RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication JUNE 2025

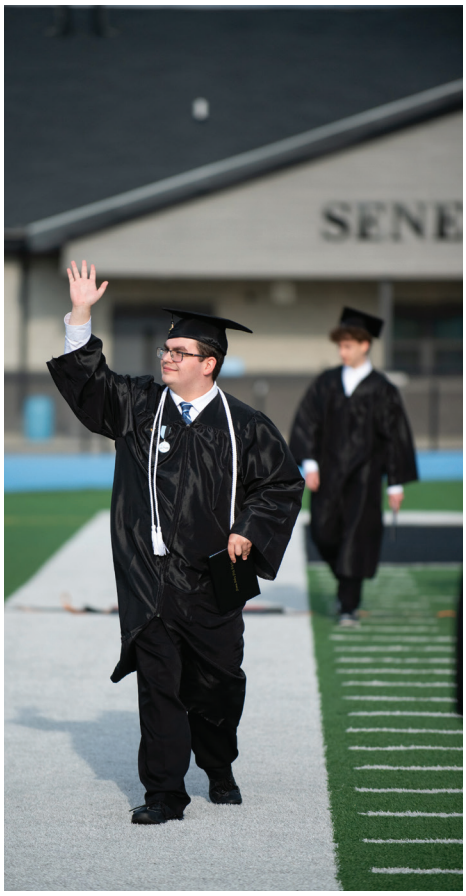
A FUTURE SO BRIGHT

The Class of 2025, nearly 560 strong, graduated at NexTier Stadium on Thursday, May 29.

Congratulations to all SV Graduates!

See more on pages 3-4.







SV MUSIC PROGRAM IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT – AGAIN

Seneca Valley School District has once again been honored by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation with the prestigious Best Communities for Music Education designation, recognizing the district's outstanding commitment to music education. This marks the third time Seneca Valley has earned this distinguished recognition.

Now in its 26th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement for providing music access and education to all students.

Read more on page 2

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DATES TO REMEMBER

First Day Reminder!

The 2025-26 First Day of School will be on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025.

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

AUGUST

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	30
31						

SV MUSIC PROGRAM IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT – AGAIN *Continued from page 1*

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Seneca Valley answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by the leading arts educational research firm, WolfBrown.

"We are incredibly proud to yet again receive this prestigious designation, which recognizes the enduring excellence of music education in our schools," said Dr. Matthew McKinley, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction, grades 7-12. "This honor is a testament to the dedication of our talented staff, the unwavering support of our district and community and the strong musical legacy that continues to thrive within the Seneca Valley community. It reflects not only the work being done today, but also the rich traditions built by those who paved the way."

Music education plays a vital role in the development of all students, and Seneca Valley continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to musical excellence. Over the past year, the Seneca Valley Marching Band earned the title of Grand Champions at the Norfolk NATO Festival's "Parade of Nations," and numerous student musicians advanced to the state level of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA), participating in the prestigious PMEA All-State Conference and Festival — among many other accomplishments.

"The rich legacy of the Seneca Valley music department and the continued passion of our current staff help put performing arts in the spotlight," said Varden Armstrong, Seneca Valley Marching Band Director and Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Performing Arts Coordinator. "We are honored to once again be designated as a Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation. It is through the time and dedication of our performing arts staff along with the full support of the district that we are able to qualify for this recognition."

About The NAMM Foundation

The NAMM Foundation is the charitable arm of the National Association of Music Merchants, the global trade association for the music products industry. The foundation works to remove systemic barriers that limit access to music-making and career pathways in the music industry. By investing in bold ideas and innovative solutions, we strive to build inclusive and thriving musical communities. For more information about The NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.



A FUTURE SO BRIGHT *Continued from page 1*

Of Special Note:
Rohin Jayaraman - Academic Speaker
Addison McLane - Academic Speaker
Sydney Brower - Speaker At-Large

Senior Class Officers:
Lilliana Hudac - President
Giuliana DiTullio - Vice President
Josephine Bordt - Secretary
Danielle Maloberti - Treasurer

Photo credit: Bill Paterson























A FUTURE SO BRIGHT *Continued*

Photo Credit: Glory Days Photography

























SV RELEASES 202-25 DRUG TESTING RESULTS

Follow-up rate improves, underscores success in student intervention

Seneca Valley's Random Drug Testing Program yielded a 0.9% positive test rate in the 2024-25 school year — well below the national average of 3.4% and a notable improvement from last year's 1.7%.

Now in its 22nd year, the program remains a national model, encompassing students in grades 7-12 who participate in athletics, extracurriculars or drive to school — reaching nearly two-thirds of the secondary campus population.

"Seneca Valley's rate continues to outperform national figures," said Matthew Franz, director of operations for SPORT SAFE Testing Services, the Ohio-based company that manages the program. The overall percentage includes results from random testing, as well as reasonable suspicion and follow-up testing. The breakdown of this year's 64 positive results is as follows:

- Marijuana: 50
- Medical Marijuana: 4
- Alcohol: 5
- Alcohol and Marijuana (combined): 1
- Refusals: 4

Students who test positive or refuse to test are enrolled in the District's follow-up program, which requires five additional tests. This year, 11 of the 124 follow-up tests resulted in a positive or refusal—a rate of 8.8 percent, still well below the national average of approximately 20 percent.

"A follow-up rate under 20 percent shows that most students are responding to the District's intervention efforts," Franz added. "This year's rate of 8.8 percent is something to be proud of."

