



RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

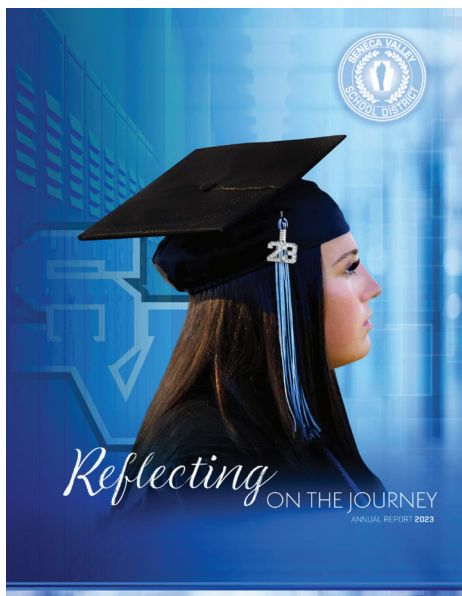
JANUARY 2024



REFLECTING ON THE JOURNEY

Please join us in "Reflecting on the Journey" – A look back at last year's achievements and milestones

The Seneca Valley 2023 Annual Report is now available, showcasing the collective efforts and successes that make SV a vibrant and thriving community. This report is not just numbers; it's a story of resilience, growth and collaboration. Dive into the details and discover the impact we've made in the past year. Your support has been the driving force behind our success, and we can't wait to share our achievements with you. ■



Raider Reflections

ALUMNI SHARE THEIR FOND MEMORIES



"The staff at Seneca Valley planted seeds of accountability, honor, respect, integrity, loyalty, kindness, generosity, pride, leadership, and courage in me at an early age. As I traveled down the many paths of life, these seeds were watered which enabled me to bloom into the person that I am today both personally and professionally."

Shonya (Gilchrist) McClure, SV '89



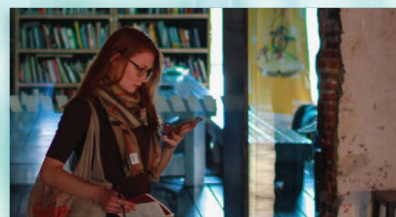
"Seneca Valley helped me become the person that I am today by providing a great environment to learn and thrive. In high school, I was able to take advantage of the advanced placement (AP) courses that SV offers, which allowed me to graduate college a semester early. These courses taught me how to properly study, which made my time in college easier."

Sara Panetta, SV '17



"After graduating from Seneca Valley, I attended the United States Naval Academy, where I majored in Mechanical Engineering. I also served as the 21st Company Commander and attended the Naval Postgraduate School earning my master's degree in aerospace engineering. The classes I took at Seneca Valley transitioned quite nicely to those I took in college. I would encourage students to branch out and take a class that intrigues them that may not be something they would normally take."

Michael Palaski, SV '15



"I am a student in the Syracuse University School of Architecture program. During my junior year of high school, I was accepted into the ACE Externship Program and was able to observe meetings between the architecture firm CannonDesign and the Seneca Valley School Board during the Ehrman Crest project. I remember the term 'not institutional' coming up quite often in the meetings as well as the innovative inclusion of the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh's expertise in the project. This persistent growth mindset pertaining to the future of the district has stayed with me as I continue to formulate my design philosophies about project users, their uses, and the existing context that surrounds a place."

Allison Schwartz, SV '20

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 2 Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students
Feb. 5 School Board Meeting Work Session, SHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Feb. 12 School Board Meeting, Regular Session, SHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Feb. 16 Snow Make Up Day #1
Feb. 19 Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students
For more dates, visit: www.svsd.net/WebCalendar

FEBRUARY

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		

ROWAN THE SNOWMAN

Snowmen do come to life at Rowan Elementary School! Third grade students in Ms. Rachael Belschner's What-I-Need (WIN) enrichment group recently created a special school mascot, "Rowan the Snowman," complete with a motion-activated broom!

The art club collaborated with Ms. Allisyn Pascarella and Ms. Carrie Dillon to incorporate robotics into the festive project. Students even recorded their own rendition of the tune "Frosty the Snowman," which can be heard as visitors press the magic button.

"It was a really exciting project," stated Ms. Dillon. "It wouldn't have been possible without all these components collaborating together."

"The project brought a lot of joy and cheer to not only the students that created the sculpture, but also to the students who pass by our snowman in the halls."

This festive friend emerged from the same creative minds who designed Sir Rowan Gobbles, an SV-themed turkey mascot students brought to life before Thanksgiving break! ■



DECK THE HALLS

Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) Band and Orchestra students, grades 5-6, wrapped up their last week before break on a high note with cheerful performances for students and staff upon arrival. During their annual "Deck the Halls with Music" event, they collected over \$800 that was donated to local food banks!

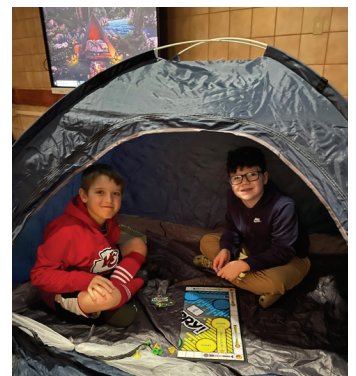
Both Ms. Tracy Glass, ECMS Band Director, and Ms. Amanda Lesney, ECMS Orchestra Director, shared how valuable the experience was for our SV

young musicians to share their talents and give back to the community. ■



CREEKSIDE CAMPOUT

Students at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) earned a school-wide reward for their excellent display of safe, kind and responsible behavior. The Creekside Campground was open for classes to enjoy games, stories and fun! ■



GIFTS OF HEART

The holiday season is a time for giving, which is exactly what Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) students aimed to do before the winter break.

Seventh grade students on the Tiger Team recently donated hundreds of items that were used as gifts for the residents of Passavant Nursing Home.

In addition, about 30 students stayed after school on Dec. 19 to deliver the donated items and visit with residents spreading holiday cheer by playing music, singing carols and performing dance routines. The visit also featured a video presentation of students (and some of their pets!) holding signs of holiday wishes and concluded with a group singalong with the residents.

"It was a very special visit for the residents, students, and the teachers," said Jessica Phillips, RGMS Health Teacher.

Back in November, the team of students also spent the morning decorating the facility for the holidays. Lending a helping hand, students strung lights, decorated trees, made cards and prepared letters for mailing.

Students did a fantastic job making the holidays special and spreading joy! ■



GEARING UP FOR THE GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Seneca Valley robotics teams were geared up for the challenges ahead as they competed in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Western Pennsylvania Grand Championship, at Aliquippa High School last month. Approximately 65 teams of students in grades 4-8 participated in the robotics competition. Seneca Valley's FIRST LEGO Lords team from Haine Elementary School earned the "Elementary Excellence Award," by scoring as the top elementary school team.

Each team competed in four rounds of the table robot challenge game, where the students designed, built and programmed a robot to solve various challenges on a competition board. In addition, each team gave a presentation to a panel of judges, describing their robot, programming design, game play strategy and research project.

FIRST LEGO League introduces science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to children ages 4-16 through fun, exciting hands-on learning. FIRST LEGO League participants gain real-world problem-solving experiences through a guided, global robotics program, helping today's students and teachers build a better future together.

Participating Seneca Valley teams included Raider Robotics FLL from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), coached by RGMS industrial technology teacher, Ms. Mary Boburczak; SV Crest Frogs from Ehrman Crest Middle School, SV Circuit Breakers from Haine Middle School and SV FIRST LEGO Lords from Haine Elementary School were coached by Haine Middle School math teacher, Ms. Jen Exler and Haine Elementary School gifted support teacher, Mr. Jeremiah Friday.

