RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication **SEPTEMBER 2025**

NATIONAL SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION
PUBLICATIONS AND DIGITAL MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARD
2025
HONORABLE MENTION
NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S AHEAD

Seneca Valley is investing in the future of education with the upcoming Intermediate High School construction project. This major initiative will modernize our learning spaces and create new opportunities for students across academics, the arts and beyond.

Highlights of the project include:

- A three-story classroom addition featuring 43 classrooms, 12 science labs, a biotechnology lab and flexible collaboration spaces.
- State-of-the-art facilities for music, orchestra, theater, chorus and band, along with expanded spaces for special education and life skills programs.
- A new 1,600-seat Performing Arts Center designed to serve both students and the wider community as a hub for music, theater and cultural events.
- Renovated gymnasiums, cafeteria and auditorium, plus new outdoor classrooms, green spaces and improved campus accessibility.
- Enhanced security, energy-efficient systems and sustainable design features.

Construction will begin with a phased timeline designed to minimize disruption and ensure a safe, modern and inspiring space for learning. This project reflects our commitment to preparing students for the future while strengthening the opportunities available to our entire community.



In our latest podcast episode, CannonDesign architect Mr. Jeremy Dwyer and Mr. John Pappas from Eckles Construction Services discuss plans for the Intermediate High School construction project. Listen to the podcast here.

Click here to view the Intermediate High School/Performing Arts Center Act 34 Booklet.

Take a look at the building renderings in the pages to follow.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

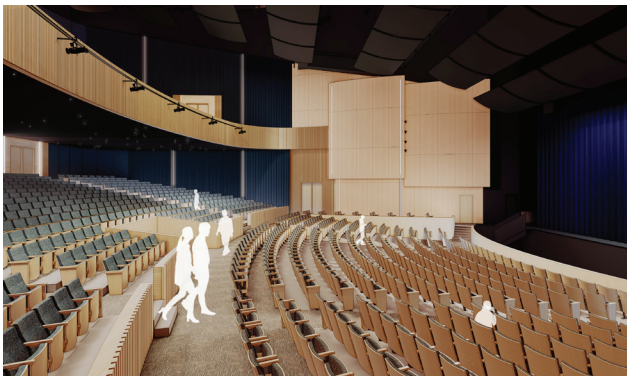
Oct. 2	Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students
Oct. 3	Act 80 Day, No School for Students
Oct. 6	School Board Meeting, Work Session, SHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Oct. 13	School Board Meeting, Regular Session, SHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24	End of First Nine Weeks, Grades 7-12

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

OCTOBER

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	

WHAT'S AHEAD *Continued from page 1*

















SV Intermediate High School Construction Survey

The Seneca Valley School District is collaborating with CannonDesign, a global architectural firm, to design and re-create the Seneca Valley Intermediate High School (IHS). In 2022, students, parents and staff were invited to give their thoughts on what they believe are the needs and preferences of such a project including outdoor areas and open spaces surrounding the building and secondary campus.

901
Responses

Most important to the Seneca Valley experience:

- Security & Safety (85%)
- Academic Programs (78%)
- Physical, Social, Emotional Wellness (69%)

It is important / very important to improve these spaces:

Science Labs (71%)
Technical Education Spaces (65%)
Performing Arts & Music Spaces (61%)
Outdoor Gathering Spaces (59%)

The future IHS should be...



It is important / very important to:

Improve traffic flow around the SVSD secondary campus
84%

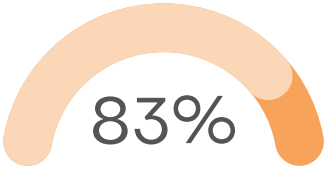
Improve safety & security on SVSD secondary campus
81%

Improve parking on the SVSD secondary campus
81%

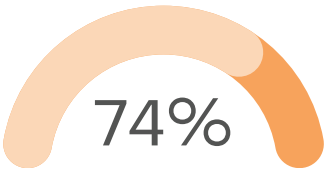
Improve the Intermediate High School classrooms
80%

Improve the footpaths between secondary buildings
76%

Improve innovation & technology in the IHS
75%



feel safe when on the SVSD secondary campus



feel physically comfortable when in SV school buildings.

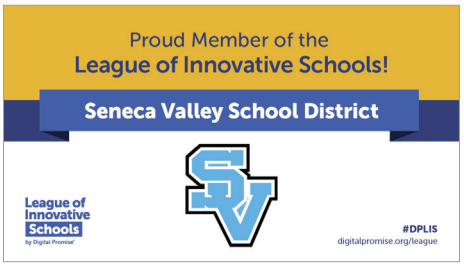
SV ACCEPTED INTO 'THE LEAGUE'

Seneca Valley has been accepted into the League of Innovative Schools (The League), a national network of school districts that connects and supports the nation's most forward-thinking leaders in education. The League is organized by Digital Promise, a global nonprofit working to expand opportunity for every learner by bridging solutions across research, practice and technology.

Seneca Valley was selected from a competitive national pool of applicants based on its educational leadership, demonstrated commitment to excellence, innovative vision for learning, key achievements and collaborative spirit. Being a part of the League of Innovative Schools will now give Seneca Valley the chance to learn from some of the most forward-thinking districts in the country.

"We're thrilled to receive this acceptance," said Dr. Tracy Vitale, Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools. "We're eager to learn from others and to keep pushing ourselves forward so that every student has the best possible opportunities to learn, grow and thrive."

Seneca Valley officials also expressed their intent to bring their unique strengths to the table. From the nationally recognized







Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School to their strong focus on career readiness and innovative cyber and arts programs like Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC), she plans to share how Seneca Valley successfully blends big-picture vision with practical, hands-on opportunities for students.

"The real value is in the collaboration," explained Dr. Vitale. "As members of the League, we hope to contribute by sharing our experiences in designing future-ready learning spaces, expanding career and technical pathways and building strong community-school connections."

Now as members of The League, Seneca Valley administrators will have access to unique, innovative professional learning opportunities and resources, including:

- cutting edge technology and innovations;
- unique pilot programs for new learning and teaching models that benefit educators and students;
- continuous learning opportunities, such as year-round learning collaboratives, working groups, implementation cohorts, regional gatherings and national conferences to build leadership and accelerate transformation;



- regional events, industry conferences and bi-annual convenings, which feature school visits and deep-dive breakout sessions; and
- networking opportunities with other forward-thinking education leaders from around the country around key challenges and generating best practices and resources.

The League of Innovative Schools equips superintendents and district leaders to help shape the future of teaching and learning through hands-on opportunities to collaborate, connect and learn.

"Education leaders are constantly navigating new challenges, and no one should have to do it alone," said Jillian Doggett, Director of Network Support at Digital Promise. "The League provides superintendents and other district leaders a trusted community where they can share effective strategies, pilot new innovations and find real-world solutions. It's about collective impact. Together, we're not just innovating; we're shaping the future of public education for students in our districts and across the country."

This year's 2025-26 cohort of League members is the largest cohort to date, with 35 new district members. The full list of members can be found at digitalpromise.org/districts.

Seneca Valley and the other new League members collectively represent 175 districts across 35 states and expands its cumulative impact to over 4.4 million students served over time. For more information on the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, visit: digitalpromise.org/league.

‘UNDER THE STARS’

Photo Credit: Bill Paterson and Glory Days Photography

Seneca Valley students danced the night away “Under the Stars,” at the Seneca Valley 2025 homecoming.

Leading up to the homecoming dance, students and staff participated in a Spirit Week full of celebrations and fun theme-days. On Thursday, Sept. 25, hundreds of participants enjoyed festivities including a carnival, parade and fireworks.

Mia Grant was crowned queen and Michael Cheeseman king during Seneca Valley's Homecoming pregame festivities at NexTier Stadium on Friday, Sept. 26. Miss Grant is the daughter of Meagan Grant of Cranberry Township. Mr. Cheeseman is the son of David Cheeseman and Julia Castio of Cranberry Township.

