



RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

APRIL 2025



FROM EPISODE ONE TO 100: CELEBRATING SV'S 'VOICES' PODCAST

This month, we recognized and celebrated 100 episodes of the Seneca Valley "Voices" Podcast! To mark the milestone, staff, students and special guests who've appeared on the podcast were invited to a reception on April 25. As we look back on the journey of "Voices" with our top episodes per year, we look ahead to what the future holds! Special thanks to all those who have helped bring these stories to life.



Did you know the SV "Voices" Podcast has had over 8,500 downloads? Check out our 100th episode featuring Ms. Tiffany Hernandez, SV Content Marketing Specialist, as she discusses the behind-the-scenes planning that goes into podcast topics and what listeners can look forward to in episodes to come! [Listen to the Seneca Valley "Voices" Podcast here.](#) ■



TOP PODCASTS BY YEAR:

- 2020: Return to School Overview and Preparation with Dr. Tracy Vitale
- 2021: Good to Know: Safety and Security Information with Officer Abigail Evans
- 2022: "My baby is headed to kindergarten – now what?" Preparing for Kindergarten with Principal Ms. Kristen White
- 2023: Introducing "We are SV" with Ms. Lisa Graham and Seneca Valley sophomore, Miss Elaina Donahue and junior, Mr. Nolan Aleprete
- 2024: Introducing the Inaugural Seneca Valley Best Buddies Walk with Dr. Kathy Mahon and Seneca Valley fourth grader, Miss Lucy Martsof
- 2025: Empowering Every Student: A Spotlight on Special Education with Dr. Cassandra Doggrell, Dr. Mallory Eyles and Ms. Ashley Pattison



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DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 3 SAT Testing
- May 5 School Board Meeting, Work Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- May 5-16 SHS AP Testing
- May 9 In-Service Day, No School for Students
- May 10 Prom
- May 12 School Board Meeting, Regular Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- May 26 District Holiday, No School
- May 29 Graduation Day
- May 30 Graduation Rain Date

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

IT'S AN HONOR!

Click here to view the 2024-25 Third Nine Weeks Honor Rolls for grades 7-12.



#SVGIVESBACK

Congratulations to the Seneca Valley Senior High School Student Council and all who supported this year's Raiderthon! SV celebrated school spirit and heartwarming community contributions in a BIG way!

Between raffle baskets, donations and a GoFundMe page, the event, held April 4, raised over \$14,000 for the Miracle League of Southwestern PA (SWPA).

From club-run carnival booths and face painting to karaoke and big ball volleyball competitions, the event buzzed with excitement! Over the last 10 years, Seneca Valley students have raised over \$115,000 for the Miracle League of SWPA! ■



MOST VALUABLE PUP

April 30 is National Therapy Animal Day and students in Dr. Josh Sektnan and Ms. Tammie Wylie’s classes have been hard at work learning about the difference between therapy and service dogs! Students also learned how Dr. Sektnan’s own dogs serve travelers through the PIT PAWS (Pups Alleviating Worry & Stress) program at Pittsburgh International Airport.

Inspired by this lesson, the classes collaborated to create catchy name ideas for therapy dogs that visit the District and then sent a survey out to Ehrman Crest Elementary to vote on the top name!



The top three names included:

- SV PUPS (Petting Unique Perfect Specialty): 13.74%
- SV Cuddle (Canines Uplifting District Dogs Loving Everyone): 18.68%

- SV MVP (Most Valuable Pup): 30.22%

Thank you to all who voted, and we look forward to seeing what’s next for SV MVP visitors! ■

HAINÉ’S BEST BUDDIES UNITE FOR BOCCE PROGRAM

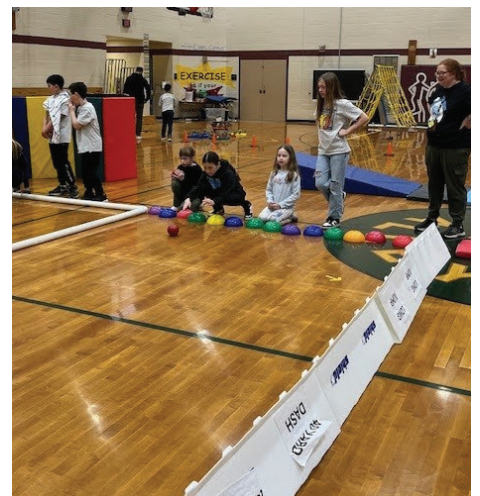
Haine Elementary School has partnered with Special Olympics Pennsylvania to launch the area’s first elementary-level Unified Bocce program. This exciting initiative brought together students from Haine Elementary’s third and fourth grade Best Buddies group to participate in eight weeks of bocce activities in an inclusive setting.

Throughout the program, students worked on teamwork, skill-building and sportsmanship, culminating in a friendly and competitive tournament on the final day. The championship team earned extra physical education time as a reward for their hard work and dedication.

Coaches for Haine Elementary’s Unified Bocce team are Ms. Ashley Salman, Haine

Elementary Physical Education teacher, and Ms. Ashley Nardone, Haine Elementary School counselor.

“We are incredibly proud of our students and grateful for the opportunity to create an environment where all students can grow, learn and thrive together,” said Ms. Salman and Ms. Nardone. ■





Save the Date!

Kindergarten Countdown

We are thrilled to welcome you to our school community and look forward to the upcoming academic year!

To help your new kindergartener become familiar with our school and meet our staff members, we would like to invite you and your kindergartener to come and visit.

May 9, 2025

Upon completing your child's 2025-26 Kindergarten Registration, you will receive detailed information about Kindergarten Countdown from the building your child will attend.

Register your child today at
www.svsd.net/25-26KRegistration



FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

Students in the Social Skills Tutoring (SST) Program recently came together for their monthly after-school meeting—packed with outdoor games, creative crafts and even an egg hunt!

The highlight? A special surprise visit from School Resource Officer (SRO) Chris Pipkin! What a fantastic way to welcome spring, strengthen communication skills and foster meaningful friendships! ■



CELEBRATING IN STYLE

Students in the Social Skills Tutoring (SST) Program recently stepped back in time to the Roaring '20s during their final after-school gathering of the year. Decked out in 1920s flair from head to toe, the event brought history to life through hands-on activities and themed fun. Students analyzed classic silent films, played a round of golf in honor of the sport's golden era, enjoyed making Shirley Temples and more! The afternoon wrapped up with a lively 1920s-style dance party—making for a memorable way to build connections and celebrate “all that jazz!” ■



INNOVATORS OFF TO INVENTIONLAND

Ehrman Crest Middle School students took on the role of innovators for this year's CIRC Tank project. Students began by forming a company based on interest. From there, each company created its own name, logo and slogan. After brainstorming ideas, students dove into technical drawings, building their design, testing the product, pricing the product and packaging. Companies created a presentation and commercial that were judged by our wonderful community members and volunteers. The top 14 companies went to Inventionland in Pittsburgh to compete for the top four spots.

Here are the winning companies and products:

- The Razzle Dazzle company innovated a shoe and sock combination that allows people of all abilities to easily slip on and off a shoe and sock at the same time. Their slogan is, "Life is too short for uncomfortable shoes." The company designs shoes based on themes and



holidays such as a space boot with fidgets shaped like stars and planets!