Team members from SV FIRST LEGO Lords are fourth graders Reese Abraham, Addy Callis, Lily Feitl, Nora Grider, Elena Hamilton, Tommy Loggans, Nathan Maravich, Ryan Myers, Aria O'Brien,



Winning Team

Maya Pospistle and Quinn Vogan. Team members from the SV Crest Frogs are sixth graders Micah Eiler, Ella Ivin, Cameron Johnson, Charlie Kling, Gabriel Kukkonen, Sebastian Osche, Austin Sperry and Zachary Sypien. Team members from the SV Circuit Breakers are sixth graders Andrew Kocerka, Josh Amato, Moorthy Mahrajan, Cole Diefenderfer, Lucio Impellizzeri, Gavin Draskovich, Dean Uplinger, Geethika Chukka, Eoin McCarthy, Viren Hodachalli, and Nick LaGamba. Team members from the Raider Robotics are seventh graders Hayden Shupe, Elizabeth Schneider, Will Richart, Nathan Cox, Eddie Lakes, Charlotte Bogdan, Patience Bartley and Viktor Rogan along with eighth graders Serrah Beitch, Aidan Benvenuti, Liam Sharp, Jason Hoeltzel and Maya Maharajan. ■

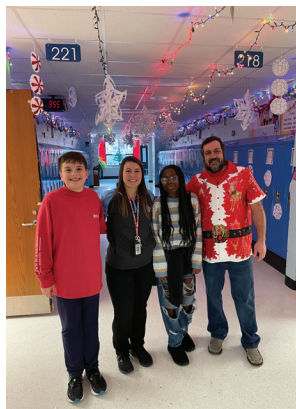
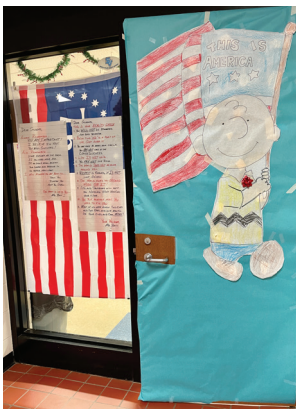


DONATIONS AND DECORATIONS

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) closed the door on the year with festive decorations, heartfelt donations and holiday celebrations!

Classes participated in their annual Winter Holiday Door Decorating Celebration where they decked the halls and transformed their building into a winter wonderland. Families were welcomed to stroll the halls, enjoy tasty treats and participate in joyful singalongs led by student performers. Take a look at the [band](#) and [orchestra](#) performances!

Additionally, staff members and administration participated in a Food Gift Card Drive throughout December. Gift cards to Giant Eagle, Aldi, Shop-n-Save, Bilo and Walmart were collected in \$10 increments. Thanks to the overwhelming participation from RGMS students and staff, over \$7,500 worth of gift cards were dispersed to RGMS families in need to help fill their table during the holidays. The top seventh and eighth grade homerooms that collected the most donations won a special visit to watch the Pittsburgh Penguins practice at UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex. ■



EXCITING DISCOVERIES

Why study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)? SV alumni, faculty and students can answer that!

Nearly 50 Seneca Valley alumni who have entered STEM programs or fields of study recently spoke during Seneca Valley's STEM Alumni Days at the Seneca Valley Senior High School.

This is the ninth year for the event which is hosted by the Senior High Science Department and Science Honor Society.

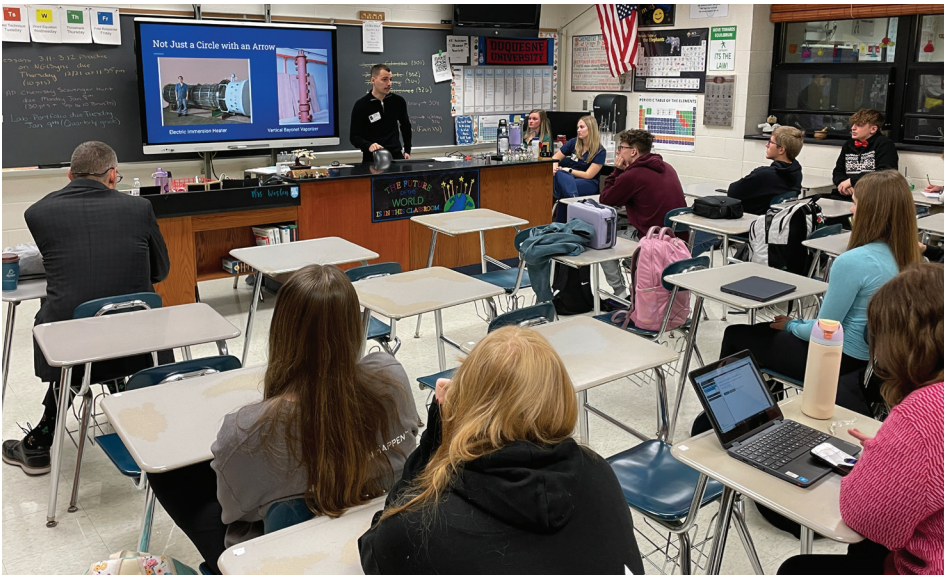
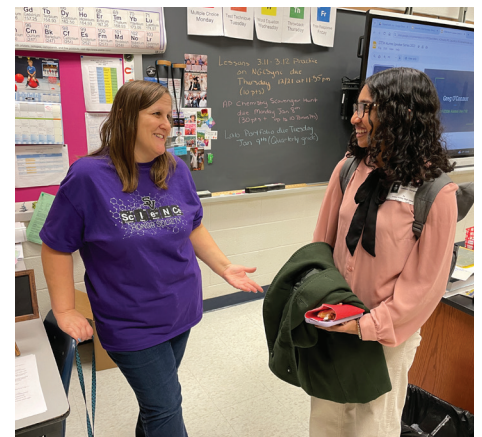
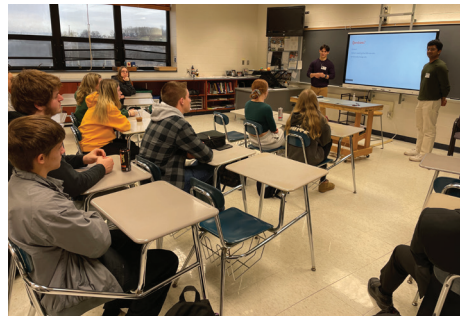
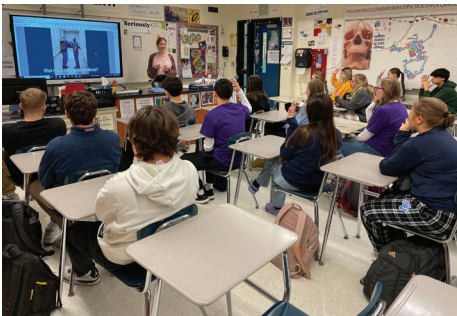
Students had the opportunity to listen to presentations from alumni about their education, careers and their experience in areas such as biomedical engineering, neuroscience, aerospace engineering, artificial intelligence, nursing, biology and more.

The intention of SV STEM Alumni Days is to inspire and inform current students,



encouraging STEM fields of study. As part of a network of opportunities organized by a committee of teachers, SV STEM Alumni Days joins the highly successful SV Science

Honor Society, STEM Lecture Series, and STEM Fair, as a way to engage STEM career possibilities. ■



SV STUDENTS TAKE PART IN PMEA DISTRICT BAND

This month, 17 Seneca Valley Band students were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Band Festival held at Hopewell High School. District Band is a representative festival of all the schools in PMEA District 5. It is the first step in the state-level music festival system, where students have the opportunity to advance to the regional level. The guest conductor of the festival was Dr. Travis J. Weller, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Music Education at Messiah University. Based on audition results, nine SV students (Paityn Armstrong, Noah Bracht, Isaac Hixon, Kaite Mack, Camyn Meanor, Bridget Scott, Kami Topf, Mackenzie Tunstall and Adrian Wrubel) were selected to move on to the PMEA Region 1 Band Festival to be held in February at Deer Lakes High School.



Additionally, SV senior clarinetist Paityn Armstrong was awarded a PMEA District 5 Music Education scholarship at the event.

Students are led by Varden Armstrong, Robert Babick, Brian Croach and Sara Snyder, secondary instrumental instructors.

