



RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

JUNE 2024



THE START OF SOMETHING NEW

The Class of 2024 graduated at NexTier Stadium on May 30.

Congratulations to the 564 SV Graduates!

See more photos on the following pages.



DREAM TEAMS

Ehrman Crest is once again on the national stage. This time, they are getting accolades from Comic Relief US and the LEGO Group as winners in their first-ever nationwide "Community Builders Challenge." This competition was a partnership effort by the two brands to challenge schools to think of and create a future "dream" community they would want to see, and Ehrman Crest blew everyone away with their "Community of the Future."

Second grade students in four classrooms (Ms. Dalashay Williams, Ms. Camryn Camp, Ms. Amanda Longello and Ms. Elizabeth Allen-Boyle) came together to create a town which features the kind of places we would all like to visit, from Kindness Park to Empathy Avenue (which includes free houses for neighbors in need), with

a Museum of Imagination, a Friendship Shop and even an animal center where people can go to cuddle pets if they're feeling sad.

"The imagination and compassion students employed in their builds are inspiring," said Marisa Xhafa, Comic Relief US Fundraising Manager. "The kids put so much time and effort into planning and creating this fantastic community, and we felt the love in every element!"

Check out the video from several movie and TV stars naming Ehrman Crest as the winner:

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)

And don't forget to check out this video highlighting the winning community as created by Ehrman Crest second graders: [Community Builders Challenge \(youtube.com\)](#)

Great job to all! ■



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DATES TO REMEMBER

First Day Reminder!

The 2024-25 First Day of School will be on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024.

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

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW (cont.)

Photo Credit: Bill Paterson

Of Special Note:

- Lihini Ranaweera - Co-Valedictorian
- Shivani Umesh - Co-Valedictorian
- Alexander Kim - Salutatorian
- Taryn Wilson - Speaker At-Large

Senior Class Officers

- Vincenzo DiTullio - President
- Brynn Aloï - Vice President
- Sarah McCullough - Secretary
- Katie Mack - Treasurer



Photo Credit: Bill Sauers Photography



ALL-STAR TEACHER

Last month, second grader Rylan Reyes surprised his kindergarten teacher Ms. Jamie Allen with a Bridge City Braces “All-Star Teacher” Award. Ms. Allen was chosen from over 180 candidates based on an essay that Mr. Reyes wrote about his creative, fun and most favorite educator. While in Ms. Allen’s class at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE), Rylan especially enjoyed the time when a leprechaun visited his classroom and made messes, even turning the water green! Congratulations! ■



SPARKING CURIOSITY, SHARING SCIENCE FUN

As the school year came to an end, students in Ms. Angela Cardillo’s second grade class at Rowan Elementary welcomed visitors from Ms. Kelly Weston’s Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry class to share fun investigations on chemical and physical changes. Our young scientists and high school visitors equally enjoyed this exciting experience! ■



FELICIDADES!

Carmelena Laslavic, a fourth grader at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE), recently won second place in a national poster contest through the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

Each year, the AATSP sponsors a poster contest to give students an opportunity to showcase their creativity, express personal connections to learning Spanish and Portuguese, and celebrate cultural appreciation. CVE Spanish teacher Ms. Elaina Kreiss invited her students to participate in this year’s contest theme: *El español y el portugués como lenguas globales: conexiones y oportunidades más allá del aula* (Spanish and Portuguese as Global Languages: Connections and Opportunities in the Classroom and Beyond).

“This is the third year I have offered the contest to my fourth graders,” said Ms. Kreiss. “It’s the first year we have a winner!”

Judges noted Miss Laslavic’s use of color in her artwork, as well as the poster’s originality and message conveyance. One judge mentioned how Miss Laslavic’s color arrangement truly put the viewer into the theme!

Student winners were invited to attend a virtual award ceremony and their artwork was publicized by the AATSP National Office and on the [poster contest website](#).

Great job, Carmelena! ■



LAST DAY ADVENTURES

Haine Elementary first graders began their summer plans early as they celebrated the last week of school with fun and adventurous theme days. Students ended the year with imaginative trips camping and to the beach! They also enjoyed a Glow Day and ended their time together with Bubble Day. ■



A SMILE FROM ME TO YOU

Ehrman Crest Elementary students were all smiles as they took a special trip to visit residents at Luther Court in Zelienople!



During their May visit, students and residents swapped “autographs” from one another, colored and enjoyed dinner and desserts. The students surprised residents with gift bags that were decorated with positive words and filled with surprises.

“My favorite thing about the visit was seeing the smiles on their faces,” said rising third grader Jackson Mangola. “It made me feel joyful.” ■



ADOPTION JOYS SHARED WITH CLASSMATES

In celebration of finding his forever home, second-grade students in Ms. Cami Maurer’s class at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) organized a surprise adoption party for their classmate, Brycen Semprevivo, who has been officially adopted by his foster parents.