When a student tests positive or refuses, parents or guardians are promptly notified and meet with school officials to review the next steps, which include follow-up tests, a drug use assessment and other appropriate supports.

"Early detection allows us to partner with families at a critical time," said Dr. Matthew McKinley, assistant superintendent and author of the District's policy. "Together, we can support students in making meaningful, lasting changes."

To view Seneca Valley's Drug Testing policy (#227.1), please visit https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/sene/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DBPRCQ6D6131



NEW FOR 2025-26: PHONE-FREE SCHOOL DAYS FOR K-12 STUDENTS

Beginning with the 2025–26 school year, all Seneca Valley K–12 students will be required to store their phones and smart devices (including smartwatches and wireless earbuds) during the school day — from the first bell to the last — making all schools phone-free environments for students.

Why the change?

This decision follows years of feedback from families, staff and students, combined with growing concerns around device-related distractions, student mental health and social challenges:

- Many students and families shared that phones were disrupting instruction, pulling attention from learning and contributing to anxiety and cyberbullying.
- In 2023–24, the District implemented new phone restrictions, and students reported improved focus, less pressure and stronger social connections as a result.
- Nationally, the data supports this shift: As of 2022, nearly 77% of U.S. schools had already restricted student phone use during school hours (NCES).
- This change is not about discipline; it's about giving students a much-needed break from constant notifications, online pressures and the need to always be "on."

What about emergencies?

One common question we anticipate is how families can reach their children during the school day. Please know:

- Parents/guardians will always be able to reach students via the main office.
- In the event of a school emergency, established safety protocols ensure that families are notified quickly and clearly.

What's next?

We'll be sharing more details in the coming weeks, including tools and processes. For now, know that we will need your help and support in putting our students' health and well-being as the main focus.

TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS FOR THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

The deadline to provide the transportation department of an alternative stop for the 2025-26 school year is July 31, 2025. To ensure the safety of over 8,000 students and to allow for proper coordination with school transportation teams, no alternative stop requests will be accepted during the first few weeks of school. Families who miss the July 31 deadline will be responsible for their own transportation until requests can be processed starting Sept. 15. To help ensure your child has access to qualifying transportation at the start of the school year, please submit your request as soon as possible.

Submit your request here.



WALKING WITH OUR BEST BUDDIES

The cold temperatures didn't stop nearly 300 students, staff and community members from attending the second annual Best Buddies Walk! North Boundary Park was filled with smiles on Saturday, May 31, as participants celebrated inclusion and our diverse abilities all while raising funds for Best Buddies International. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to creating opportunities for friendships, employment, leadership development and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This year, special appearances were made by the Seneca Valley Bocce Team and newly formed Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) and Haine Elementary Unified Bocce Teams.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event unforgettable!

Read more about the event and Best Buddies program, featuring Pittsburgh's Best Buddies Advisor of the Year Ms. Kathy Mahon, Seneca Valley school Psychologist, at Seneca Valley Best Buddies program to expand as advisor wins top award | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.





































SHOWING OFF CREATIVE TALENT

Seneca Valley High School students have elevated their craft to an art form. Earlier this year, the Butler Art Center held a high school art exhibition open to regional school districts, where sixteen Seneca Valley students showcased their work—and six of them earned awards for their outstanding pieces.

Senior Grace Riggle won first place for her painting submission titled "Left Unsaid." An Honorable Mention was awarded to seniors Brenna Vassallo and Madeleine Rae and junior Madeline Zimmer for their 2-Dimensional Art. In 3-Dimensional Art, seniors Sydney Gordon won third place and Natalie Dolan received an Honorable Mention Award.

Additional Seneca Valley artists had work on display including seniors Corie Julian, Alexa Hudak, Miles Bornes, Caelyn DiPietro, Keira Colella, Reagan Helwig, Joelle Martin, Emma Lechner and Giana Guandolo and junior Carly Byrom.

"I am always so proud of the work that our students create and their dedication and commitment to our SV visual arts classes," said Mr. Jason Woolslare, Seneca Valley Senior High School Art Teacher.









MIDDLE SCHOOL MASTERPIECES

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) showcased exceptional student artwork at the 19th Annual Unveiling and Artists' Reception, celebrating additions to its esteemed permanent student art collection. District employees, parents, students and community members were invited to attend the reception held Wednesday, May 28.

The RGMS Art Department hosts this event, and their department consists of art teachers Ms. Tabatha Karman, Mr. George Williams and Ms. Erin Wildrick. The Annual Unveiling and Artists' Reception began in 2005. The permanent art collection will now showcase 96 pieces of prestigious artwork, filling the entire side of the art classroom hallway.

This year six students were recognized, including seventh graders Adam D'Biagio for his piece "Radiohead," Jess McLean for her piece "Hysterical Woman," Kimani Whetstone for her piece "Tyler the Creator," and eighth graders Becket Alexander for her piece "Cooling Calmness," Fay Baden for her piece "Zendaya" and Eli Siegel for his piece "Come Along With Me."

Not pictured: Jess McLean













CVE SURPRISE SEND-OFF

“Wonderful. Kind. Respectful. Caring. Amazing.”

These are just a few of the traits Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) students listed to describe Principal Mrs. DeeAnn Graham during a surprise send-off event held earlier this month.

The entire school filled the cafeteria to share special poems, art and other heartfelt words with Mrs. Graham.

Mr. George Williams, Ryan Gloyer Middle School Art Teacher, captivated the crowd with his performance speed-painting, creating two masterpieces in a matter of minutes.

Thank you, Mrs. Graham, for your dedication to SV and reminding students that CVE is a great place to be!

