GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT!

THE RIVER VALLEY NEWS

Winter 2025

River Valley's First-Ever Unified Bocce Team Wraps Up Inaugural Season

This year, our high school made history by launching its first-ever Unified Bocce team! The program, part of the Special Olympics Unified Sports initiative, brought students together to compete in a fun, supportive, and inclusive environment.



Throughout the season, the team showcased sportsmanship, teamwork, and dedication, competing against Ligonier Valley, Greater Latrobe, and Greensburg Salem. From their first practice to their final match, they played with enthusiasm and heart, making their inaugural season one to remember.



We are incredibly proud of our Unified Bocce team for their hard work and the positive impact they've made in our school community. Congratulations on a fantastic first season!



Coaching our first Unified Bocce Team at River Valley provided me insight into an entirely different sports community. Unified sports highlight the most important aspects of high school sports: teamwork, sportsmanship, and competition. I could not be more proud of our student athletes to take the risk, to try something new and possibly put themselves out of their comfort zone. We would like to thank the administration, the athletic department, and the teachers who helped make this season a success. The staff and teachers who provided the help at our home match included Brock Harsh, Darren Studnicki, Danielle Bouy, Rebecca Miloser, and Mya Hilliard. Go Panthers!

- Mr. Jake Just, Unified Bocce Coach



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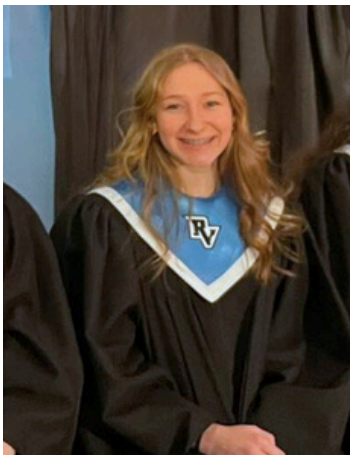
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RIVER VALLEY NEWS
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Two River Valley Students Advance to Region Music Festivals

Congratulations to Molly Condor and Luke Prohaska for advancing to the next level of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) music festivals!





Molly will perform at Region Chorus, and Luke will perform at Region Band. We're proud of their hard work and dedication to music, and we wish them the best as they represent River Valley at their performances in March.

TODD MCGEE MEMORIAL 5K RUN



BENEFITING
THE TODD A. MCGEE
MEMORIAL ATHLETIC AND
ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

REGISTER NOW

MARCH 29, 2025

Register by March 15
to get a free t-shirt!

Panthers Take the Plunge!



This year, RVHS proudly participated in the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge to support Special Olympics Pennsylvania. Students and staff volunteers braved the icy waters to raise awareness and funds for this incredible organization, which provides year-round sports training and competition opportunities for athletes of all abilities. Every dollar raised helps expand programs like Unified Bocce, ensuring that all athletes have the opportunity to compete, grow, and thrive.

Elementary Athena Clubs Host Etiquette Lunch

Our elementary school Athena Clubs came together for a special etiquette lunch on January 24, featuring an engaging presentation from Kelsey Pilotta of the IUP Career and Professional Development Center.

Kelsey led a lively session covering key skills such as effective conversation, active listening, and professional dining etiquette. Participants then put their new knowledge into practice while enjoying a delicious meal from the Classroom Cantina. The lunch was filled with laughter, great discussions, and a relaxed atmosphere, making it a truly memorable afternoon.

Thank you to Kelsey for sharing her time and expertise and to the RV Cantina, Rising Educators students, parent volunteers, and Athena Club advisors for making this event so special.



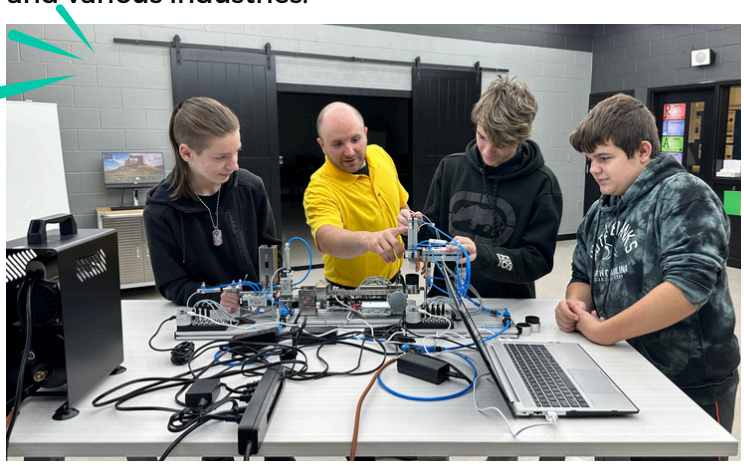
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Inside Automation Engineering