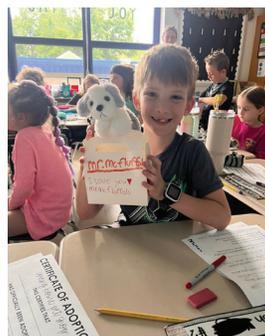
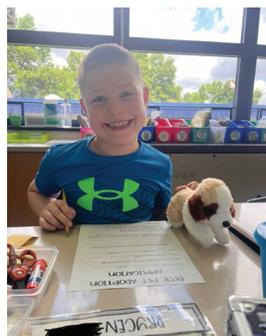
The surprise adoption party included a classroom visit by his parents of 3.5 years, Dennis and Julie Detar, where they read a book about adoption to help students understand how the process works. After the reading, each student selected a stuffed animal and filled out an adoption application for it. Once they demonstrated they could care for their stuffed animal, they received an official certificate signed by “Judge Brycen!”

In addition to the planning the surprise party, Brycen’s teacher Ms. Maurer was invited to witness Brycen’s adoption

ceremony via Zoom from the courtroom.

“Brycen and his younger brother Blake were officially adopted by their incredible foster parents,” said Ms. Maurer, CVE second grade teacher. “Brycen has been patiently waiting to change his name and share this wonderful news with his classmates. We were all so excited that we wanted to throw him a surprise party when he returned to school. This was a wonderful opportunity to show the students everything that goes into adoption and how truly amazing it is. Brycen was so excited to share this experience with his friends and school.”

Read more about this heartwarming big day for Brycen and his family at [Zelienople second grader will celebrate first Father’s Day with adopted parents | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#). ■



DAY OF KINDNESS

On May 23, we celebrated the 143rd day of the year. One-four-three had a special meaning to one of America's most beloved neighbors, Fred Rogers. To Mister Rogers, 1-4-3 represented the words: I Love You. That's because there's one letter in "I," four letters in "Love" and three letters in "You."

Mister Rogers once said, "Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered just one kind word to another person." Help us carry out the legacy of Fred Rogers through simple good deeds and kind words! Thanks, Ehrman Crest Elementary for sharing your celebrations with us! ■



A POSITIVE NOTE

During PSSA testing week, Ms. Christina LaPorte's fifth graders in the "Helping Hands" Lead, Explore, Act, Develop (LEAD) club at Ehrman Crest Middle School designed and organized positive affirmation post-it notes to hang on all fifth-grade student lockers. Student members arrived at school early on the first day of testing to hang their messages on the lockers. According to Ms. LaPorte, the idea originated from

her fifth grade students and they "absolutely loved sharing positive messages among their peers." Ms. LaPorte went on to explain the goal of this club is to spread kindness toward others through different projects. "The smiles on the students' faces that morning were contagious when they all arrived at school to see their lockers adorned with positive messages," she said. ■



JUMPING IN AND RAISING FUNDS

Students at Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School made a significant impact in this year's Kids Heart Challenge, raising a total of \$9,123 for the American Heart Association between the two schools. Students engaged in various gym activities such as rope climbing, hula hooping, balancing on beams, jumping rope, and more, all while fundraising for a great cause. Thanks to everyone's hard work and participation! ■



OLYMPIC ACHIEVERS

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) students are going for gold! The RGMS Tiger Team recently competed in an Olympic Day to celebrate the Greek Olympics, an important part of the middle school social studies curriculum.

The students competed in fun events, memorized team chants and demonstrated the importance of teamwork and encouragement for their peers. Great job, Olympians! ■

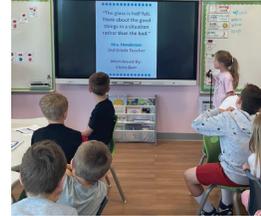
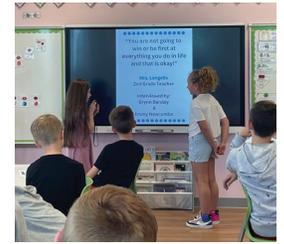


COLLECTION OF LIFE LESSONS

There is a lot our students can learn in school, but sometimes the most valuable knowledge is passed down from generation to generation. Ehrman Crest Elementary is in the process of creating their own unique Wisdom Corridor, which will then be a part of the Pittsburgh Wisdom Corridor.

During their What I Need (WIN) block, using the Project FUEL framework and support, Ehrman Crest Elementary second grade students interviewed their parents, grandparents, teachers, fellow students and community members to document generations of wisdom and share it with others. Project FUEL worked with Ehrman Crest to help to organize, compile and highlight life lessons. Students met with our Project FUEL partner several times this trimester, with Richa Nautiyal who Zoomed in from India! Second grade worked with their WIN teacher, Mrs. Amanda Longello, to create their own Wisdom Corridor. According to Ms. Tesin Amoscato, assistant principal, “the goal was simply to create a space that is full of valuable wisdom passed on from the community.”

About Project Fuel: Project FUEL, founded in 2009 by Deepak Ramola, collects life lessons from people all over the world and turns them into interactive and performance activities, to pass on the learnings. A life lesson that comes to us from another human being can shine light on the understanding of our own life. Hence the name FUEL, which stands for Forward the Understanding of Every Life Lesson. ■



PHENOMENON-BASED FUN

On Wednesday, June 5, Ehman Crest Elementary (ECE) fourth graders took part in a grade-level celebration, which included day-long rotations filled with team activities and adventures - and

even a fun, frisbee-signing. A special shoutout goes to Maggie Novak, ECE teacher, and her phenomenon-based learning group for planning the day! ■



A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Sixth grade students from Haine Middle School recently showcased their projects at an Anne Frank Gallery Walk, which highlighted thematic and collaborative efforts from their studies on the Holocaust, including Anne Frank, World War II and novels about refugees.