Participants:

Ayla Alexander – flute, Paityn Armstrong – clarinet, Noah Bracht – tuba, Sydney Brower – french horn, Joseph Cuchapin – bass clarinet, Rachel Hines – clarinet, Isaac Hixon – french horn, Sydney Kratsas – tuba, Katie Mack – oboe, Victoria Matchett – alto saxophone,

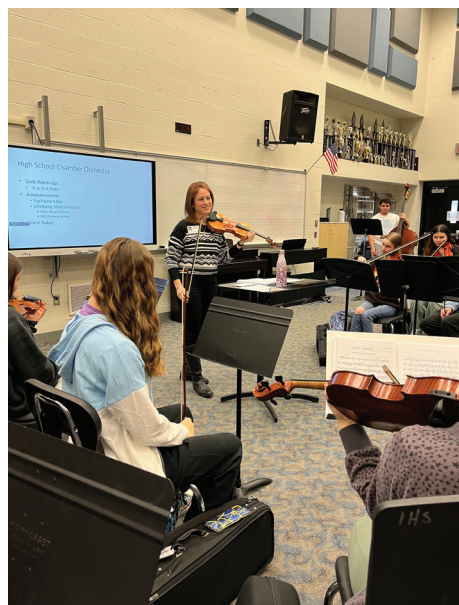


Camyn Meanor – french horn, Niko Papakirk – clarinet, Lola Schwendemann – french horn, Bridget Scott – trombone, Kami Topf – trumpet, Mackenzie Tunstall – clarinet, Adrian Wrubel – trumpet ■

ORCHESTRA STUDENTS LEARN SCOTTISH FIDDLE TECHNIQUES

On Monday, January 8, Westminster College Orchestra Director and Scottish fiddling expert Dr. Melinda Crawford-Perttu visited students in the chamber orchestra and string orchestra where they learned the traditional Scottish reel, “Clean Pease Strae.” Unlike typical orchestra music, fiddle tunes are learned by ear without the use of sheet music. Dr. Perttu taught students the reel by ear and added different musical elements such as bowing techniques, ornamentation, interpretation, and rhythmic nuance which bring out the unique style of Scottish fiddling. Students enjoyed the opportunity to try something different and engage with music in a more informal way.

Students are led by Ms. Sarah Miller, secondary orchestra instructor. ■



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER THROUGH MERRY MUSIC

In the final weeks of December, the Seneca Valley Performing Arts (SVPA) department continued the annual tradition of performing in many of the elementary and middle schools within our district. Jazz Ensemble I and Jazz Ensemble II traveled to Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) and Ehrman Crest Middle School. Additionally, both the Senior High School Madrigal singers and Chamber Orchestra traveled to Rowan Elementary and Haine Middle School. These performances were a highlight for both the younger and older students. Everyone enjoys the opportunity to reminisce about where they attended elementary and middle school and the younger students set their sights on what they can be a part of as they move toward the secondary campus. ■



PMEA DISTRICT CHORUS WELCOMES SV PERFORMERS

Recently, 21 SV Chorus students in grades 10-12 traveled to Mercer High School to participate in the PMEA District Chorus. The choir included students from Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. Music pieces were selected by Dr. Andrew Withington of New Zealand, and included selections written in Latin, Samoan, Te Reo Maori, as well as English. The guest director for the festival was Dr. Bryan Helsel of Youngstown State University.

Based on audition results, the following students will be advancing to the region level: Ayla Alexander, Annika Batavia, Connor Benson, Josh Cantella, Nathan Capizzi, Ella Gemperlein, Issaac Hixon, Jackson Hugus, Graham Logue, Jacob Maietta, Katie McAdoo, Natalie Palmer, John Rieger, Giulia Siegfried, Madeleine Tomo, Madelyn Tresky and Emma Zelesnak.

Students are led by Bobi-Jean Alexander and Claire Barker, secondary choral instructors.

District Chorus Participants:

Ayla Alexander, Annika Batavia, Connor Benson, Josh Cantella, Nathan Capizzi, Ella Gemperlein, Isaac Hixon, Jackson Hugus, Shayla Kemp,



Graham Logue, Jacob Maietta, Katie McAdoo, Natalie Palmer, John Rieger, Morgan Roithner, Josie Sherman, Giulia Siegfried, Madeleine Tomo, Madelyn Tresky, Callum Williams and Emma Zelesnak. ■

WELCOME TO THE RENAISSANCE

Get ready for something rotten in the best way possible! The SV All-School Musical is excited to take a hilarious journey through Elizabethan London with "Something Rotten!" on Feb. 29 - March 3. This clever musical celebrates all things theater, from Shakespeare's timeless sonnets to the infectious energy of Broadway show tunes.

Director Michael Marra's overall concept for the show is to keep things simple as if it were performed in the 1590s. "My hope is to make the entire theater, from lobby to the stage, look like a Renaissance Fair," he said. "The extension is looking like a stage from the Old Globe Theater and will create a very intimate experience."

Prepare to meet the rock stars of their time: renowned playwrights like Shakespeare (played by Jacob Carter) and the ambitious Bottom brothers, Nick (played by Jackson Hugus) and Nigel (played by Callum Williams). Nick, yearning for recognition, hatches a madcap plan after a visit to the dubious, not-quite-Nostradamus soothsayer (played by Ella Gemperlein). Armed with a prophecy of a revolutionary new art form called "musical," Nick throws everything into creating the very first one.

"Something Rotten!" is a comedic PG-13 musical that blends slapstick silliness with witty wordplay, creating a uniquely hilarious experience. Don't be surprised if you find yourself humming the tunes and quoting the jokes long after the curtain falls. Just remember -- there might be a few cheeky moments!

For more information visit senecavalleytheater.com. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and will be going on sale soon. Visit <https://www.showclix.com/event/sv-something-rotten> to purchase your ticket. ■



SENECA

VALLEY

PRESENTS

SOMETHING ROTEN!

IT'S A MUSICAL

FEB 29, MAR 1, MAR 2 @ 7PM

MAR 2 & 3 @ 2PM

\$12 ADULTS

\$10 STUDENTS



@SENECAVALLEYMUSICAL



@SENECAVALLEYALL-SCHOOLMUSICAL

SENECAVALLEYTHEATER.COM



Read more about the musical on page 9!



WINTER SPORTS UPDATES

Competitive Cheer

Congratulations are in order for our SV Raider Competitive Cheer squad that qualified for PIAA state championships in Small Varsity after their eighth-place finish at the WPIAL Competitive Spirit Championships. In addition, this squad has also qualified for the National High School Cheerleading Championship (NHSCC) to be held at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Well done, Raiders!



Ice Hockey

We congratulate the following Raider ice hockey players who were named to compete in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) All-Star game held January 28, at Robert Morris University (RMU). In addition, head coach Anthony Raco was chosen to participate as one of the coaches. Congratulations to all!

- Ethan Lindberg, Forward
- Jacob Komaniak, Forward
- Adam Regalski, Defenseman
- Stephen Longwell, Defenseman
- Vincenzo DiTullio, Goalie



Swimming & Diving

Last month we shared the news of senior diver Isaiah Clerkley breaking Chris Rebholz's 23-year diving record. Since that time, Isaiah has broken his own record two more times, with the current record now standing at 341.40! Pictured here is Isaiah with former record holder Chris Rebholz. That is a lot of #SVRaiderPride in one photo!



Our boys and girls basketball, swimming & diving, and wrestling teams are in the middle of section play and postseason opportunities will be determined at the conclusion of their respective seasons. Future issues of Raider Pride will include final regular season and postseason results. ■

ADDITIONAL HONORS ANNOUNCED FOR FALL SPORT RAIDER ATHLETES

While the fall season is in the books, the awards continue to arrive for Raider student-athletes.

We congratulate junior football defensive back Jayden Price for his selection to the Post-Gazette All-Conference First Team. ■



RAIDER GENEROSITY ON DISPLAY

For the second consecutive year, the Seneca Valley School District was recognized by the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) and Greater Pittsburgh Food bank for its community generosity in raising 3,290 meals for the 2023 Food & Fund Drive. In back-to-back years, Seneca Valley has been honored as the top-producing WPIAL 6A school district. Congratulations and thank you, #SVRaiderNation! ■



WHAT IS SALT?

