



RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

MAY 2022

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

The Class of 2022, approximately 600 students, graduated at NextTier Stadium on May 26. Congratulations to all SV Graduates! See photos next page. ■



BOARD APPROVES ADJUSTMENTS TO K-6 ATTENDANCE ZONES

As you are most likely aware, we will be closing Evans City Elementary/Evans City Middle School at the conclusion of this school year, and are excitedly preparing to open Ehrman Crest Elementary/ Ehrman Crest Middle School for the 2022-23 school year. This state-of-the art facility, designed in part with input from the Pittsburgh Children’s Museum, brings many new and unique features that we look forward to sharing with our families when the doors open in the fall.

Due to the physical change in the new K-6 school and a need to study our ever-growing communities, we recently engaged with experts in the field of

demography and feasibility. This in-depth, long-term assessment allowed us to develop an adjustment plan that will ease capacity in all K-6 schools during a time of building transition and incremental population growth. Moving forward, it also allows us to create and expand school facility space for future programs and initiatives. Ultimately, our overall goal is to provide the same kind of exemplary education and class sizes our families have come to expect. These changes will allow us to do that.

The 2022-23 K-6 student attendance zones adjustments were approved by the Seneca Valley School Board on May 9, 2022. A link to the list of adjusted areas, as well as



an interactive dashboard regarding the changes, are available online.

We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting new facility and thank you for your continued support of the Seneca Valley School District.

[Read more about the adjustments to our K-6 attendance zones here.](#) ■

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 3 Last Day for K-11 Students (Early Release; release times will be communicated through your child’s building)
- June 6 Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students
- June 7 Release of Report Cards, Grades 7-12; Release of Student Progress Reports, Grades K-6

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

JUNE

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		

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS *continued from page 1*

Photo credit: Bill Paterson and Bill Sauers Photography

OF SPECIAL NOTE:

Speakers:

Nicholas Nedzesky - Co-Valedictorian

Daniel Spear - Co-Valedictorian

Julia Lingenfelter - Salutatorian

Ava Katzenell - Speaker At-Large

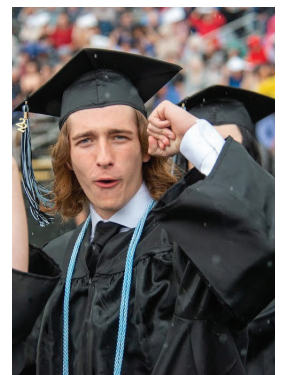
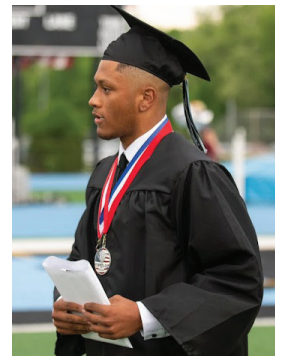
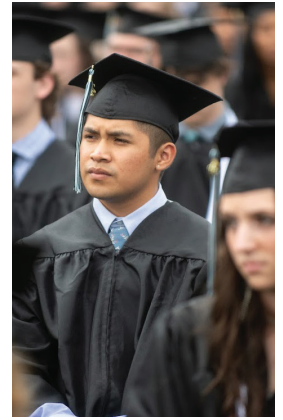
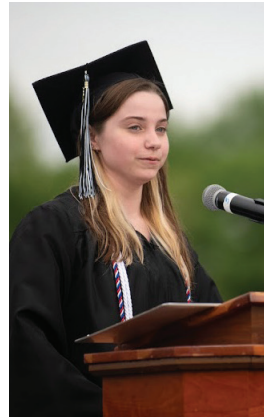
Senior Class Officers:

Dawson Ward - President

Tanush Nelikil - Vice President

Zoe Simpson - Secretary

Luke Simpson - Treasurer



FINAL STEPS

Seniors took the final steps to close out their academic year by presenting their Graduation Projects on Friday, May 13, in front of a panel of judges that consisted of SV faculty, staff and community members. Seniors work on their Graduation Project throughout

the year then get the opportunity to share their projects and what they've learned. Projects vary and can include presentations about community service, comparative research, fundraising and more! ■



ROTARY DONATION HELPS SV STUDENTS PUT THEIR BEST FOOT FORWARD

A generous donation from the Cranberry Sunrise Rotary Club is helping Seneca Valley seniors dress for success as they presented their Graduation Project, attend commencement ceremonies and even prepare for job interviews. The Cranberry Sunrise Rotary club donated \$1,000 toward professional attire to assist seniors in need of clothes for upcoming events.

This year, Seneca Valley's Graduation Project partnered with **No Cost to Shop**, an on-campus store at the Senior High School available to students in grades 7-12 that provides free clothing, shoes, accessories, hygiene products and more to students in need.

An "angel tree" was created and shared among the SV faculty to help gather donations. Several teachers helped by sponsoring a whole outfit (top, bottom, shoes) and others sponsored single items, but more donations were needed.

Natalie Green, Seneca Valley Senior High School English Teacher and Graduation Project Coordinator reached out to Rotary members to see if this initiative would be a community service project their clubs would be interested in. Ms. Green received both monetary and clothing donations from other Rotary clubs including



the \$1,000 donation from the Cranberry Sunrise Rotary club. This money was used to purchase the remaining items on the wish list which consisted of nine full outfits plus extras like undershirts, socks and belts.

"Cranberry Sunrise Rotary's gift will help students put their best foot forward and to greet the next chapter of their lives with confidence. The Rotary is helping students now with the outfits, but their gift will have a long-term impact too. They're also showing our students that others care about them, and that there's community support rallying around them," said Ms. Green.

"Serving young people has long been a part of Rotary. In 1949, the Rotary International Board adopted a slogan, 'Every Rotarian an Example to Youth' as an expression of commitment to children and youth in each community in which Rotary clubs exist. Youth service projects take many forms. When we heard of the need for clothing, we felt that it was the perfect opportunity to help these young people. As Rotarians, we have the opportunities to be role models for the young people of our community. One learns to serve by observing others. As our youth grow to become adults, we hope that they will achieve the same desire and spirit to help future generations. We are honored to have the opportunity to serve our community," said Elayne Wilhelm, Cranberry Sunrise Rotarian. ■

POSTER STUDENT

We are pleased to announce the exciting news that Rowan Elementary second grader Eliana Kang has been named a winner in the 2022 National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) Earth Day poster contest.

Miss Kang placed fourth for the second grade entries in the Pittsburgh area.

The students were invited to design their posters around the theme, "What Will You Do to Stop Climate Change," featuring their favorite ways to restore the Earth and its precious resources in recognition of this planet-centric day.

Each year, NETL holds an Earth Day poster

contest for elementary school children to showcase their favorite ways to protect the environment.

According to their website, involving children in activities that center around the environment embodies the message of Earth Day while encouraging creative expression and the development of an early interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). NETL's STEM Education and Outreach team capitalizes on these principles when bringing STEM into the classroom, which helps cultivate children's thinking skills and inspires the next generation of innovators to care for our planet.