The event offered an in-depth look of Anne Frank through the facets of the students' 21st century learning skills. Two sessions were held for parents and guests, followed by teachers and students.

Haine middle school students took an in-depth, cross-curricular study of the Holocaust, World War II and refugees from other nations. Students read a wide variety of self-selected historical fiction novels based on the Holocaust, participated in a Zoom meeting and virtual tour of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, crafted 3-D scaled models of the Anne Frank House and much more.

Another component of this thematic unit featured a community service project.



The team of students, in conjunction with Jewish Family and Community Services, collected much needed personal items. The 2021-2022 school year marked the inaugural organization of the event. This year is the second time the community



service component has been included to further help students foster empathy. To read more about the event, visit [Haine students present Anne Frank Gallery Walk - Cranberry Eagle](#). ■



A DYNAMIC DISPLAY

This year, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) installed a new and powerful display in remembrance of the Holocaust. The display is filled with hand-painted ceramic butterflies in the shape of a heart and reflective quotes about the importance of kindness, compassion and empathy.

The ceramic butterflies were painted by SV '24 graduates who were on the Condor Team in 2020 as well as rising eighth graders who were on the Panther Team. Through education, hands-on artistic programming



and this dynamic display, students are empowered to remember the past, act responsibly in the present and create a more peaceful future.

According to their website, the Butterfly Project is a call to action through education, the arts and memorial making. They teach social justice through lessons of the Holocaust, educating participants about the dangers of hatred and bigotry to cultivate empathy and social responsibility. By painting ceramic butterflies, which are displayed as symbols of resilience and hope, participants remember the 1.5 million children killed during the Holocaust. In this work, The Butterfly Project honors our commitment to the Survivors to Never Forget. ■

STUDENT INVENTORS SWEEP AWARDS

The 2024 Inventionland Education Contest, held May 21-22, was a huge success, with many SV teams bringing home medals! The competition 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.

Over 10 teams of students from Haine Middle School and Ehrman Crest Elem./Middle School competed in this year's event.

In the Elementary Division, Ehrman Crest swept the category, with SV teams winning bronze, silver and gold.

First place was awarded to the team TDT created by students Malece Barber, Mila Coleman and Elizabeth Helper. They developed a tool for those who have difficult reading or are ESL learners. The device will read aloud when the "view" window moves over a line of text and assists with word pronunciation. Second place was awarded to HAP-C with team members Haley McConahy, Aurelia Sinichak, Piper Genaway and Charlie Buchanan. They designed a floating, stacked beach chair with specialized accessories and attachments. The bronze medal was awarded to team BDEL created by Ehrman Crest students Brielle Voll, Destin Phillips, Eden Olayer and Luciana Clouser. They designed an innovative purse that holds plenty of items and is waterproof while remaining stable, preventing tipping.

In the Middle School Division, the second place team, The Berry Bone, included members Allison Konopka, Violet Ostrum, Mackenzie Perschke, Billy Pfaffle and Ashley Prouty from Ehrman Crest. They innovated a 3D-printed bone-shaped container that attaches to a leash and stores cleanup bags and treats. They even designed their own flavored dog treats!

Students competed multiple times throughout the year at different levels to qualify for the regional competition. They all did a great job working as a team and brainstorming their creative projects. Congratulations to all! ■



LESSONS ON LAW AND LIFE

Throughout the school year, Judge Amy Marcinkiewicz has been a “guest teacher” in all seventh and eighth grade classes at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS). She has provided valuable insight as an extension to the health curriculum on decision making,

consequences and laws, and substance abuse prevention. Recently, Judge Marcinkiewicz visited RGMS, along with school resource officer Chris Pipkin, to promote the prevention of risky behavior. Thank you, Judge Marcinkiewicz and Officer Pipkin for helping educate our middle school students on healthy decision making now and in the future! ■



THE VERDICT IS IN

There’s no objection, students in Mr. Mike Levere’s gifted support classes at Ehrman Crest Middle School were ready to state their case. The students recently participated in mock trials, taking on roles as lawyers and witnesses to build their cases. Mr. Levere shared that the project began in early 2024 and concluded with a final court presentation, where he served as the judge. Well done, students! ■



CAMPAIGN FOR A CURE

Congratulations to rising seniors Lilly Hudac and Lilly Sperry for being nominated by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) as 2024 Student Visionaries of the Year for their incredible leadership and passion to find a cure for leukemia and to do so with the help of the entire Seneca Valley community. Their campaign, “Team Lillys Against Leukemia,” raised over \$33,000 for the cure.

Student Visionaries of the Year participate in a charitable seven-week challenge raising funds and awareness of the LLS mission to find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease, and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. This year’s 16 high school candidate teams came together to raise over \$802,000 towards the mission! ■

FINDING YOUR FIT

Fourth graders at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) are getting an early glimpse of what their futures may hold. Recently, a panel of nominated high school students representing Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School visited the elementary students to talk about a “day in the life” of their career-focused program, bringing awareness to the varied programs available to students at SV. Many of the visitors even brought personal tools, props and gear to demonstrate and display! ■



SOAKING UP SUMMER (CAMPS!)