Earlier this month, seniors chose 20 classmates to represent their homecoming court. Senior girls on the court included Rylin Barbe, Olivia Donato, Olivia Gallup, Mia Grant, Autumn Holmes, Addie Koliscak, Ellie Stewart, Madelyn Tresky, Daniela Tyrpak, Brielle White, Devin Wilkerson and Audrey Wolfe. Senior boys on the court included Tim Abel, Jake Berg, Fletcher Boice, Samuel Boyer, Ethan Bulvin, Michael Cheeseman, Arvand Esni, Jeb Kellar, Aiden Kephart, John Rieger, Christian Vogel and Andy Weng.

Shoutout to SV Student Council for all their hard work planning the Homecoming Parade, carnival, pep rally and dance!

Click here to view additional photos (or see page 6).

















‘UNDER THE STARS’ *Continued from page 5*























HONOR AND REMEMBER

On Patriot Day, Seneca Valley Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) honored the memories of the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, and of every hero who gave their life since that day to protect our safety and freedom. The annual commemorative event recognized the innocent men, women and children who lost their lives on an airplane, at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, in Somerset County and on the streets of New York. Through ceremonies, lessons and activities, our schools across the district paused to reflect the significance of this day in our nation's history.

As a community and a nation, we honor the lives of the victims of 9/11. JROTC Cadets also commended the civil servants, firefighters, police officers and military personnel who dedicated and lost their lives serving the American people in a time of crisis.





















SV THANKS VETERANS

Seneca Valley celebrated veterans and active members of the military at the annual Veteran Recognition Event on Sept. 12. This representative group includes those who have served in Korea, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Vietnam and Operation Enduring Freedom, just to name a few. Among this elite group were recipients of numerous honors, including commendation medals, achievement medals, campaign medals, national defense medals, Bronze Star honors and even a Purple Heart awarded to our honorary captain for the game.

Today and every day we are grateful for our military service personnel, past and present, and the families who support them. It was our honor to recognize these outstanding individuals for their service and sacrifice.





















NEW TO THE CORPS

The class of 2030 is taking part in an exciting milestone. New for the 2025-26 school year, Seneca Valley's JROTC program has expanded to welcome eighth grade students. To commemorate and honor Patriot Day, the first cohort of Ryan Gloyer Middle School cadets were formally recognized among their peers. JROTC instructor John Kortz led the induction event, recognizing the events of 9/11 and raising awareness for the JROTC program.







HONORING LOCAL HEROES

At Seneca Valley, we believe in honoring the people and stories that shape our school, our community and our nation. As we embark through the 2025–26 school year, we are proud to announce the development of a new project underway at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) that reflects this commitment: the RGMS Wall of Fame.

Planned for installation just inside the school's entrance, the RGMS Wall of Fame will be an interactive digital display designed to celebrate the legacy of excellence, service and pride that defines Seneca Valley. This evolving tribute will include several areas of recognition, highlighting the history of our school, the achievements of our students and staff and the strength of our surrounding communities.

"One of the most meaningful sections will be dedicated to recognizing alumni who have served in the United States Armed Forces," said Mr. Gabe Miller, RGMS Acting Assistant Principal and Wall of Fame Coordinator.

The "SV Veterans" category will feature the names of former students who graduated from Zelienople, Evans City or Seneca Valley High Schools, and who went on to serve our country. This initiative is deeply personal to our school, as RGMS is named in honor of Staff Sergeant Ryan A. Gloyer, a proud SV graduate and decorated U.S. Army Ranger who gave his life in service. By extending this recognition to all of our veteran alumni, we hope to create a lasting tribute that reflects our district's deep appreciation for those who have worn the uniform.

As we begin to build this project, we are asking for help from those who know these stories best. If you are a veteran who graduated from Seneca Valley or Southwest Butler — or a family member of someone who did — we invite you to submit information using the form link immediately below. This ensures the accuracy and authenticity of each tribute included in the display. We thank you for your support in this endeavor.



To submit a Seneca Valley Graduate who is also a veteran/active military, please visit **Seneca Valley Veterans Submission Form**.

EHRMAN CREST GRANTED $10,000 FOR HEART HEALTH INITIATIVES

Ehrman Crest Elementary has been named one of just five schools nationwide to receive a $10,000 grant from the American Heart Association and the NFL Foundation. The honor was made even more memorable when Physical Education teacher, Ms. Sara Coon, was surprised in front of the 53 students who completed Finn's Mission and a special guest, Steely McBeam!

Finn's Mission gives students and families the opportunity to learn about heart health, including Hands-Only CPR and the warning signs of a stroke, while supporting the lifesaving mission of the American Heart Association.

Among those celebrating was fourth grader Kennedy Rader, whose journey with a congenital heart condition has made her an inspiring advocate in the Kids Heart Challenge™. As the school's "Heart Hero," Kennedy has shared her story with classmates, encouraging them to care for their health and support lifesaving research. Her courage helped spark record-breaking fundraising last year, with students and staff raising more than $23,000 for the American Heart Association.

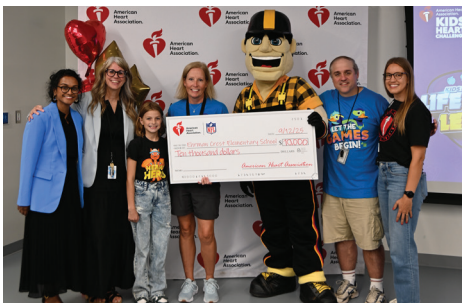
Ms. Coon's dedication, along with the vision of Mr. Alvin Mullett, Physical Education teacher at Ehrman Crest Middle School, has made the Kids Heart Challenge a tradition that inspires students to live heart-healthy lifestyles and even learn lifesaving CPR skills.

From Kennedy's inspiring story to today's national recognition, Ehrman Crest continues to shine as a leader in health, wellness and community spirit. The $10,000 grant, part of the Kids Heart Challenge™ initiative will help provide new gym equipment, expand physical education opportunities and support CPR education.

"We are excited to have this opportunity to enhance the wellness of our students at Ehrman Crest," said Ms. Coon and Mr. Mullett. "We feel very lucky to be one of five schools in the nation to be selected for the $10,000 grant from the National Football League. This contribution will make a significant impact on the way we provide high quality equipment and resources that promote health, wellness and active lifestyles among our students."



















ON A POSITIVE NOTE

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) kicked off their Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) with renowned guest speaker, Mark Brown.

Mr. Brown presented in two sessions to seventh and eighth grade students drawing on the popular Disney film Beauty and the Beast to deliver a powerful message about tolerance, respect and the value of relationships. His program emphasized the importance of accepting differences and also addressed topics such as bullying, cyberbullying and fostering respect and inclusion among peers.

PBIS is a framework designed to make schools more effective places. By implementing evidence-based practices, schools can support their students' academic, social, emotional and behavioral success, engage with families and use data to guide decisions that strengthen school culture.

At RGMS, teachers and staff have worked diligently to build a culture that focuses on positive behaviors and the "Three R's" – Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Resilient!







A GOOD DAY, THE SV3 WAY!

Earlier this month, Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) students participated in schoolwide lessons that promoted being responsible, respectful and ready (also known as SV3). Lessons were taught by our SV3 squad students, teachers and ECMS principals to help model what it looks like to be respectful, responsible and ready at ECMS. Discussions focused on safety and behavior expectations in the hallways, restrooms, collaboration spaces, cafeteria and recess, as well as during arrival and dismissal.

Principals outlined the Principals 200 Club and "Crest Cards" that will continue throughout the school year. The event culminated with gameshow-style "SV3 Showdown," filled with laughs, energy and SV3 fun!











LESSONS WITH LAUGHTER



Students at Haine Middle School are kicking off the fall season on a high note with a special visit from Josh and Gab. The dynamic duo combined music, comedy and storytelling to share powerful messages about making positive choices. Students were reminded of their school's rules—Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready to Learn—and how following them helps everyone feel safe, included and ready for success. The assembly blended meaningful lessons with plenty of fun!