First-, second-, third- and fourth-place



winning posters are currently displayed on NETL's website (<https://netl.doe.gov/education/earth-day>) and were also forwarded to the U.S. Department of Energy headquarters in Washington, D.C. for display there. ■

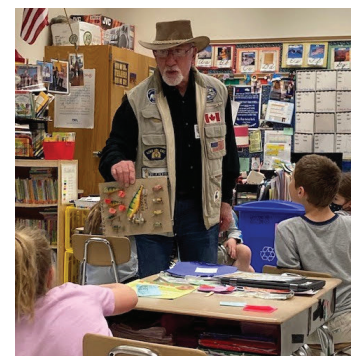
HANDS-ON LESSON

Students from Evans City Middle School rolled up their sleeves and learned more about composting. Sixth grade Science/Social Studies teachers, Ms. Stephanie Chiapusio and Mr. Stephen Adams created a worm project to go along with their soil unit. The teachers made worm farms (that they housed in a secure bin) for their classrooms. These farms were used as a tool for students to learn more about soil and composting. The students even collected leftover food from their classmates at lunch to feed the worms in a safe and healthy way. ■



WILD LESSONS

Angela Cardillo's second graders at Rowan Elementary listened with baited breath as a special classroom visitor shared with them his knowledge and insight on fishing. Covering all aspects of this popular outdoor activity, Mr. Cardillo (Ms. Cardillo's father) explained to them what a SMART angler is, gave an overview of the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission and even detailed safety measures. Some brave students even held the wiggly live bait. They were hooked! Additionally, McConnells Mill State Park Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Michael Shaffer also visited the second graders this month to share various PA animal pelts and items. ■



KEEPING HAINE BEAUTIFUL

Several students at Haine Middle School took advantage of the beautiful weather and made their campus even more beautiful by participating in a Litter Free School Zone clean-up day. They collected eight(!) garbage bags of trash from throughout the campus, which included ballfields, parking lots, walking trails and playgrounds.

The Litter Free School Zone program is designed to encourage students to keep their school grounds litter-free and to raise public awareness regarding litter via a Litter Free School Zone sign to be displayed outside the school.

Keeping schools litter-free is an easy and fun way for students to work together and learn valuable community leadership and responsibility skills while gaining respect for the environment and the world around them. ■



GETTING DOWN TO SCIENCE

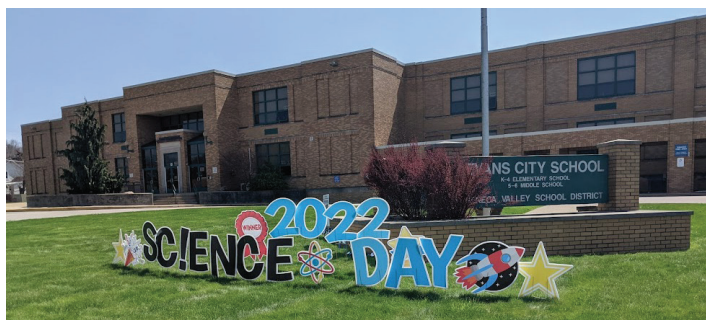
Evans City Schools took science to a whole new level when they hosted an outdoor Science Day which showcased a variety of hands-on activities and experiments for all to enjoy – including some tasty treats from food trucks!

Many local businesses supported Science Day by providing demonstrations that included animal science with different farm animals, body movement and force from

Premier Martial Arts and more. Carnegie Mellon University's Autonomous racing division also came by with their race car and a few of their scale models including a 1909 Buick that showcased the evolution of the car. Students also enjoyed an Egg-straordinary Egg Challenge where they created a holding container for a raw egg that was dropped from the fire departments ladder, 20 feet in the air.



Other fan favorites included a giant pool of oobleck that the children could play and get as messy as they wanted to which allowed them to feel the differences of a non-Newtonian fluid versus regular fluids. There was also an art table for students to make rocks of encouragement to help spread community cheer. ■



STOMP OUT CANCER

Students at Evans City Elementary and Evans City Middle School gained even more memories leading up to the closure of their school when they were joined by the Pittsburgh Pirate Parrot, the Chick-Fil-A cow and Riverhounds mascots during the 14th annual Saulle's Teddy Bear Official Memorial Parade (STOMP) Out Cancer Walk, an event honoring and remembering those that have battled cancer.

This year's event raised nearly \$3,000 for Allegheny Health Network's Genomics Insight Fund. Donations will be used to purchase cancer genomics equipment and instrumentation for cancer screening and related research testing and analysis.

STOMP participants have raised almost \$200,000 over the past 14 years with all of the money going to cancer research. This walk began in 2008 in memory of a Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Linda Saulle, who taught at Evans City Elementary and lost her battle with cancer in 2007. Today it honors all families touched by this disease throughout our local area. ■



GREAT INVESTMENTS LEAD TO WIN IN STOCK MARKET GAME

Seneca Valley sixth graders made great investments that led to a win in a recent Stock Market Game. Evans City Middle School (ECMS) students Noah Ponchek, Bryson Valentovich and Connor Mackrell won second place in the Stock Market Game where they competed against 128 other teams from across the region within the Middle School Division. The ECMS team participated in the Stock Market Game through their math enrichment Purpose class and had an impressive equity of \$108,922.83, with an 8.92% return.

The Stock Market Game is an online competitive simulation of the global capital markets that engages students in the world of economics, investing, and personal finance and prepares them for financially independent futures.

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 hands-on learning experiences.



After the Stock Market Game, all three boys attended the Western Region 2022 Awards Ceremony at Butler County Community College where they received awards and certificates for their accomplishment. They also had the opportunity to enjoy lunch and take in words of wisdom from the President of BC3, Dr. Nicholas Neupauer. ■

FIT KIDS

Second graders in Amanda Bondi's classroom recently raced to the finish line.

This past month, students participated in the Pittsburgh Marathon events and the class ran the Chick-fil-A one mile with their families.

Ms. Bondi incorporated many lessons from "The 7 Habits of Happy" into her student's daily lives at school and at home. Habit 7 is



"Sharpen the Saw," which includes keeping your mind and body healthy, and the class did just that over the last three months.

"We have trained since February for this race and the kids did absolutely amazing," exclaimed Ms. Bondi. ■

STATE CHAMPS

The Seneca Valley Academic Games Team excelled at the Pennsylvania State Academic Games Competition, known as the Tri-Bowl. The Tri-Bowl took place at Grove City College, where fifth and sixth grade students from Haine Middle School (HMS) and Evans City Middle School (ECMS) competed with schools from all across the commonwealth in four different games during the two-day competition.

In the game of LinguisHTIK, a team from SV won first place, and are PA State Champions. The new state champion team was made up of Anna Ching, Jovan Kodic, Wyatt Ward, Liam Sharp and Caleb Gretz. SV teams also placed third, fourth, and fifth in the state. The third-place team was made up of Joey LaGamba, Dahlia Marcin, Alex Meeder, Caelan Buchanan and Erin Sbrola. The fourth-place team consisted of Monique Polas, Nico Wheeler, Charlotte Bogdan, George Shattahi

and Cole Draskovich. The fifth-place team was made up of Max Cisse, Seliah Catterall, Lauryn Fencik, Riya Patel and Jonah Verdi.

In the game of Propaganda, SV finished in second place. The PA State runner-up team was made up of Anna Ching, Liam Sharp, Caelen Buchanan, Erin Sbrolla and Lauryn Fencik. An SV team also placed in fourth which consisted of Dahlia Marcin, Seliah Catterall, Tyler Lowes, Cole Draskovich and Breanna Zimmerman. In addition, Anna Ching, Liam Sharp, Breanna Zimmerman and Dahia Marcin scored in the top ten percent of the competition.

In the game of Equations, SV won first place, and are PA State Champions. The new state champion team was made up of Caleb Gretz, Liam Sharp, Eli Kopchinsky, Tyler Lowes and Anna Ching. SV teams also placed in second, third and fifth. The second-place team consisted of Jonathan Brower, Gavin Sperry, Seliah Catterall, Wyatt Ward and George



Shattahi. The third-place team featured Rahdin Esni, Monique Polas, Jason Hoeltzel, Breanna Zimmerman and Jonah Verdi. The fifth-place team was made up of Max Cisse, Caden Weinrich, Jovan Kodic, Joey LaGamba and Alex Meeder.