SV students are taking advantage of all the summer fun this year, participating in culinary creations, STEM activities and engineering endeavors at SV Summer Camps!

Many students built up their imagination, one LEGO block at a time! In the “Building Up Your Imagination” LEGO camp, students were busy problem solving and engineering their own creative projects. They also explored the endless possibilities of all things LEGO and worked on group challenges.



Student robot programmers finished up their camp “FIRST Robotics & Programming” with coding and imagination adventures. Students learned computer programming skills through interactive and exciting robotics projects.



Our chefs-in-training got a “taste” of their own culinary creativity, honing new skills at culinary and pastry arts camps. Students learned how to make pastry goods, appetizers and other delicious dishes – all from scratch!



GIVING BACK

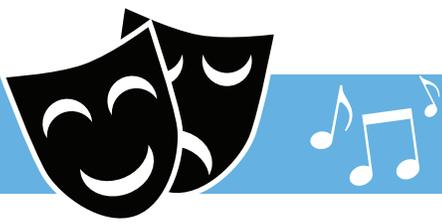
In an effort to strengthen connections with each of the nine communities within the Seneca Valley School District, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) recently hosted its second annual “Community Grown” initiative, a school-wide community service project that allows students to give back to the communities that have given so much for their education. Seventh and eighth grade students spent the morning of Tuesday, May 21, volunteering at various townships and municipalities.

Municipal leaders collaborate with the RGMS administration to identify needs in their community. Once a need was determined, RGMS staff members and administrators worked with each of their 10 teams to plan a solution that would include community service. Seneca Valley serves the following municipalities: Cranberry, Forward, Jackson and Lancaster townships, and Callery, Evans City, Harmony, Seven Fields and Zelenople boroughs.

Some of the service projects included planting trees and shrubs, mulching, washing township/police vehicles, painting benches, installing bike racks and more. Students wrapped up their day around 12:30 p.m. with a group lunch followed by team building activities. ■

Photos courtesy of SVSD and Jackson Township





MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICIANS SHOWCASE 'SUPERIOR' SKILLS

On May 30, the Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) Instrumental Music Department hosted an adjudication event for all sixth and seventh grade instrumental students in the district. This Music Performance Assessment (MPA) is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) with the intent of providing enriching feedback to students based on their performance. Each ensemble prepares two pieces that are performed for a panel of judges who assess the group's performance and provide input based on statewide criteria. Feedback helps students have an idea where they rank, in terms of performance, with similar schools. This year's panel of adjudicators were educators from Mt. Lebanon School District, Peters Township School District, Indiana University and Seton Hill University.

In addition to performing chosen pieces, the seventh grade band and orchestra participated in a sight reading component where they were evaluated on their ability to play through a piece of music for the first time with as few mistakes as possible. Sixth grade ensembles had the opportunity to work with adjudicators in a masterclass where they were given live feedback of their performance in place of participating in the sight reading.

All the instrumental ensembles participating in the MPA from Haine Middle School, Ehrman Crest Middle School and RGMS received a Superior Rating, which is the highest possible rating. Haine Middle School instrumental directors are Ms. Kelly Levere (Band) and Ms. Marlena Hasara (Orchestra). Ehrman Crest directors are Ms. Tracy Glass (Band) and Ms. Mandy



Lesney (Orchestra). RGMS instrumental directors and event hosts are Ms. Sarah Miller (Orchestra), Mr. Brian Croach (Band) and Ms. Sara Snyder (Band). ■

SV THESPIAN TROUPE INDUCTS RECORD NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS

The Seneca Valley Thespian Troupe #2094 inducted a record number of new members at their end-of-the-year "Tony Awards" themed celebration. Thespians is an international honors society which recognizes merit and accomplishments in the world of theater. Membership requires students to earn a certain number of points based upon their participation in theater activities, at least one school production in grades 9-12, and a written essay. Once inducted, students continue to earn points toward recognition and honors their senior year. The troupe participates in at least one activity each month, generally theater-related. In the past, students enjoyed a backstage visit with a national touring



Broadway production at the Benedum Center, watched a variety of national tours, attended professional workshops at the Byham Theater, participated in stage combat workshops, performed a 24-hour play fest, and many other activities!

Troupe sponsor Amber Hugus stated, "It is always exciting to induct new members into this honors society. I was a member of Troupe #2094 myself when I was a student here at Seneca Valley and it is so rewarding to help create similar memories for my own students. Twenty-six new members is

such an exciting number! I am looking forward to many fun adventures with the students next year and in years to come." New members each earned an SV "Tony Award" at the celebration, the club reenacted Broadway musicals, and graduating seniors received awards and recognitions. Recent SV graduates Jackson Hugus, Emilia Garcia and Ella Gemperlein were voted as best actor and best actresses by club members and Meg Hilling was given the Best Thespian Award. Congratulations to the new members and recent graduates of Troupe #2094! ■





WPIAL CHAMPIONS, AGAIN!