P.E. PARTNERSHIP

Movement and mentorship work hand in hand for classes at Haine Elementary and Middle School. Through an innovative mentorship program integrated into Physical Education classes, middle school students are taking on leadership roles by guiding their elementary peers through a variety of inclusive fitness challenges. In addition to promoting physical health and teamwork, this initiative nurtures meaningful connections, builds confidence and inspires a culture of support and collaboration across grade levels.









BUGGING OUT

Students in Mr. Kenneth Cahall's class at Haine Elementary School are getting a true bug's-eye view of the world around them! These young entomologists swapped pencils for magnifying glasses in a hands-on lesson about isopods and pill bugs. After learning about isopods and how to safely catch the critters, the classes headed outdoors to explore what bug life was hiding under the logs. Students enjoyed sharpening their science skills and their fine motor skills along the way!











By Varden Armstrong,
Performing Arts Coordinator

SV STUDENTS AND STAFF PARTICIPATE IN STEEL CITY CLARINET DAY

Imagine bringing together over 100 people who all share the same passion…playing the clarinet. On Saturday, Aug. 23, that is exactly what happened at the annual Steel City Clarinet Day (SCCD) which was held this year at Shaler Area Middle School. Dr. Amanda Morrison, Event Director and Professor of Clarinet at Slippery Rock University (SRU), sponsors this event each year which is open to clarinet players of all ages, from middle school through adult professionals. Each year Dr. Morrison brings in guest artists and performers along with local vendors, all in an effort to provide exciting learning opportunities and experiences for clarinet players.

A highlight of clarinet day is the opportunity to perform in a masterclass and in one of the clarinet choirs. One Seneca Valley instrumental student, Miss Ella King, performed with the Advanced Clarinet Choir. In addition, Ella performed in the Masterclass and had the opportunity to work with the guest clinician Shannon Kiewitt, a clarinetist with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. Ella King, a junior at Seneca Valley and a member of the SV Marching Band, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band stated, "I was so grateful to take part in the master class run by Gunnery Sergeant Keweitt at Clarinet Day. I learned so much and had a blast the whole time."

Seneca Valley Instrumental teacher Sara Snyder was also involved in the Clarinet Day as one of the directors for the Intermediate Clarinet Choir. In addition to conducting the closing concert, Mrs. Snyder participated in a clinic with the younger students on fundamentals of clarinet playing that they could use as they begin the new school year.

This year, two Seneca Valley alumni were part of the SCCD event as well. Bekah Heltzell (SV Class of '22) and Paityn Armstrong (SV Class of '24) are both clarinet majors at Slippery Rock University and study with Dr. Morrison. They were





involved in many aspects of the day, including performing in the final concert with the Advanced Clarinet Choir.

GET READY TO ROCK, SING AND CHILL!

This year, the Intermediate High School (IHS) Auditorium stage is the place to be, and our students are ready to bring some amazing stories to life. From the high-energy '80s to the golden age of Hollywood and a magical winter wonderland, we've got a performance for everyone!

Fall Productions

Get ready to rock in October with "Rock of Ages: Teen Edition!" It's the '80s, and the party is on the Sunset Strip. Aspiring rocker Drew and small-town girl Sherri are living their dreams when a group of German developers threatens to tear it all down. Can they save their legendary music venue before it's too late? With hit songs from iconic bands like Styx, Journey, Bon Jovi and Whitesnake, this Tony-nominated musical will have you on your feet!

In November, we're traveling back to 1929 with "Singin' in the Rain JR." Get ready for the "Greatest Movie Musical of All Time" as we explore Tinseltown's transition from silent films to "talkies." Follow silent film star Don Lockwood and his squeaky-voiced leading lady Lina Lamont in this hilarious and heartwarming classic filled with snappy dialogue and Hollywood hits.

Winter and Spring Performances

This March, get ready to hear "For the First Time in Forever" as we present Disney's "Frozen." Based on the beloved animated film, this stage production includes all your favorite songs, plus new music written just for the show. Join Princess Anna on an epic journey to find her sister Elsa and save their kingdom from a magical, endless winter. It's a powerful tale of true love, humor and acceptance that's fun for the whole family!

Finally, in May, our final production of the year is the hilarious mystery "Noses Off!" Join an amateur theater company as they stumble toward opening night of their own whodunit. The cast and crew are in over their heads with backstage drama, revenge plots and chaotic costume changes. The real mystery is whether they can pull it all together before the curtain call in this wild tribute to backstage comedy.

Don't miss a single moment - we can't wait to see you at the show!

"Rock of Ages: Teen Edition": October 23, 25 & 26

"Singin' in the Rain JR.": November 6, 8 & 9

Disney's "Frozen": March 12-15, 2026

"Noses Off": May 1-3, 2026

For more information about our productions, please visit **https://senecavalleytheater.com/**

ROCK ON, SENECA VALLEY!

Get ready to rock out with the Seneca Valley Fall Show this October! Travel back to the legendary Sunset Strip of 1987 for this year's musical, "Rock of Ages: Teen Edition." It's sure to be "Nothin' But a Good Time" as our talented students light up the stage with this unforgettable '80s fairy tale.

"We Built This City" on rock 'n' roll — and our cast has been working hard to deliver a show you won't forget. Follow a city boy chasing big dreams and a small-town girl with stars in her eyes, all set to the biggest hits of the decade. Get ready to be swept back to the '80s with unforgettable power ballads and rock anthems.

"Being a student production manager felt natural to me because I have always had a passion for theater but never knew what aspect I wanted to continue with," said senior Ava Smith. "I have always been a head strong person and felt I can take on a leadership role. The position has given me the aspect of being involved with all parts of theater production but also being in a position that I can use and improve my leadership skills."

This year's Fall Show is extra special, featuring not one but two unique casts. Our freshmen and sophomores are ready to "Hit Me with Your Best Shot," while the seasoned juniors and seniors bring their own powerhouse performances. Along the way, it's been inspiring to see older students mentor the younger ones, with every cast member bringing their character to life on stage.

The collaborative spirit is at the heart of this production. Senior actor Jacob Maietta is also helping direct some scenes. This shared experience is what makes the show so special for the students.

Sophomore Quintin Hixon said, "I love the music and I'm so excited to be working with all the wonderful people doing the show!! It's amazing what a group of people can accomplish together."



"The thing I love most about musicals is how inclusive and supportive everyone is," shared senior Roman Runco. "Being able to build such close and valuable relationships is something that sticks with you much longer than just high school. The memories I've made with so many different people, regardless of my role in the show, have been such an incredible opportunity."

Senior Jacob Hensler echoed that sentiment, summing up the experience perfectly. "I came for the performance. I stayed for the people. There is no better feeling than completing a show as a cast."

Junior Morgan Stanton stated "I love that as a cast and crew we are putting together a story! The show is so fun and high energy, and it's filled with songs the audience already loves."

Our cast and crew have poured their hearts into bringing this show to life, and the energy on stage is electric. You just "Can't Fight This Feeling" once the music starts, and the entire company hopes you'll "Don't Stop Believin'" that fairytales can come true!



Performance dates:
Oct. 23 and 25 at 7 p.m.

Oct. 25 and 26 at 2 p.m.

All shows are at the Intermediate High School Auditorium. Tickets are available at the door. See you there!

SVTV DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS KICK OFF THE YEAR

The Seneca Valley high schools' daily morning announcements show, "Seneca Says," aired its first broadcast of the year on Sept. 2. For the first time in several years, enough students enrolled in the course to create two large classes. In the past, students had to squeeze in time to create content while also putting on a daily broadcast. Now, with two classes, students have more time to work, learn and refine their production skills.

While one period produces the announcements for the week, the other class has the freedom to learn new skills, collect interviews and footage, create clever intro videos and highlight as many of the great things happening in the schools as possible. The "Seneca Says" production teams' ultimate goal is to bring people together and create a sense of community, and this year's large cohort makes that an even greater possibility.