As for the Presidents Game, SV won first place, and are PA State Champions. The new state champion team featured Anna Ching, Max Cisse, Lauryn Fencik, Rahdin Esni and Jovan Kodic. An SV team also placed fifth which consisted of Keegan Oldenski, Caleb Gretz, Erin Sbrolla, Cole Draskovich and Ky Biertempfel. In addition, Anna Ching and Caleb Gretz scored in the top ten percent of the competition. ■

ACADEMIC GAMES EQUALS SUCCESS

Seneca Valley students competed against approximately 1,200 other students from schools all over the country in the Academic Games National Championships, which took place at the Convention Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, April 22-25.

There are four divisions in the Academic Games, made up of Elementary (grades 5-6), Middle (grades 7-8), Junior (grades 9-10) and Senior (grades 11-12). Students then compete in seven types of games: Equations, On-Sets, Linguishtik, Theme, Propaganda, Current Events and Presidents.

In the Elementary Division, Anna Ching won the Sweepstakes Overall Award. She was also named third place overall best player in the nation, along with National Champion in the On-Sets and a third-place team member in Theme. For Current Events, Caelen Buchanan was a second-place team member and Kai Biertempfel and Rahdin Esni were third-place team members. For Propaganda, the following students received Honorable Mention team members: Caelan Buchanan, Anna Ching, Lauryn Fencik, Erin Sbrolla and Liam Sharp.

In the Middle Division of the Game of Propaganda, Albert Pimenov was awarded National Champion. Maddox Grupp was a fourth-place individual and a seventh-place team member. Arvand Esni, Heath Lyon and Albert Pimenov were eighth-place team members. For the Game of Current Events, Arvand Esni, Sarah Ghaffar and Roshini Umesh were fourth-place team members.

Within the Junior Division, Megan Holby was a fourth-place team member for both Current Events and Theme. Lydia Miller was also a fourth-place team member and a fifth-place individual in Current Events. In the Game of Propaganda, Katie Mack and Lihini Ranaweera were third-place team members. In Linguishtik, Rohin Jayaraman, Katie Mack, Lihini Ranaweera and Lydia Miller were fourth-place team members.

In the Senior Division, Jason Chen was a second-place individual and third-place team member in the Game of Propaganda.

The Academic Games Leagues of America (AGLOA) National Tournament was canceled the last two years, meaning that current Seneca Valley seniors haven't attended the tournament since they were freshmen.



"To have these kids come to Nationals after a two-year hiatus and achieve at such a high level makes me so proud as their coach. So much of the work they do for these games is done on their own, and all the medals and trophies we came home with is a testament to how much work our kids did at all the grade levels," said Michael Stebbins, Seneca Valley Senior High School Librarian and head of Academic Games.

The AGLOA provides a series of Academic Games competitions throughout the nation, culminating in the AGLOA National Tournament in late spring each year. Players from around the country gather and compete in several academic games to see which are the best teams and who are the best individual players. ■

TWO SCHOOLS, ONE CAUSE

Five students from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) captured the hearts of audiences far and wide and inspired other SV students when they spearheaded a school-wide fundraiser to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Ukrainian-decent students, Walter Killey, Annika Kyyashko, Daniela Tyrpak, Alisa Yeremenko and Jack Helmecki raised over \$5,000 and donated all their proceeds to UNICEF's efforts to help children in the Ukraine.

Publishing powerhouse, [Scholastic News](#), featured this amazing story that's read by



over 6 million students across the U.S. and produced a powerful video that shares the story with their student readers/viewers.

The remarkable fundraising efforts by the students from RGMS inspired sixth grade



students from Evans City Middle School (ECMS) to hold a fundraiser benefiting the same cause. Rachel Yoho spearheaded the fundraiser, and quickly gathered support from Makayla Jabaut, other classmates and the SV Squad. Together, they worked hard making sunflower pins and sold them during both the Evans City Elementary and Middle School Open Houses. The ECMS students raised \$900 and received multiple donations, bringing the grand total to about \$2,700.

[Read the full story here.](#)

[Watch the video here.](#) ■

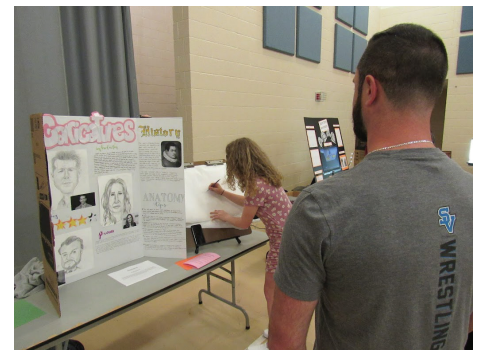
SCENARIO SHOWCASE

The Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) Gifted students presented their projects earlier this month for Scenario Showcase, an event where over 130 seventh and eighth grade students showed captivating projects that they have worked on all year long.

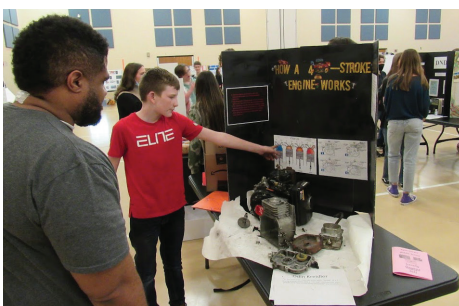
The purpose of the Scenario Showcase is to celebrate the achievements, creativity and innovative thinking shown by the RGMS Gifted students who undertook the challenge of designing and completing an independent scenario project. Some projects included building an X-Ray machine, designing shoes, recording music, designing amusement

parks and golf courses, animal tracking and much more. One student even held a district-wide food drive, collecting nearly 7,000 nonperishable food items that were distributed to local families in need.

"I am very proud of the way that students have worked through the process of completing a year-long project. With COVID, our students have been completing projects that have culminated in a virtual showcase," said Mr. Zeke Stroupe, RGMS Gifted Support teacher. "With that being said, preparing products for the public to see is new to all these students and they have done an amazing job. Students have completed shoe drives, food drives, sports psychology



seminars, mountain biking clubs, writing books, and even creating an X-Ray machine. It has been incredible to watch them thrive while studying topics that they chose at the beginning of the year." ■



ROBOTS, ACTIVATE

Seneca Valley students geared up for the Raider Robotics Rally, April 25-27, at the Senior High School (SHS). This event allowed students to showcase what they worked on throughout the entire year.

Some of the events included a Raider Robotics Sponsor Day which gave sponsors and donors a chance to view the facilities, speak to the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) and Battle Bot Teams and see how their generous donations have impacted the team this season. Other activities included a robot arena, a Raider Robotics Speaker Series and an open house that invited parents and students to learn more about Seneca's robotic initiatives.

The week ended with the SV Raider Robotics Team and a neighboring team from Freepport Area High School competing in their very own Battle Bot competition.

"The robotics initiative at Seneca Valley School District is nothing short of



incredible," said Mr. Steve Fortunato, Seneca Valley Senior High School Applied Engineering & Technology Teacher. "Due to the support of our administration and community, we have been able to build a



K-12 program that encourages all students to explore the vast world of robotics in a way that keeps a curiosity for learning at the forefront." ■

SV BIOLOGY CLUB MEMBERS DOMINATE DOMAIN

The Seneca Valley Biology Club dominated the domain winning first and second place at the Butler County Envirothon last month.

The first-place team attended the state level competition in Mifflinburg, PA on May 25. Team members include Natalie Camilli, Zoe Schultz, Katie Kerr, Ash Stewart and Rowan Jones.

Second place team members include Gretchen Kellar, Victoria Pimenova, Lexi Snyder, Miranda Wiggins and Rylie Butler.

The Envirothon is a natural resources competition that includes topics in Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use and Current Environmental Issues. Each team applies what they have studied in these areas during this outdoor competition. The competition is managed by our state agencies, including the Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, PA Department of Agriculture and Conservation of Natural Resources.

