

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT!

# THE RIVER VALLEY NEWS

Fall 2024

## New Clubs Bring Fun and Connection to River Valley Fridays

Olivia Ganoë, River Valley High School

It's time to get excited! This year, River Valley Middle and High School launched clubs for students. These clubs will serve as more than just activities. Our clubs give students the opportunity to learn new skills, have time for social interactions, and create new and important connections. There are a variety of clubs for students to choose from.

With options like Walking, Dungeons and Dragons, Muay Thai, Aviation, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Chess Club, Spanish Club, 8th Grade Robotics, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Panthers with Pens Writing Club, Gardening Club, Tobacco Resistance Unit, Disc Golf, and Best Buddies, there's something for everyone!

Clubs take place every other Friday, alternating periods so students can enjoy clubs without missing their important classes. Mrs. Stuller's Digital Design Class has posted a few short descriptions of the clubs they chose and the activities they did. Make sure to check the descriptions out on the [Bow Ridge Bulletin](#) to learn more about each club!



We offer 32 activity clubs that give our students a space to explore their strengths, interests, and values. Our students are enjoying the time to explore their interests and teachers are seeing positive engagement and collaboration among students in club meetings.

- Mr. Michael Leasure, RVHS Principal



## BES Veterans Day Concert

Blairsville Elementary students honored our veterans with their annual Veterans Day Concert! Each grade performed patriotic songs, read letters of appreciation, and shared meaningful historical insights. Thank you to our students and staff for a beautiful tribute and to our veterans for their service!



## Saltsburg Elementary School Named National Blue Ribbon School

Saltsburg Elementary School was awarded the prestigious 2024 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.



The National Blue Ribbon Schools (NBRS) Program is one of the U.S. Department of Education's longest-running recognition programs. NBRS recognizes outstanding public elementary schools based on their overall high academic achievement or success in closing the achievement gap among diverse groups of students. Since its inception in 1982, the program's goals have been to shine a spotlight on the best schools in the United States and share best practices of outstanding schools across the country. This prestigious award serves not only as a symbol of exemplary American schools but also as inspiration for schools across the nation. It affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students thrive.

*"Being named a National Blue Ribbon School is an honor, and it is our job as recipients of the award to continually create an environment that promotes lifelong learning for all students."*

- Mr. Philip Martell, Superintendent



Saltsburg Elementary School maintains high educational standards while promoting student success. The school earned this accolade for its commitment to future-driven learning and strong collaboration among families, teachers, and administrators, fostering a school

community devoted to supporting each student's growth and development. Saltsburg Elementary focuses on career-related teaching and learning. This model cultivates a culture of career curiosity and helps students develop a vision of their future-possible selves through the **RIASEC** framework that allows students to discover their strengths, interests, and values.



[Watch Now!](#)

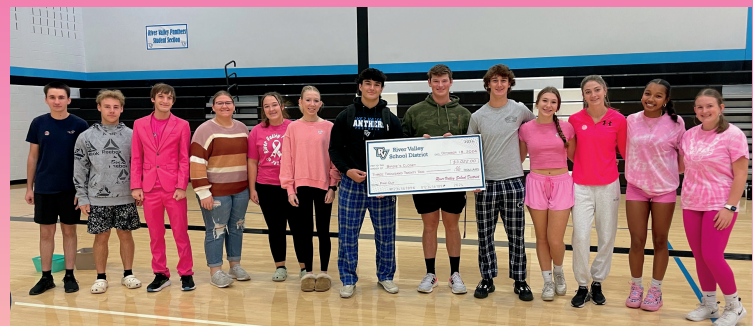


*"I'm incredibly proud of our students, staff, and community, who have created a close-knit learning environment where lasting friendships and meaningful connections are formed. Our exceptional faculty and staff, engaging family events, and community outreach initiatives enrich students' experiences and deepen the bonds that make our school community one-of-a-kind."*

- Mrs. Tracy Richards, SES Principal

Innovation is at the forefront in Saltsburg Elementary School, featuring a remodeled Media Center with flexible learning spaces, a maker space, and outdoor classroom areas. The school's STEAM Studio includes 3D printers and a student-run broadcast center, providing hands-on learning opportunities for all students.