Students spent the first week and a half learning all the technical positions, including camera, directing, tech directing, graphics, audio and teleprompter. Both classes are fortunate to have several veteran morning announcements students who have been instrumental in getting the show up and running by training their peers. One of these students, sophomore Cami Hotchkiss, shared her excitement about the larger crew: "I think it's so cool that we have so many different people because the diversity keeps the show interesting."

The morning announcements air each day at 8:06 a.m., the start of first period. Recaps of all shows from each month will air on SVTV at the end of that month. Please reach out to Mr. McKosky or the period 4 or 5 teams if there is something you would like to share or if you'd like to be a guest!















SV ORCHESTRA STUDENTS PERFORM AT PUMPKIN FEST

Once again, students from our Seneca Valley Orchestra Program were asked to perform at the fourth annual Evan's City Pumpkin Fest held Sept. 21. Students formed a trio, performing Halloween pieces as well as classical string chamber ensemble pieces. Student performers included Elizabeth Browne (violin, chamber orchestra, 12th grade), Dylan Neal (violin, chamber orchestra, 12th grade) and Emily Browne (cello, eighth grade orchestra).







By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

FALL SPORTS UPDATES

Photo credits: D. Harsh, T. Lapaglia, D. Leventopoulos, T. Tomaszewski

CROSS-COUNTRY: Boys and Girls (Head Coach Steve Strelick)

Seneca Valley Head Coach Steve Strelick enters his 13th season at the helm of our boys and girls cross-country teams. Currently, both teams are 1-1 in section competition having defeated Pine-Richland and losing to Butler. Results from the first invitational of the season – Red, White & Blue Classic:



- Varsity boys finished in 11th place overall. Leading the Raiders was Riley McGee with a time of 16:50.
- Varsity girls finished in 20th overall. Leading the Raiders with a time of 21:26 was Elyse Cilik.
- Boys JV finished in ninth place overall. Judah Sauers was the top finisher for the Raiders with a time of 18:55.
- Girls JV finished fourth overall as a team. The following girls earned awards for their Top 25 finish: Lilyana Shoup finished in 13th place overall with a time of 22:13 and Mariah Martin came in 19th place overall with a time of 22:26.
- The boys ninth grade team finished in 13th place overall. Leading the Raiders was Elijah Gretz who finished in 28th place overall with a time of 19:08.
- The girls ninth grade team grabbed sixth place. Graci Gordon took honors by finishing in 16th place overall with a time of 22:04.

Upcoming on the schedule are section meets at Shaler, North Allegheny, North Hills, Mars, Central Catholic and Oakland Catholic and the PIAA Foundation meet and Youthtowne Clash.



FOOTBALL (Head Coach Don Barclay)

Head Coach Don Barclay enters his first season leading the Raider football program and brings with him the expectation that all team members will "hold the rope" — in other words, be teammates who are trustworthy, committed and accountable for their actions. The 2025 schedule features six PIAA Class 6A conference games along with four nonconference matchups against 5A playoff teams from last season: Bethel Park, North Hills, Pine-Richland and Moon. It is a slate that will test the Raiders in this transitional season, but senior leadership is ready for the challenge.



The offense is a senior-heavy unit, led by quarterback Andrew Loebig; running backs Chase Mazanek and Cayden Parker; tight end Adam Gehm; receivers Danny Drennan and Reese Fatur; and an offensive line anchored by Jake Berg, Sean Smith, Jonah Bacher and Tommy Wuycheck. Defensively, seniors Adam Bayer, Waylon Caruso, Kyle Mancing, Jackson Matthews and Drew Williams bring stability and experience. A hidden weapon this season may be senior kicker and punter Max Eisenhut. To date, the Raiders' record stands at 1-3 overall (0-1). Barclay earned his first win on Senior Night, a 38-10 victory over North Hills. Upcoming games include a road contest at Moon and a Homecoming game, televised by WPNT, against Mt. Lebanon.

GOLF: Boys (Head Coach Dean Leventopoulos)

At the time of this writing, Coach Leventopoulos, in his seventh season leading our boys golf program, has the team contending for the WPIAL team championships with key section matches remaining against Knoch and Pine-Richland. The Raiders are currently 7-3 and are



battling for one of two section spots to advance to the team championships. On the individual front, congratulations to Anthony Cardosi, Josh Marquardt, Marcos Lopez, Vinci Villella, CJ Gworek and Bradley Steiner for advancing out of sectionals to the WPIAL individual semifinals.

Golf: Girls (Head Coach Brian Pesavento)

Head Coach Brian Pesavento, now in his third season, has guided the Raider girls golf program to significant progress compared to last year. The team currently holds fourth place in its section with a 5-6 record, with one section match remaining against Mars and a nonsection contest against Mt. Lebanon. The 5-6 mark is a notable improvement from last season, when the program won only two matches. As of this writing, results were not yet available from the sectional individual championships, the qualifying event for the WPIAL individual championships.



By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

ICE HOCKEY (Head Coach Tyler Mesisca)

Tyler Mesisca, entering his second season as head coach, has the returning PIHL champions off to a great start in preseason play. The Raiders captured the preseason PIHL Charities Tournament championship with a resounding 9-0 shutout win over Peters Township! Luke Meyers led the way with a hat trick, and Christopher



Nichols was in goal for the shutout win. Through the five-game preseason tournament, senior John Sroka III leads SV in scoring with 12 points (5g, 7a). PIHIL regular season kicks off in October and the Raiders will be laser focused on securing back-to-back Penguins Cup and PIHL championships.

SOCCER: Boys (Head Coach George Williams)

Perhaps those on the outside underestimated the 2025 Raider boys soccer program, led by Head Coach George Williams in his 31st season. The team graduated 12 seniors last year, including All-American Tyler Prex, but what may have gone unnoticed was the group of talented underclassmen who gained valuable playing time alongside them. At the time of this writing, the Raiders are 7-1 overall and 2-1 in section play, with



their only loss coming in overtime at Fox Chapel on a penalty kick. This season, the Raiders have outscored opponents 29-6, recording four shutouts. It is a squad that plays with strong chemistry and features a lineup filled with capable scorers. As always, Williams runs a deep rotation to keep his team fresh for critical end-of-game scenarios.

SOCCER: Girls (Head Coach Mark Perry)

Entering his 10th season as Head Girls Soccer coach, Mark Perry returns a talented and deep squad looking for a return to Highmark Stadium and the opportunity to capture the program's sixth WPIAL title. Currently, the Raiders sit atop Section 3 with an undefeated mark of 3-0. On the season, the team is 5-1-2 overall. After opening the season with two ties and one loss, the Raiders have reeled off five straight wins, outscoring opponents 17-1 in those five games and recording four shutouts. The team is rounding into form and are benefitting from tremendous leadership from seniors Maddie Connellan, Bella Gianfrancesco, Brynn Houser, Cassie Leonard, Karly Majeski, Maddie Marcotte, and Kinsley Pournaras. We look forward to the remainder of the schedule and following this team deep on a deep playoff run.

SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL (Head Coach Jay Kinney)

Raider Slow Pitch Softball is off to a great start in the 2025 season, currently undefeated at 6-0. The team has picked up two wins each over Shaler, Mt. Pleasant and Peters Township.



Scoring runs is definitely the strength of the 2025 season as the Raiders are averaging almost 20 runs/game while only allowing eight runs/game. The team looks to continue its winning ways with upcoming doubleheaders against North Hills, Montour, West Allegheny and Baldwin.

TENNIS (Head Coach Andrea Morrisard)



First-year head coach Andrea Morrisard has brought undeniable energy to the girls tennis program, which is navigating a transitional season after the graduation of nine seniors from last year's squad. While the score may not always be in their favor, the team continues to focus on building strong fundamentals and improving match strategy. On the season, the team has earned wins over West Allegheny and Shaler and currently hold a 2-6 overall record, including 1-4 in section play, with four matches remaining. In junior varsity (JV) action, assistant coach Markus Muenck has led the squad to a strong 7-1 start!