- The Titan Mecha Machinery company innovated a clip that attaches to any measuring tape that truly holds the measuring tape in place without snapping back too quickly. Their slogan is, "Empowering your craftsmanship with reliability, precision and perfection!" This clip allows individuals to measure without another person holding the tape in place.
- The Dazzling Divas company innovated a travel beauty brush with three built-in products. Buyers will have a makeup brush, a blender and perfume in one that easily fits into a purse or travel bag. "Where fashion and beauty meets art" is their slogan.
- The Cotton Breeze company innovated

a sweatshirt with built-in essential oils to calm and soothe customers. "Embrace the cozy life," is their slogan. Customers will have their choice of scents and colors.

Those four companies will return to Inventionland on May 21 to compete in the regional contest. Good luck to our creative innovators! ■



DRAWN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

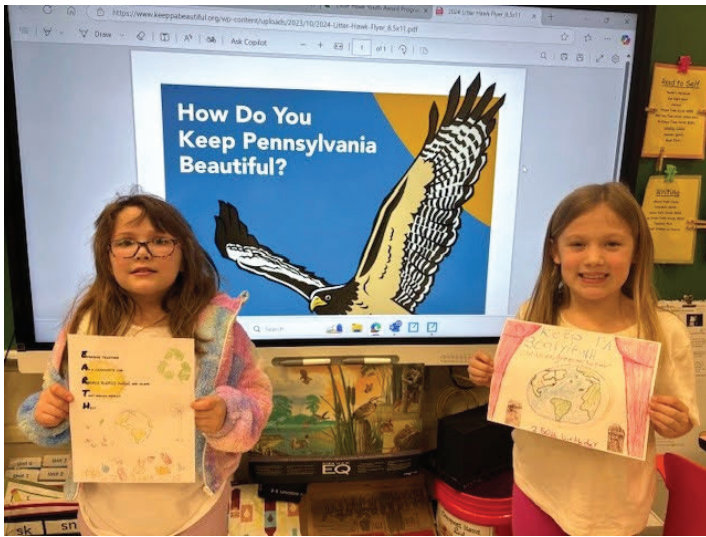
Congratulations to Rowan Elementary second graders Lili Dessler and Maddie Griffin on being named 2025 Litter Hawk Youth Award winners.

The Litter Hawk Youth Award Program, funded by PA Department of Environmental Protection, provides a way for students in kindergarten through sixth grade to express their concerns about litter through art, writing or video. These talented young students submitted posters, and out of more than 500 entries, Miss Dessler

was a first-place winner and Ms. Griffin was a second-place winner.

Judges were impressed by the many thoughtful submissions that highlighted positive efforts to reduce litter in parks, school grounds, and along roadways.

A ceremony recognizing students was held April 3 at the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building in Harrisburg. Poster-sized displays of winning entries were on display throughout the month. ■



CHECK THIS OUT!

Haine Elementary third grader Panav Ezapa recently competed in the 2025 Pennsylvania State Scholastic Chess Championship held in Harrisburg. Competing against nearly 200 players and 70 teams, Mr. Ezapa won first place in the Under 900 section and secured his spot in the national championship!

We're proud of the dedication and strategy Panav brought to the board – congratulations! ■



FIRE SAFETY FOR ALL

Seneca Valley students with visual impairments, grades 7-12, recently took part in a unique, hands-on fire safety program presented by the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company on Tuesday, April 22.

Organized by Ms. Jessica Sloan, Midwestern Intermediate Unit (MIU) IV Teacher of the Visually Impaired, this event was tailored to address both general and low-vision-specific fire safety practices. The program offered students the chance to learn essential safety tips and even practice using a fire extinguisher to put out a simulated fire. ■



IT'S GLOW TIME!

Seventh graders at Ryan Gloyer Middle School were pumped and prepped heading into the English Language Arts PSSA exams. Students in Ms. Maggie Mollura's English Language Arts (ELA) class reviewed for the exam by participating in "Glow Games," generously provided through parent donations. The class reviewed test-taking strategies and ELA curriculum, all while playing fun glow-in-the-dark games like basketball, Connect 4

and more! Students even went home with glow glasses to remember the day.

Ms. Mollura added, "It was wonderful to see the students' knowledge truly 'glow!'" ■



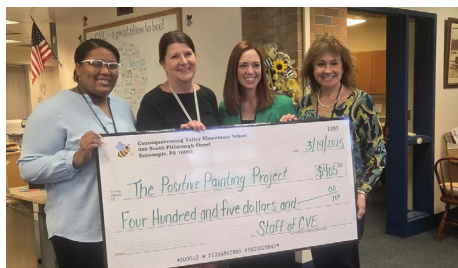
COMING TOGETHER

Last month, faculty and staff at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) teamed up to support colleague Ms. Alisa Whysong by raising \$405 for The Positive Painting Project. As part of the fundraiser, CVE took part in a “Blue Jean Friday,” wearing jeans and green shirts to raise awareness for mental health.

The Positive Painting Project is a community based non-profit organization that uses visual art to promote positive mental health and suicide prevention.

Todd and Alisa Whysong founded the organization in loving memory of their daughter, Katie Whysong, a talented artist who battled depression and anxiety and tragically lost her life to suicide. Katie was a strong advocate for mental health awareness and inspired the organization’s mission: to use visual art to spread positive and encouraging messages in schools and communities.

This meaningful fundraising effort was



inspired by Ms. Whysong and the work of SV’s Hope Squad. It touched the hearts of staff members and brought the school community closer together. CVE looks forward to incorporating The Positive Painting Project into their upcoming



Wellness Day activities.

Read more about The Positive Painting Project at [Seneca Valley’s Hope Squad paints to lift up classmates and prevent suicide | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



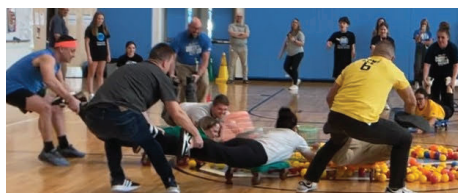
After taking part in The Positive Painting Project event held in February, Ryan Gloyer Middle School Hope Squad members chose the organization as the recipient of their Pi Day fundraiser. Students and staff raised \$200, which they presented to Ms. Alisa Whysong while proudly showcasing their meaningful and colorful art wall! ■

A FUN DAY, THE SV3 WAY!

Last month, Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) hosted its inaugural SV3 Celebration Assembly as part of its Schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) programming to recognize students and staff for demonstrating Ready, Respectful and Responsible behavior (also known as the SV3).

Students were celebrated for completing Crest Cards and earning SV3 Tickets for exemplary conduct. Raffles featured prizes from generous local donors, including the Seneca Valley Foundation and ECMS PTO.

Fifth and sixth graders competed in “The SV3 Showdown,” a game that reinforced positive behaviors. As the winning team,



fifth grade students earned prizes and the opportunity to vote on a silly stunt for Principal Mr. Eiler and Assistant Principal Mr. Aranha to complete.

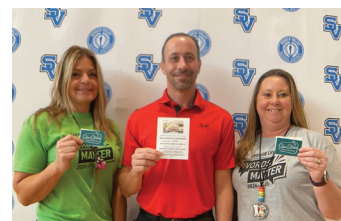
Three staff members were honored for consistently distributing SV3 Tickets, and 10 participated in a surprise live Hungry Hippos competition.

The assembly also served as the kickoff for the SV3 Spring Challenge that ran throughout the month. Special shoutout to the SV3 Squad



student members for their help during the celebration assembly. Everyone had a blast!