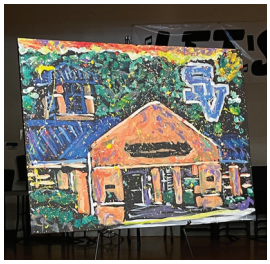














MAHALO MOMENTS

Before wrapping up the school year, second grade students at Ehrman Crest Elementary visited the residents of Luther Court for a special celebration—a Hawaiian Luau!

The event was filled with colorful decorations, music, special gifts and lots of joy! Both the students and the residents had a wonderful time participating in the festivities. Everyone especially enjoyed the Hawaiian dancing, which brought smiles and laughter to all. It was a heartwarming day of celebration and connection between generations.













FIELD DAY FUN

Seneca Valley students in grades K-6 participated in their school's field days this month. Students worked as teams that emphasized and embraced sportsmanship, cooperation and social skills, all while having fun! Seneca Valley's SALT (Student-Athlete Leadership Team) club made a special visit to lend a hand for Tug-of-War while the Cranberry Township Police Department stopped over to track student speed! It was a great celebration of school spirit to kick off the summer.

























By Varden Armstrong,
Performing Arts Coordinator

CEREMONIAL SEND-OFF



The Seneca Valley Thespians Troupe #2094 recently held its "Tony Awards" themed induction ceremony and senior send-off. Thespians is an international honor society, recognizing achievements in the Theater Arts. International Thespian Society (ITS) was founded in 1929 and has inducted over 2.5 million members since its inception. It provides students with a credible and distinguished theater experience, celebrating achievements in both performance and production. The SV chapter was created in 1989 and has continued to maintain its status and membership ever since.



Membership is earned by accumulating Thespian points, which are awarded for participation in performances, technical theater work and community service.



Once inducted, Thespians continue to earn points towards stars, honor bars and senior award certificates. A star is earned at 10 points, Honor Thespian reached at 60 points, National Honor Thespian earned at 120 points, and International Thespian awarded at 180 points.

This year, the troupe inducted 23 new members and recognized one staff member as an Honorary Thespian. New members include freshmen Jamie Biertempfel, Hannah Callender, Annelise Dykstra, Robin Eury, Andrew Foster, Cali Gordon, Emily Harmanos, Lincoln Hugus, Jacqueline Matchett and Abby Mihalacki, along with juniors Nick Francesconi, Anna Hardt, Jacob Hensler, Jeb Kellar, Andrew Long, Lucy Meyer, Sophia Pickios, Billie Rape, Hope Reep, Ava Smith, Loraine Torres-Malave, Lily Young and Madeline Zimmer. Ms. Jessica Kavanagh was recognized as an honorary Thespian for all her work in producing and costuming the plays and musicals at SV!

Graduates recognized included Brianna Schillinger (one star), Sam Smith (one star), Keith Summers (two stars), Steven Giovengo (two stars), Candace Smith (three stars), Mimz Heere (three stars), Sylvia Heilman (three stars), Hannah Hwang (three stars), Ayla Alexander (Honor Bar), Parker Spence (Honor Bar), Colin Berger (Honor Bar), Isaac Hixon (Honor Bar), Lauren Nowak (Honor Bar), Georgia Reese (Honor Bar), Madeleine Tomo (Honor Bar), Elle Barnes (National Honor Bar), Christian Schuster (National Honor Bar).

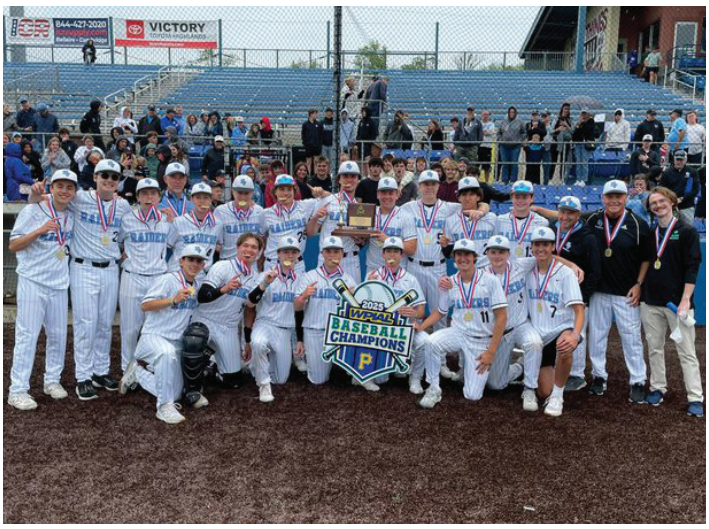
Also recognized by their peers were Sam Smith and Christian Schuster, voted among the troupe as Best Actors and Madeleine Tomo as Best Thespian.