VOLLEYBALL (Head Coach Brett Poirier)

Head Coach Brett Poirier enters his seventh season leading the Raider Girls Volleyball program and once again he



has the team off to a solid start. After splitting the opening two nonsection matches, the Raiders took third place at the Butler Tournament and came back 3-1 in the next four matches. They are 4-2 overall and 1-1 in section play. With plenty of section matches in front of them, this team continues to work hard on improving their vulnerabilities and refining their strengths. Good luck, girls, on your journey towards the WPIAL playoffs!

RAIDER ATHLETICS PARTNERS

The Seneca Valley Athletics Department is proud to partner with many community organizations and families whose support goes a long way in helping provide a quality athletic experience for our student-athletes. Listed below are our current Raider Athletics Partners – we thank you for your support!

NexTier Bank
"We're more than just a bank – we provide personal and business banking solutions that support our communities and help you reach your dreams."
www.nextierbank.com

Myers Law Group
"Official Law Firm Partner of Raider Athletics."
www.jpmyerslaw.com

Allegheny Health Network
"Official Sports Medicine Partner of Raider Athletics."
www.ahn.org

Field Turf, USA
"A world leader in artificial turf and field surface for Raider Athletics."
www.fieldturf.com

Hawkins Financial Services
"We strive to exceed our clients' long term goals."
www.hawkins-fs.com

Captivating Imagery
"Your local professional portrait photographer and proud sponsor of Raider Athletics 'Athlete of the Month' program."
www.captivatingimagery.com

Cranberry Psychological Center
"Don't play games with your family's emotional health. Proud sponsor of our Raider Athletics 'Game Day Stats' program."
www.cranberrypsychcenter.com

Khara Family Baseball Field
"Proud sponsor of 'The Khara Family Baseball Field' – home to the defending WPIAL Champion Raider Baseball program."



WPIAL PARTNERS WITH RAISING CANES

"Cane's Coaches Campaign"

The WPIAL office is excited to launch the Cane's Coaches campaign in partnership with Raising Cane's - a new initiative to recognize the incredible coaches who make a lasting impact on our student-athletes and school communities.

Throughout the school year, the WPIAL office will spotlight nominated coaches who demonstrate leadership, dedication and a commitment to excellence–on and off the field. At the end of the year, the WPIAL community will vote to name the Cane's Coach of the Year.

The winning coach will receive a Raising Cane's gift card and the opportunity to celebrate with a team party at the local Cane's restaurant.

Players, parents and fans are all encouraged to nominate deserving coaches through this link: https://form.jotform.com/251914607356157

Let's celebrate our #SVRaiderNation coaches who exemplify what it means to lead with heart.

SPECIAL EVENT NIGHTS

- Oct. 16: Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Senior High School
- Oct. 17: Hall of Fame Recognition & Youth Night, Home Football vs. Central Catholic
- Oct. 24: Pink Night & Shoulder Check Game, Home Football vs. North Allegheny

WINTER SPORT INFORMATION

- Oct. 22: Drug & Concussion Testing for Winter Sports in the Senior High School
  - NO Physicals offered
- Nov. 5: Final Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals for Winter Sports in Senior High School
  - 30 physicals offered 2:45-5:15 p.m.
- Nov. 6: **Deadline** for Winter Sport paperwork; all papers due to Athletic Office
- Nov. 17: First official day of Winter Sports - mandatory tryouts begin this day
- For tryout schedule, please contact the coach directly. Coaches contact information is located on Athletics website under Participation Information tab.

REMINDERS FOR 2025-26

- **ALL** paperwork for winter sports due in the athletic office no later than **Thursday, November 6, by 3 p.m.** Coaches will not accept paperwork at the first day of tryouts.
- The PIAA mandates the CIPPE Section 6 form as the only permissible form for doctor's signature.
- All required paperwork for 2024-25 athletic participation is available on Parent Portal or Athletics website. Paperwork includes PIAA CIPPE Sections 1, 2, 5 & 6 and Drug Test Consent Form.
- IF a student played in a fall sport, the only paperwork needed is PIAA CIPPE Section 7 and, if applicable, PIAA CIPPE Section 8 – these forms can be dated no earlier than Oct. 6.
- All student-athletes must register in the Parent Portal under "Sports Registration" before the start of each season.
- Tryouts are mandatory. Student-athletes are expected to attend every tryout session.

REGISTER TO RUN!

Join us Sunday, Nov. 2, for the third annual SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run! Presented by Westinghouse and hosted by the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF), this incredible event serves to spread community awareness of the life and legacy of Sergeant First Class Ryan Gloyer by highlighting the many amazing attributes this man possessed; to remind students and the entire community of Ryan's ultimate sacrifice for our Country; and, more importantly, preserve his legacy of being inclusive, selfless, dedicated and a true patriot.

We are calling on the entire Seneca Valley School District to be a part of this day. Students, staff, families, alumni, business owners - all are welcome! To register visit SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run.

The race will begin at 9 a.m. on the beautiful campus of Seneca Valley's secondary schools. Because of course logistics, it is necessary to shut down Seneca School Road for approximately one hour. We ask participants and guests to arrive no later than 8:30 a.m.

This year, we again welcome Community Commissary! An inviting space for sponsors, vendors and non-profits to share information about their products. Check out our sponsorship opportunities in the photos here. There are still a few spots available! If you'd like to support the event in this way, please contact millergd@svsd.net.

All proceeds from this event will benefit Ryan Gloyer Middle School.





SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

T-Shirt Sponsor - $3,000
- Corporate Logo on back of participant T-Shirts
- Six (6) Complimentary Participant Fees

Mile Marker Sponsor - $1,000
- Corporate Logo on signage (36x24 inch)
- Honoring noble characteristics of Ryan (Teach & Mentor; Honor & Integrity; Selfless Service; Lead by Example; Strive for Excellence; Persevere through Adversity)
- Four (4) Complimentary Participant Fees

Water Stop or Finish Line Sponsor - $1,000
- Corporate Logo on signage at applicable space
- Four (4) Complimentary Participant Fees

Legacy Sponsors - $500
- Corporate Name on signage (24x18 inch) with accompanying encouraging quote used by Ryan
- Two (2) Complimentary Participant Fees

Medals Sponsor - $500
- Corporate Name on signage (24x18 inch)

Soldier Salute - $200
- Corporate Logo on digital Wall of Fame at RGMS on race day, honoring/memorializing any soldier

All Sponsorships include:
- **Digital Engagement & Recognition on RunSignUp.com, SVSD/SV Foundation Websites & Social Media Channels**
- **Opportunity for Promotional Table & Items in Packet**
- **Verbal Acknowledgement throughout Event**

To secure a sponsorship, contact the SV Foundation at svfoundation@svsd.net . All proceeds benefit Ryan Gloyer Middle School

JOIN OUR TEAM!

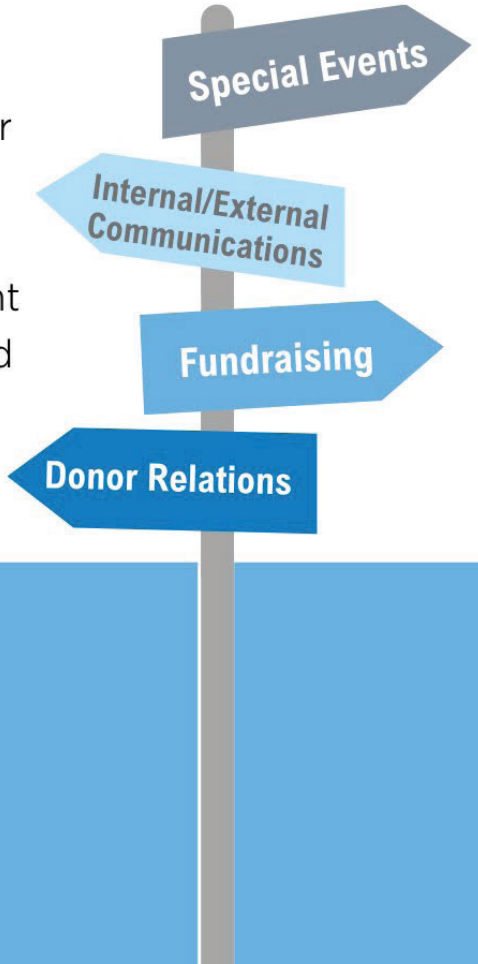
HIRING GRANT & DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Do you have a passion for public education and a deep commitment to the futures of our children? This opening is more than a grant & development role — it's a chance to advocate and connect people to the heart of our district.