For their generosity and support in making this event a success, many thanks go to local donors and partners: The Seneca Valley Foundation, ECMS PTO, Supremo’s Pizzeria, Pizza IQ, Nothing Bundt Cake, SilverStream Coffee Roasters, Dairy Queen, Fun Fore All, Philly Pretzel Factory and the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex. ■



PLANNING AHEAD

Seneca Valley held its annual College & Career School Fair on Thursday, April 24 for students in grades 10–12! With around 70 representatives from state universities, private colleges, community colleges, trade schools, military branches and more, students had the chance to explore future paths, connect with admission representatives and learn about summer internship opportunities and the variety of options available to them.

Post-Secondary Plans for SV Graduates:
Did you know?

- 72% attend a 4-year college/institution
- 15% join the workforce/military/other
- 10% attend a 2-year college/institution

“I think this event is very important for us as students because there’s a lot of questions we may not know to ask, and we can come to these people to get answers and guidance,” said Seneca Valley junior Ryan Priester. “Our future depends on what we do after high school, and the representatives here are doing a great job at explaining things about college and other opportunities.” ■

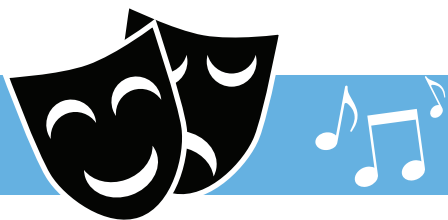


DISCOVER WHAT'S POSSIBLE

Seneca Valley’s Job & Opportunities Fair will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, in the Senior High School Gymnasium.

The event will feature representatives for seniors seeking full-time employment, networking opportunities, internships and part-time summer employment. Juniors are also invited to learn more about summer employment, job shadowing experiences and other opportunities. Companies in attendance offer career growth, apprenticeships, job training, and/or tuition assistance. Details on the schedule, attending companies and helpful resources can be found at [Job & Opportunities Fair](#). ■





ENCORE-WORTHY MOMENTS

Eighteen Seneca Valley Band students were selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Junior High Band Fest at North Catholic High School on March 25.

The festival featured two concert bands that diligently rehearsed during the day with a successful performance in the evening. The concert included a varied style of music from slow somber tunes to high energy pieces that kept the enthusiastic audience on their toes.

The seventh and eighth grade ensemble showcased five SV students and was conducted by Dr. Chris Marra from Seton Hill University. Participants included Violet Acosta (trumpet), Max Cisse (trumpet), Liam Janouskovec (trombone), Finley Wilson (flute) and Breanna Zimmerman (alto saxophone).

The ninth grade ensemble also featured 13 SV students and was directed by Mr. Jason Venesky from Armstrong High School in Kittanning, PA. Student members included Jonathan Brower (trombone), Megan



Gates (clarinet), Aaron Hardy (clarinet), Ashley Himes (French horn), Quintin Hixon (trombone), Rileigh Karns (French horn), Joey LaGamba (percussion), Kimberly Lopez-Lopez (clarinet), Dahlia Marcin (clarinet), Kayleigh Morris (flute), Gio Salgado (alto saxophone), Parker Smith (trombone), and David Weisgerber (bass clarinet).

The students are led by Mr. Varden Armstrong, Mr. Robert Babick, Ms. Sara Snyder and Mr. Brian Croach. ■



SVAOC MUSIC STUDENTS EARN TOP HONORS AT THE ALL-STATE LEVEL OF PMEA

This month, 13 Seneca Valley musicians advanced all the way to the state level of PMEA and attended the annual PMEA All-State conference and festival. In the Performing Arts world, this is the equivalent of making it to the state championship. The event was held at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Pocono Manor, PA.



The All-State Orchestra was conducted by Mr. Michael Hall, Music Director of the Kennett Symphony and Prince George Symphony Orchestra in British Columbia, Canada. Students rehearsed with Mr. Laird over the course of two days which culminated in a performance on Friday, April 11.

All State Orchestra Participants: Elizabeth Browne, Heath Lyon, Isabella Muthler, and Jake Pieszak

The All-State Wind Ensemble was conducted by Dr. Tonya Mitchell-Spradlin, Director of Wind Band Studies and Assistant Professor of Music at Penn State University. The Wind Ensemble performed a concert on Saturday, April 12.

All State Band Participants: Camden Armstrong and Mackenzie Tunstall.

The All-State Jazz Ensemble was conducted by Gary Smulyan, critically



acclaimed Baritone Saxophonist in the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra from New York City. Their performance was on Friday, April 11.

All State Jazz Ensemble Participant: John Rieger

The All-State Choir was conducted by Rollo Dilworth, Vice Dean and Professor of Choral Music Education at Temple University. The Choir performed on Saturday, April 12.

All State Choir Participants: Ayla Alexander, Addison Grassa, Isaac Hixon, Madelynn Karns, Madeleine Tomo, and Madelyn Tresky. ■

VIDEO PRODUCTION STUDENTS ATTEND DMAC FESTIVAL

On April 9, SV Video Production students and SVTV members attended the annual Robert Morris Digital Media Arts Consortium (DMAC) student video festival. These talented students walked away with seven awards! Senior Gavin Cress was honored with a Founders Award in recognition of his tremendous work—both behind and in front of the camera—and for his leadership as SVTV president. He also picked up Best in Category for the “Black-and-White Photography” category.

Toby Nickles and senior Mason Loeffler won in the “Digital Cinema” category for their narrative final project from last spring, “Everything Around Us.” Mason also won in the “Photo Illustration” category.



Leo Simon won an Award of Excellence in the “Public Service Announcement” category for his snapshot into the perils of procrastination as well as in the “Documentary” category for his look into Ehrman Crest’s Wisdom Corridor.

James Gottuso was awarded in the “Commercial” category for his promotion of the 2025 documentary film screenings.

“I feel like a lot of people in the art world don’t get recognized for their work most of the time,” said senior award winner Mason Loeffler. “The DMAC was able to recognize and award me and a lot of other people for their work, which was really great to see.” We are so proud of all our students and the great work they have done this year! ■



COMPOSER VISITS SYMPHONIC BAND

March 14 was a special day for students in symphonic band. They were joined by a famous composer and clinician, Dr. Travis Weller. Dr. Weller is an Associate Director of Music at Messiah University where he leads bands and works with students in the Music Education program. He listened to and rehearsed students in symphonic band during their regular first period class. This was an extra special experience as the piece he was rehearsing was one of Dr. Weller’s very own compositions. Dr. Weller was incredibly impressed and honored to have the opportunity to work with such great students. The students also worked diligently in preparation for the visit and performed very well! The symphonic band will be performing this piece, “The Wellerman Come” at their spring concert on May 6. Dr. Weller will even be in attendance! ■



RIVER CITY BRASS QUINTET VISIT

On April 3, students in the band program listened to and worked with musicians from the River City Brass (RCB) Quintet. Eighth grade band students were amazed and amused by the performance. After this, Dr. James Gourlay, River City Brass Artistic & General Director, rehearsed with the students in Band 8. He commented on how impressed he was with these students. Dr. Gourlay was joined by four other RCB members: Mr. Josh Boudreau, Ms. Samantha Croach, Mr. Gabriel Colby and Mr. Jason Allison. This group also performed for students in the Brass Individual Musicianship classes and additional band students throughout grades 9-12. After the performance, a masterclass was held where SV seniors Noah Bracht (Tuba) and Elora Dabravalskas (Trumpet) performed challenging repertoire for their peers and RCB members. These students did an excellent job and represented themselves very well! ■