The most common response you may think of is, "Salt is the partner of pepper. It is NaCl." However, in Raider Athletics, SALT stands for Student-Athlete Leadership Team; a leadership group initially formed during the 2022-23 school year. The four pillars of SV SALT include Service, Advocacy, Leadership and Team. The inaugural collection of student-athlete leaders created the following mission statement:



To provide student-athletes with a voice. Members of SALT obtain the privilege of representing the student-athlete body; they act as liaisons between athletes and administration. SALT prioritizes growth as an individual in all aspects – as an athlete, a scholar and a human being.

During the 2023-24 school year, SALT members have been actively engaged in a variety of campus and community service opportunities including:

- Visiting Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) second grade classrooms prior to the holiday break to spend time reading to students, playing games with them and participating in craft activities.
- Spearheading a "Holiday Help Bag" donation drive of new hats, gloves, and sample-size toiletries for the UPMC Second Avenue Commons collection.
- Meeting with Dr. Kim Beals of AHN and Ready® to hear a presentation on proper nutrition and how it leads to



peak performance.

- Volunteering at Gleaners Food Bank to fill bags with canned goods and assemble fruit baskets.
- Attending the 14th annual WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit at the Senator John Heinz History Center.
- Visiting Haine Elementary School during lunch periods to spread Raider pride. ■

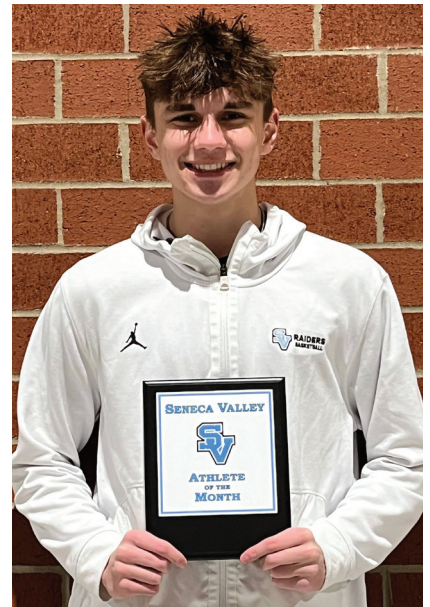


ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, DECEMBER 2023

The Female Athlete of the Month for December was girls basketball forward/center Allison Sevin. The senior has been a key part in a historic start to the season for the Raider girls basketball team who are currently 8-2 and on an eight-game winning streak. Allison has scored at least four points in every single game so far. She recorded several double-digit points scoring games, averaging 11 points a game while shooting 60% from the field. This includes 15-point performances in wins over Columbia-Montour Area Vocational Technical School (AVTS) and Fox Chapel. Allison's career high of 16 points came in a section win over Butler. She has also been a force on the defensive side of the ball, averaging 6.9 rebounds a game along with one steal and block per game. We recognize Allison as the December Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Allison!



The Male Athlete of the Month for December was sophomore boys basketball forward/center Owen Congdon. Owen has stepped into a starter's role and has cemented his importance to the team. Over the first 11 games of the season, Owen has tallied 10.4 points a game along with 5.5 rebounds to showcase his all-around game. He has also been efficient inside and outside of the paint, boasting a 62.5% field goal percentage and shooting 50% from the three-point line, along with 5.3 rebounds a game. His career-high in points came in a win against Baldwin where he scored 17 points, including two three-pointers. For an impressive month, we recognize Owen as the December Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Owen! ■



COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2024

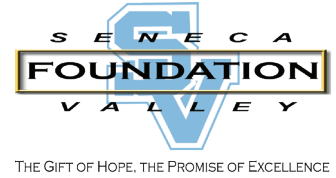
Many Raider student-athletes made their college commitment official with the early signing period starting in mid-November. We congratulate these seniors in achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of you are tremendous representatives of Raider Athletics and we are very proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community. ■

Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Alivia Palano	Stunt	Mercyhurst University	Psychology
Stephen Vaughan	Track & Field	Bloomsburg University	Accounting



ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

With your support, the Seneca Valley Foundation's "Aspire to Inspire" Annual Support Campaign was a huge success! Through many generous contributions, we raised over \$28,000! These funds will be used to continue our important mission of inspiring innovation, creativity, inclusion, community and hope throughout Seneca Valley School District. Thank you to the following individuals and businesses for your generous gifts! ■



Platinum Level (\$1,000+)

Baird Foundation, Inc. – *In honor of Dr. Bridget Miller; Mr. Forest Haffey; Mr. Michael Lavere*
Central Maintenance
Mr. & Mrs. J. Victor and Debra Conrad
Fun Fore All
Ms. Heather Lewis
Penna Flame Industries
Mr. & Mrs. Dustin and Jamie Thompson – *In honor of Dr. Bridget Miller; Mr. Forest Haffey; Mr. Michael Lavere*
Dr. Tracy and Mr. Gregory Vitale

Gold Level (\$500-\$999)

Mr. John Demkowicz
Eckles Construction Services
Dr. Bridget Miller
Mr. Randy Miller – *In memory of Marcie Peaco*
Mr. Michael Ozdinec, Esq.
Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Lauri Pendred
Mr. & Mrs. Fredrick and Cecelia Peterson
Silk & Stewart Development Group
Mrs. Linda Starosta
Mrs. Claire Zovko
Anonymous

Silver Level (\$200-\$499)

Ms. Beth Allen-Boyle
Ms. Tesin Amoscato
Ms. Linda Andreassi
Ms. Margaret Beggy
Mr. & Mrs. Bob and Erin Ceh
Dr. Mallory Eyles
Ms. Kristen Kress

Ms. Amanda Mallin
Dr. Denise Manganello – *In honor of SV Class of 1995*
Mr. & Mrs. Caleb and Annie Mersing
Ms. Cathy Mowery – *In memory of Jason Wehrle*
Mr. & Mrs. James and Karen Nickel
Dr. Marie Palano
Dr. Jeffrey Roberts
Ms. Christine Roe – *In memory of Ashley Roe-Snyder*
Mr. Taylor Schmidt
Mr. Nii Sowa-Doku
Venezie Sporting Goods & Apparel
Ms. Kelly Weston
Dr. Kristen White – *In honor of Haine Elementary School Staff*
Ms. Elizabeth Williams
Ms. Kari Zimmer
Anonymous

Bronze Level (\$20-\$199)

Dr. Anthony Babusci – *In memory of SFC Ryan Gloyer*
Ms. Susan Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Mark and Patty Ball
Ms. Anne Bernacki
Ms. Ashley Berty
Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Leslie Bredl
Ms. Elizabeth Cavicchia
Ms. Melissa Cornibe
Ms. Whitney Corrigan
Mr. Thomas Donati
Ms. Lillian Emlet
Ms. Celeste Foley
Ms. Lisa Fornadel
Ms. Natalie Green
Ms. Susan Harrison

Ms. Jodi Hassen – *In honor of Ehrman Crest Elementary School Multiple Support Staff*
Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Kristen Henry
Ms. Tiffany Hernandez
Mr. Matthew Hoffman, Esq.
Ms. Jessica Kerr
Ms. Dana Kirk
Mr. Alex Kraniak
Ms. Kathleen Kuznicki, Esq.
Ms. Holly Lingenfelter
Ms. Megan Lizewski
Ms. Jaclyn Macioce
Ms. Kathleen Mahon
Mr. Thomas McKelvey
Ms. Jenifer McMurray
Ms. Faye Nelson – *In memory of Arron Jones*
Ms. Taisia Papariella
Ms. Jessica Parker
Mr. Ashley Porter
Ms. Rebecca Rockey
Ms. Corrine Satriano
Mr. Terry Shulsky
Ms. Heather Sibeto
Mr. Gregory Smolinski
Dr. Andrew Teti
Ms. Christine Thayer-Miller – *In memory of Samuel Thayer, Sr.*
Ms. Sandy Thompson
Mr. Dean Walker
Ms. Joan Widdowson
Mr. Stephen Wolfe
Mr. & Mrs. Dan and Joelleen Yerace
Ms. Chyrstal Zinkham
Anonymous – *In memory of SFC Ryan Gloyer*
Anonymous
Anonymous – *In honor of SV Marching Band Directors*
Anonymous – *In memory of Richard Duggan*

SVF LOVES THE PITTSBURGH PENGUINS!