Seneca Valley School District is seeking a self-motivated and highly effective communicator with strong leadership skills. The Grant & Development Specialist provides leadership in the development, coordination and management of philanthropic efforts aligned to the vision of the District and Seneca Valley Foundation. Assists with communications functions, special events planning and coordination of community outreach programs.

Requirements:

- Degree in Business, Non-profit Management and/or Public Administration preferred
- Experience in non-profit management
- Strength and experience in competitive government grant writing, fundraising, non-profit marketing and donor relations.



To learn more and apply:

Scan the QR code or visit www.svsd.net/Employment.

SV STUDENT LEADER SHINES ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

This July, seventh grader Vivian Heverly joined outstanding students from across the nation to take part in a unique academic and development experience, Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC.

Vivian was nominated to attend the conference by a teacher at Haine Middle School (HMS). The nomination was based on Vivian's academic achievements and demonstrated leadership potential. Vivian, who participated in HMS music programs and clubs, was also recognized as a sixth grade Student of the Year for 2024-2025. An active member of Dutihl Methodist Church, Vivian has served in Food, Children's and Hospitality ministries. She is an avid reader and international traveler and finds time for her love of dancing, acting, singing and performing in musicals.

"I was excited for Vivian to meet, work, and collaborate with fellow high-aspiring students from other cities and schools," said Dr. Jan Sikorsky, Vice President, Education for Envision. "Junior National Young Leaders Conference is a wonderful opportunity for ambitious young students to explore their interests outside the classroom and discover how to innovate and think creatively through hands-on immersive learning. Our students are challenged with real-world simulations and problems, working together to develop unique solutions and projects to bring life to their studies and career interests."

Throughout the week, Vivian and her peers studied the characteristics, qualities and decisions of great American leaders. Based out of the University of Maryland, they traveled to Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Museums, toured the US Capital and sat on the House floor. The experience proved to be a tremendous growth opportunity in honing communication abilities, demonstrating emotional intelligence, demonstrating problem-solving skills and building confidence to take calculated risks.

During one of the leadership development modules, Vivian ran a campaign and won the Presidential race. She also earned an invitation to be one of fifteen student speakers on the final day, where she addressed 200 fellow students and staff members.

"The week was full of so many emotions for everyone! My group showed me that being a leader isn't about winning others over, it's about actually caring. I learned that, if you want to be successful, you should surround yourself with people that make you happy but also help you make good decisions. This camp showed me so much about myself," said Vivian. "This was the best part of my summer. Thank you to Mrs. Ellie Lahm Schroeder for the nomination and for believing in me!"







For over 35 years, Envision by WorldStrides has empowered extraordinary students to become their best selves through programs that enable them to discover their passion, explore a career, and positively impact their world. In 2018, Envision became part of the WorldStrides family. The largest provider of educational travel and experiences in the United States, WorldStrides works with over 50,000 educators each year to help more than 550,000 students see the world—and themselves—in new ways.

POWERFUL LESSON LEARNED OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Students from Seneca Valley Senior High School, along with selected seventh and eighth grade purpose students at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) recently took part in powerful learning experiences outside of the classroom in Pittsburgh, focused on Holocaust education and remembrance.

On September 10, a total of 57 Seneca Valley Senior High School students and history teacher Jim Lucot attended a presentation at Rodef Shalom Congregation by Holocaust survivor Marion Ein Lewin.

Marion Ein Lewin and her twin brother Steven are thought to be the only surviving twins of the Holocaust. During the presentation, “Inseparable: A Presentation by Holocaust Survivor Marion Lewin,” Ms. Lewin Marion shared impactful stories about their lives as young children in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and emphasized the importance of hope and family during difficult times.

Moved by the students’ engagement, Ms. Lewin generously offered to send each of the students a copy of her book, "Inseparable," ensuring that her story and its lessons continue to resonate long after the event.

“As more time passes since the Holocaust, it is very important for younger generations to learn about the tragedy and take advantage of opportunities to meet survivors, like Marion Ein Lewin, who can share their firsthand experiences,” said junior Everly Harrell.



Additionally, on Sept. 17, selected seventh and eighth grade RGMS purpose students from Mr. Greg Smolinski’s class attended a documentary screening at the Harris Theater in Pittsburgh through Teen Screen and the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

As part of the program, guest speakers Lee Goldman Kikel, daughter of a Holocaust survivor, and Carol Black, survivor of the Tree of Life shooting, shared their experiences and spoke about the prevalence of antisemitism. Students then got the opportunity to engage with the speakers through a thoughtful Q&A session.

Special thanks to Junior Everly Harrell for contributing the content regarding the senior high school students.





SV ALL-STAR

For the month of September, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Mr. Logan Ellsworth, security officer for 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.

Mr. Ellsworth has worked at the Senior High School for several years, showing unwavering dedication to ensuring a safe, secure and welcoming environment for every student and visitor who enters the building. In addition, he also directs traffic on the secondary campus during arrival and dismissal.

"Logan goes above and beyond what's expected," said Mr. Bob Ceh, Principal of Seneca Valley Senior High School. "He knows the students, and often times their story. Logan is very understanding and is always willing to listen to them. What's neat is that sometimes his job requires him to redirect students when he notices something isn't as it should be, a task that isn't always well-received. Yet Logan has a way of doing it that earns students' respect and attention."



Pictured from L-R: Dr. Sean McCarty, Deputy Superintendent for Secondary Education, Ms. Megan Lizewski, Assistant Principal of Seneca Valley High School, Mr. Logan Ellsworth, Mr. Bob Ceh, Principal of Seneca Valley High School, Officer Jason Young, Safety and Security Director and Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President

"One of the things we talk to students about is how important it is to do your job, but another huge aspect is how you do your job and that is almost as important," added Mr. Ceh. "Logan is always accessible. He's always present, helps escort students from different buildings, monitors video surveillance and more. Anything we need, he does it."

Mr. Ellsworth is truly deserving of this recognition and is an outstanding asset. He consistently goes above and beyond in his role, ensuring that everyone feels safe and respected.

"Receiving the All-Star Award is a true honor, and I am grateful," said Mr. Ellsworth. "I see it as a reflection of the outstanding team I work alongside every day, the strong leadership that supports me, and the amazing community we're part of."

HALL OF FAMERS WELCOMED HOME

Seneca Valley Alumni will once again be recognized on their "home turf" for outstanding athletic achievements at the 2025 Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame (HOF) Induction Ceremony.

This year's 2025 Induction Class includes Susan Fletcher Harlan ('04), Jennifer Rape ('96), Chris Rebholtz ('00), Sam Struss ('11), George Trew (Coach), Abbie Trzeciak Berger ('14) and Matthew Vogt ('09).

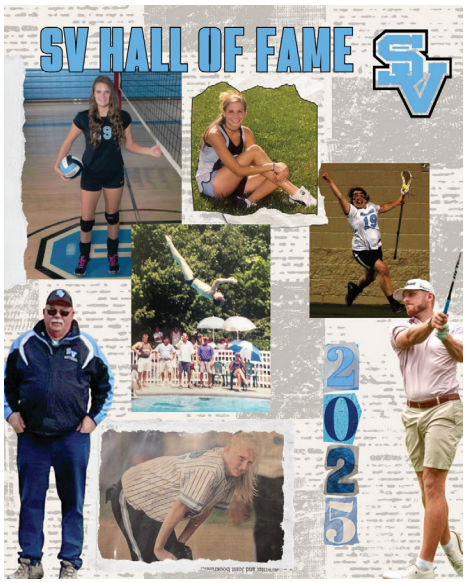
The SV Sports HOF committee will be honoring these inductees the weekend of Oct. 16-17.