THESPIANS SPRING PLAY

The Seneca Valley Thespians Club is proud to present "Clue: On Stage (High School Edition)." It's a dark and stormy night, and a group of strangers has been invited to a very unusual dinner party. Each of the guests has an alias, the butler offers a variety of weapons and the host is, well, dead. So, whodunit? Join the iconic oddballs known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock and Mustard as they race to find the murderer in Boddy Manor before things get worse. Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game, "Clue" is a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist! The show will be presented in the Senior High Auditorium on May 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the door only: \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. Contact Amber Hugus with any questions: hugusal@svsd.net. Which ending will we present?? You'll have to come to the show to find out! ■



LIFELONG MUSIC MAKING

The Seneca Valley community can be proud to boast that in addition to all the other amazing groups and activities that exist, there is a vibrant musical organization made up of musicians from the surrounding area. The Harmony Zelenople Community Band (HCZB) has been in existence for over 30 years. Founder Susan VanArsdale created the group as an opportunity to provide a place for adults to play their instruments again in a fun and relaxing environment. Little did she know that the group would not only expand to its current roster of almost 100 musicians, but that community bands have become quite a popular activity around the country. The HCZB is unique in that its membership is made up of community members, SV alumni, SV teachers and students who all come together for an eight-week season culminating with a concert that was held on March 23 in the Intermediate High School Auditorium.

This year's concert featured an exciting variety of musical styles from a Mancini medley to the standard concert band piece, "English Folk Song Suite," and everything in between. Each year, the band features a soloist or featured section in one of the songs. This year's feature was the tuba section performing the piece "Tiptoe Through the Tubas." Members performing from the tuba section were Noah Bracht (Class of 2025), Dan Karns, Doug Meskel, Adam Bearer, Mike Poff and Anna Maharg (SV Alumni Class of 2008). The HCZB is co-directed by Sara Snyder and Varden Armstrong, instrumental music teachers at Seneca Valley. The band will resume rehearsals in January of 2026. Any community members interested in more information about the group should reach out to Ms. Sara Snyder at snydersw@svsd.net.

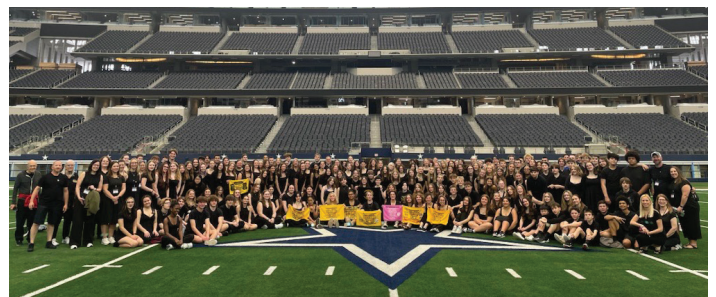


BIG TEXAS TRIP

Last month, the Seneca Valley Chorus, grades 8-12, traveled to Dallas, Texas. It was an exciting time filled with many unique opportunities and a lot of history! The students toured Dealey Plaza, visited the John F. Kennedy Sixth Floor Museum and performed on the infamous Grassy Knoll.

The students sang the national anthem at AT&T Stadium for a tour group of wounded warrior veterans with their voices ringing off the top of the impressive 29-story ceiling height. They also had a little fun when they were permitted to sing "Renegade" waving their terrible towels on the 50-yard line!

After watching the running of the bulls and having a blast at line dancing lessons, the students experienced another piece of American history at the Cowtown Rodeo, the longest running weekly rodeo in the U.S., where some of our students got to lead the crowd singing the opening of the show. After seeing a wonderful performance of the Broadway traveling production, "Back to the Future," the cast leads met with our SV students in a tremendously welcoming and informational private question-and-answer session. Students asked thoughtful questions, and the



cast responded with worthwhile advice, applicable to their future success in life!

The students also performed at NorthPark Center, the largest mall in Dallas. They concluded their trip with a fun-filled day at Six Flags Over Texas—the state's largest amusement park and the original Six Flags location!

From air travel and historical exploration to a deep dive into western culture, the trip was a tremendous learning experience from start to finish. ■

MUSICAL AND 'MAGICAL' MEMORIES

Late last month, students from the Seneca Valley Orchestra found themselves in the most magical place on earth, Walt Disney World, for their annual spring trip. During the trip, students visited all four parks, Animal Kingdom, Epcot, Magic Kingdom and Hollywood Studios, where they were enchanted by rides, characters and the scenery of Disney World.

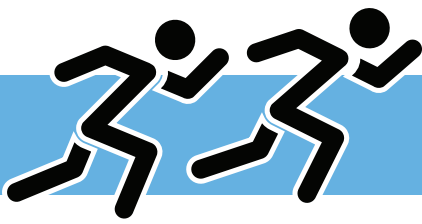
“It is truly awesome as an organization to have the opportunity to travel,” said Ms. Miller, secondary orchestra teacher, said. “Taking students on trips allows them to make lasting connections with their peers but also allows them the real-world experience of using essential life skills such as independence, communication, adaptability and self-discovery.”



During the trip, students participated in a once in a lifetime workshop with esteemed Florida string educators and studio recording musicians. During the nearly three-hour workshop, students sight read and recorded several pieces from Disney movies, applying the skills learned

and reinforced each day in orchestra rehearsals. As a culminating activity, students recorded a medley from “Frozen,” which was superimposed into the final scene from the movie. The final video will be unveiled at the high school orchestra concert on May 1. ■

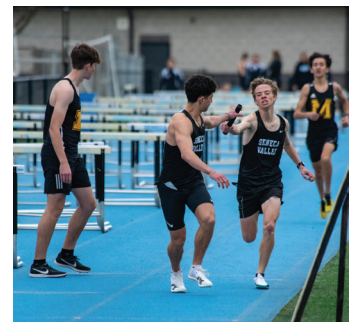
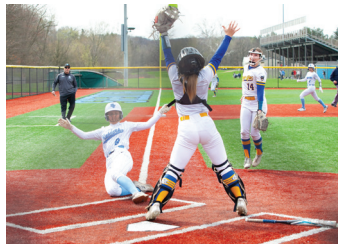




SPRING SPORTS ARE UNDERWAY

It is hard to imagine but our spring sport teams have weathered the spring storms, and most are on schedule in terms of section competition. As of this writing, here is where all teams stand in their respective seasons:

- **Baseball**
4-2 section (2nd place);
7-4 overall
- **Flag Football, Girls**
5-0 section (1st place);
6-0 overall
- **Lacrosse, Boys**
1-2 section (5th place);
6-5 overall
- **Lacrosse, Girls**
1-5 section (9th place);
3-6 overall
- **Softball**
7-2 section (2nd place);
9-2 overall
- **Tennis, Boys**
1-6 section (7th place);
3-8 overall
- **Track & Field, Boys**
4-1 section (2nd place);
5-1 overall
- **Track & Field, Girls**
3-2 section (3rd place);
4-2 overall
- **Ultimate Frisbee**
4-0 overall (1st place)
- **Volleyball, Boys**
4-1 section (1st place); 8-2
overall ■



WE ARE PLANNING FOR 2025-26

Physical, drug & concussion dates

The athletic department has announced its summer physical, drug testing and baseline concussion testing dates for 2025-26. Please note these plans are subject to change.