For the second time in three years, the Raider Softball team captured the 2024 Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) 6A Softball title in thrilling fashion. Having trailed Norwin for most of the game, Seneca Valley tied the score 3-3 in the bottom of the sixth inning on an RBI triple from Kylie Staudt and RBI single off the bat of Liv Herrem. Following a scoreless seventh inning, the game entered extra frames and the Raiders capitalized in the bottom of the inning. Following a double from Anna Kalkowski, recent SV graduate Kylie Staudt stepped to the plate and drilled the game-winning, walk-off single to score courtesy runner Julia Valasek and the Raiders won 4-3 in eight innings. The 2024 title marked the second trophy in three years, joining the 2022 champions. Entering the PIAA bracket 72 hours later, the Raiders travelled to McDowell for a first-round PIAA matchup and came



home the victor, 11-0. Lexie Hames pitched a one-hit shutout, striking out 12 and smacking a two-run homer to left center field. Unfortunately, the Raiders' season would end abruptly the following Thursday with a difficult 4-0 defeat to

the hands of the eventual 6A champion North Penn. We congratulate Coach Hames and her entire staff on a fabulous season and applaud all the players on their excellence this season. Well done, Raiders! ■

SPRING SEASON SPORT RECAPS

Baseball

The Raiders entered the WPIAL championship bracket as the No. 5 seed and squared off against No. 4 seed Hempfield Spartans; a game played at Plum High School. Recent graduate and Raider pitcher Zack Tkatch came on in relief in the third inning and shut down Hempfield's offense to help secure a 5-4 Raider win. Tkatch pitched five scoreless innings, striking out seven while only allowing two hits. Nick Parrotto scored the game-winning run in the fifth inning off a single by Ryan Rebholz. The Raiders advanced to play top-seeded Mt. Lebanon in the WPIAL semifinals. What started out as a back-and-forth affair ended the Raiders season with a difficult 11-5 loss at the hands of the Blue Devils. We congratulate Coach Semega and his entire staff for another exciting season and thank the boys for their hard work.



Track & Field

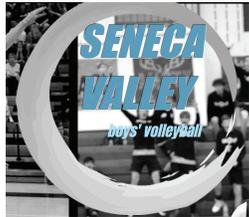
The following are results from the 2024 PIAA Track & Field Championships held on the campus of Shippensburg University over Memorial Day weekend. Congratulations to all our student-athletes who competed in the AAA championships.

- Kyler Matson – 300 Hurdles (PIAA 10th place, 39:38)
- Kathryn Morrison – 100 Hurdles (PIAA no placing)
- Jordan Monteleone – High Jump (PIAA 21st place, 5' 02")
- Girls 4 x 800 Relay (PIAA 17th place, 9:37.39) – Claire Riehl, Sydney Heltzell, Paige D'Amico, Delaney Mansfield



Boys Volleyball

Raider Boys Volleyball faced off against eventual WPIAL & PIAA 3A champion, the Shaler Titans in the WPIAL semifinals and bowed out 3-0. Two days later SV would bounce back and beat Butler 3-1 to claim the third spot out of District VII in the PIAA championship bracket. Unfortunately, the bracket had the Raiders travelling to State College for a tough opening round matchup. The Raiders were in a hole early, losing the opening two sets, but claimed a third-set victory 25-21. The fourth set was back and forth, and host State College found a way to pull out a 25-21 win and earn the 3-1 victory to advance in the PIAA bracket. Congratulations to head coach Brett Poirier and his staff for their extended playoff run. Thank you to the entire team – it was a thrill watching you all. ■



CLERKLEY AT THE CAPITOL

Recent Seneca Valley graduate and State Champion diver Isaiah Clerkley along with coaches and family had the opportunity to visit the Pennsylvania State Capitol in early June to be recognized for his Gold Medal win at the 3A PIAA State Championship. Coaches Nancy Laslavic and Mike Caccamo were honored to join Clerkley on his visit. A wonderful recognition for a truly gifted scholar-athlete. ■



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, MAY 2024

The Female Athlete of the Month for May was softball player **Kylie Staudt**. The recent graduate right fielder had an incredible end to her senior season. She helped the Raiders finish off the regular season 4-1 with a share of the section title. Over the five-game stretch, she tallied five hits, four RBI (Runs Batted In) and zero strikeouts for a batting average of .357. Her standout game came in the 2024 WPIAL 6A Softball Championship. Kylie went 4-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. This included a walk-off single in the bottom of the eighth inning to bring in the winning run, sealing a 4-3 comeback victory over Norwin. We recognized Kylie as the May Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Kylie!



The Male Athlete of the Month for May was junior boys volleyball player **Jordan Hoover**. As an outside hitter, Jordan played a key role in a deep WPIAL playoff run for the Raiders. They finished in third place which qualified the team for PIAA playoffs for the first time since 2022. At the end of the regular season and WPIAL and PIAA playoffs, Jordan tallied 47 kills, 34 blocks, 22 digs and three aces. His efforts on the court led to him being named on both the First Team All-Section and All-WPIAL boys volleyball lists. For an impressive month, we recognized Jordan as the May Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Jordan! ■



POST-SEASON HONORS

Boys Lacrosse All-Section

Colton Garner – Attack

Girls Lacrosse All-Section

Lorena Lopez – Attack

Kacy Christensen – Defense

Softball

Pennsylvania's Gatorade Player of the Year

Lexie Hames

Boys Volleyball All-WPIAL

1st Team

Peter Breski

Jordan Hoover ■

CONGRATULATIONS, KACY CHRISTENSEN – POSITIVE ATHLETE

The WPIAL Positive Athlete program recently recognized senior girls soccer and lacrosse player Kacy Christensen as its 2024-25 Western PA Positive Athlete in the sport of girls lacrosse. Such a deserving honor for Kacy! Congratulations, Kacy, and good luck in college. ■



REMINDERS FOR 2024-25:

All required paperwork for athletic participation in 2024-25 will be available on [Parent Portal](#) and the SV Athletics [website](#) starting May 1.