The Induction Ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, in the senior high school (SHS) auditorium and is free for all to attend. This ceremony will be preceded by a dinner at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) in the SHS cafeteria. To purchase tickets and learn more, visit www.svsd.net/HOF.

Inductees will also be recognized at the football game at NexTier Stadium on Friday, Oct. 17.

All are welcome to attend and recognize these inductees for their contribution to Seneca Valley Raider athletics!

For more information, please contact Wayne Roccia at 724-816-0698 or via email at wroccia@zoominternet.net.



SENIORS RECEIVE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP HONORS

Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) recently announced Seneca Valley Seniors Elizabeth Browne, Adrian Wrubel and Autumn Zacherl as Semifinalists in the 71st annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

As a Semifinalist, Elizabeth, Adrian and Autumn will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,930 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly $26 million that will be offered next spring. From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the next level of the program where these students will have the opportunity to earn a National Merit Scholarship and, ultimately, the Merit Scholar® title.

In addition, Seneca Valley Seniors, Giulia Pologruto, Maddox Grupp and Julian Varlotta have also been named a Commended Student in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. Giulia, Maddox and Julian were recognized by the NMSC for their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry.

"We are proud to recognize our National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students for the hard work and academic excellence that earned them this distinction," said Seneca Valley Senior High School Principal, Mr. Bob Ceh. "This honor marks only the beginning of their bright futures, and we look forward to the many contributions they will continue to make, both within our school community and in the broader world they will go on to impact."

Over 1.3 million juniors in more than 20,000 high schools entered the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.



Pictured, L-R: Elizabeth Browne, Maddox Grupp, Julian Varlotta, Seneca Valley Senior High School Principal Mr. Bob Ceh, Adrian Wrubel, Autumn Zacherl and Giulia Pologruto

For more information on the National Merit Scholarship Program, visit www.nationalmerit.org.

'I LED THE PLEDGE'

We are pleased to continue the tradition of inviting elementary students from Seneca Valley's K-4 schools to lead the members of the School Board and public in saying "The Pledge of Allegiance" during school board meetings.



Madison pictured with, from L-R, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale and Board President Mr. Eric DiTullio

At the Sept. 8 work session meeting, our leader was Madison Carangio, a second grader at Seneca Valley Academy of Choice! Madison loves Art, dreams of being a mommy when she grows up, and enjoys swimming, fishing, archery and coloring in her free time.

Carson Coles, a fifth grader at Haine Middle School, proudly led "The Pledge of Allegiance" at the Sept. 15 SV School Board meeting. Carson has a love for math, creating and designing, and dreams of becoming an engineer one day. He keeps busy playing baseball, football, basketball and saxophone in the school band, while also staying active in Cub Scouts.



Carson pictured with, from L-R, Board President Mr. Eric DiTullio and Deputy Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Sean McCarty

This month, we spotlight **Ashley Almendares, SV '01**, balancing life as a proud SV parent and successful business owner. We asked her to catch us up on what she is doing and how Seneca Valley influenced her life and career.



Q: Catch us up. Tell us what you're doing today:

A: I've owned Mainstream Boutique in Cranberry Township since December 2022, and we sell women's clothing and accessories. My boutique has been involved in back-to-school supply drives for SVSD and the elementary school parent teacher organizations and associations (PTO and PTAs).

Q: Please share with us some information about your family.

A: I am currently living in Cranberry Township with my husband and four kids. All of my children are currently attending school within the Seneca Valley School District.

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

A: I own my own business!

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

A: Seneca Valley is such a big school district, but it does not feel that way. Teachers and staff take time to get to know students, including Principals, who have hundreds of students a year to get to know.

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

A: My favorite teacher was my fifth grade teacher at Rowan Elementary Mary Beth Binder.

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 teacher, Ms. Mary Beth Binder, asked her students to pick an animal in the Brazilian rainforest, research it and draw it. We then all collectively created a rainforest in the fifth-grade hallway for all of Rowan Elementary to enjoy. Students were also asked to sell candy to raise funds to save acreage in the rainforest. She also had an open house so that parents could come in and see all of our hard work and donate to our cause. This was my favorite memory at SVSD and it inspired me to give back to the community personally and professionally to causes that are important to me. I also want to give a shoutout to Mrs. Betsy Cavicchia who kept that tradition alive at Rowan Elementary and did a similar theme with her second grade students until her recent retirement.





Q: If you had one message for students, what would it be?

A: Thank you for all you do!! I have had nothing but amazing experiences at SV personally when I went through the district and now all of my children.

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

A: Seneca Valley has so many amazing clubs, sports and after-school activities. There is something for everyone.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Each September, NAMI recognizes Suicide Prevention Month as a time to raise awareness, spread hope, and spark meaningful action around one of the most urgent mental health issues of our time.

Their goal is to ensure that individuals, friends, and families have access to the tools, resources, and support they need to talk openly about suicide prevention, recognize warning signs, and seek help.

This month: Start a Conversation. Be the Difference.

With one conversation, asking someone how they're really doing — and being ready to truly listen — can save lives. Because here's what we know: No one has to face this alone. Help exists. Healing is possible. And all it can take is for one person to start a conversation.

Studies show people who are having thoughts of suicide feel relief when someone asks about them in a caring way. Learn more on how you can support someone through a crisis at nami.org/suicidepreventionmonth.

The first step toward intervention and support is awareness of suicidal warning signs, which include the following changes:

- Behavioral: Withdrawing from friends and activities, giving away personal belongings, self-destructive behaviors, increased substance use, sudden mood improvement after depression.
- Verbal: Expressing feelings of hopelessness, worthlessness, or being a burden. Talking about death, dying, or wanting to die, making statements like "I can't take it anymore" or "I wish I weren't here," mentioning specific plans or methods for suicide.
- Emotional: Drastic and sudden mood swings, overwhelming sadness, despair, emptiness, loss of interest in once-enjoyed activities, intense irritability or anger.
- Situational: Recent loss of a loved one, breakup, significant life changes, bullying or harassment, academic or work-related stress, financial difficulties, or other significant personal crises.
- Physical: Changes in sleep patterns (insomnia or excessive sleeping), changes in appetite or weight loss/gain, decreased personal hygiene and self-care.
- Social: Increasing social isolation and withdrawal from relationships, losing interest in social interactions or activities, feeling disconnected from friends, family, and self.
- Cognitive: Difficulty concentrating or making decisions, preoccupation with death, dying, or the afterlife, intense guilt or shame.

When you notice these warning signs, you should:

- Initiate a conversation about suicide.
- Provide active listening and non-judgmental support.
- Encourage professional help through therapists, counselors, and helplines.
- Involve trusted adults, such as parents/guardians, coaches, teachers, and mentors.
- Create a safety plan in collaboration with the individual.





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.

- Check out these behind-the-scenes videos of our SV Raider Robotics First Tech Challenge teams! The crew is hard at work innovating and collaborating for the 2025-26 DECODE challenge. To learn more about the Raider Robotics teams, visit https://raiderrobotics.webnode.page/.

- Help SV WIN against hunger in the WPIAL Food & Fund Drive challenge! For every $1 donated, the Food Bank can provide up to three meals for families, children and seniors. DONATE today and make SV the most giving district - again!

- Center for Community Resources will be hosting their annual Bundle Up Butler event to provide winter coats to area families in need. The event will be held from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10, at the Butler City Farmers' Market, 209 South Chestnut St., Butler. Children's coats are free and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. Adult coats will also be available for a suggested donation of $5. No registration is required.

- 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.

- For the 2025 tax year, the IRS offers several key tax credits and benefits for families with children, most notably the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Recent tax legislation passed in July 2025 has increased and made some of these benefits permanent. Parents can learn more at irs.gov/parents.

- 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.

care/solace

It's okay to ask for help.

(888) 515-0595

Care Solace is a free, confidential service that connects students, staff and their families to mental health providers and substance use treatment matched to their needs – regardless of insurance.

