) and starting our beautiful family. John and I married in 2017, quickly expanding our family soon after. My husband is an Eagle Scout, Navy Veteran, and Deputy Grand Knight with the Knights of Columbus. Our kiddos are currently four years old (girl), two years old (girl) and two months old (boy). We also have a Pomchi puppy, Willa Rae. Some of our favorite pastimes as a family are attending church, volunteering, traveling, exploring the outdoors, camping in our 5th wheel camper, and cheering our kiddos on in the multiple activities they are involved in - swim, Irish Dance, gymnastics, and ballet are a few of their favorites. I also got my motorcycle license around 2014 and have enjoyed riding over the years too.

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

A: People would be surprised to know that I hold a doctorate in nursing while being a mother of three amazing kiddos under the age of four. I am also a trained mountaineer and have hiked, ice climbed, and rock climbed several high-altitude terrains. My first big climb was of Mount Washington in New Hampshire, the highest in the so called "Presidential Ranges," which is in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Mount Washington is the highest peak in the northeastern United States at 6,288.2 feet and the most topographically prominent mountain east of the Mississippi River. This mountain is notorious for its erratic weather - sunny and hot at the bottom in the summer but coated in rime ice and snow at the top. I have also hiked Angel's Landing in Utah's Zion National Park - one of the most dangerous hikes in the United States. The last kilometer is the most intense part of this hike but has one of the most beautiful views. It was challenging, but well worth it.



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

A: I believe that the teachers and staff at Seneca Valley helped me become the person I am today. The teachers shaped my mind, not as a test taker but an individual person. Even after tragically suffering a severe concussion in a sledding accident, the teachers and staff supported my recovery, and I never missed a beat. Seneca Valley offered me a diverse range of opportunities. Throughout my time at Seneca Valley, I was involved in Thespians, played JV & Varsity softball, was on the dive team, was involved in various choral groups (show choir, madrigals, women's choir, and mixed chorus), and was also an active member in Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).

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

A: Seneca Valley is a special place to learn and grow for a multitude of reasons, primarily as mentioned beforehand, the love and support of the staff. My teachers really helped me to grow and treated me with respect as an individual. The wide range of activities also makes Seneca Valley a special place. Each student can find their tribe and join groups to feed their interest. Every student can feel comfortable at Seneca Valley and motivated to follow their dreams and achieve their goals.

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

A: This is a tough question. I had several teachers who really impacted me throughout my years at Seneca Valley. Ms. Pam North

*continued on page 26*



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was my fifth grade music teacher and was the first to have a profound impact on my life. I will never forget being selected to go to Westminster College that year as part of Songfest. Ms. Sherri Smith was my fourth grade homeroom teacher and was instrumental in my educational journey as well. I was one of the students who typically finished their work first and she stretched my mind during that time to keep me engaged. Ms. Sydney Altemus and Mrs. Stevenson were two English teachers that really shaped my love for writing. I will always remember how Mrs. Stevenson introduced our class to classical music. She would play classical music and encourage us to write whatever was on our mind, really getting the creative juices flowing. I fell in love with Pachelbel Cannon in D that year and still use that writing technique to this day. Mr. James Lucot was one of my history teachers who taught history through projects that brought the textbook to life making it easier to relate to and understand. I will always remember wearing my dad's deer antlers and deer vest (God rest his soul) to

his class one time as part of a lesson we were learning about the wild west. To this day, I still correspond with some teachers and "run in to" former teachers throughout town, which another special aspect of Seneca Valley.

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

A: I have so many fond memories at Seneca Valley and was fortunate to have many friends of various "groups," making my educational experience even more enjoyable and diverse. I will never forget the letters we wrote to local Senators in Mr. Lucot's class asking to name the bridge that was being built off Route 228 over Interstate 79. We wrote letters asking to name the bridge, The 79th Infantry Bridge, which ultimately got approved. It was in that moment that I realized the impact teachers have, to guide students to advocate for true change within the community.

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

A: My message to teachers and staff would be that they influence students more than they may realize. The confidence that teachers build in students and the words of encouragement to students go a long way, especially during the vulnerable growth phase of high school. For me, the teachers were integral in building my confidence and love of education (which is apparent, since I have practically been a full-time student since I left Seneca Valley).

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

A: I wish people knew that Seneca Valley not only offers a diverse list of extracurricular activities, but coaches and staff that genuinely care about the students. Seneca Valley will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am beyond proud to be an Alumnus of this fine school. I don't know how other high schools operate, but I know for a fact that Seneca Valley High School is a place of love, kindness and inclusion. ■

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## RETHINKING OUR KIDS' SUMMER READING By Delaney Ruston, MD

It is natural to have high hopes that our kids will do some summer reading. It is easy to fantasize about them getting lost in a story of a book we loved growing up — some book with fabulous characters, lovely sentence structures, and new vocabulary.

And then there is reality.

Many kids don't naturally devour books for multiple reasons — dyslexia, little interest, busy scrolling, etc. In addition, numerous kids and teens gravitate to books that don't fit any of the criteria I mentioned above. Instead, they consistently choose what a friend calls "junk books."