Hundreds of teachers and professionals throughout Pennsylvania guide high school students through this natural resource environmental education program that combines classroom learning and outdoor activities. Seneca Valley Senior High School Biology Teacher Dana Hadley advises the Seneca Valley group. ■



10TH IN THE NATION

The Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon placed tenth in the nation and earned three individual national medals at the United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) National Competition.

Back in March, the SV Academic Decathlon team took first place at the (USAD) State Competition in Philadelphia, which advanced them to represent Pennsylvania for the USAD National Competition which was held virtually, April 21-23.

The top high school per state qualified for Nationals, and students competed virtually for all 10 events (including Speech and Interview via Zoom).

In addition to placing tenth in the nation, Ava Stewart, junior won the bronze Science Honor and the Highest Scoring Team Member award, Rayan Ghaffar, senior earned the silver for Essay Scholastic, Katherine Hilling, junior won the silver for Interview Varsity and Nancy Chen, junior won Most Valuable Team Member award.

The Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon team members include Ava Stewart, Nicholas Nedzesky, Ashley Kemp, Nancy Chen, Quang Nguyen, Rayan Ghaffar, Shivani Umesh, Shanker Pillai and Katherine Hilling.

“Every year, new students join the Academic Decathlon team and quickly learn how to compete at the local, regional, state, and



national level. I am impressed with our students and their ability to excel in all subject areas, including speech and interview! The best part of coaching Academic Decathlon is watching students work together as a team to understand the topic for the year and help one another improve in multiple subjects. These students become more than just teammates, they become great friends. This year the team studied Water: An Essential Resource. Next year, the 2022-2023 topic is The American Revolution,” said Seneca Valley Senior High School Teacher and Academic Decathlon coach David Reichard. ■

ART SUCCESS

Seneca Valley exceptional students from Jason Shorr’s Art Elements class had a variety of vivid artwork virtually displayed at the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV’s (MIU IV) 2022 Very Special Arts Exhibit.

The virtual exhibit included pieces from Kasen Shulsky and Ian Boyd who both won Juror’s Choice Awards and Nick Berger who won Executive Director’s Creativity Award for his piece “Warhol Style Self-Portrait.”

“It’s always exciting to enter student artwork into the Intermediate Unit’s Very Special Arts exhibit. This year I had the opportunity to work with several students who did an outstanding job with their creations. It was tough to decide which pieces to even enter,” said Mr. Jason Shorr, Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Visual Art Teacher.

Since 1989, MIU IV’s Very Special Arts has celebrated the abilities of special needs students (K-12) through an art



exhibit held at Grove City College. From the 30 participants 20 years ago to the 800 participants last year, this regional exhibit brings together students, teachers, families and the general public at an opening reception where the young artists receive certificates and programs listing all participants.

VSA Arts (formerly Very Special Arts) is an international nonprofit organization

affiliated with the education programs of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington D.C. It is designed to give special needs children and adults the opportunity to develop and showcase their creative abilities. Very Special Arts is founded on the belief that the arts are a universal language that challenges people to look beyond themselves and celebrate their diversity. ■

NOT YOUR AVERAGE ESSAY

Two Seneca Valley Juniors received higher recognition than just a good grade on exceptional essays they wrote – they won awards.

Nancy Chen and Maggie Monahan were recently awarded Honorable Mention for their entries in the Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) High School Essay Contest. The students were also recognized with a \$100 prize.

Each year, SACP hosts an essay contest that requires students to respond to a science-related prompt dealing with a current event. Schools in the Greater Pittsburgh area (39 Pennsylvania counties, 10 Ohio counties and 25 West Virginia counties) are permitted to submit no more than two student essays in the competition, and 13 prizes ranging from \$100-\$500 are awarded.

Ms. Kelly Weston selected Miss Chen's and Miss Monahan's essays after they wrote about this year's theme in 2,500

words or less, explaining why increasing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses in schools help students learn and understand how to solve many of the problems the United States and the world are currently facing.

"I am very proud to say that both of my students won Honorable Mention in the SACP High School Essay Contest," said the Seneca Valley Senior High School Advanced Placement Chemistry Teacher. "This is the second year in a row both of our submissions from Seneca



Valley have won cash prizes. This essay was given as an option for one of their writing assignments in AP Chemistry. I really try to incorporate real-world problems and activities into my AP Chemistry class and am thankful to SACP for sponsoring this contest and everything they do for chemistry education." ■

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Four girls from the Seneca Valley School District recently achieved their Silver Awards and were honored at a ceremony at the Carnegie Science Center.

Only 10% of all Girl Scouts achieve this level and it represents a sustainable project of at least 50 hours. To complete this project, the girls must have already completed several other programs and either the Bronze level award or several "Journey" projects with community action requirements.

Sydney Brower and Sonya Dietz (pictured) of Troop 26667 collaborated with Cranberry Twp. and the Borough of Seven Fields to paint signage near at least 300 Storm Drains on the east side of Route 19.

Victoria Matchett of Troop 26667 partnered with the



Zelienople-Harmony Sportsman's Club to build a kayak dock that would provide a safe entry for club members entering the water using a kayak. Previously, members had to use a boat dock which is set much higher above the water than a kayak dock.

Addison McLane of Troop 26531 created Cards for Caring as a resource people can use to send seasonal and birthday cards they've made to the residents of Sherwood Oaks. ■

STUDENTS PLEDGE TO BE ALLIES

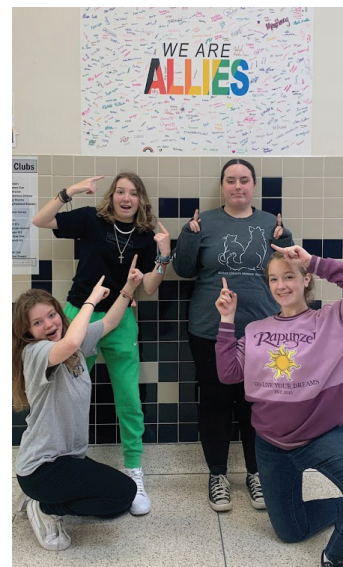
I Include. You Belong. We Unite.

Seneca Valley students, grades 9-12, embraced the ally pledge and launched a solidarity week April 25-29 in the high schools. Students led the campaign, which was developed with the goal of building collective support for LGBTQ+ students and educators.

The week-long activities allowed others to learn about and practice solidarity

with their peers and others so all can feel comfortable embracing their true identities.

In addition to pledge banner signings and social media posts, activities included a spirit week where students were encouraged to wear various colors and pledge pins to show support. Students also had the opportunity to attend an after-school ally workshop and open house. ■



'NIGHT AT THE CASINO'

Seneca Valley students played their cards right when they voted on this year's prom theme, "Night at the Casino."

Prom-goers celebrated in style at Stage AE on Saturday, May 14.

Earlier this month, seniors chose 20 classmates to represent their prom court. The ladies of the 2022 Prom Court are Payon Aloï, Jojo Baur, Brianna Beers, Julianna Brock, Emma Davis, Brooke Eckenrode, Alaina Ekstam, Abby O'Shea, Rachel Summers and Emily Todd.

The gentlemen of the court include Brady Beauregard, Jack Beauregard, Ryan Breeger, Aidan Drake, Maxx Frazier, Trey Hixon, Alex Mortier, Tanush Nelikil, Owen Tekelenburg and Dawson Ward.

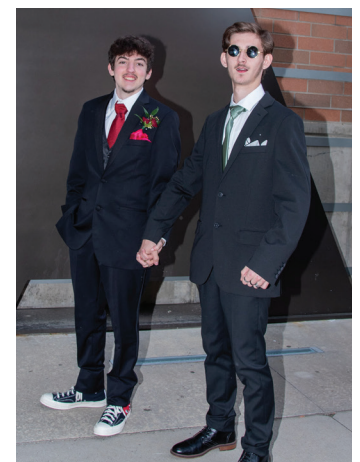
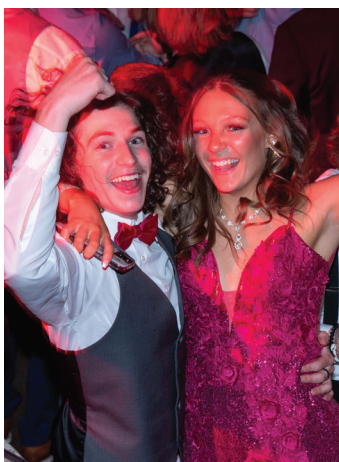
At the event, Emily Todd was crowned queen and Trey Hixon king.