Need a fun Valentine's Day date idea? Something you and your family can do together, or a special treat for the one you love? Look no further! The SV Foundation (SVF) has joined forces with Pens4Purpose to bring you a fun-filled night of hockey on Wednesday, Feb. 14, as the Florida Panthers prowl into town for a 7:30 p.m. puck drop.

As a supporter of the SVF, you will enjoy group pricing for this game with tickets starting at just \$43. To sweeten the deal, \$5 from each ticket purchased through this offer will be donated back to the Seneca Valley Foundation!

To select your tickets, visit [Pens4Purpose: Seneca Valley Foundation \(fevo-enterprise.com\)](https://pens4purpose.com/svf). ■



BRILLIANCE IN BUSINESS

The Seneca Valley Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) recently competed in the Regional Leadership Conference at Robert Morris University, which included several Seneca Valley students winning their events and qualifying for states.

The following students competed in the events below:

Impromptu Speaking: Senior Cenzo DiTullio, first place; sophomore Sam Boyer, second place

Introduction to Business Communication: Sophomore Dhiyasri Gopalakrishnan, second place

Supply Chain Management: Freshman, Adam Malichky, second place

Marketing Team event: Sophomores Julian Varlotta, Micah Olayer and Andrew Loebig, fourth place

Sports & Entertainment Management: Sophomore Luis Torrenegra, sixth place

Economics: Junior Josh Critchlow, seventh place

Seneca Valley's FBLA advisers are Seneca Valley High School Business teachers Ms. Maria Brooks, Ms. Erin Schollaert and Ms. Kelly Skwortz.



"Future Business Leaders of America helps students develop leadership abilities and prepare for careers in business-related occupations," said the team of advisers. "We want to congratulate all the students who participated, and we are so proud of their accomplishments in this first year of competitions."

The Pennsylvania FBLA State Leadership Conference will be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, April 8-10, where nearly 5,500 PA FBLA members and advisers will be in attendance. ■

VOICES OF THE FUTURE

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, students in the after-school program at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) were challenged to recreate King's famous speech, "I Have a Dream." Together, each student read a line from the speech that was compiled into a video reciting some of King's most impactful words. Watch the video [here](#). ■

SPARKS OF CHANGE

Seneca Valley students joined nearly 100 other high schoolers from across the region for the 20th annual Culture Jam, a student-led and produced conference focused on diversity. On Friday, Jan. 12, Mr. Ashley Porter, Equity Supervisor and Title IX Coordinator, took several students to The Ellis School in Pittsburgh for a day filled with inspiring workshops and presentations aimed to invoke meaningful change in their lives and communities.

Designed to empower students to have courageous conversations alongside their peers, Culture Jam offers students the opportunity to connect and ignite the sparks of authentic change within their own schools. This year's theme, "Creating Peace from Peril," focused on the ability to reimagine hardships as opportunities for growth.

Additionally, SV members in the Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment (SHOUT) club presented a workshop on "Calling Out vs. Calling In," a strategy to interrupt bias, hate speech or other discriminatory behaviors that cause harm to others. Presenters included freshmen Jaycee Shaw, Faye McCormick, Sophia Giacomi and Mariana Escobar, along with junior Leo Slacker and senior Jillian Weiss.



"This event provided our students with the chance to engage in activities and workshops alongside their peers from across the Pittsburgh region," said Mr. Porter. "As summit presenters, they had the opportunity to showcase leadership skills, actively contributing to the learning and growth of their fellow students. We look forward to returning next year, eager to participate again and offer another valuable learning experience for students in our community." ■

SETTING SAIL ON THE LEADER-SHIP

Seneca Valley Senior High School hosted a Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) Region Conference on Monday, Jan. 15. The conference included student leaders from 12 schools across western Pennsylvania, including the Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) and Intermediate High School's Student Councils. Senior high students Gavin Cress, Lihini Ranaweera, Kathryn Sylves and Taryn Wilson chaired the event focused on leadership.

According to their website, PASC offers year-round opportunities for students and advisors to develop and apply leadership skills in order to improve themselves, their schools and their communities. Pittsburgh native Eric McElvenny was the keynote speaker and shared his experiences as a U.S. Marine Corps Officer and U.S. Paralympic Athlete.

"Eric's speech was incredibly inspiring and motivated me to keep setting goals," said Miss Sylves. "His determination and courage are truly impressive, and I strive to be as resilient as he is."



Fourteen student leaders presented workshops on a variety of topics – from how to run a large-scale event to how to avoid “rocky waters” in leadership. Students also played a breakout box game where they solved a variety of puzzles and riddles.

Before the day wrapped up, students and advisors participated in a school pairing seminar, where they shared successes and challenges within their school leadership groups. Student council member Ava Platt said, “The school pairing activity impacted me by allowing me to get insight as to how to better connect with my fellow students and faculty through unique activities that I may not get from my fellow classmates. We also discussed how to utilize all council members effectively during our events to help make every event run smoothly!”

Congratulations to all students who represented Seneca Valley with professionalism, leadership and Raider pride! 🇺🇸



EXPANDING HORIZONS

SV unveils updates to program of studies

What do criminal investigations and interior design have in common?

For the 2024-25 school year, they will be the newest courses added to an already robust list of classes available to students in grades 9-12. In fact, for the coming school year, students can expect the addition of an array of both traditional and online options as a way to ensure they have an enriching academic experience.

“It’s vitally important that we broaden our expansive offerings because student interests are changing and society is changing,” said Dr. Matt McKinley, assistant superintendent for 7-12 instruction. “We need to meet those demands and go beyond.” Dr. McKinley strongly suggests students research and understand the courses that meet their interests and skills; to find what they like – and what they don’t like. “Fine tuning a career pathway while still in high school is a valuable lesson,” he said.

Speaking of pathways, Seneca Valley has five, and secondary students seem to be evenly distributed among them at the moment:

- Arts, Communication and Media – 20%
- Business, Management and Information Technology – 22%
- Industry, Engineering and Technology – 21%
- Health, Medical and Human Services – 22%
- Education, Public Safety and Law – 15%

Once students have a sense of what path they want to traverse, it’s important they then go into the scheduling process viewing it as a team effort. Students are encouraged to invite input from teachers, parents and school counselors while at the same time looking inward at their strengths and abilities. Reading through the program of studies and taking the time to learn more about the course offered, including the requisites/co-requisites, is important. Dr. McKinley explained that the evolution of the program of studies comes from an invested staff and with the feedback of students.

“We really want students engaged in the process,” he explained. “And our secondary team and staff have evolved, including cyber, and we want to make sure we are offering online what we have in traditional settings.”

Here is a review of additions to expect in the 2024-25 school year:

- English
 - Business Communications (Cyber)
 - Business Writing (Cyber)
- Physical Education (PE)
 - Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) Drop-in Center PE
 - Competitive Contemporary Dance Styles (Performing Arts)
- Family and Consumer Sciences
 - Fashion Design and Merchandising (In-Person)



- Art
 - Visual art Techniques 2 (Cyber)
 - Character and Concept Design (Cyber)
 - Art Exploration (cyber)
 - Clay and Ceramics Studio (Blended Learning, a combination of in-person and cyber)
- Business
 - College in High School (CHS) Excel (In-Person)
 - CHS Business Management (In-Person/Cyber)
 - Drop-in Excel, Personal Finance 1, Personal Finance 2, Intro to Business (Blended)
 - Intro to Business (Cyber)
 - Marketing Research (Cyber)
 - Sales and Marketing (Cyber)
 - Supply Chain Management (Cyber)
 - Technology and Business (Cyber)
 - Sustainability in Business (Cyber)
 - Business Information Systems (Cyber)

Additionally, the District is making courses available under the heading of Personalized Learning through Advanced Experience (PLAE). These courses will offer students the opportunity to take their learning a step further, if they wish to take a deeper dive in the following areas:

- Creative Wood (In-Person)
- Interior Design (In-Person)
- French (In-Person)
- Spanish (In-Person)
- Graphics (In-Person)
- Architectural Drawing (In-Personal)
- Biotech Lab (In-Person)

Interested in learning more? Check out Seneca Valley’s Program of Studies by visiting [Program of Studies / How to Use This Program of Studies \(svsd.net\)](https://svsd.net). ■

Seneca Valley SD 2024-25 Student/Teacher Calendar

APPROVED JANUARY 2024

August 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	A80	17
18	A80	IS	IS	FD	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

11 Staff Days; 7 Student Days (9 w/A80)
Aug. 22 - First Student Day

September 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	H	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					

20 Days

October 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	A80	IS	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		

23 Staff Days; 21 Student Days (22 w/A80)
Oct. 4 - In-Service Day

November 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	IS	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	H	H	H	30

18 Staff Days; 17 Student Days
Nov. 11 - IS/Clerical Day

December 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	H	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	H	H	H	H	H	28
29	H	H				

14 Days

January 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			H	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	IS	18
19	A80	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

22 Staff Days; 20 Student Days (21 w/A80)
Jan. 16 - End of First Semester
Jan. 17 - IS/Clerical Day

February 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	SM	15
16	IS	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

19 Staff Days; 18 Student Days
Feb. 17 - IS/Clerical Day

March 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	SM	22
23	A80	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

20 Staff Days; 19 Student Days (20 w/A80)

April 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	H	H	H	H	H	19
20	A80	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

17 Staff Days; 16 Student Days (17 w/A80)

May 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	IS	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	H	27	28	LD-S	30	31

21 Staff Days; 20 Student Days
May 9 - In-Service Day
May 29 - Last Day for Seniors (Grad. Day)

June 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	LD	7
8	IS	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

6 Staff Days; 5 Student Days
June 6 - Last Day for K-11 Students

191 Work Days for Teachers

In the event of an inclement weather closure, SV may call for either a traditional "Snow Day," or a Remote Learning Day. If it is a traditional "Snow Day," the following are two makeup days that will be utilized:

Feb. 14, 2025

March 21, 2025

District Local Holidays:

Nov. 27, 2024

Dec. 2, 2024

Dec. 24, 2024

Dec. 31, 2024

April 18, 2025

KEY

A80 - Act 80 - Prof. Develop. Day (No school for students)

H - Holiday (No school)

IS - In-Service Day (No school for students)

FD, LD & LD-S - First Student Day, Last Student Day & Last Day/Graduation Day for Seniors

SM - Snow Makeup Day (this day becomes a holiday if no snow make-up days are needed)

Remote Learning - Flexible Instructional Day/Students engage in remote learning from home

Please note all dates are subject to change

ROWAN ELEMENTARY WELCOMES A FAMILIAR FACE

During Seneca Valley's School Board meeting this month, board members approved the appointment of Dr. Tina Wentz as the District's new principal of Rowan Elementary School in Cranberry Township.

Dr. Wentz has worked in the Seneca Valley School District for nearly nine years. She served as the assistant principal of Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) for seven years and one year as the acting principal. Additionally, Dr. Wentz has been serving as the acting principal at Rowan Elementary since August 2023. Prior to her time at Seneca Valley, Dr. Wentz was an assistant principal of Indian Head Elementary School in Maryland for four years. During her time there, she conducted observations of classroom teachers, handled student behavioral concerns and served on the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) vertical team and the Student Support Team.

"We are very fortunate to have Dr. Wentz as the principal at Rowan Elementary School," said Dr. Sean McCarty, Assistant Superintendent for K-6 Instruction. "Dr. Wentz brings with her a wealth of knowledge and has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills throughout her tenure at Seneca Valley. Beginning the school year at Rowan as acting principal was a dynamic start to the year, and it will only continue to benefit the students, parents, faculty and staff. We look forward to seeing her fresh vision, inspiration and continued dedication to the Rowan community."

Dr. Wentz has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Education in Administration from California University of Pennsylvania. She also earned her doctorate in Leadership and Administration with honors and a 4.0 GPA from Point Park University in Pittsburgh.



"It is an honor to be selected as principal of Rowan Elementary School and to be entrusted to lead a school with such a strong commitment to academic achievement and holistic student development," said Dr. Wentz. "I am excited to continue working with the dedicated staff, outstanding students and supportive families that make up the Rowan community. Together, I am confident that we will continue to build on previous successes and explore new opportunities for growth and innovation."

Dr. Wentz replaces Ms. Nannette Farmar, who retired earlier this month. ■

A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Did you know January is Blood Donation Month?

In collaboration with the Seneca Valley School District, the Cranberry Township Police Department hosted a community blood drive, contributing to a vital cause.

The event, held at Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School, welcomed local

residents, police personnel and school staff, eager to make a positive impact. The joint initiative aimed to support our local blood banks, addressing the critical need for blood donations.

All scheduled appointments were fully booked, and walk-ins were welcomed!

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to make a difference! ■



COMMENDABLE COURAGE

The Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) recently introduced the WPIAL Hall of Fame Class of 2024, which features 14 inductees across seven different categories. The 17th annual WPIAL Hall of Fame class was announced to the public on Wednesday, Jan. 17, in a press conference at the Senator John Heinz History Center and Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum.

Out of the 14 inductees, five are listed in the Athlete category, three in Coach, two in Team, and one each in Official, Contributor, Heritage, and Courage. To view the full Hall of Fame inductee list visit [WPIAL Announces 14-Member Hall of Fame Class of 2024 - Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League](#).

Ms. Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley Athletics and Activities Director was featured under the Courage category. Ms. Lewis bravely battled breast cancer for 10 months from 2021-22. She is the school's first female



Athletics and Activities Director and has served in this position since 2012. A graduate from the University of Maryland, Ms. Lewis earned All-Region plaudits for the field hockey and women's lacrosse teams, ultimately winning an NCAA title in the latter. Ms. Lewis spent time as an associate athletic director and the head coach of the field hockey and women's lacrosse programs at Bucknell University, was elected to the WPIAL Board of Directors prior to the 2019-20 school year, and she was named 2022 PSADA Region IV Athletic Director of the Year. Ms. Lewis also worked with the U.S. Olympic Committee ahead of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.



The WPIAL Hall of Fame was organized as a means of recognizing, preserving, and promoting the heritage of interscholastic sports in Western Pennsylvania. Many individuals have made extraordinary contributions and have achieved superb accomplishments in high school sports. The WPIAL Hall of Fame honors the contributions and accomplishments of these individuals who are worthy of recognition as examples for others to emulate.

The annual WPIAL Hall of Fame induction banquet will be held on Friday, May 31, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Greentree. ■

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

This month, Dr. Jeff Roberts, Director of Student Services and a trustee of the Seneca Valley Foundation was recognized as a Community Champions Individual Honoree by the Pittsburgh North Regional Chamber (PNRC). Each year, the PNRC recognizes three Community Champion honorees in the categories of individual, small business and nonprofit who go above and beyond in their community or profession.

Dr. Roberts and his team are dedicated to fostering mental health awareness, and they are committed to supporting the students and staff members of the District.

"It's a great honor to be recognized as a Community Champion," said Dr. Roberts. "All of our student services team work hard to support our students' wellness. I'm most proud that our students are empowered to help one another when they need it most."

Dr. Roberts implemented the Hope Squad, a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program aimed to help reduce youth suicide through education, training and peer intervention. He and his team are also responsible for Seneca Valley's partnership with Care Solace, a mental health care coordination service available to students, staff and families that helps individuals find mental health care providers and substance use treatment centers.

The PNRC shared, "He has been instrumental in fostering an open dialogue about mental health, breaking down stigmas, and encouraging students and staff to seek help when needed. His empathetic and approachable demeanor has created a safe space where people feel comfortable discussing the current mental



health climate, ultimately contributing to a more supportive school culture. Dr. Roberts continually goes above and beyond to ensure success in everyone he meets. He inspires hope. His dedication, leadership, and passion for creating a thriving community make him an outstanding candidate." ■

SV EARNs AP COMPUTER SCIENCE FEMALE DIVERSITY AWARD

Seneca Valley has earned the College Board AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls' access in AP computer science courses.