- **ALL fall sports** paperwork is due in the athletic office no later than 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1. Coaches will not accept paperwork at the first day of tryouts.
- Dates for physicals are not yet confirmed. Once dates are set, we will announce. Please note physicals are first come, first served - we do not take reservations in advance. *We encourage families to have their physical completed as soon as possible after May 1. You may visit your PCP or any Urgent Care Clinic for an athletic physical.*
- The PIAA mandates their CIPPE form as the only permissible form for doctor's signature.
- All student-athletes must register in the [Parent Portal](#) under "Sports Registration" before tryouts/practice begin. Registration began May 1.
- Complete information available on the District's Athletics website under "Participation and TRYOUT information" starting May 1.
- Concussion baseline testing only needs 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.

Drug Testing and Baseline Concussion Testing Dates – Senior High School

- **Tuesday, July 9**, from 3-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 10**, 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 30**, from 3-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 31**, from 8 a.m.-noon **and** 1-3 p.m.
 - 60 physicals from 8 a.m.-noon ■

A YEAR IN REVIEW

It's been an incredible year! We at the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) hope you take a moment to reflect on the successes, trials and triumphs brought to you courtesy of the 2023-24 school year. We are proud of the dedication and hard work of students and staff for a year of growth, learning and terrific memories.



THE GIFT OF HOPE, THE PROMISE OF EXCELLENCE

Because of generous donations from SV employees, families, community members and businesses, the SVF has invested over \$107,000 into our schools this year. To give you a glimpse, here are a few of our favorites:

- District-Wide Initiatives - Internet Safety Presentation; Professional Development through the Classrooms Without Borders organization; Solar Eclipse Viewing Glasses; Book Vending Machines
- Teacher-Inspired Classroom Enhancements – A new electric quartet at the intermediate high school; a Laser Engraver Machine at Ryan Gloyer Middle School; the new (awesome) mosaic creation led by a local artist at Ehrman Crest; Transportation to the Kids of Steel Marathon for Haine students and a College & Career Readiness Field Trip to Geneva College for CVE students.
- Student Support – STEM Fair Mini-Grants; Vo-Tech Mini-Grants; and Yearbooks for students in need.

We promise to continue supporting SV in its quest of academic excellence and innovation and welcome you to join us! To learn more about what we do and who we are, visit: www.svsd.net/svfoundation.

SEEKING NEW TRUSTEE

The Seneca Valley Foundation is seeking individuals interested in progressing its mission in the Seneca Valley School District. To be considered, email a letter of interest to SVFoundation@svsd.net using the subject line of "Prospective New Trustee." We will contact you as we move to the next step of the selection process. ■



The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) is seeking individuals interested in progressing its mission of encouraging academic excellence & innovation within Seneca Valley School District.

Qualifications

- Dedication to the mission of the SVF
- Experience with nonprofit and volunteer organizations
- Passion for philanthropy and enhancing public education
- Ability to volunteer time and resources
- Knowledge in public education, legal and/or financial sectors

Term

- New Trustees shall hold office for a term of three (3) years

Responsibilities

- Uphold the bylaws of the SVF & fulfill the duties outlined therein
- Engage new donors including staff, families and alumni
- Evaluate & prioritize district initiatives including capital improvement projects, program expansion & classroom enhancements
- Cultivate relationships with corporate partners and sponsors
- Solicit donations through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program
- Promote fundraisers, events & activities
- Contribute a minimum of \$100 annually
- Attend quarterly meetings (alternating virtual and in-person)

To be considered for this important role, send a letter of interest including applicable experience & credentials to SVFoundation@svsd.net using the subject line "Prospective New Trustee."

www.svsd.net/svfoundation



GIFT OF HOPE GOLF CLASSIC

The 12th Annual Gift of Hope Golf Classic presented by ComDoc is just over a month away! While we are **SOLD OUT** of foursomes, we would still love your support as a sponsor. Opportunities start at just \$100 for a half-page ad and custom options are available. If you are interested in highlighting your business, supporting our cause and ensuring this year's event is a swinging success, please reach out to Annie Mersing, Development Director via email at mersingam@svsd.net. Thank you! ■