Emily is the daughter of Glenn and Stephanie Todd of Cranberry Township.

Trey is the son of Tammy and the late Donald Hixon of Renfrew.

Congratulations to Seneca Valley's 2022 Prom Queen and King! ■

Photo credit: Bill Sauers Photography





GRAND CHAMPIONS, AGAIN

The Seneca Valley Marching Band was named the Grand Champions in the Norfolk North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Festival's "Parade of Nations" in Norfolk, VA, held on April 30.

In addition to the Grand Champion award, the highest score of any ensemble at the festival, the marching band also earned the best overall music performance award, best percussion award, best auxiliaries award and a gold rating.

SV was one of only 17 high school bands selected nationwide to be in the parade. This was the first in-person band trip in two years and the first band trip for many individual students.

The Norfolk NATO Festival hosted its 69th annual "Parade of Nations," the longest continuously running parade in the region and the only parade in the United States honoring NATO. At the parade, there were over 75 parade units with local and visiting high school bands, U.S. and International Military bands, and colorful floats that represented each of the 30 NATO Member Nations.

"It was a wonderful trip. The students represented themselves and our District very well. Seeing the students' faces filled with excitement and a sense of



accomplishment was a priceless moment! I have to admit, there were a few tears of joy. We are very thankful that the District supports student travel in the performing arts department. Having the students see the direct results of their hard work and dedication validates the entire experience," said Varden Armstrong, Seneca Valley Marching Band Director and Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Performing Arts Coordinator.

In addition to the parade, students enjoyed a day at Busch Gardens Amusement Park, trips to Ripley's Believe It or Not and Dave & Buster's, a dinner-dance cruise and an amazing performance from the Virginia International Tattoo at Scope Arena. ■



TRIP OF A LIFETIME

An inaugural orchestra trip left students with memories that will last a lifetime and provided upcoming members exciting trips to look forward to.

This was the first time the Seneca Valley Orchestra took an orchestra trip. They visited Norfolk, VA and Virginia Beach from April 28-May 1.

While there, the musicians participated in the Performing Arts Consultant Music Festival and received a rating of Excellent as well as a Silver rating.

“I thought it was an excellent first trip and I am so proud of the student’s performance,” stated Seneca Valley Orchestra Director Sarah Miller. “I cannot wait for future trips.”

In addition to their adjudication, students enjoyed a day at Busch Gardens Amusement Park, trips to Ripley’s Believe



It or Not and Dave & Buster’s, a dinner-dance cruise and an amazing performance

from the Virginia International Tattoo at Scope Arena. ■

SV CHOIR GOES TO WASHINGTON

After a two-year hiatus from chorus trips, the Seneca Valley Choirs, grades 8-12, enjoyed visiting Washington, D.C. April 22-25.

Students were able to tour and sing under the 190-foot high dome of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle and also performed at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial on April 23.

The singers also played tourists and visited The World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorials, as well as the Smithsonian Museums. They were able to see the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery and honor Sgt. 1st Class Ryan A. Gloyer (SV '00), who is laid to rest there.

“In addition to performances and touring, the students enjoyed the ‘Spirit of Washington’ dinner cruise on the Potomac, had dinner with Knights on horseback at Medieval Times, enjoyed a day at Kings Dominion Amusement Park and visited the Flight 93 National Memorial on the way home,” said Seneca Valley Choir Director Bobi-Jean Alexander. “The students were so appreciative to learn lessons and independence outside of the classroom.

Their conduct was exemplary, and their smiles said it all!”

Seneca Valley secondary choirs are led by teachers Mr. Aaron Magill, Ms. Claire Barker and Ms. Alexander. ■



'TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME'

Over 200 SV singers (plus an additional 500 Seneca Valley "fans") performed the National Anthem at PNC Park for a Pirates Game on April 27.

"The students had missed out on important opportunities to sing during closures in 2020 and 2021. So, this year, the eighth grade

chorus combined with singers in grades 9 and 10 to make up for lost time," said Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Choir Director Bobi-Jean Alexander. "The students joined together for an amazing performance that appeared on the Jumbotron and had a fun evening watching the game and dancing with the Pirate Parrot!" ■



'SIGNING DAY'

The Seneca Valley Performing Arts department celebrated students who will be pursuing performing arts related fields in college by organizing its second annual "Signing Day." Students and families were invited to participate by having a picture taken to commemorate their decision. The Seneca Valley Performing Arts department includes band, choir, orchestra, dance, theatre and video production students. ■



Emily Vlasnik - Indiana University
Bloomington, Jacobs School of Music, Dance Performance



Julian Lagoon - Belmont University,
Music Business



Owen Nichols - Point Park University,
College of Performing Arts, Animation



Alex Mortier - Florida State University,
Vocal Performance



Emily Lopez - Point Park University,
College of Performing Arts, Cinema Production



Trey Hixon - Slippery Rock University,
Music Education



Rebekah Heltzell - Slippery Rock University,
Music Education



Alaina Althouse - Penn State University,
Minor in French Horn Performance



Akira Newman - Slippery Rock University,
Theater/Acting



Eli Peel - Wright State University,
Acting/Musical Theater

SV THESPIANS PRESENT ANNUAL 'SPRING PLAY'

The Seneca Valley Thespians presented their annual spring play this May, titled "Ghostlight." The show was a lighthearted, paranormal fantasy revolving around a high school girl named Garbiela.

Theatrically staged using the production's audience and live sound effects, "Ghostlight" had hilarious characters, unexpected twists and a surprise finale. Senior Dalryn Schuster shared, "I was so honored to be a part of this production for my last show at SV. 'Ghostlight' will certainly become the standard by which dramatic suspense and ghost stories will be measured. For the audience, the play is filled with bittersweet and funny moments of adolescence that make you laugh mixed with profoundly dark scenes touching on the harsh realities of life. The author managed to wrap these presents up in a mysterious box of supernatural wonder. As a Thespian, this production was the greatest challenge of my high school career and



I thank everyone involved with this awesome production." Freshman Madeliene Tomo was cast as Garbiela's ghostly best friend, Fantine added, "The Spring Play was one of the best things I've done my freshman year. It was great to work with a smaller cast of talented actors. I also thoroughly enjoyed how much stage time there was for each character. Plus, the mystery aspect was fun to figure out as we went through the play in rehearsals." ■

NEW INDUCTEES

The Seneca Valley Thespian Troupe #2094 recently inducted 17 new members.

New inductees include Ayla Alexander (9), Colin Berger (9), Emilia Garcia (10), Ella Gemperlein (10), Sky Harvin (11), Meg Hilling (10), Hannah Hwang (9), Graham Logue (10), Cecelia Matusiak (11), Patrick Monahan (10), Giulia Siegfried (10), Christian Schuster (9), Parker Spence (9), Ben Stanton (10), Madeleine Tomo (9), Callum Williams (10), and Emma Zelesnak (10).

The International Thespian Society (ITS) is the only theatre honor society for high school students in the United States. Affiliation brings credibility and distinction



to students, theatre programs and schools. ITS recognizes, rewards and encourages student achievement and celebrates the work of students in all aspects of theatre – performance and production. Each student is honored on a national level and gains

access to opportunities and resources beyond those of their school. Membership requires dedication and service to the Theatre Arts.