REMINDERS for 2025-26:

- All required paperwork for athletic participation in 2025-26 will be available on [Parent Portal](#) and the SV Athletics website starting May 1. **Reminder:** No paperwork may be completed prior to May 1.
- **ALL fall sport** paperwork is due in the athletic office no later than **3 p.m. on Thursday, July 31**. Coaches will not accept paperwork on the first day of tryouts.
- Dates for physicals are not yet confirmed. Once dates are set, we will announce. Please note physicals are first come, first served - we do not take reservations in advance. *We encourage families to have their physical completed as soon as possible after May 1. You may visit your PCP or any Urgent Care Clinic for an athletic physical.*

- The PIAA mandates their CIPPE form as the only permissible physical form for the doctor's signature.
- All student-athletes must register in the [Parent Portal](#) under "Sports Registration" before tryouts/practice begin. Registration opens May 1.
- Complete information available on the District's Athletics website under "Participation and TRYOUT information" starting May 1.
- Concussion baseline testing only needs to be completed every other year. Parents may call the Athletics Office at (724) 452-6040, x1752 to confirm the status of their child's baseline concussion test.

Summer Drug Testing and Baseline Concussion Testing Dates – Senior High School

- **Tuesday, July 8**, from 3-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 9**, from 8 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.
- **Tuesday, July 29**, from 3-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 30**, from 8 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m. ■

FLAG FOOTBALL – ALL PEER TEAM

Congratulations to senior wide receiver Carmen Pietro who was chosen to the Pittsburgh Steelers Girls Flag Football All-Peer Team. These seven athletes were chosen from across the region for going above and beyond in providing mentor-like support to their teammates. The following is the nomination as submitted by head coach Chris Eden:

“Carmen is the team captain for Seneca Valley’s flag football team. In her leadership role, Carmen has consistently demonstrated her ability to foster strong relationships and help her teammates build valuable life skills outside of athletics. Carmen led the efforts in organizing and designing the Seneca Valley Flag Football homecoming float. Carmen is also active in her community, volunteering at her church’s summer camp, where she cares for preschool students, ensuring their safety and enjoyment. Additionally, Carmen volunteers at the Pittsburgh Holiday Banquet to serve less fortunate families in the Pittsburgh area during the holiday season.” ■



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, MARCH 2025

The Female Athlete of the Month for March was softball player **Lexie Hames**. The senior has had a hot start to the season, helping the Raiders to an 8-1 record and second place in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) 6A standings. She leads the team with a .579 batting average, five home runs and 10 RBIs (Runs Batted In). In the pitcher’s circle, Lexie has already tallied over 100 strikeouts with a sub .50 ERA (Earned Run Average). Her standout game came in a 12-1 victory over WPIAL 5A defending champions Armstrong where she had three hits, four RBIs and two home runs along with 20 strikeouts. We recognized Lexie as the March Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Lexie!



The Male Athlete of the Month for March was senior boys track athlete **Gavin Skarbek**. Gavin has been one of the top sprinters for the Raiders this season, placing in the top three for each of his individual events in every meet so far. In the 400-meter dash, Gavin has tailed six first-place finishes with a personal best time of 49.39 seconds, set at the TSTCA Track and Field Invite. In the 200-meter dash, he has five first-place finishes with a personal best time of 22.22 seconds, set at the Butler County Classic. Running the anchor leg of the 4 x 400m relay, Gavin has helped his relay team finish in the top four in every single meet this season. Gavin’s times in the 200- and 400-meter dashes are both listed as the fourth fastest times in SV boys track and field history. For an impressive month, we recognized Gavin as the March Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Gavin! ■



COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2025

Many Raider student-athletes made their college commitment official with the early signing period starting in mid-November. We congratulate these seniors on achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of you is a tremendous representative 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
Aubrey Erdos	Track & Field	Grand Valley State University	Nursing
Addison Fowler	Volleyball	Robert Morris University	Health Science



SV CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY OPEN HOUSE

Come explore the future of science at the SV Center for Biotechnology Open House!

Join us for an exciting evening where innovation meets education. Tour our state-of-the-art facility, meet the brilliant students and educators behind our groundbreaking research, and see firsthand how we're preparing the next generation of scientists and changemakers.

When: Thursday, May 22 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Where: Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology inside the Intermediate High School

Who's Invited: Everyone! Alumni, community members, families, future students and anyone curious about cutting-edge science in our schools. Whether you're a science enthusiast, a proud parent, or just curious about what's happening behind the lab doors—this is your chance to dive in and be inspired!

Please RSVP by May 16 at <https://forms.office.com/r/vEj7CSsGyE> ■

SV CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY
Open House

Explore, Discover, Invest

Thursday, May 22
6 - 7:30 p.m.

SV Intermediate High School Library & Labs

- ✓ Student Impact Presentations
- ✓ Interactive Lab Tours & Demonstrations
- ✓ Exclusive Look inside a Cutting-Edge Biotech Lab
- ✓ Learn How Your Generosity Will Make a Lasting Impact

SENECA FOUNDATION VALLEY

RSVP by 5/16

GIFT OF HOPE GOLF CLASSIC - BE A SPONSOR TODAY!

There is still time to register and/or sponsor the upcoming Gift of Hope Golf Classic presented by Xerox Business Solutions which will be held on Aug. 7 at the Cranberry Highlands Golf Course. This event is a vital part of our fundraising efforts and we would love for you to be a part of this day of fun and socializing, all for a great cause!

Click here for additional info: <https://www.svsd.net/our-district/seneca-valley-foundation/gift-of-hope-golf-classic>. ■

SENECA VALLEY FOUNDATION

GIFT OF HOPE
Golf Classic

August 7
Cranberry Highlands Golf Course

RISING STARS OF SENECA VALLEY

A passion project turned into a performing arts reality!

One of our incredible high school students Annika Batavia had a vision: to bring the joy of performing arts to our middle schoolers—especially those who don't often get the chance to be in the spotlight. Driven by determination and a heart for service, this student led a fundraising effort and worked tirelessly to build a program from the ground up.

The result? A beautiful, inclusive performing arts experience that gave younger students a space to shine, explore, and express themselves.

SV staff at Haine and Ehrman Crest Middle Schools created an 8-week afterschool program that culminated with an unforgettable final performance where students could show off all that they learned. They were also able to enjoy a special performance by



Ms. Batavia! We couldn't be prouder of Annika's leadership and the joy she brought to our school community. ■



GRANT HELPS FISHERY THRIVE

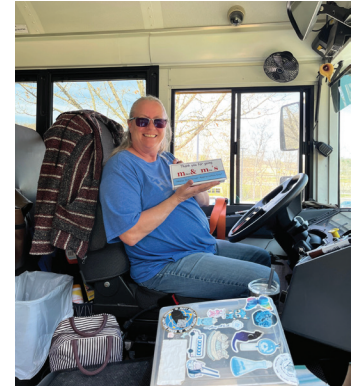
We've been selected as an American Water Charitable Foundation 2025 Water and Environment grantee and awarded a \$5,000 grant to expand and enhance the Seneca Valley Fishery—the stream that runs through our secondary campus! With this support, we'll focus on conservation efforts, add educational signage and restock the stream with fish—encouraging students to use the Fishery for hands-on learning (Biotechnology Center experiments) and outdoor fun (SV Fishing Club, RGMS Afterschool Program - and more). This waterway is a unique part of our campus, and we're excited to help students learn from it, enjoy it and take pride in it. Thank you, Seneca Valley Foundation and American Water Charitable Foundation! ■



GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Seneca Valley celebrated School Bus Driver Appreciation Day on Tuesday, April 22. Students and staff across the District shared their thanks with heartfelt greetings, treats and cards. Ryan Gloyer Middle School students are pictured here as they made their way to thank each driver on the secondary campus.