More than 1,100 institutions achieved either 50% or higher female representation in one of the two AP computer science courses or a percentage of the female computer science exam takers meeting or exceeding that of the school's female population during the 2022-23 school year. In 2023, Seneca Valley was one of 834 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science Principles (CSP).

"We're thrilled to congratulate our female AP Computer Science students and their teachers on this step toward gender parity in computer science education," said Seneca Valley Senior High School Principal, Mr. Bob Ceh. "We're honored that our school earned this distinction and look forward to seeing these young women and others pursue and achieve success in computer science education and careers."

Providing female students with access to computer science courses is critical to ensuring gender parity in the industry's high-paying jobs and to driving innovation, creativity and representation. The median annual wage for computer and information technology occupations was \$100,530 in May 2022. However, women represent just 24% of the five million people in computing occupations.

The first year of AP Computer Science Principles in 2016-17 attracted more students than any other AP course debut, and participation is on the rise. In 2023, 164,505 students took the AP CSP Exam—more than triple the number



of exam takers in the course's first year. In 2023, 55,572 women took the AP CSP Exam, more than four times the number who tested in 2017.

"Computer science is the source code of our economy and much of the career landscape," said Trevor Packer, Head of the AP Program. "In the six years since we began the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award, it's been heartening to see schools like Seneca Valley welcome so many more young women into this vital field."

That's why College Board [research](#) about AP CSP is so encouraging. According to the data, female students who take AP CSP in high school are more than five times as likely to major in computer science in college, compared to female students of similar background and academic preparation who did not take CSP. The study also

finds AP CSP students are nearly twice as likely to enroll in AP CSA, and that for most students, AP CSP serves as a stepping stone to other advanced AP STEM coursework.

These findings highlight the importance of schools nationwide achieving gender parity in AP computer science classrooms. Overall, female students remain underrepresented in our high school computer science classes, accounting for just 34% of AP Computer Science Principles participants and 26% of AP Computer Science A participants. Currently, 57.5% of the nation's high schools teach foundational computer science. The 1,127 schools that receive this year's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award serve as inspirations and models for all U.S. high schools. ■

SV ALL-STAR: RGMS PARAPROFESSIONAL RECOGNIZED FOR TECH TALENT AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS

For the month of January, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Ms. Patti Ristey, technology support assistant at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS).

The SV All-Star Club is an awards program developed by the District to express our gratitude to Seneca Valley classified employees (administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, maintenance, cafeteria), bus drivers and security guards who are often the unsung heroes of our schools. We recognize a new member of this elite all-star club each month.

Ms. Ristey, a paraprofessional at RGMS, works in the tech lab and provides a tremendous amount of technology support for the school's faculty, students, and staff members. Beyond her efficiency and invaluable knowledge in the world of technology, Ms. Ristey radiates positivity and always has a smile on her face.

"It is my honor to celebrate this exceptional individual who plays a pivotal role in shaping our SV community," said Ms. Trisha Butschle, Assistant Principal at RGMS. "In the intricate world of technology, our IT Department certainly stands out. For individuals like me, who may encounter challenges with certain aspects of technology, Patti has an extraordinary talent for making the navigation of any digital complexity appear effortlessly seamless."



Back row from left, Ms. Trisha Butschle, Assistant Principal at Ryan Gloyer Middle School, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President, take a moment to congratulate Ms. Patti Ristey, tech support assistant at RGMS.

Ms. Butschle added, "Working in education is the best job in the world, and it becomes more fulfilling with individuals like Patti who choose to impact students' lives daily with boundless positivity and grace. Her kind and gentle voice resonates not just in the digital landscape but throughout the entire RGMS community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Patti, not only for keeping us powered by technology but for embodying the spirit of our educational mission." ■

'I LED THE PLEDGE'

Seneca Valley School District's School Board meetings were held on Jan. 8 and 22. We are 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 Jan. 8 work session meeting, we were joined by Maddox Pindroh, a second grader at Haine Elementary School. Maddox is the son of Todd and Leigha Pindroh of Cranberry Township. He loves his art and math classes and plans to be an artist when he grows up. Maddox plays baseball for Seneca Valley Baseball Association and was on the 2023 8U All-Star Travel Team. He also plays soccer for Seneca Valley Soccer Association, as well as Century United Football Club. His favorite sport is basketball, and he plays in the 8-10-year-old league at Cranberry Township Recreation Center. When he's not busy playing sports, he loves



Maddox Pindroh with, from L-R, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent, and Dr. Kristen White, Haine Elementary Principal.

spending time with his Cranberry West neighborhood friends and soccer team.

For the Jan. 22 regular meeting, we were joined by Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) fourth grader, Dominic



Dominic Angel with, from L-R, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent and Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President.

Angel. Dominic's favorite subject in school is math and he loves all things gaming. Although he's not certain, he thinks he wants to be in the coding or gaming field when he gets older. ■

SV RECOGNIZES SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

In honor of school boards' commitment to our students, schools and communities, January is once again designated School Director Recognition Month.

Pennsylvania public schools educate nearly 2 million students, including over 7,400 students here at Seneca Valley. The nine members of our school board are a vital part of the district's administrative team, making informed decisions that lead Seneca Valley and provide opportunities for every student to succeed.

School directors, who are unpaid volunteers, devote an average of 10 hours each month to the challenging and complex responsibilities of board business, including voting on budgets, adopting policy and conducting comprehensive planning.

As citizens and parents, the success of our schools is a collective interest. We recognize the time and dedication of our School Board and thank them for ensuring our schools remain a pathway to opportunity for every student.

To learn more about Seneca Valley School Board members, please visit [School Board / School Board Members \(svsd.net\)](https://svsd.net). ■

2024 Seneca Valley Board of Directors:

Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President
Lancaster and Forward Townships, Region 8

Mr. Jeff Widdowson, Board Vice President
Callery and Harmony Boroughs and Jackson Township, Region 9

Ms. Leslie Bredl
Cranberry Township East 1 and 2, Region 1

Ms. Kari Zimmer
Cranberry Township 1, 2 and 8, Region 2

Ms. Susan Harrison
Cranberry Township West 3 and 7, Region 3

Mr. Frederick Peterson Jr.
Cranberry Township West 4 and 6, Region 4

Mr. Timothy Hester
Cranberry Township East 3 and West 5, Region 5

Mr. Mike Jacobs
Zelienople Borough, Region 6

Mr. Nick Brower
Evans City and Seven Fields Boroughs, Region 7 ■



Photo Credit: Bill Paterson



Eric DiTullio



Jeff Widdowson



Leslie Bredl



Kari Zimmer



Susan Harrison



Frederick Peterson Jr.



Timothy Hester



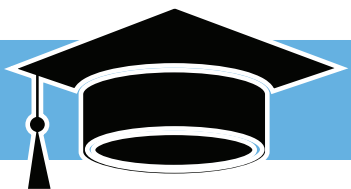
Mike Jacobs



Nick Brower

Thank you to Dr. Kristen White and her students from Haine Elementary School who created thoughtful posters and cards for our school board members! These students went above and beyond in celebrating School Director Recognition Month, making our board members feel truly appreciated.





Denny Davidson, SV '68, graduated at a time when the District had recently earned recognition as an official school district, and the campus was comprised of only one secondary building! 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 am the proprietor of a landscaping service.

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

A: That, at my age, I am very physically active and work full time! I am blessed to be very healthy!

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

A: The first principal of the Intermediate High School when it opened in 1964, (the late) Mr. Frank Adamcyk, taught me to be respectful and well-disciplined.



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

A: The Seneca Valley school buildings were always well kept, clean and a great atmosphere to learn and grow.

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

A: SV coach (the late) Mr. David Wiegand.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Seneca Valley? We'd encourage you to recall a moment or event that had a particularly strong influence on your life.

A: My favorite memories were playing football and participating in Track and Field. I was a first-string WPIAL wide receiver and also a MAC first-string player.