By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

HOW A TEAM BECAME CHAMPIONS

"Be an even better teammate than player." *Will Healy*

There is no denying talent is essential to contend for championships. In the end, what often goes unnoticed is that the best team - not just the most talented - are the ones holding the trophy. It is a rare occurrence for individual talent to exceed teamwork when it comes to championship performances. In the spring of 2025, it was a privilege to watch Raider Varsity Baseball compete daily because their driving force was not in the bats, on the field or on the mound – their most enduring power was the way they consistently played for one another. When you combine talent with this level of connectivity and sacrifice, great things are possible. Entering the WPIAL tournament as the No. 3 seed in the 6A bracket, this team did not let themselves, their coaches or this community down. Their approach was one game at a time, and they just kept grinding. The opening round versus Mt. Lebanon saw SV jump out to a 3-0 lead only to have the Blue Devils tie the game in the top of the sixth. Mason Fisher was the hero in the bottom of the sixth inning bringing home Quin Carney and the Raiders advanced on a 4-3 win. Next up were the second-seed Big Macs of Canon-McMillan in the semifinals. On this day, the bats were alive and Andrew Malichky's pitching was on form and, with the 4-0-win, SV now found itself playing for a WPIAL title versus the fourth seeded Knights of Norwin. At EQT Park for the finals, Seneca Valley's pitching combination of Ryan Rebholz and Luis Torrenegra simply overwhelmed Norwin and Ryan Piekutoski's RBI single was all the Raiders would need to clinch their fifth WPIAL title in program history. Through this playoff run what was evident to all in attendance was that our Raiders never flinched – they kept battling inning after inning. They kept lifting one another up. They stayed present and played in the moment. In the end, this TEAM could call themselves CHAMPIONS! By virtue of their WPIAL title, Seneca Valley entered the PIAA bracket and



had the opportunity to host a first-round game vs. McDowell out of PIAA District X. The environment was electric and the Raider offense put on a show, scoring seven runs to advance to the quarterfinals with a 7-1 win. As all good things do, the season ended in Altoona where SV fell to eventual state champion Cedar Cliff. In a game where this squad was presented with unusual obstacles and challenges, they never quit. They battled, they supported, they believed. Unfortunately, in this game, it simply was not our day. As Coach Semega reminded them in postgame, it was one heck of a season and they were going to walk out of the ballpark (to the applause from #SVRaiderNation) with their heads held high. And that they did! Congratulations to the 2025 Raider Baseball Team – you will forever be a champion! And thank you for #WearingTheSV the right way!

- Athletics & Activities Director Ms. Heather Lewis ■

GATORADE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – AGAIN!

Senior softball pitcher and Clemson recruit Lexie Hames was honored as the Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Pennsylvania for the second consecutive season. Gatorade Player of the Year is the top honor in high school sports, celebrating the nation's best high school athletes for their success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. Hames led the 2025 Raiders to a 20-5 overall record. In the circle she was 17-3 with a 0.48 ERA, striking out 279 batters in 116 innings for an average of 2.4 Ks (strikeouts) per inning. She fired nine shutouts, including two no-hitters and held opposing batters to a 0.80 average. At the plate, Hames batted .500 with seven home runs and 18 RBIs to post an OPS of 1.945. She drew 41 walks and struck out only four times in 79 plate appearances. She ended her career with 951 strikeouts and two WPIAL titles. A standout for USA Softball's U-18 National Team at last summer's World Cup qualifier, Lexie was ranked as the nation's No. 1 prospect in her class by Extra Innings Softball. Congratulations, Lexie – an honor so well deserved! ■



SPRING SEASON FINAL POSTSEASON RECAPS

Softball

Following a first-round bye, the second-seeded Raiders faced off against Norwin in the WPIAL 6A semifinals and came away with a 6-1 win. Paige Volz's first-inning, two-run triple was a game-winning hit, but a team effort led to SV putting six on the board to Norwin's one. The Raiders



advanced to face Hempfield for the WPIAL 6A title and sole spot in the PIAA bracket. Both teams brought their bats and, as it often does, the game against the Spartans came down to a single run scored by Hempfield in the bottom of the first inning. The Raiders were unable to take advantage of their seven hits and multiple baserunners and fell 1-0, ending the season and careers of five terrific seniors. We thank the Class of '25 and wish each of them all the best!

Track & Field

Results from the 2025 PIAA 3A Track & Field Championships were:

- Girls 100m: Augelina Williams (13.02, 29th place)
- Girls 100m Hurdles: Kathryn Morrison (15.18, 15th place)
- Girls 4 x 100 Relay: (50.17, 25th place)
- Girls 4 x 800 Relay: (10:05.40, 25th place)



- Girls High Jump: Jordan Monteleone (5-6, 4th place, Medalist)
- Girls Long Jump: Kate Skeen (17-3.75, 15th place)
- Girls Pole Vault: Aubrey Erdos (11-6, 10th place)
- Girls Javelin: Audrey Wolfe (123-1, 16th place); Addie Weaver (122-2, 17th place)
- Boys 400m: Gavin Skarbek (49.67, 10th place)
- Boys High Jump: Dakari Payne (6-4, 10th place)

Boys Volleyball

As noted in the May issue, Seneca Valley earned the No. 2 seed in the WPIAL 3A championship bracket, and following their first-round win over Canon-Mac, squared off against the Warriors of Penn Trafford in the WPIAL semifinals. The back-and-forth affair saw the Raiders take sets one and three (25-19, 25-20) and the Warriors winning sets two and four (25-22, 25-20), setting up a decisive fifth set for the right to face off against North Allegheny (NA) in the WPIAL finals. As has been customary all season, this Raider squad rose to the occasion and brought home the fifth set in convincing fashion winning 15-3 to take the match 3-2. Up next was the rubber match between SV & NA. In the WPIAL championship game, SV jumped out in front with a first-set win 25-17 over the Tigers. Unfortunately, the momentum was lost as the Tigers roared to three straight set wins (25-15, 25-20, 25-18) to win 3-1 and take home the gold. As runner-up the Raiders were on the road for the PIAA first round and travelled quite a distance to face off against PIAA District 3 runner-up Central York. It was not our day as the Panthers got the best of our Raiders in three straight sets (25-19, 25-20, 25-23). With the loss, the 2025 Raider boys season ended, and we thanked our graduating seniors for all they have given to the program. We wish all of them well as they embark on life's next adventure.