SV is very grateful to have so many amazing school bus drivers who are committed to ensuring the safety of our students as they travel to and from school each day. Don't forget to let your school bus drivers know how much they are appreciated by giving a wave and saying, "Thank you!" ■



DUTY AND HONOR

This month, Seneca Valley's proud Raider Battalion held its annual Change of Responsibility Ceremony, a time-honored tradition that reflects the strength and unity of our cadets. The event commenced with a solemn flag casing, followed by three powerful uncasing ceremonies, one of which was dedicated to the memory of an SV JROTC alumnus who passed away. The ceremony continued with the formal transfer of responsibility and change of command, symbolizing the unwavering commitment of our cadets to leadership, service, and the enduring values of duty and honor. ■



COMING SOON...

There's something new on the horizon at Seneca Valley—something that will soon be popping up across our community, catching your eye and sparking school spirit. A group of passionate students is working to launch a meaningful initiative: a district-wide signage project designed to strengthen connections, boost pride and celebrate what it means to be part of the Seneca Valley family.



The idea is simple but powerful: install custom street signs around the district that proudly reflect Seneca Valley and all it stands for—student success, well-being and a strong sense of belonging. Covering nine municipalities and more than 100 square miles, the district is vast, and these signs will help identify when you've officially entered Seneca Valley—transforming ordinary roads into visual markers of community and connection.

These 12" x 18" reflective signs aren't just decorative. According to the research conducted by the student team, data shows that visible school pride can positively impact students' mental health, increase attendance and build stronger ties between

schools and the neighborhoods they serve.

The effort is being led by students Elaina Donahue, Adelyn Paul, Alaina Hahn, Corey Wolfe and Nathan Taylor, with support from their adviser, Lisa Graham, school counselor at Seneca Valley Intermediate High School (SVIHS), and Dan Guerra, SVIHS Principal.



To help bring the vision to life, the team is first seeking school board approval next month. They are also receiving assistance from the Seneca Valley Foundation, who will manage funds and oversee long-term maintenance. For now, the team is currently brainstorming creative fundraising ideas, with signs expected to begin appearing across the district in fall 2025. ■

AMBITIOUS STUDENTS HONORED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Two Seneca Valley students, seniors Isabella Muthler and Heather Schwartz were recently recognized by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) for the Aspirations in Computing High School Award.

Both Miss Muthler and Miss Schwartz were selected as 2025 Western Pennsylvania Affiliate Winners. The Western PA affiliate of the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is a collaborative effort by dedicated volunteers from Saint Francis University; Penn State University, New Kensington; University of Pittsburgh; Carnegie Mellon University, and All Clear Translations.

The NCWIT Aspirations in Computing High School Award recognizes students in grades 9-12 who show a strong interest

and involvement in computing and technology, inspiring them to continue exploring their passions. Awardees are chosen for their demonstrated interest and achievements in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance, and plans for post secondary education.



These students have completed numerous Computer Science courses at Seneca Valley, gaining vital 21st-century skills along the way. These skills will unlock endless possibilities for them, as technology plays a key role in every career path they may pursue. ■

POWERFUL PRESENTATIONS

Organized by Ms. Michele Russo, English teacher at Seneca Valley Intermediate High School, sophomores gathered to listen to Andrew Laszlo Jr. as he shared the extraordinary journey of his father Andrew Laszlo from a middle-class childhood in Hungary, through the horrors of the Holocaust, to an inspiring new life in America. More than a story of survival, this presentation highlighted resilience, determination and the pursuit of dreams against all odds.

Mr. Laszlo survived Bergen-Belsen, escaped post-war Soviet-occupied Hungary, and arrived in the U.S. with only \$2.36 to his



name—eventually becoming a world-renowned cinematographer behind films such as "Shogun" and "Rambo: First Blood." His story remained a secret for 50 years



until a book arrived on his son's doorstep, revealing the past he had kept hidden. ■

SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES FROM TREE OF LIFE SHARE POWERFUL STORIES, EDUCATIONAL LESSONS

In an effort to further educate students and confront the realities of hate, Remember, Educate and Combat Hate (REACH), the 10.27 Healing Partnership's Speakers' Bureau shared personal and powerful stories with sophomores at Seneca Valley Intermediate High School (IHS) on Friday, April 25, in the IHS auditorium.

These speakers included survivors and family members who lost loved ones in the October 27, 2018 synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. They shared their firsthand experiences with hate-driven violence and later engaged in a Q&A session with students. Among the speakers were Ms. Jodi Kart, Ms. Audrey Glickman, Ms. Carol Black, and Ms. Peg Durachko.

Earlier in the week, students watched "Repairing the World: Stories from

the Tree of Life," a film documenting Pittsburgh's powerful community response to hate in the aftermath of the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history. Through the voices of survivors, family members, diverse Pittsburgh residents and leaders, the film shows unity in a moment of crisis, the resilience of a vibrant city, and a community working together to understand what it means to be "stronger than hate."

REACH engagements enhance antisemitism curriculums and help to translate modern day hate from an abstract concept to a real event. By sharing their stories, REACH speakers provide educational experiences highlighting the impact of modern-day antisemitism and create powerful connections that result in deepened learning.

After the presentation, students had the chance to connect with the speakers one-on-one. Many were deeply touched by their stories and expressed heartfelt appreciation for the powerful messages of strength and resilience.

"Go out and make the world a better place," said Ms. Black. "There's no place for hate." ■



SV ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT NAMED EMERGING WOMAN IN EDUCATION

It's often said that great leaders not only guide others, but also inspire and empower those around them through the qualities they embody. Dr. Marie Palano, Seneca Valley Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment, exemplifies this kind of leadership—and is now being honored for it as the recipient of the 2025 Emerging Woman in Education Award, presented in memory of University of Pittsburgh Professor Emeritus Dr. Jean Winsand by the Tri-State Study Council.

The Jean E. Winsand Emerging Woman in Education Award honors a woman who is at an early stage on the path of her leadership career. The award is intended to recognize a woman who has made a significant impact and positive difference through her leadership activities and initiatives.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Dr. Jean E. Winsand Emerging Woman in Education Award," said Dr. Palano. "I have been inspired by the incredible women who have come before me and humbled to be among them. I've also been guided by exceptional mentors, many of whom are women, who have shown me what it means to lead with integrity, kindness and compassion. Ultimately, I believe this recognition reflects the collective work of our leadership team, and I'm grateful to work alongside such dedicated and passionate colleagues."



Prior to becoming an Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Palano began her career at Seneca Valley in 2003 as a Spanish and French teacher at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS). Eight years later she became the Assistant Principal at RGMS and later the Principal at the former Evans City Middle School. In 2017, Dr. Palano was then promoted to Director of Analytics and Federal Programs and also supervised federal programming (Title I, Title II, Title III and Title IV) for the district.

"Dr. Palano has proven herself to be a very effective and engaging leader in data, curriculum, instruction and Federal Programs," stated Dr. Tracy Vitale, Seneca

Valley School District Superintendent of Schools. "This honor is well-deserved, and we applaud her as a distinguished emerging leader in the Pittsburgh region."