A Q&A with STEAM Academy Instructor,
Mr. Jonathan Taylor

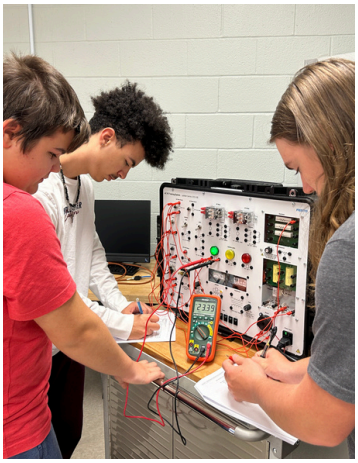
Q: Can you give us an overview of the Automation Engineering program and what students can expect to learn?

The Automation Engineering program is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to work with automated systems, including pneumatic, electro-pneumatic, and mechatronic technologies. The curriculum covers fundamental principles of automation, control systems, and the use of specialized software like FluidSIM for designing and simulating automation circuits. Students learn about safety practices, electrical and mechanical components, and how to integrate various systems to create automated processes. By the end of the program, students will have a deep understanding of how automation is used in manufacturing, robotics, and various industries.



Q: What kind of projects do students work on in this program?

Students work on a variety of experiential projects that allow them to put their skills into practice. These projects include designing and simulating electro-pneumatic systems using FluidSIM software, building automation systems like conveyor belts or stacking magazine stations that mimic real-world industrial applications, and working with sensors, actuators, and control systems to develop automated processes. Additionally, they participate in group projects that focus on solving automation challenges, such as optimizing production flow in a simulated factory environment. These experiences provide students with a solid foundation in automation and prepare them for the complexities of real-world technical careers.





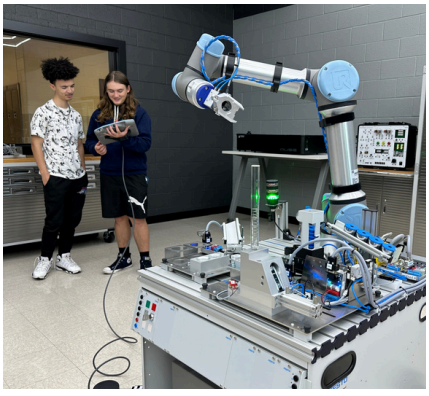
Q: What types of careers can students pursue after completing this program?

Students who complete this program can explore careers in industries such as:

- **Manufacturing:** Automation technicians or engineers who maintain and improve production lines.
- **Automotive:** Specialists in robotics and automation for vehicle assembly or component manufacturing.
- **Aerospace:** Engineers who design or maintain automated systems in aircraft manufacturing.
- **Logistics and Warehousing**: Automation specialists who design and implement conveyor systems or inventory management solutions.
- **Energy and Utilities:** Technicians working with automated control systems in power plants or renewable energy sectors.

Q: What advice would you give to students considering enrolling in automation engineering?

If you're considering Automation Engineering, it's important to have a passion for technology, problem-solving, and hands-on work. Curiosity and a willingness to learn are key, as automation is a rapidly evolving field. Be prepared for both theoretical and practical learning—understanding how systems work is just as important as knowing how to design or repair them. Embrace the opportunity to work in teams, as collaboration is crucial in real-world automation projects.



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 or call 724-343-3230.

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Middle School Students Take on MATHCOUNTS Challenge



Our Middle School MATHCOUNTS team traveled to UPJ on February 22 for the Johnstown Regional Competition, where they put their problem-solving skills to the test against top math minds in the area.

Team members earned their place by excelling on a qualifying test, with the top-scoring students securing a spot in the competition. After weeks of preparation—solving challenging problems, sharpening their critical thinking, and working together as a team—they gave it their all in an exciting day of competition.

This contest consisted of two rounds of individual competition and a 4-person team competition. Three RVMS students placed in the top ten for the individual competition. Lane finished 10th, Kayden 9th, and Jaxin took 6th. Congratulations!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MUSICAL** — MARCH 14-16
- **BES SPRING CONCERT** — APRIL 11
- **SPRING BREAK** — APRIL 17-21
- **MS/HS SPRING CONCERT** — MAY 7
- **KEYSTONE EXAMS** (ALGEBRA, BIOLOGY, LITERATURE) — MAY 12-23
- **SES SPRING CONCERT** — MAY 13
- **2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