"This is a prestigious organization recognized beyond the high school level," said Ms. Amber Hugus, Troupe Sponsor. "It truly is an honor to be accepted into the Thespian Society. It is an amazing opportunity for students to connect with others who love the theatre and to share in experiences to help shape their theatre education."

Current President Greta Schmidt and Vice President Eli Peel served as emcees and inductors for the ceremony that occurred in May. ■

SIDE-BY-SIDE

Four Seneca Valley students, Aaron Sedlak, Alaina Althouse, Maddie Shipe and Sabrina Lin (pictured left to right), participated in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) side-by-side concert at Heinz Hall on May 10.

Participants had to be recommended by a teacher and had to submit an application and a letter of reference. During this unique performance, students played with world-class musicians of the PSO.

During this unique performance students performed with the world-class musicians of the PSO.

Students and musicians performed "Finlandia," "Peer Gynt Suite," and "Danzon No. 2" under the direction of Moon Doh, PSO assistant conductor.

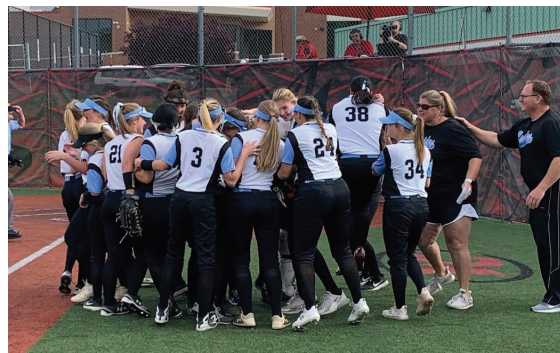


"It was a dream come true," stated senior cellist Aaron Sedlak. "I have wanted to play at Heinz Hall since I began playing the cello in fourth grade." ■



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RAIDER ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – MAY 2022

On Wednesday, May 25, I had the privilege to witness, in the words of Jim McKay, “The thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat.” My day started at Fox Chapel High School as I watched our fourth-seeded Raider softball team defeat top-seed and defending WPIAL champion Hempfield by a score of 7-2. Senior Maddie Gross’ three-run homer in the top of the first would be all the Raiders needed to secure the victory. Leaving no doubt, inning by inning, this team added to their lead and stellar pitching by freshman Lexie Hames and smart defensive play behind her secured the win and the program’s first trip to the WPIAL finals since 2011. Seneca Valley will take on North Allegheny in the WPIAL championship game on June 1. By virtue of their appearance in the district finals, the Raiders will also find themselves in the PIAA state championship bracket which starts Monday, June 6.



Unfortunately, Jim’s words had a second part and that is the “agony of defeat.” In this case, it was a truly agonizing and heartbreaking result for our boys’ volleyball team as they fell 21-19 in the fifth set to second-seeded North Allegheny, finishing as WPIAL 3A boys’ volleyball runner-up for the second consecutive season. These two teams split during the regular season, with the Raiders halting the Tiger’s 75-match win streak in early May. By virtue of that victory, our Raiders earned the top-seed and advanced easily through the bracket for a rematch with the Tigers on the campus of Robert Morris University. The crowd and support were electric, and the play of this team did not disappoint. In the words of one observer, “there was no loser tonight.” The intensity of the match was on par with the talent and grit of both teams. The back and forth affair brought out the best and the fight of this team made me proud to be their Athletic Director. I applaud the coaches and players on how you have handled your success with humility and your (two) defeats with grace. The Raiders will begin their quest for a state title with the start of the PIAA championships on May 31. ■



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, APRIL 2022

The Female Athlete of the Month for April was senior softball player Hayley Walter.

Hayley had a stellar April, helping her team to four section wins and five wins overall. A force at the plate, she leads the team in batting average (.519), on base percentage (.527), and hits (28). She has only struck out three times in 54 at bats. For an outstanding month, we recognized Hayley as the April Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Hayley!



The Male Athlete of the Month for April was senior lacrosse player and team captain Reichen Geiselhart.

A two-way midfielder, Reichen has played a key role in team performances this year. He tallied a stellar 19 goals and two assists over five games in April, including a five-goal performance against rival North Allegheny. A Baldwin Wallace Lacrosse commit, we recognize Reichen as the April Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Reichen!



COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2022



Raider student-athletes continue to make their college commitments official through the spring months. We congratulate these seniors in achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. You are tremendous representatives of Raider Athletics and we are very proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Ashley Felitsky	Diving	Duquesne University	Undeclared
Olivia West	Basketball	Columbus State	Biology
Tyler Yurich	Track & Field	U.S. Naval Academy	Elect. Engineering ■

SPRING SPORTS RECAP

Baseball: The Raider baseball team capped off the 2022 season, earning the eighth seed in the WPIAL 6A bracket. In a first-round match-up with nine seed Hempfield, the Raiders advanced with a 4-1 win behind stellar pitching from senior Nate Malak. Next up was top-seeded Mt. Lebanon in a back-and-forth affair that saw four lead changes. The Blue Devils scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning and held on for a 5-4 win in the WPIAL quarterfinals to end our season. The Raiders finished 2022 with an overall mark of 14-8 and 5-5 in section play. Thank you to head coach Eric Semega and the entire staff for guiding this team through another great season.



Boys Lacrosse: Seneca Valley earned the #11 seed in the WPIAL 3A Championship bracket and upended the six seed Bethel Park Blackhawks, 12-7, in the opening round of playoffs. The Raiders squared off against third-seeded Shadyside Academy and fell in the quarterfinal round to close out their season. Thank you to head coach David Hall and the entire staff for leading this team to another successful season in 2022.



Girls Lacrosse: Raider girls lacrosse returned to the WPIAL playoffs in 2022 following great work during the regular season. Seeded ninth, SV traveled to Bethel Park to face the eighth-seeded Blackhawks. In the end, Bethel Park prevailed 16-10 bringing a close to the 2022 campaign. Thank you to head coach Katie Smolter and the entire staff for their work in leading this team back to the 2022 playoffs – it was another good year!



Boys Tennis: Seneca Valley finished the 2022 season with an overall mark of 11-7 and just on the outside looking in at the WPIAL Team championships. Michael DeVyver and Andrew Davis represented the District at the individual sectional tournament and the doubles tandems of Davis & DeVyver and Mark Evelsizer & Victor Myrna were team representatives at the doubles section tournament. Thank you to head coach Eric Grove and the entire staff for leading this team to another successful season.



Track & Field: Congratulations to all our track & field athletes who have recorded personal bests, earned school top-10 performances and have met the PIAA qualifying standards. Both the boys' and girls' teams finished third in section competition, narrowly missing the WPIAL Team championships. Listed below are those student-athletes who medaled at the WPIAL championships and/or qualified for the PIAA championships at Shippensburg University over Memorial Day Weekend.



Boys WPIAL Medalists

Jeremiah Laslavic – 7th place, Triple Jump

Jonathan Price – 2nd place, Triple Jump & 4th place, Long Jump & 5th place, 110m hurdles

Eric Ristey – 4th place, Javelin

Luke Simpson – 2nd place, 1600m & 3rd place, 800m

Tyler Yurich – 3rd place, 100m & 8th place, Long Jump

4 x 100 Relay (Wyatt Craver, Danny Fountain, Brandon Ross, Tyler Yurich) – 3rd place

4 x 400 Relay (Lazaro Correa, Nicholas Foulkrod, Jason Rich, Luke Simpson) – 8th place

Boys PIAA Qualifiers

Jonathan Price – Long Jump & Triple Jump

Eric Ristey – Javelin

Luke Simpson – 1600m & 800m

Tyler Yurich – 100m

4 x 100 Relay (Wyatt Craver, Danny Fountain, Brandon Ross, Tyler Yurich)

Girls WPIAL Medalists

Maddy Berger – 7th place, 100 hurdles

Madison Monahan – 7th place, Pole Vault

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED IN WINTER AND SPRING SPORTS



The Big 56 Conference recently honored all its Big-56 1st team honorees. Listed below are our winter and spring sport honorees to date.