Today I am writing about the importance of examining our expectations, hopes, and dreams for our kids' reading and sharing ideas to help create fewer disappointments and a broader view of what "success" looks like regarding reading:

### **Withhold criticism of reading choices**

I regret being as judgy as I was about the books my daughter read in her tween and early teen years. She loved the romance genre of books of which I worried about stereotypes, over-focusing on looks, hyper-sexualized messages, and the list goes on.

I wished she picked books with fewer stereotypes and a wider variety of genres.

Although I didn't overtly put Tessa down for reading those books, I would say little things here and there that inferred I was not happy about her choices.

Looking back, I wish I could have been more appreciative of her reading and less worried about what she was reading.

### **Appreciate the upsides of audiobooks**

My friend Liz, a former reading specialist, told me her son struggled with reading. Reading was taxing for him throughout high school, and it is still now in college. The good news is, little by little, things are getting better. Listening to audiobooks and, at times, following along with the text has helped him a lot. He did this in high school and sometimes still uses this tool in college.

There is much to be gained from just listening to stories, even if not following along with the actual text. Being swept away into a story is a fantastic feeling. In addition to enjoyment, stories provide new perspectives on human nature, relationships, and more.

Why not just watch movies and shows for stories? Those modes of storytelling fill in so much that the brain loses the opportunity to shape the story creatively. Liz explains that, "...audiobooks allow readers to focus on the rhythm of language. Though we can hear this rhythm in movies too, we are often distracted by images. This is more of a deep dive into language."

There are additional benefits when kids read the text while listening to an audiobook. One is that it increases the chance they will stick with the story. If decoding and processing skills are overly taxed, kids can get frustrated and give up.

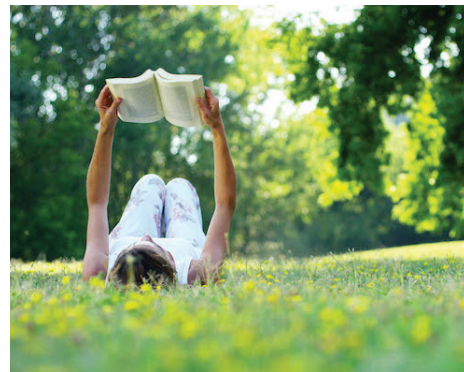
In addition, Liz explains that "By following along with an audiobook, readers can build both fluency and decoding skills without losing comprehension. Pairing text and audio can help kids increase vocabulary acquisition, sight-sound correspondence, and grammar structures."

While all these things are true, at bedtime, print books can help ensure that the pull of the internet is not keeping them from sleep. If audiobooks get used at bedtime, there are ways to decrease the chance that the world wide web will appear, such as having the device out of the room and piping in the book with a Bluetooth speaker.

### **Be a pleasant story listener**

One thing that worked well was when I would find time when we were connecting and having fun to ask about the book she was reading, and often she would tell me about it.

Did I ever want to comment on the problems I saw with the messaging of the book? Yes! But I would save those discussions for a different time and just tried to be jazzed that she read the book and how much I appreciated she was sharing her thoughts about it with me.



Granted, I started doing this more successfully after realizing I had been too judgy too long about her choices.

### **Embrace "yet"**

If you find your kids or teens do not make time for reading books, remember you are not alone. Plenty of kids are not reading much, but often, they turn the corner at some point and get into it more.

I was delighted when Tessa recently recommended that I read Lori Gottlieb's book, *Maybe You Should Talk To Someone*, which I did and loved.

I liked how my friend Liz summarized things, "I think the point with all of this is that whatever captures their attention and whatever matters to them counts and is an entry point."

Remember, you can read a book you wish they would read and talk to them about it later — whether it's *Charlotte's Web* or *The Tapper Twins Go To War*.

Questions to get the conversation started:

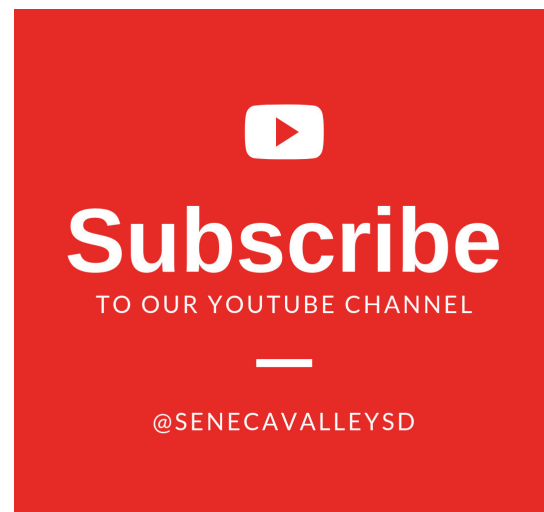
1. Have I ever made you feel a bit defensive about your reading choices?
2. Is there a story you recently read about and can share with me?
3. Is there any short book that seems appealing to read by the end of June?
4. What are our thoughts about listening to stories via audiobooks?
5. Do you, or do you know anyone who has listened to an audiobook while reading the text?

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- SV Senior High School special education job coach paraprofessional Michelle Eppinger was featured in PSEA's HOD Spotlight last month. Check out her interview here: <https://vimeo.com/701357103>.
- **Click here to view the 2021-22 Fourth Nine Weeks Honor Rolls.** ■



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