## Pink Out Day 2024



Middle and high school students and staff raised \$3,000 for IRMC's Birdie's Closet! From t-shirt sales to volleyball and dodgeball tournaments, our River Valley family came together for a great cause. This year, seven students donated their hair to be transformed into wigs for those battling cancer.



## STEAM Academy Students Help Plumier Foundation Revitalize Saltsburg Landmark



The STEAM Academy's Electrical Occupations/Powerline students were invited to participate in the renovation of a historic building in Saltsburg.

The "Mule Barn" on Point Street was recently acquired by the Plumier Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and teaching the art of ornamental turning and fine woodworking. The Foundation is transforming the building into a workshop housing antique woodworking tools and a machine shop while preserving its historic timber-frame structure. This combination of old and new provides a perfect backdrop for River Valley students to gain hands-on experience in a real-world setting, applying skills they are developing at the STEAM Academy.

Led by instructor Mr. Kip Mack, the STEAM Academy's Electrical Occupations students are participating in all aspects of the building's wiring project - planning, installation, inspection, and completion.



In September, the students began roughing in the wiring to accommodate an extensive machine shop, wood shop, conference room, and showroom. They'll continue the project with installation of electrical finishes including light fixtures and receptacles. This also includes surface mounting, conduit, and light fixtures to reflect an industrial style for the antique equipment showroom.

This partnership is ideal for the STEAM Academy's mission to equip students with technical expertise and foster community engagement. By contributing to the building's electrical renovations, students will not only gain valuable skills but also leave their mark on a historic structure that is an important part of Saltsburg's heritage.



## Building Future Leaders: STEAM Academy Students Attend SkillsUSA



STEAM Academy students recently attended the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania Western Region Leadership Conference at Seven Springs from November 6-8, gaining valuable personal and professional growth experiences. Through interactive workshops on leadership, teamwork, and employability skills, students tackled key areas like public speaking, conflict resolution, and time management. They also connected with peers from other schools and industry professionals, bringing home practical tools for success in both school and career. This empowering experience gave our students a renewed sense of direction and confidence to step into leadership roles within their school, community, and future careers.

**The River Valley STEAM Academy offers programs in Automation Engineering, Biomedical Technology, Cybersecurity, Electrical Occupations and Powerline, Esports, Pathways to Health Professions, Rising Educators, Sports Medicine and Rehabilitative Therapy, and Welding Technology. For more information, visit [www.rvsteamacademy.org](http://www.rvsteamacademy.org) or call 724-343-3230.**



## BES Playground Hours!



We're thrilled to welcome everyone to enjoy our brand-new playground! The playground is open from 4:00 p.m. until dusk on weekdays and dawn until dusk on weekends. Come out, relax, and make memories in this wonderful new space for our community!

## PBIS Pumpkin RIASEC Painting Party



Blairsville Elementary School students enjoyed a fun reward and celebration for their PBIS program - a Pumpkin Painting Party.

BES teachers volunteered to pick hundreds of pumpkins from Reeger's Farm. Students planned their pumpkin art to match their RIASEC themes and created designs based on their strengths, interests, and values. The colorful and creative pumpkins were on display in a special pumpkin patch for the BES Truck or Treat.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

THANKSGIVING  
BREAK



NOV DEC  
27 - 2

SES HOLIDAY  
CONCERT

DEC  
10

BES HOLIDAY  
CONCERT

DEC  
12

RVHS & RVMS  
HOLIDAY  
CONCERT

DEC  
18

WINTER  
BREAK



DEC JAN  
23 - 3



2024-2025  
SCHOOL  
CALENDAR



## WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

SCAN  
ME! >>



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