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
Colton Garner	Lacrosse	Ohio Wesleyan University	Finance

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, MAY 2025



The Female Athlete of the Month for May was track and field jumper **Jordan Monteleone**. The junior had a stellar season competing for the Raiders in high jump, long jump and triple jump. Her main event was the high jump where she finished in first place 10 times. She helped the girls track and field team tie for second place in the section with a record of 4-2, which qualified them for the WPIAL 3A Girls Team Track and Field Semifinals. Her standout performance came at the 2025 WPIAL Championships where a high jump of 5-5 ensured she finished in first place and became just the third girls high jump WPIAL champion in SV track and field history. Jordan capped off her season with a fourth-place finish in the high jump at the 2025 PIAA Track and Field Championships with a jump of 5-6. We recognized Jordan as the May Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Jordan!



The Male Athlete of the Month for May was senior boys volleyball player and team captain **Abheek Nelikil**. As a setter, Abheek was a key player for the Raiders who went 14-5 in the season including a return to the WPIAL 3A Boys Volleyball championship game for the first time since 2022. Through the regular season and WPIAL/PIAA playoffs, Abheek tallied a team record of 941 assists, 320 digs, 62 kills, 42 aces and 38 blocks. He was recognized by area coaches for his on-court abilities, including being named on both the First Team All-Section and All-WPIAL boys volleyball lists. For an impressive month, we recognized Abheek as the May Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Abheek!

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.
- **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.
- 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.
  - *60 physicals from 8 a.m. - Noon; 30 physicals from 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.
  - *60 physicals from 8 a.m. - Noon*

READY... SET... REGISTER!

Join us for a star-spangled tradition as the third annual SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial 5K (run/walk) returns this fall — and registration officially opens July 4! What better way to celebrate Independence Day than by signing up to honor a true American hero and proud Seneca Valley alum SFC Ryan A. Gloyer?

Whether you're a seasoned sprinter, a casual walker or someone who really loves a good post-race snack, there's a place for you in this fun, family-friendly event. The Memorial 5K is more than just a race; it's a heartfelt celebration of Ryan's incredible legacy of service, courage and Raider pride. All proceeds benefit Ryan Gloyer Middle School through initiatives that embody Ryan's values.

Save the Date: Registration opens Thursday, July 4

Race Day: Sunday, Nov. 2 at 9 a.m.

Fun for all ages – runners, walkers, strollers, and spirited supporters welcome!

Let's come together as a community — with laughter, cheers and lots of red, white and blue to remember Ryan and carry his legacy forward.

Visit the race page for additional details: SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run





USING YOUR NOODLE



Seneca Valley students have officially made the splash into summer vacation. But, before they head to the pool, elementary students participate in Water Safety Days to teach the importance of water safety.

Some classes visited the Aquatic Center while others took the trip to local community pools. Several SV high school student lifeguards attended the event to lead safety programs, teaching life-saving techniques and important safety procedures.









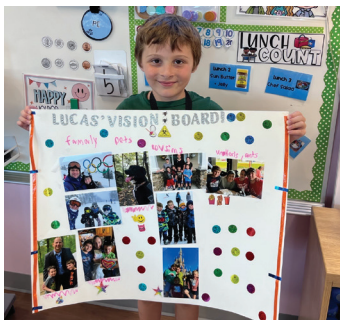


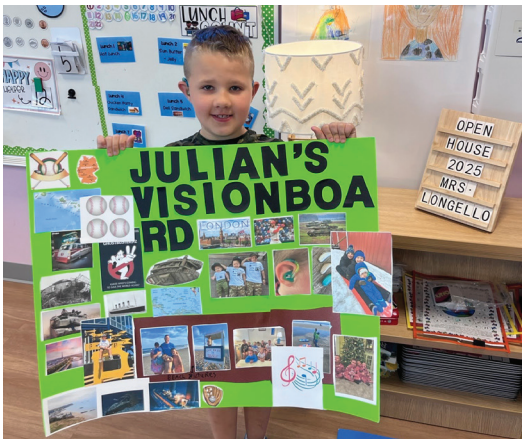


BIG DREAMS

To wrap up the school year, Ehrman Crest Elementary second graders in Ms. Amanda Longello's class took some time to dream big—literally! After learning about vision boards, students shared their hopes for the future and got to work creating their own, using family photos, stickers, career and travel ideas, glitter glue, and more. It was an afternoon of creativity and planning for all the bright things ahead!











SV INNOVATORS SWEEP AWARDS

Talk about a clean sweep – our Ehrman Crest Elementary School innovators claimed the top three spots at this year's Inventionland Education National Invention Contest! The competition held May 20-22 brought together young minds from regional schools to present their impressive inventions and compete for top prizes, all evaluated by a panel of industry professionals.

Receiving first place, team Furry Friends was created by Gracie Sypien, Lydia Yerace, Emma Delaney and Anna Johns. The team designed a 2-in-1 pet travel bag and bed. The convertible bag holds all your pet supplies while traveling and converts into a comfortable, pet-approved bed!

Second place was awarded to the team Puck Powerhouse with members Sophia Dorus, Jordan Davison, Maddy Koehler and Maddox Paserba. These inventors created a practice hockey puck and mobile app to track puck speed, force, direction and provide performance insight!

Third place was awarded to the team Royal Pets created by students Lillian Holden, Allison Dubon, Alice Do Couto Rivera and Lena Cooper. They created an upgraded pooper-scooper with a light for evening walks and a mess-free sinching bag mechanism!