BOYS BASKETBALL

2nd Team	Honorable Mention
Luke Lawson Caiden Oros	Jameson Grieco

GIRLS BASKETBALL

1st Team	2nd Team	Honorable Mention
Olivia West	Jess Bickart	Emerson Peffer

BASEBALL

1st Team	2nd Team	Honorable Mention
A.J. Capizzi Nate Malak Brock White Owen Yarussi	Alex Mortier	Creed Erdos

SOFTBALL

1st Team	2nd Team
Hayley Walter	Maddie Gross Lexie Hames Kara Pasquale

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The following players were honored by coaches as 2022 Class 3A Section 2 All-Stars.

1st Team	2nd Team
Nathan DeGraaf Coleman McDonough Dawson Ward	Grant Hoover Austin Tatusko Aidan Uher ■

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 will be available on [SV Portal](#) starting Wednesday, June 1 - no paperwork may be completed prior to June 1.
- **For FALL SPORTS ALL** paperwork is due in the athletic office no later than 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 4. 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 after June 1, 2022. 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 Wednesday, June 1.
- Complete information available on the District's Athletics website under "Participation and TRYOUT information" starting Wednesday, June 1.
- 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 from 3-7 p.m. - **Drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered – NO physicals this session.**
- Wednesday, July 13 from 8 a.m. – Noon - **Physicals, drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered this session. Note: Physicals limited to 60 total between hours of 8 a.m. - Noon.**
- Wednesday, July 13 from 1-3 p.m. - **Physicals, drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered this session. Note: Physicals limited to 30 total between hours of 1 – 3 p.m.**
- Tuesday, August 2 from 3-7 p.m. - **Drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered – NO physicals this session.**
- Wednesday, August 3 from 8 a.m. – Noon - **Physicals, drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered this session. Note: Physicals limited to 60 total between hours of 8 a.m.- Noon.**
- Wednesday, August 3 from 1-3 p.m. - **Drug testing & baseline concussion testing offered – NO physicals this session. ■**

FOOD TRUCK FRENZY

As a thank you to all of Seneca Valley's hardworking staff throughout the District; teachers, paraprofessionals, food service staff, custodians, secretaries and administrators were treated to a food truck event on May 13, sponsored by the SV Foundation (SVF).

Staff spent a beautiful afternoon outside as they enjoyed their free delicious lunch. Additionally, the SVF was able to give back and support local food businesses.

A big thank you to the following food trucks who participated:

- Steve and Benny's Chicken
- Le Petite Tour De France
- City Fresh Pasta (CFP)
- Old School Italian Food Truck



A 'WORK OF HEART'

May was National Teacher Appreciation Month and we celebrated our SV teachers in a variety of ways. To kick off the festivities, we asked a few teachers to participate in a "Teacher Recruitment" video for the District. What they didn't know was that this was actually a Teacher Appreciation video dedicated to them. Watch the [video](#) to see their reactions as they received the best gift from their number-one fans!

Throughout the month, teachers were recognized by administration, principals and PTA/PTO groups that organized food and special treats. Some events included a teacher lounge makeover, individualized ruler plates, lunches, a nacho bar, a special breakfast and more!

The District also shared "Letters from the Heart" on social media, which featured students who wrote letters to an SV teacher that has gone above and beyond to inspire, comfort and teach them.



LEARNING SPACES DESIGNED TO INSPIRE CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY AND ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Sean McCarty, Seneca Valley Assistant Superintendent, Grades K-6, was requested to be a presenter for the upcoming webinar “Learning Spaces Designed to Inspire” hosted by *Inventionland* Education, a company that creates visually exciting theme-based learning environments by renovating tired or dated spaces or through support within new construction initiatives.

This national webinar for educators will focus on thoughtfully designed, age-appropriate learning spaces and how they’ve been shown to promote student engagement, enhance learning and promote positive school culture.

Dr. McCarty is credited for introducing and initiating the District’s wildly popular Creativity, Innovation & Research Center (CIRC), which serves as a model program for K-6 schools across Pennsylvania. During the webinar he’ll be discussing

how the Seneca Valley School District created these spaces and the inspiration behind the transformation of our libraries into CIRC.

“I am honored to speak at this event and was requested by Inventionland representatives. I worked with this company when we created our Creativity, Innovation & Research Centers in the elementary buildings,” said Dr. Sean McCarty, Seneca Valley Assistant Superintendent, Grades K-6. ■



SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION

Seneca Valley acknowledged our hard-working staff all month long by celebrating our bus drivers, administrative professionals, school nurses and cafeteria workers.

During School Bus Driver Appreciation Day, students delivered gifts, special treats and words of appreciation. Jim Pearson, SV Transportation Director, said, “I have received letters from parents expressing how they appreciate their driver and hope their driver stays to continue driving their children for the Seneca Valley School District. I pass these notes along to the drivers and the expression on their face is priceless.

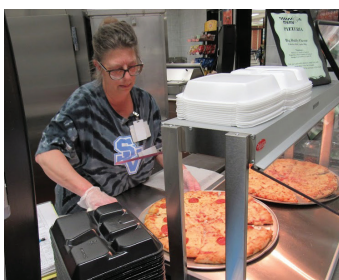
Those responsible for feeding our SV students every week were recognized on School Lunch Hero Day. Our cafeteria staff and meal volunteers prepare healthy food, adhere to strict nutrition standards and navigate student allergies all while offering a service with a smile.

Administrative professionals from Butler County schools were recently treated to a day of lunch and a special tour by the Butler County Vocational Technical School. The group, which included Lisa Mislán, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, was able to witness the outstanding work taking part in the many career pathways at Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (Vo-tech), including the newest one, sports medicine. Look for an



in-depth article on all Vo-tech has to offer coming later this summer.

We honor our nurses at Seneca Valley who make a difference in the lives of children every day. They lead the way to support health and ensure that students are healthy, safe and ready to learn. On National School Nurse Day we created a special webpage that shares an inside look into the lives of our nurses. Visit our [website](#) to read the article. ■



SV ALL-STAR

For the month of May, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Mrs. Val Damiani, Seneca Valley Cyber Service Administrative Assistant.

The SV All-Star Club is an awards program developed by the District to express our gratitude to Seneca Valley classified employees (secretaries, paraprofessionals, maintenance, cafeteria) and bus drivers who are often the unsung heroes of our schools.

Dr. Denise Manganello, Principal of Seneca Valley Academy of Choice: Cyber and Arts shared, “Val Damiani is true star who brightens the way for everyone who comes along her path. She is the friendly voice that answers the phone for the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice and the warm, welcoming smile that greets you as you enter our cyber offices. Always professional, patient, and kind, Val leans in to listen and understand actively and then works diligently to find a solution. She seeks out the best possible solution for every scenario, showcasing the finest qualities of a valid student advocate.

“SVAOC, which is not only our SV cyber program, but each OPT partnering school district and our SV Performing Arts program, each aspect continues to change and evolve as the world changes. Val keeps it all straight and sometimes challenges us to do more than we think we can do because she has genuine empathy for every student and family situation. Val is someone who advocates for others and does what’s right for everyone. Her assertive nature makes her someone we highly respect, value, and admire, someone who is irreplaceable



From L-R: Seneca Valley School Board President Eric DiTullio, Dr. Manganello, Ms. Damiani and Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale.

and genuinely one of a kind, which is why she is the perfect candidate for the SV All-Star Club,” said Dr. Manganello.