Dr. Palano was recognized during an awards ceremony at the 22nd Annual Dr. Jean E. Winsand Workshop for Women in School Leadership earlier this month. ■



REMAKE LEARNING DAYS

Stream Guardians: A Professional Development Day for Educators on Fly Fishing and Utilizing Streams for Engaging Environmental Education

Seneca Valley School District is proud to participate in the annual Remake Learning Days Celebration! Join us as Ryan Gloyer Middle School hosts “Stream Guardians,” a professional development day for educators on fly fishing and utilizing streams for engaging environmental education. This event is a fantastic chance for educators to explore how to utilize local creeks and streams for real-world, hands-on learning experiences.

Event Details:

- Date: May 8 (Rain make-up date: May 13)
- Location: Seneca Valley Aquatic Center (located next to Ryan Gloyer Middle School), 122 Seneca School Road, Harmony, PA 16037
- Time: Introductory meeting at 8 a.m. (optional) - participants are free to come and go as they please. The event will wrap up with a Q & A session at 2:30 p.m. in the Aquatic Center.
- Format: “Station Rotation” along the stream on our campus
- Cost: FREE
- Lunch: Provided for interested participants

Who Should Attend:

- Administrators
- Science teachers
- Pre-service teachers
- Outdoor adventure club leaders
- Fishing club leaders

- Educators
- Camp organizers
- Youth group leaders

Additional Information:

- Regardless of arrival time, please report to our welcome center at the Seneca Valley Aquatic Center, where you will receive a map, schedule and a brief explanation of the day’s structure.
- Please RSVP by visiting our Remake Learning Day website [Stream Guardians: A Professional Development Day for Educators on Fly Fishing and Utilizing Streams for Engaging Environmental Education - Remake Learning Days](#) or [signing up directly by clicking here](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ryan Gloyer Middle School Principal, Dr. Tony Babusci, at babusciak@svsd.net.

We look forward to seeing you there! ■



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Many thanks to the staff and advisory board members from Butler County Community College for touring Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School this month. We appreciate your interest and time with us! ■



SV ALL-STAR

For the month of April, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Ms. Peggy Fennell, Cafeteria Manager at Seneca Valley Senior High School.

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. Fennell has been a dedicated member of the Seneca Valley School District since 1998 and has served as the cafeteria manager for the past 15 years.

“While her title is manager, a more fitting description would be cafeteria leader,” said Mr. Bob Ceh, Principal of Seneca Valley Senior High School. “She has led this cafeteria with dependability, wisdom, patience, and a demeanor that will be hard to replace.”

When reflecting on Ms. Fennell’s leadership, Mr. Ceh highlighted four key qualities: dependability, wisdom, patience and demeanor.

“I think the only time that she has missed work is when she went to Ireland a few years ago,” shared Mr. Ceh. “There may have been a few other rare occasions, but Peg is here every day. What makes her so dependable is also her wisdom. She’s always prepared with a ‘just in case’ plan.”

Mr. Ceh also emphasized her patience. “In all of the times that these things pop up, the planning that she does allows her to be patient with these situations. And then there’s her demeanor. She never seems to lose that gentle disposition that she is here to take care of the kids, make sure they are fed, and be friendly and



L-R top row: Mr. Bob Ceh, Principal of Seneca Valley High School, Dr. Matt McKinley, Seneca Valley Assistant Superintendent for 7-12 Instruction and Mr. Nolen Fetchko, Director of Food Services

L-R bottom row: Ms. Megan Lizewski, Assistant Principal of Seneca Valley High School, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President, Ms. Peggy Fennell and Mr. Robert Fennell

understanding with them. Her staff respects her, and she respects her staff which is a foundation for a team that works together at a high level.”

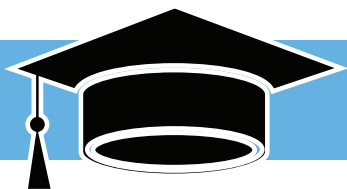
Ms. Fennell is truly deserving of this recognition. As the leader of the cafeteria, she consistently goes above and beyond to ensure a friendly, welcoming environment for everyone she serves. ■

‘I LED THE PLEDGE’

Seneca Valley students from the District’s K-6 schools are appearing at this year’s school board meetings, leading the members of the School Board and public in saying “The Pledge of Allegiance.” At the April 7 School Board Meeting, we were proud to welcome Ehrman Crest Middle School sixth grader Maeve Barlett. Maeve is a bright, ambitious student with her sights set on a future in law. She shines in English Language Arts, especially when it comes to reading, writing and debating. She brings the same energy to physical education class — her favorite special — and keeps active outside the classroom with Brazilian jiu-jitsu, playing the viola and plans to join the volleyball team next year. Well-rounded, driven and full of spirit — Maeve is one to watch! ■



Maeve pictured with, from L-R, Dr. Matt McKinley, Assistant Superintendent, Grades 7-12, and Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President



Anthony Mustovich, SV '03, has traveled across the U.S. as an Orthopedic Surgeon treating patients in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Kansas and even Alaska. 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: After graduating high school, I obtained my Bachelor of Science degree from John Carroll University in 2007. Following my undergraduate studies, I returned to Pittsburgh and conducted clinical research at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. I completed my medical degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2013. After medical school, I was commissioned into the U.S. Army and completed a surgical internship at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Fort Eisenhower, Georgia. I then earned my flight surgeon badge and completed an operational medical tour as a flight surgeon with the 3rd Battalion 1st Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade, Fort Riley, Kansas. I then returned to Fort Eisenhower to complete my orthopedic surgery residency at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center. Following residency, I was assigned to Fort Wainwright, Alaska. I gained extensive experience in treating sports-related injuries and was promoted to the chief of the orthopedic department. I was honorably discharged from the Army as a Major and returned home to Pittsburgh. In the fall I joined a private orthopedic practice, Sports Medicine & Joint Replacement Specialists. We have offices in Warrendale, Mount Lebanon and Greensburg.

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

A: I love to travel. My most recent trip was to Armenia.

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

A: Seneca Valley is such a special place to learn and grow because of the sheer variety of opportunities it offers. Being a large school district, it allows students to meet and connect with a wide range of peers, enroll in diverse classes tailored to different academic levels and participate in countless after-school clubs,



sports and activities. Truly, there's something for every interest!

As a proud graduate of Seneca Valley over 20 years ago, I'm amazed to see how much it has grown and evolved. The district has done an incredible job of keeping up with the times while staying committed to fostering an environment of learning, exploration and community. It's remarkable to witness how it continues to pave the way for student success!

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

A: Mr. Bob Ceh. He was the principal and head coach of the football team.

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 from my time at Seneca Valley involve when I was playing football. These experiences profoundly influenced who I am today. I learned numerous life skills, such as resilience, discipline, competitiveness, teamwork, communication, responsibility and adaptability. I learned that success and achievement come from overcoming adversity, and how to handle loss and setbacks. These lessons were instrumental in my personal growth and success and helped me overcome many personal and professional obstacles in life.

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

A: Thank you! I am sincerely grateful for the positive impact my teachers have had on my life. Their influence extends far beyond time spent at Seneca Valley and helps cultivate lifelong learning. ■



5 APPS THAT WILL GET YOUR KID OUTSIDE

As warmer weather approaches, many parents will find themselves urging their kids to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. But sometimes the pull of phones, tablets, and TVs will keep kids glued to screens even on the most gorgeous of days. Our solution? Use their tech to your advantage to get them outside! Writers and researchers from Bark media pulled together the best five apps that will encourage kids to take their tech outside and explore the world around them.

