By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

WEARING THE SV



Thirteen years ago, I was privileged to receive an offer to become the Director of Athletics & Activities for the Seneca Valley School District. It did not take me long to consider this opportunity for I saw in *#SVRaiderNation* hugely untapped potential, visionary District leadership, and amazing community connections. I had an idealistic vision of what outsiders would think when they saw anyone wearing the Columbia Blue and Black SV. They would know the bearer represented a culture of excellence – academically, athletically, artistically and socially, – embodied a commitment of unwavering trust, and was part of a community that valued their friend, peer, teammate and neighbor. What I often refer to as "Culture, Commitment, Community."

My annual message to our student-athletes this year centers around the phrase, "Wearing the SV." It is a privilege for our students to don a uniform adorned with the SV. We talk of the privilege and the responsibilities that come with privilege. When it comes to "Wearing the SV" the expectations are:

1) Be a Good Human because positive energy is contagious
2) Be a Great Competitor because competitive energy is contagious
3) Be the Best Teammate because team-first energy is contagious

Embedded in my delivery is the non-negotiable expectation that each of us is kind, humble and supportive, and the recognition that negative energy is destructive. As a leader in education-based sports, I am a firm believer that the athletic arena, as a non-traditional venue, teaches some of life's most essential lessons; among them, how to handle success with humility and adversity with composure. Sport teaches us all the vast difference of playing FOR your teammate and not with your teammate.

I routinely remind our students the foundation of this learning centers on class – having the utmost class in good times and bad. What education-based sports also provides is a chance to "seize the teachable moment" in times of poor judgment, recurrent mistakes or spontaneous acts of selfishness.

Kindness, class and being an even better teammate than player are the pillars for Raider Athletics. We will always respect the game and all its participants with a positive sporting mindset, and we will be the consummate teammate to our peers. That is what "Wearing the SV" means.

But is this only for our students? If our youth are our purpose and teaching is our objective, should not all *#SVRaiderNation* choosing to "Wear the SV" embody the same? In moments of conflict, we must remind ourselves the SV is what binds us together as a community. Our thoughts and philosophies may diverge but the SV pillars of kindness, class and being an even better teammate should always be reflected by those who choose to "Wear the SV."

I may have uncommon ambitions for what it means to "Wear the SV" but my unwavering commitment to these ideals is absolute. As we welcome another school year, my hope remains that SV will enhance our community connections and *#SVRaiderNation* will be ideal role models of Good Humans, Great Competitors and Best Teammates. If we catch the energies, imagine the possibilities for excellence!



STILL HERE IN 2024-25 – ANNUAL ATHLETIC PASS

In collaboration with the Student-Athlete Leadership Team (S.A.L.T.) the Seneca Valley Athletics Department is pleased to offer a year-long annual athletic pass for all Raider sports home contests on our campus for the 2024-25 school year. **New this year: the pass is now available to students *and* adults!**

The pass will be $50 and will entitle the name holder - who presents the Athletics pass along with valid ID (SV ID, License) - to free entry for our regular season home contests.

Any Seneca Valley community member is eligible to purchase a 2024-25 annual student athletic pass. Passes may be purchased in the Athletic Office located in the lobby of the Senior High School. Passes are available for sale between the hours of **8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.** Passes may be purchased with **a check made payable to S.V.S.D. or with cash**. No credit cards accepted.

Terms of Use for Annual Student Athletics Pass

1. The pass entitles bearer for one student paid admission to any regular season SV home athletic contest.
2. Must be presented with SV Student ID or license.
3. Only valid for regular season SV home games.
4. Pass does not allow for reentry into venue.
5. Lost passes will not be replaced.
6. Passes are non-transferable.
7. Pass is not accepted at any WPIAL and/or PIAA playoff contest hosted on our campus.

Special Event Nights

- Aug. 23, 2024: Senior Night, Home Football vs. Bethel Park
- Sept. 6, 2024: Veterans Recognition Night, Home Football vs. Pine-Richland
- Sept. 19, 2024: Homecoming Carnival & Parade, Secondary Campus
- Sept. 20, 2024: Homecoming Night, Home Football vs. Moon
- Oct. 3, 2024: Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Senior High School
- Oct. 4, 2024: Hall of Fame Recognition & Youth Night, Home Football vs. Canon-Mac
- Oct. 11, 2024: Pink Night Game, Home Football vs. Hempfield