PRESENTED BY: 
ComDoc

AUGUST 1, 2024 | CRANBERRY HIGHLANDS

<p>GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS \$4,000 2 Complimentary Foursomes & 8 Dinner Passes Signage at Registration, Reception, 1 Hole & Pin Flag Full-Page Ad in Presentation Recognition at Reception</p>	<p>ADVERTISING SPONSORS FULL PAGE - \$200 HALF PAGE - \$100 Electronic Presentation during Dinner & Website</p>	<p>JOIN US!</p> <p>— I will sponsor this event! (check option below) _Presenting _Gold _Silver _Putting _Skills _Hole-in-1 _Hole _Lunch _Cocktail _Dinner _Full-Page Ad _Half-Page Ad</p> <p>— I will be there to play!</p> <p>Company Name: _____ Contact Name: _____ Contact Email: _____ Golfer 1: _____ Golfer 2: _____ Golfer 3: _____ Golfer 4: _____</p> <p>Mail payment & this completed form to: Seneca Valley Foundation 124 Seneca School Road Harmony, PA 16037 Questions? Contact Annie Mersing, mersingam@svsd.net</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS \$3,000 1 Complimentary Foursome & 4 Dinner Passes Signage at Reception, 1 Hole & Pin Flag Full-Page Ad in Presentation Recognition at Reception</p>	<p>GOLF INFORMATION Foursomes: \$700 Solo Golfer \$175 Registration: 8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start: 9:30 a.m. Lunch provided at turn. Buffet dinner served at approximately 2 p.m.</p>	
<p>EXTRAORDINARY SPONSORS PUTTING CONTEST - \$2,000 SKILL PRIZE CONTEST - \$1,500 LUNCH/DINNER/COCKTAIL - \$1,500* *Includes 4 dinner passes HOLE-IN-ONE CONTEST - \$1,000 HOLE SPONSORS - \$400 All extraordinary sponsors receive ad space in presentation & signage</p>		<p>All proceeds from this exciting event benefit the Seneca Valley Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging excellence & innovation in the Seneca Valley School District</p>
<p>VIRTUALLY REGISTER TO PLAY OR SPONSOR</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">   </div>		

CONGRATULATIONS, SV CLASS OF 2024!

To commemorate this special milestone, the Seneca Valley Foundation continued its annual tradition of providing each senior with a beautiful white rose for them to gift to a person who played a significant role in their life.

Whether it's a teacher, parent, mentor or friend, the lapel pin is meant to be a token of appreciation and gratitude to the person who helped shape their path.

We wish each and every graduate much success in this next chapter of their lives. We can't wait to see where their dreams take them! ■



2ND ANNUAL SFC RYAN GLOYER MEMORIAL RUN

In memory of Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Gloyer, the Seneca Valley Foundation is proud to announce the 2nd Annual SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run presented by Westinghouse will be held on Sunday, Nov. 3. This year's event is even more special because it falls on the anniversary of Ryan's death. We can't think of a better way to honor him than by having another successful event!

Our mission is to continue to spread community awareness of SFC Gloyer, the namesake of Ryan Gloyer Middle School and a true patriot, stellar athlete and performer, and kind human being. The run/walk take place on the beautiful grounds of Seneca Valley's Secondary Campus. All proceeds benefit educational initiatives at Ryan Gloyer Middle School.

Thank you to these fine businesses for their sponsorship commitments:

Presenting - Westinghouse

T-Shirts - Eckles Construction

Mile Markers - Communications Consulting Incorporated; The Georgie Smigel Group; Baird Private Wealth Management - The Dishart Mackie O'Brien Group; and Neofes Insurance Group

Finish Line - Victory Family Church

Hydration - Burn Boot Camp

Additional sponsorship opportunities are still available. If you or your organization would also like to be a part of this event, please email SVFoundation@svsd.net to secure your spot.

Runner registration will open on July 4 via www.RunSignUp.com - Let's Run for Ryan! ■

Mission

The mission of the SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial 5K Run/Walk is to spread community awareness of the life & legacy of SFC Ryan Gloyer. As the namesake of the Ryan Gloyer Middle School, many people in the community are aware of Ryan's military career & his ultimate sacrifice for our country. This Memorial Run will be an opportunity to share the attitudes & beliefs that make Ryan a role model for everyone in the Seneca Valley School District. Ryan was an elite soldier; but he was also a loving son & brother; a lifelong student; and a forever friend. Throughout his life, Ryan inspired people to become the best they could be. As a teacher, he loved sharing knowledge & encouraging new ways of thinking. He was a leader who motivated others to reach their goals. This Memorial Run will honor Ryan's legacy by highlighting how his positive attitude made a lasting impact on everyone who knew him. Our hope is that students, staff & the community will build their own personal philosophy of inclusivity, confidence, selflessness, perseverance & dedication.

SFC Ryan Gloyer was an athlete from a young age. As a student at Seneca Valley High School, he played varsity soccer & ran track. As a member of the Special Forces, Ryan's dedication to physical fitness was noted & admired by his fellow soldiers. Adam Knauff, a classmate of Ryan's, said he loved to run. Participation in this event welcomes everyone in the community to enjoy one of Ryan's favorite activities. Ryan is remembered by many as someone who pushed his body to be better, stronger & faster; but, he also knew the importance of support & assistance for those who are struggling. That's why this Run is an opportunity for all people, regardless of health or fitness, to get up & get moving. Friends & family members often speak of the encouragement Ryan provided to them at many points in their lives, so we know Ryan would be encouraging everyone to take on the challenge of this 5k to make themselves & their lives better.