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

A: I would like to thank all my teachers and coaches for guiding me to success.



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

A: Seneca Valley has a great reputation for providing learning opportunities, especially in today's technology-driven world! ■



WELCOME, ALUMNI!

Seneca Valley is proud of our graduates who have excelled in their careers. Be sure to let us know if you would like to be featured in our Raider Pride e-newsletter. To keep us in the loop, send your graduation year, a summary of your professional life and a brief review of how Seneca Valley helped pave the way, to [Tiffany Hernandez](#), Content Marketing Specialist.



SAFEGUARDING YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE EXPERIENCE

We understand the joy that comes with receiving a new device as a holiday gift. However, with new technology comes the need to ensure online safety, especially for children. To assist you in this endeavor, we have provided some tips from Common Sense Media on rules you can share with children regarding device use. Additionally, we have provided a link below to review and consider some of the parental control apps now available for cellphones that will assist you in monitoring and tracking your child's activity.

The Basic Safety Rules for Cellphones

Texting:

- Be respectful, both to the people you're texting with and those around you.
- Be careful. Assume that even private texts can become public.

Calling:

- Verify the caller. Don't respond to numbers you don't know.
- Always answer the phone when it's a parent or caregiver!

Taking pictures and videos:

- Ask permission before you snap someone's picture, take a video, or share anything.
- Don't publicly embarrass people. Don't post someone's photo or video—especially an unflattering one—without their permission.

Apps and downloads:

- Apps, games, music, and in-app upgrades can cost real money. Follow your family's rules about what you can and can't buy, and whether you need permission to download.



- You may not be able to access everything if parental control settings are enabled. Depending on your family's rules, some content, downloads, and in-app purchases could be blocked.

Posting:

- Think before you post. Be very choosy about what you post from your phone.
- Be safe. Sharing private information and using location services can be risky.

Social Networking for Teens

For many legitimate reasons, social media is often number one on a parent's list of digital worries. From predators to privacy, there's truly a lot of iffy stuff for teens to navigate. While all of that is true, using social media wisely can also give teens a sense of connection, fun, and creativity. If a caregiver is involved in a teen's digital

life, preps them for how to handle negative online situations, talks about protecting privacy and being kind, it can go a long way toward a more positive social media experience. And if kids can avoid endless scrolling and comparing themselves to others, and instead focus on friendship and creativity, it may give them a boost instead of bringing them down. Learn more and read reviews on the many social media platforms out there by visiting [Social Networking for Teens | Common Sense Media](#).

When all else fails, there are several parental control apps for cellphones. Here's a recent list reviewed and ranked by Consumers Advocate: [Top 10 Parental Control Apps of 2024 \(consumersadvocate.org\)](#). ■

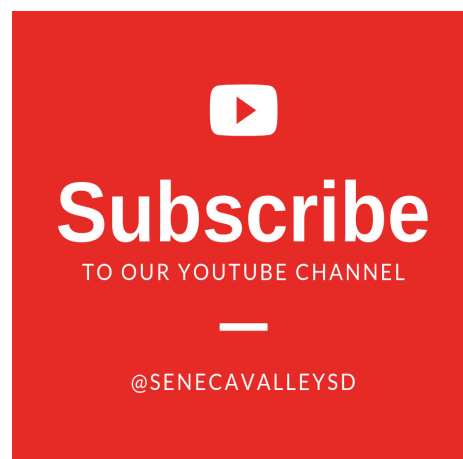


- Teacher Nominations - WTAE-TV is launching a Teacher of the Month recognition program for the 2023-24 school year. Each month, from September through May, a teacher will be selected from the many deserving submissions that they receive. The selected Teacher of the Month will receive a \$1000 credit to donorschoose.org, a crowd-sourcing page for classroom project/program funding. In addition, Pittsburgh's Action News 4 will feature that teacher and their story (and possibly a surprise school visit) during a news broadcast, as well as social media. Nomination information can be found at [WTAE Teacher of the Month](#).
- All students in Pennsylvania public schools, including Seneca Valley, have access to **free breakfast for the 2023-24 school year**, regardless of family income. Encourage your student(s) to stop for a full breakfast or various grab-and-go items. And new for the 2023-24 school year, families who qualify for reduced meals will now be able to receive lunch for free. If you think you qualify, please apply to receive this benefit and return it to the Seneca Valley Administration Office with attention to Faye Nelson. We encourage you to fill out a Free & Reduced-Price School Meals Application as many programs are connected to your child(ren)'s eligibility. Applications can be found at www.svsd.net/FreeandReduced.
- SV Backpack Flyers - Flyers are updated frequently and feature information on student and community events/activities. Learn more at [Backpack Flyers / Backpack Flyers \(svsd.net\)](#).
- Healthy habits - SV's Health Services Department would like to remind everyone to eat well, sleep well, stay hydrated and wash hands frequently. Additionally, they ask that you please stay home or keep your child home when sick, and for 24 hours after fever is gone without medication or 24 hours without vomiting/diarrhea. Thank you!
- Seneca Valley residents 62 years of age or older are invited to apply to become a member of the Seneca Valley School District Gold Card Club. Membership entitles card holders to attend home athletic events, music, dramatic and other school productions. To apply for a gold card, please visit [Parents/Community / Gold Card Club \(svsd.net\)](#).
- Reality Tour is an accessible substance prevention program that delivers information to get parent and child on the same page.

FYI

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices.

Additionally, January is Mental Wellness Month, a time dedicated to promoting healthy mental health habits and emotional balance. With the advent of the New Year, it is the perfect time to address our mental wellness and make a fresh start. This January, let's look forward to prioritizing our mental health! To learn



- [Substance Abuse Prevention for Parents - CANDLE, Inc. \(candleinc.org\)](#)
- [Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!](#)
- [Drive for SV! Driver incentives are now being offered.](#)
- Join the SV Team! Visit www.svsd.net/HumanResources to learn more and apply.
- Visit [Niche](#) to view SV rankings ■



more about the district's mental wellness resources, visit [Student Services / Mental Wellness \(svsd.net\)](#).

**Note: Confidentiality is held with the utmost integrity when dealing with personal matters. ■*

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SVSD – Drug Prevention is for *Every* Family



I will be my child's most
most **POWERFUL**
PREVENTION tool.

Register Now || RealityTour.org



MOST POPULAR **PARENT/CHILD** PREVENTION PROGRAM.
PARENTS RATE IT AS "PRICELESS"

"One parent emailed me after attending Reality Tour to express gratitude for SVSD support calling it a 'great resource for the fight against substance abuse'.

We believe our partnership with Reality Tour serves as a deterrent in this never-ending battle."

Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent

Reality Tour, the only **parent/child drug prevention program** in Butler County, has educated over 14,000 residents. Parent/Child prevention education is the key to protecting families. It is recommended by that all SVSD Area students (especially those in 6th grade) attend a Reality Tour with a parent or guardian.

Reality Tour is held from 6-8 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, 8070 Rowan Road. All registration is online at www.RealityTour.org. The fee is \$6 per person. (Families on free & reduced lunch register at no charge.)

Reality Tour 2024 Dates

Feb. 15	6-8pm
Mar. 21	6-8pm
Apr. 18	6-8pm
May 16	6-8pm

No homework due day after you attend Reality Tour.

Dates may fill quickly. Register now! Youth aged 10-18 must attend with their own parent or guardian.

Parents: DEA issued a national alert on Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer in the illegal drug supply. It is present in our county. Vaping has caused a heightened concern for prevention. Reality Tour puts special emphasis on teen vaping and the associated risks.

"These could have been the most important hours I ever spend with my son." – From a father who attended with his son.





1974 SAGA

1974

SAVE THE DATE!

Seneca Valley School District

50 Year
REUNION

GLEN EDEN BARN

Dufford Road, Evans City

Saturday, July 6

*** Possible Golf Outing Friday, July 5, based on interest*

Please share with parents, grandparents, neighbors and
friends from the **SV class of '74!**

Contact

Dawn Jamieson Wagner at ridawag2@sbcglobal.net or
Marcia Guth at mguth@djdc.com



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