Students competed multiple times throughout the year at different levels to qualify for the regional competition. Congratulations to all our young inventors for working as a team and brainstorming these creative projects! ■























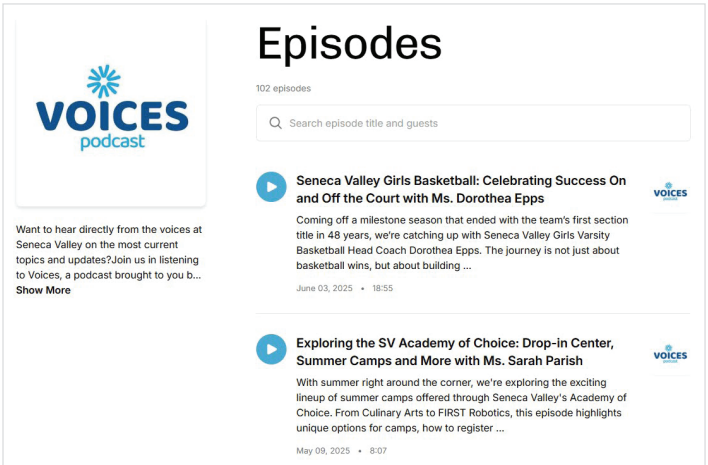
SV COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AWARDED IN PUBLICATION CONTESTS

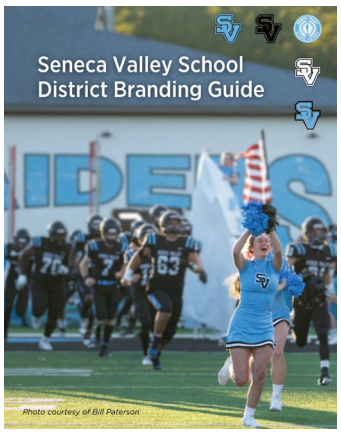
The Seneca Valley communications department has achieved a historic milestone, by earning a combined total of 26 awards in the National School Public Relations Association's (NSPRA) 2025 Publications and Digital Media Contest and in the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association's (PenSPRA) "Excellence in Education Communications" 2024-2025 Contest.

Seneca Valley earned 10 awards in NSPRA's Contest. They received five Awards of Excellence for the 2024-25 Activities and Information Calendar, "Together WE Thrive," SVSD Branding Guide, SV "Voices" Podcast episode "Exploring the Role of AI in Education" and their promotional videos, "A Message from our 2024 Graduates (big and small)" and "Seneca Valley Program of Studies: Planning Ahead Made Easy." Additionally, the communications department received an Award of Merit for their SV "Voices" Podcast episode "Empowering Every Student," and four Honorable Mentions for the 2024 Annual Report, "Reaching New Heights," SV Raider Pride E-Newsletter, social media campaigns, #SVFutureMakers and "It's Tricky," and their retirement video, "Seneca Valley Retirees Recognized for over 600 Years of Service."

NSPRA's Publications and Digital Media Awards recognize outstanding education publications and marketing/informational materials (print and electronic), video/TV/radio programs, social media and websites.

In PenSPRA's Contest, the Seneca Valley communications department earned 16 awards. They received five Awards of Excellence for the 2024-25 Activities and Information Calendar, "Together WE Thrive," SV Raider Pride E-Newsletter, their promotional video, "A Message from our 2024 Graduates (big and small)," photography, "Guiding Hands, Bright Futures" and the "Reflecting on the Journey" Annual Report. Additionally, the communications department received five Awards of Merit for the SVSD Branding Guide, Kindergarten Countdown flyer, photography, "Big Beginnings on the First Day of School," newly redesigned SVSD website and their video "Seneca Valley Program of Studies: Planning Ahead Made Easy." Lastly, they received six Honorable Mentions

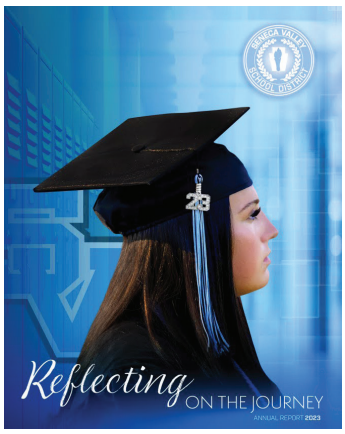




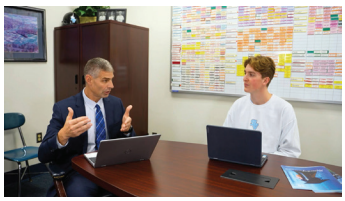
for their SV Intermediate High School Construction Survey, Join the SV Team flyer, "Second Grade Students Celebrate Their Classmate's Adoption Day" story, social media campaign, #SVFutureMakers and their videos, "Seneca Valley Retirees Recognized for Over 600 Years of Service" and "Seneca Valley Baseball Player Recognizes Impactful Teacher."

PenSPRA was chartered in 1969 and, much like NSPRA, is an organization of school public relations professionals whose goal is to improve educational communication and support student achievement through systematic, proactive and responsible public relations programs. Both organizations annual sponsor separate Excellence In Education Communications Contests. Entries are accepted in a number of categories to reflect the scope of work often undertaken by communications professionals.

"At Seneca Valley, we know collaboration with families and the community is key to student success," said Linda Andreassi, Communications Director. "Our communications team works tirelessly to build those bridges every day, and I'm thrilled to see their skill and dedication











honored on both state and national stages. I couldn't be more proud!"