Bark's Top 5 Picks for Apps That Will Get Your Kid Outside

Pokemon Go

This interactive Pokemon-themed app went viral a decade ago, but it's still a favorite pastime for tons of families. The objective is simple: Use the camera in the app to find virtual Pokemon characters hidden around town. You could find a Bulbasaur in your backyard or a Charmander at the park all while getting in your steps. Can you catch them all?

Talk to Your Kids About ...

- Families can talk about the privacy and safety implications of a game like Pokémon GO. Discuss ways to play securely together: keeping the app updated, setting up a separate email account just for gaming, using a made-up display name, turning off location tracking when you're not playing, and avoiding signing in through social media accounts.
- Talk about physical safety. While it's great to be active, it's not safe to walk, ride, or drive while looking at your phone. Set neighborhood boundaries and rules about keeping safe when outside. Make it clear to kids that it's never OK to enter private property, that they should avoid unsafe or uncomfortable situations with other players, and that they should avoid being alone by playing with an adult or with friends.

Seek

You've heard the saying, "Stop and smell the roses" — now, there's an app for that! Or at least an app to identify what type of rose or flower you're smelling. Seek can identify over 80,000 species, so your child is guaranteed to learn all about the plants, flowers, and vegetation right in your neighborhood. For all the budding scientists out there, this outside app is a great find.

Skyview Lite

If your child is more interested in natural phenomena above their head than under their feet, then they may want to check out Skyview Lite. Instead of identifying plants, users can point their cameras to the skies to learn more about planets, constellations, and other celestial bodies. With an easy interface and no social media features, parents have nothing to worry about. Just pure fun in the stars!

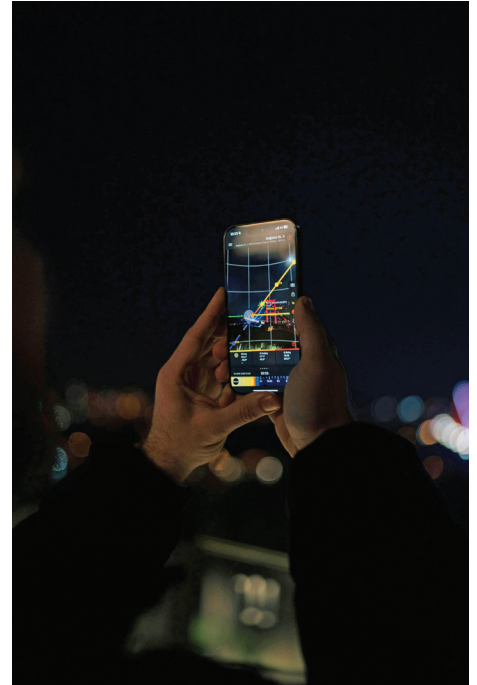
Adventure Lab

Have you ever heard of geocaching? If not, it's essentially a modern-day treasure hunt where you use your phone's GPS to find "caches" (usually small boxes or containers) hidden all over the world. While many consider this an already family-friendly activity, Adventure Lab provides an even safer, more guided geocaching experience for families.

Instead of finding physical containers, Adventure Lab has you find virtual "labs" and at each location, you'll interact with the lab in some way. Sometimes it's learning some history, taking a picture, or even solving a riddle. As an added safety benefit for parents, you can see the details of the adventure in advance. It's a great way to get the whole family on an adventure around town!

Audubon Bird Guide

Birdwatching might not seem like a go-to kids' activity, but it won't take long to



appreciate how fascinating and diverse birds are with the Audubon Bird Guide app. With over 800 species cataloged in their app, along with detailed range maps that show where each species is likely to be found, kids can learn so much just by walking out the front door. It's another engaging, hands-on way for kids to learn about the natural world around them!

Need Help? Use Bark to Help Balance Screen Time

With so many apps available to kids, it can be hard to make sure their screen time is healthy and balanced. But with Bark's screen time features, you can more easily manage what your child has access to and when on their devices. You can make sure their outdoor time is distraction-free by blocking all games and social media. Bark also offers location tracking so you can keep track of their explorations, as well as content monitoring, web filtering, and more.

Information provided by [Bark](#) and [Common Sense Media](#) ■



- The Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) summer camps registration is now open! This program offers a variety of exciting experiences for every interest – from artistic masterpieces to culinary delights, LEGO adventures to sports thrills. Register [today](#) for a summer filled with creativity, fun and confidence-building!
- Teacher Nominations - WTAE-TV is launching a Teacher of the Month recognition program for the 2024-25 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 2024-25 school year**, regardless of family income. Encourage your student(s) to stop for a full breakfast or various grab-and-go items. If you think you might be eligible for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals, we encourage you to fill out a Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application as many programs are connected to your child[ren]'s eligibility. Please return it to the Seneca Valley Administration Office with attention to Faye Nelson. 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 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.
 - [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. ■

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. ■

988

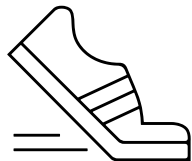
**SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE**



Join the SV Team!

Teacher positions now available!





41ST ANNUAL ALL DISTRICT K-6 TRACK AND FIELD MEET

MAY 16, 2025

NEXTIER STADIUM

(ON THE SECONDARY CAMPUS)

FREE TO ALL DISTRICT RESIDENTS IN GRADES K-6

Participants should wear appropriate clothing for running, jumping and throwing.

Please supply your own water bottle!

For participants and spectators' convenience there has been a slight change in the time schedule and format for this year's meet! Event times are approximate!

5 - 5:30 P.M. GRADES K-2 REGISTRATION

5:30 - 6:45 P.M. GRADES K-2 EVENTS

PRE-K RACE (PARENT & CHILD) ON FOOTBALL FIELD AFTER K-2 EVENTS CONCLUDE

6:15 - 6:45 P.M. GRADES 3-6 REGISTRATION

7 - 8:45 P.M. GRADES 3-6 EVENTS

DETAILED SCHEDULE

5-5:30 P.M.: Grades K-2 Registration

5:30 P.M.: Meet on turf by large SV logo

5:30-5:50 P.M.: Girls Softball Throw, Boys Long Jump

5:50-6:10 P.M.: Boys Softball Throw, Girls Long Jump

6:15-6:45 P.M.: Track Events: Girls followed by Boys

6:45 P.M.: Pre-K Race (middle of the football field)

6:15-6:45 P.M.: Grades 3-6 Registration

7 P.M.: Meet on turf by large SV logo

7-7:20 P.M.: Girls Softball Throw, Boys Long Jump

7:20-7:40 P.M.: Boys Softball Throw, Girls Long Jump

7:45 P.M.: Track Events: Sprints (*backstretch*), Hurdles (*frontstretch*)

8:15 P.M.: Distance Events and Discus Throw

** Note: you may choose either the 800 M or 1600 M run, not both.

DISTANCE

Grades K-2: 400 Meter Run

Grades 3-6: 400 M, 800 M or 1600 M Run

SPRINTING

Grades K-2: 60 Meters

Grades 3-4: 80 Meters

Grades 5-6: 100 Meters

Students from CVE, Rowan, Ehrman Crest and Haine can see their physical education teachers for more details!

While all elementary grades (K-6) are participating, ribbons for track and field events will be awarded exclusively to students in grades 5-6.

Come enjoy an evening of track and field competition! There is no cost in having some fun at the track!



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