Scan the code or use your link: caresolace.com/ seneca



If you have a life-threatening emergency, please call 911 or the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.
Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider.

JOIN THE SENECA VALLEY TEAM!

Transportation Operations Coordinator

Seeking a knowledgeable, highly effective leader skilled in operational coordination to support the safe and efficient daily functioning of the district's transportation department. Assists the Director of Transportation in coordinating routes, responding to operational concerns and ensuring student safety.

Duties include monitoring two-way communication between drivers and bus garage, responding to emergencies and assisting with parent and staff concerns. Coordinates daily schedules and routing, maintains accurate records and collaborates with Human Resources Department to audit employees.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in logistics or education required. Must have proficient technology skills and be able to work effectively under stressful circumstances. Prior experience in logistics, transportation, dispatching or school operations preferred. Will need/willing to get a CDL/S endorsement.

Submit required information to www.svsd.net/employment.



Scan the QR code to learn more and apply!

www.svsd.net/employment
or call (724) 452-6040

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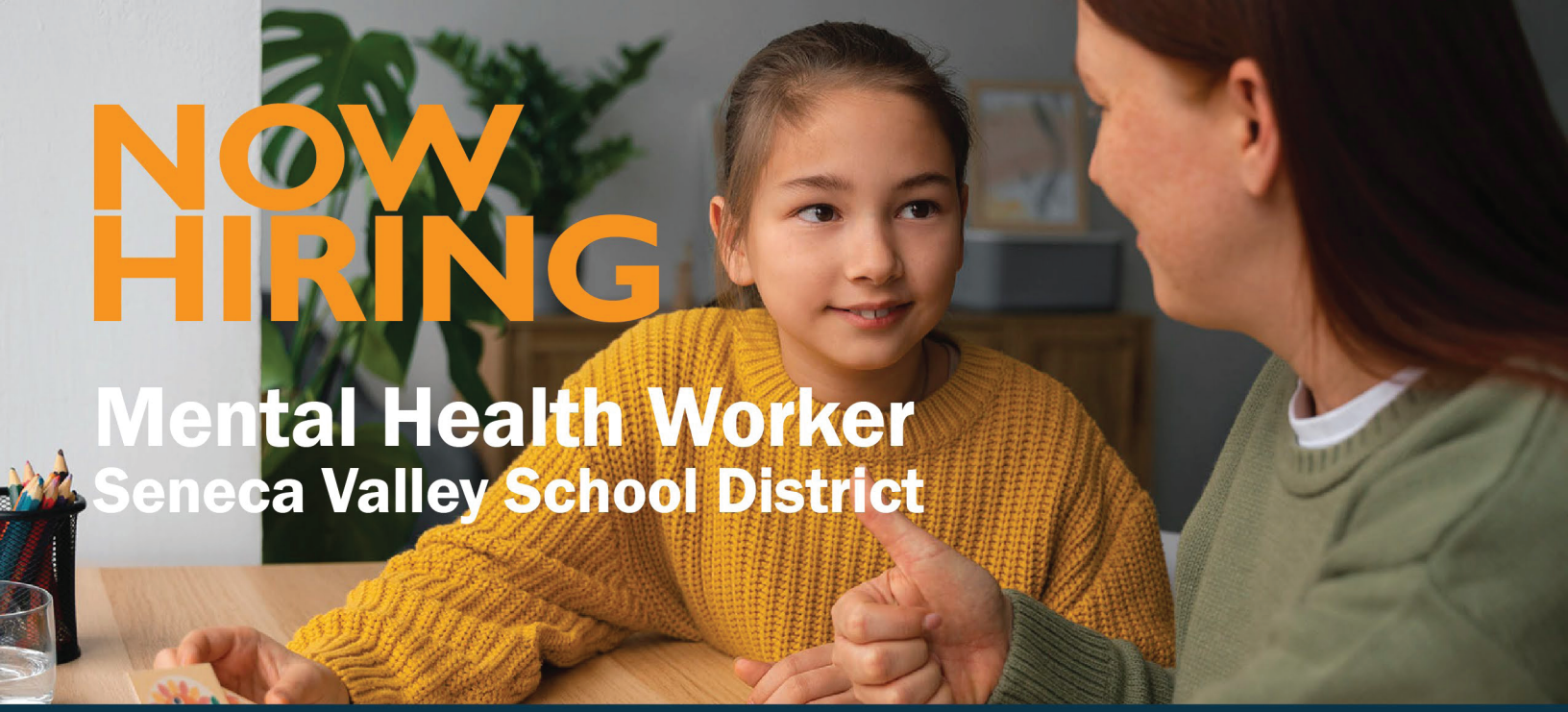
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NOW HIRING

Mental Health Worker

Seneca Valley School District

- **Entry-level, full-time position**
- **Ideal for Bachelor's-level students pursuing their Master's degree in a Mental Health Counseling, Social Work, or other clinical field**

Working directly under the supervision of a Mental Health Professional, the MHW is responsible for providing direct care, support, and evidence-based interventions within the Serenity Room (Mindfulness Room) within Seneca Valley School District. The Serenity Room provides a safe supportive space where students can practice mindfulness, manage stress and build healthy coping skills. The MHW in this location manages the room, guides the students in stress-reduction techniques and promotes emotional well-being in alignment with Glade Run's Sanctuary Model. In addition to leading groups and providing individual activities, the MHW connects students to further resources as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS: *(Must meet one of the following)*

- Has a bachelor's degree from a college or university that is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or the CHEA in a recognized clinical discipline including social work, psychology, nursing, rehabilitation or activity therapies.
- Has a graduate degree in a clinical discipline with 12 graduate-level credits in mental health or counseling from a program that is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or the CHEA.
- Has an equivalent degree from a foreign college or university that has been evaluated by the AICE or the NACES. The Department will accept a general equivalency report from the listed evaluator agencies to verify a foreign degree or its equivalency.
- Must have acceptable PA State Police clearance, PA Child Abuse History clearance, and FBI Clearance and Act 168 forms.
- Must have a valid driver's license and acceptable driving record.

WHAT WE OFFER: *(Must meet eligibility requirements)*

- Comprehensive benefits including medical, dental, vision, paid time off, and paid holidays for full-time staff
- 401K offerings with agency match at $1.00 per dollar contributed up to 4% of salary
- Agency provided life insurance and long-term disability coverage
- Voluntary benefit options; including Disability Insurance (Short-Term Disability), Cancer Coverage, Critical Illness, Medical Bridge, Accident Insurance, Life Insurance and Identify Theft Protection
- Tuition reimbursement & Approved Agency for Public Student Loan Forgiveness
- Flexible work schedule
- Annual merit increase based upon the yearly budget
- Employee Referral Bonus Incentives
- Employee Discount Program & Employee Assistance Program
- Partnership with Capella University offering scholarships, tuition discounts, and free professional development opportunities

Review current openings, job requirements and to apply:

www.gladerun.org/careers

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Special Needs Consortium

Working together to increase the awareness of resources available to the special needs community through networking, promotion, and advocacy.

The Special Needs Consortium (SNC) exists to provide a place where all services and opportunities can be shared to support families and individuals.

Our Consortium members mainly serve the counties of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding counties in Pennsylvania. If you work for an organization that serves the special needs community in these areas and would like to become a member of our Consortium, please email us.



Scan to Connect

Resources

SNC provides a regularly updated list of resources to help families find the services they need while helping organizations connect with one another.

Events

SNC publishes a current list of upcoming events for individuals, their families, and for those who support this community.

Connections

SNC provides networking opportunities for professionals and advocates. Membership is free for organizations who support people with disabilities. SNC facilitates bi-monthly networking opportunities hosted by member organizations.

specialneedsconsortium.org snc@specialneedsconsortium.org



Rake a difference with Leaf Angels!

Volunteer "angels" are needed to rake leaves for neighbors who are unable.

Perfect volunteer opportunity for senior projects, friends, families, co-workers, sports teams, clubs, and individuals who want to give back.

cranberrytownship.org/leafangels

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