The communications department coordinated and developed these award-winning publications for the Seneca Valley School District.

'I LED THE PLEDGE'

As part of a continued districtwide initiative, Seneca Valley students from our K-6 schools are appearing at School Board meetings to lead members of the Board, Administration and public in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

This month featured a special finale to our 2024-25 "I Led the Pledge" series! Haine Elementary's second graders took the stage at the June 9 School Board Meeting with a surprise performance before proudly leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you to our amazing second graders, Principal Dr. White, Assistant Principal Dr. McKelvey, and the incredible second grade team for making the evening unforgettable!





KINDNESS COUNTS

Every year, the Karen McClain Kindness Award is presented to a student who exhibits kindness, positivity and inclusiveness to both fellow students and staff during their time at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS). This year, Violet Acosta was honored with the heartfelt award.

The award was created in memory of the late Karen McClain, an RGMS learning support teacher of 18 years, who passed away during the 2018-19 school year. Like Miss Acosta, Ms. McClain personified sunshine and kindness. Her qualities mirrored every expectation of a middle level educator. She consistently went out of her way to support her students; teaching, loving and caring for each one. She worked tirelessly to perfect her craft as a learning support teacher and never complained. The same kindness and positivity that she shared with her students was constantly displayed with her colleagues as well. Karen devoted her life to others, making them smile, supporting them and being the change she wanted to see in the world.



In addition to the Karen McClain award, RGMS Guidance Counselor LaVarr Stephens-Howling was recognized as the Support Person of the Year and Kalene Ireland as the Teacher of the Year. Thank you, both, for your outstanding dedication and service to our students!

A 'REEL' GREAT YEAR!

On the last day of school, Central Office staff grabbed their rods and fishing gear to "cast" one final wave goodbye to SV students!















SENDING A SMILE AND WAVE

Haine Elementary School staff, teachers and administrators came together for their annual "wave out," wishing students a safe and fun summer!



CYBERSECURITY FOR PARENTS: EMPOWERING FAMILIES FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

Parenting in the digital age is a whole new ball game. From managing screen time to figuring out which apps are actually safe, it's easy to feel like you're constantly playing catch-up. And with everything from school-issued devices to social media becoming part of daily life, our kids are growing up in an online world that moves fast—and isn't always secure.

The current threat landscape is constantly evolving, making it important for parents to understand the unique cybersecurity challenges facing educational institutions.

Here's the good news: you don't have to figure it all out alone. Cybersecurity works best when schools and families join forces. Because keeping students safe online isn't just a school's job—it's a shared effort. Take a look at this breakdown of what cybersecurity for parents really means and the practical steps every household can take to build a safer digital environment for kids.

The digital reality: why cybersecurity doesn't end at the school gate

Today's students are connected nearly 24/7—logging into virtual classrooms, joining Zoom study sessions, streaming lessons on YouTube, and chatting with classmates on apps. While schools have invested heavily in safeguarding their own networks, the real vulnerabilities often start at home.

A 2023 report by the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) revealed that nearly 8 out of 10 K-12 cybersecurity incidents began with compromised credentials. The kicker? Many of those breaches stemmed from phishing scams and unsafe practices that happened outside the classroom—often right at the kitchen table—posing significant risks to both students and schools.

So what does that mean for families?

For parents, here's the wake-up call:

- Kids are prime targets. Hackers know that students—especially younger ones—are less likely to question suspicious links or pop-ups. That makes them the perfect entry point for malicious actors seeking to exploit vulnerabilities.
- Home devices are soft spots. Unlike managed school laptops, home tablets, gaming consoles, and even smart TVs often lack proper firewalls or antivirus protection.
- One mistake can ripple. Something as small as clicking a fake homework link can escalate. If your child's school credentials get stolen, a bad actor could access grades, health records, or even staff emails.

What parents can do at home

You don't need a tech degree to protect your family online. In fact, some of the most effective cybersecurity practices start with simple habits and open conversations. When parents set clear expectations and create safe digital routines, kids are more likely to follow suit. It's also crucial to help your child understand the importance of protecting their identity online, as personal information can be misused if not properly safeguarded. Here's how to start:

- Talk openly about online safety and privacy.
- Set boundaries for device use and internet access.
- Teach kids how to identify suspicious requests for personal information, such as emails or messages asking for passwords or other sensitive data.
- Model good digital habits by using strong passwords and updating them regularly.

When setting expectations, remind your child that keeping their login credentials private and secure is essential to protecting their accounts and personal information.

1.Use parental controls (but don't rely on them alone)

Parental control apps are like training wheels—they're helpful, but they're not the whole bike. Parental control apps are just one of the many technologies available to help keep kids safe online. Tools like Google Family Link, Bark, and Qustodio allow you to:

- Monitor which apps are being downloaded (and deleted)
- Set screen time limits by device or app
- Block access to adult or malicious websites



2. Stay in the loop of device usage

Most kids juggle multiple devices: a school-issued Chromebook, a family iPad, a computer, maybe even a personal phone. The more devices in play, the harder it is to monitor them all—unless you set a few ground rules.

3. Cybersecurity is a team sport—and that includes the home team. A Family Cyber Pledge helps parents and kids align on healthy digital habits.

Sample pledge items:

- We won't share our passwords—even with friends
- We'll set limits on screen time and stick to them
- We'll talk openly about things we see online that feel off

Encourage all members of the family to sign and commit to the pledge together. Encourage families to revisit it monthly.