Dr. Manganello added, “A person’s most valuable asset is not a head full of knowledge but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen, and a hand willing to help others. And Val leads with kindness, actively listens, and goes above and beyond daily to help others. Thank you, Val, for your leadership and the example you set for us.”

“I appreciate this special recognition and feel fortunate to have a job that allows me to help children, parents and staff in the Seneca Valley School District as well as our partnering districts,” said Mrs. Damiani. “Working with a dedicated cyber team, in an environment of constant change and growth, is busy and exciting. We continually look for ways to improve and do what is best for students, and when the students succeed, it is very rewarding.” ■

‘I LED THE PLEDGE’

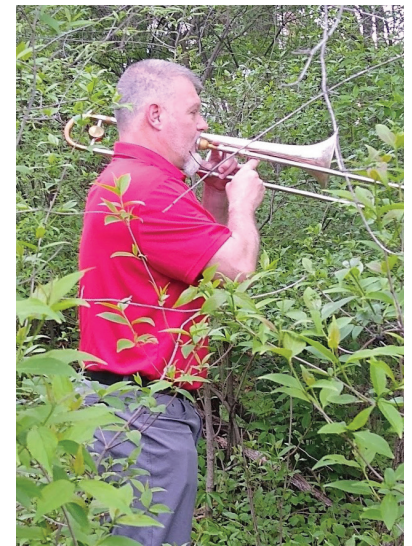
Seneca Valley School District’s School Board meetings were held on May 2 and 9. We were pleased to continue the tradition of inviting elementary students from Seneca Valley’s K-4 schools to lead the members of the School Board and public in saying “The Pledge of Allegiance.” For the May meetings, Haime Elementary School fourth grader Autumn Pype did the honors, and she did a fantastic job! ■

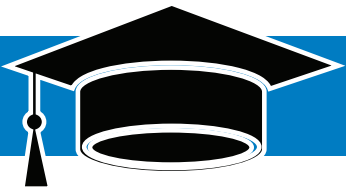


STAFF OF SV

Be sure to check out the latest Staff of SV, a light-hearted feature that was created to share with our followers the more human-interest side of our staff that parents and students don’t always get to see.

This month features CVE Music Teacher Bob Matchett and his love for the great outdoors. Read more at www.svsn.net/StaffofSV. ■





ALUMNI Q&A

Josh Veon, SV '17 Graduate, is currently the founder of Orchard Eight Media. We asked him to catch us up on what he is doing and how Seneca Valley influenced his life and career.

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

A: I attended Westminster College from 2017 to 2021. I graduated with a degree in Marketing and Professional Sales. I started as a Computer Science major and quickly decided that wasn't for me. I eventually changed to Marketing after discovering my love for filmmaking and photography. In 2020 I started Orchard Eight Media to market my video and photography skills. We specialize in creating eye-catching short form content for social media and the web. Since 2020, I have been slowly growing the company each year and have worked on all sorts of unique projects from Dog Calendars to filming for major brands such as Hyatt and Hilton Hotels.

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

A: My family all still resides in Cranberry Township. My sister is currently an SV Senior and will also go on to attend Westminster College. We are a very close family and love to golf.

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

A: I was not interested in photography or videography until after my first year of college. I think at first, I thought it was lame and I wouldn't make any money. I quickly realized I was wrong. I changed my major three times while at Westminster. It took a while for me to find out what I was good at, but it has been so worth it. It is never too late!



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

A: Seneca Valley helped me become the person I am today by providing a fun environment to experiment with ideas during high school. This allowed me to start to figure out what I like and don't like. Post-graduation, the SV alumni network has allowed me to connect with amazing people in business. I still frequently meet people I graduated with but didn't know at the time.

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

A: I think the scale of how big SV is allows you to meet a lot of different people. Also, the resources that SV provides in terms of buildings, technology, and athletics is second to none. The teachers work to push you and let you see your own potential. I think that makes SV a special place.

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

A: My favorite teachers were Mr. Eric Grove (CVE) Mr. Patrick O'Shea (eighth grade), Mr. Gregory Hayward (seventh and twelfth grade) and Mr. Jim Lucot (eleventh grade). I had a lot of great teachers at SV, but these four come to mind first.

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

A: My favorite memories of Seneca Valley go back to CVE. I remember how fun field days were and how much we looked forward to them every year. I also look back at all the friends I made and still make today!

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



A: Keep doing your thing. Teaching is one of the toughest jobs out there. However, the impact you can have on children and teens is so immense. Also don't be afraid to steer away from the norm and try different things. It can make class that much more interesting and engaging.

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

A: Seneca Valley is a very big school district but there are so many activities to be a part of. I would suggest all students get as involved as you can at school. The staff does an exceptional job of making sure every student has equal opportunities. Savor your time in high school. It will go very quickly and before you know it, it will be over. ■





- [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.
- SV's Kennywood Picnic Day is Friday, June 24! Buy your tickets here: <https://www.kennywood.com/> and enter the promo code: SENECAVALLEY.
- ["Take a trip down memory lane," as we prepare to close Evans City Elementary/Middle School at the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year. In this video, we asked current Evans City staff and students to share their favorite memories to commemorate the more than 80 years the school has been open.](#)
- [Click here to apply for the Butler County Youth Leadership program.](#)
- [The Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology published a year end newsletter. Read it here.](#)
- Seven seniors from SV participated in an essay contest for a \$1,000 scholarship from The Georgie Smigel Group. [To read the essays and vote for your favorite, click here.](#) ■



**HIRING
LIFEGUARDS**

**NEW RATE!
\$14/HR**

INDIVIDUALS MUST BE AT LEAST 15 YEARS OF AGE TO APPLY. A CURRENT AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED BEFORE BEGINNING LIFEGUARD DUTIES.

NOT CERTIFIED? NO PROBLEM!
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP WILL PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY TRAINING THROUGH OUR IN-HOUSE RED CROSS LIFEGUARD COURSE & LIFEGUARDS WILL BE REIMBURSED THE FULL COST OF CERTIFICATION (\$200) FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE 2022 SEASON

 CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP WATERPARK

VISIT
[CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/
EMPLOYMENT](http://CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/EMPLOYMENT)
TO APPLY!

IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP



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

Find the right help at the right time.



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



JOIN THE SENECA VALLEY TEAM!

Secretarial Positions

DESCRIPTION: Seeking knowledgeable applicants with strong interpersonal and communication skills for permanent 10-month (\$26,053/year salary) and 12-month (\$30,192/year salary) secretarial positions.

Requirements: Must pass the district secretarial test when scheduled. High attention to detail required. Must be able to multi-task in fast paced work environment. Submit required information to www.svsd.net/Employment.

Applications accepted until position is filled.



APPLY TODAY!

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

Benefits of working at Seneca Valley:

- Competitive salaries and benefits
- Outstanding professional development and faculty mentoring
- Commitment to supporting diverse faculty and staff
- Inclusive and motivated students and engaged families
- Commitment to community service
- Exceptional facilities

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

 LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY

(Summer Sneak Peek)



Get a glimpse
of Redhawk life.

June 7 & 23 | July 13 & 25

5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Students who tour campus automatically receive a
\$250 award applied to their first semester tuition!**

.....
Register at laroche.edu/sneakpeek
.....



Save the Date

MISSION OF MERCY
A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION
MISSION OF MERCY PITTSBURGH

Free Dental & Eye Exam Clinic 2022

Setup: Thursday, August 4th

Clinic Dates: Friday, August 5th and
Saturday, August 6th

Volunteer Registration opens April 2022

Register: mompgh.org

Sponsorship inquiries: info@mompgh.org

David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Free dental services

Free eye exams

No insurance requirements

Services are rendered on a first come, first served basis until capacity is met.

*Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh, the signature program
of A Call To Care, Inc*

Visit MomPgh.org for more important details.



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*Hats off to all the
graduates!*

Smile bright about your future!



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