Keeping an open dialogue and a shared sense of digital responsibility can go a long way in building trust and safety at home. These small steps add up—and they empower your child to take ownership of their digital habits.

- Know what your child is using—school laptop, family iPad, computer, personal phone?
- Set clear expectations about where and when devices can be used
- Enable location tracking and remote locking tools like Prey for school-issued devices

Article provided by Prey Project

- As part of our ongoing commitment to employee support and retention, Seneca Valley is pleased to introduce the Food Service Employee Incentive Program for the 2025–26 school year. This new benefit provides free reimbursable school meals for the children of SV Food Service staff members, based on their years of service to the district. The program is designed to recognize employee service, offer meaningful family support and create added value to food service positions. Click here to learn more.
- Is your child in need of a vision check? Vision to Learn is bringing their mobile clinic to libraries throughout Beaver County, offering free eye exams and glasses to eligible school-aged children. Appointments are required. Visit www.beaverlibraries.org/vision-month to view dates and participating locations. Vision to Learn's convenient mobile clinic provides a comprehensive eye exam conducted by a licensed optometrist. If an eye exam reveals that your child needs glasses, they can select their frames on-site, and prescription glasses will be mailed directly to your home, free of charge.
- 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).
- 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. ■

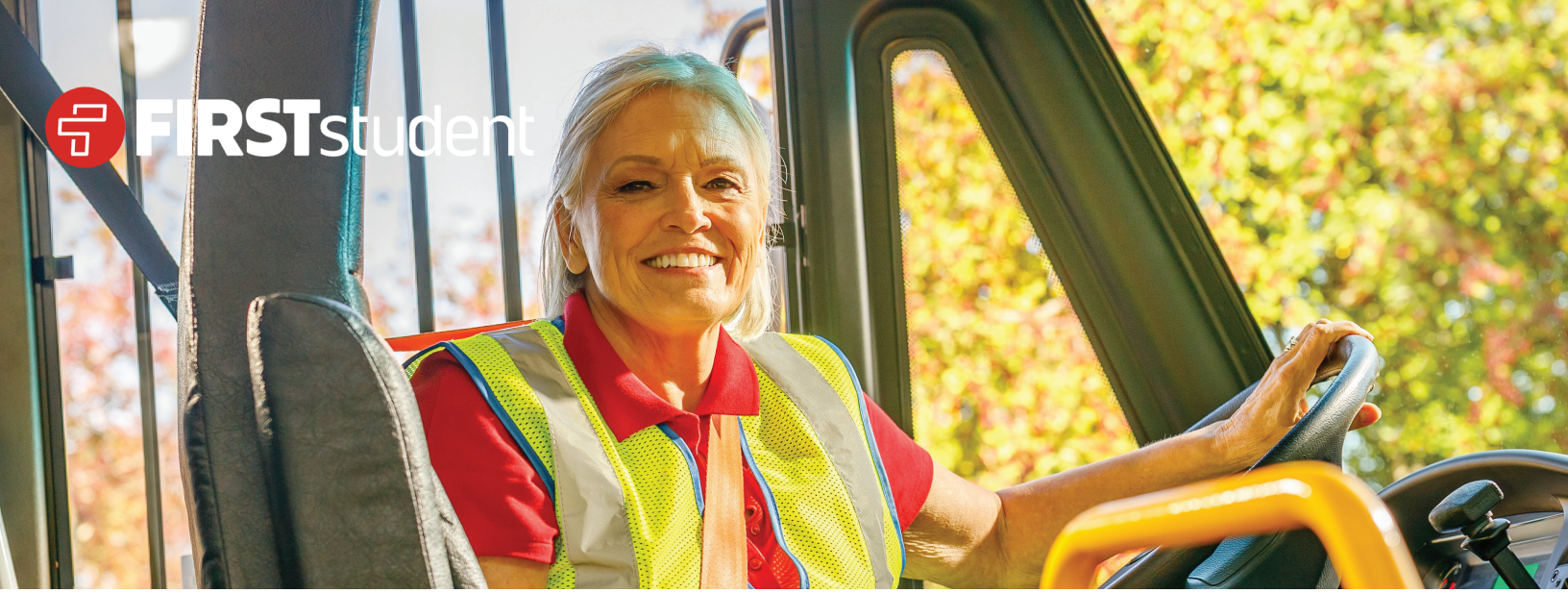
FYI

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





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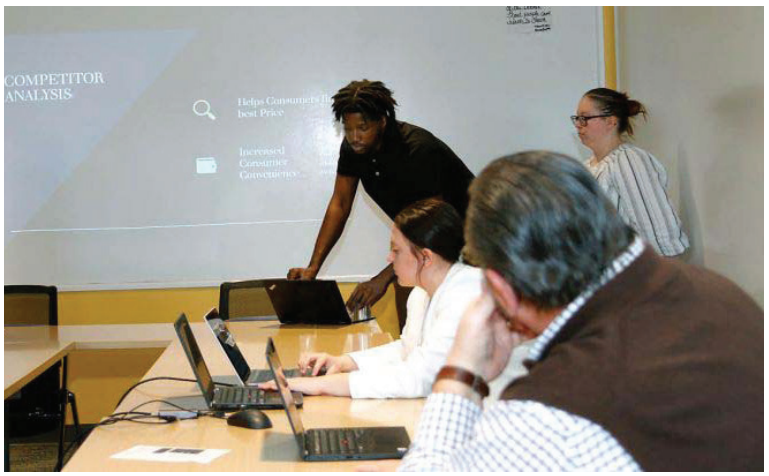
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