Read the full story of Ryan Gloyer here: <https://www.svsd.net/Page/24016>



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

T-Shirt Sponsor - \$3,000

- Corporate Logo on Back of participant T-Shirts (Limited to (4) Available)
- Six (6) Complimentary Participant Fees

Mile Marker Sponsor - \$1,000

- Corporate Logo on signage (36x24 inch) at Characteristic Mile-Markers (6 available):
 - Teach & Mentor
 - Honor & Integrity
 - Selfless Service
 - Lead by Example
 - Strive for Excellence
 - Persevere through Adversity



- Four (4) Complimentary Participant Fees

Water Station or Finish Line Sponsor - \$1,000

- Corporate Logo on signage at applicable space
- Four (4) Complimentary Participant Fees

Legacy Sponsors - \$500

- Corporate Logo on signage (24x18 inch) along the course with accompanying legacy quote
- Two (2) Complimentary Participant Fees

In-Kind Donations Accepted (Water, Food, etc.)

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 your sponsorship or ask a question, please contact Annie Mersing, SV Foundation Development Director, at mersingam@svsd.net. All proceeds benefit Ryan Gloyer Middle School

TIME SPENT WITH BEST BUDDIES

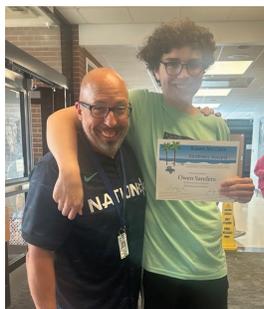
North Boundary Park was filled with sunshine and smiles as over 250 students, staff and community members attended Seneca Valley's inaugural Best Buddies Walk on Saturday, June 1! This milestone event celebrated inclusion and our diverse abilities all while raising funds for Best Buddies International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for friendships, employment, leadership development and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event unforgettable! Read more about the event and Best Buddies program at [Seneca Valley elementary students step up for first Best Buddies Walk | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.](#)



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). Owen Sanders, a 2023-24 eighth grader, was recently honored with this 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 Mr. Owen Sanders, 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. ■



'I LED THE PLEDGE'

Elementary students from Seneca Valley's K-4 schools were again invited to attend this year's school board meetings, leading the members of the School Board and public in saying "The Pledge of Allegiance."

At the June 3 school board meeting, the Pledge was led by Cameron Moldovan a rising third grader at Rowan Elementary School. Cameron is a wiz with mental math, which is

his favorite subject in school. He is an athlete who loves playing soccer both indoor and outdoor and football for Seneca Valley. When he grows up, Cameron intends to become a professional football player. When he is not at practice or a game, Cameron can be found playing with his many friends in the neighborhood, where the games never stop! ■



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

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Ronny Royhab, recent SV graduate, for being named Student of the Year at Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (BCAVTS)!

The Student of the Year Award is given to just one senior per school year within the seven school districts served in BCAVTS. Nominees are chosen based on qualities like leadership, trustworthiness and responsibility in creating a positive and respectful learning environment. Mr. Royhab advanced through a series of interviews, gave a final speech and shared a rich educational profile highlighting his accomplishments in the Culinary Arts Program. He is as skilled in the kitchen as he is at Swim Club! Check out his acceptance speech at [2024 Student of the Year \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com). Congratulations, Ronny! ■

Ronny Royhab

Is a Seneca Valley School District student who has been in our Culinary Arts program for three years. Ronny is a member of SkillsUSA. He received a gold medal at the District 10 competition for his cake decorating skills. He is on the Seneca Valley Swim Team and a member of the Swim Club. Ronny has worked at EDCO park for the past four years. His senior project was to raise money for the EDCO Park & Authority. He organized and executed the 2024 EDCO Park Festival (EDCO Fest) on May 18 & 19. In addition to working at EDCO park, he makes custom cakes and cookies. Ronny plans to attend BC3 for Business Management. After, he plans to attend a University. He received scholarships from Evans City Lions Club, Cranberry Noon Rotary, and Ruth Varner Otto. Ronny has enjoyed the freedom of being an older student, which has helped him accomplish these achievements.



Ronny's Message To Upcoming BCAVTS Students:

Don't stress the small stuff, it doesn't matter. Focus on the big picture and move forward.

SV STUDENTS TAKE FIRST PLACE AT STATEWIDE SCIENCE COMPETITION

Three Seneca Valley students returned with first-place awards after presenting their research projects at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) State Meeting held at Penn State University on May 20.

Sophomore Autumn Zacherl and junior Addison McLane earned a first-place award, and senior Abby Bonno won a first-place award with a perfect score.

"I couldn't be prouder of these three exceptional ladies in their first-place awards at the state PJAS competition," said Ms. Kelly Weston, Seneca Valley Senior High School Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry Teacher. "Their dedication, passion, and commitment they have for their research have truly paid off and showcases their remarkable potential for their future."

"What I have enjoyed most about PJAS is the nature of the presentation itself," said Miss Zacherl. "Giving a formal oral presentation in front of judges and peers has given me practice with public speaking and has allowed me to understand how to use audiovisual aids (especially PowerPoint) to my advantage."

The Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) is a statewide organization of junior and senior high school students designed to stimulate and promote interest in science among



its members through the development of research projects and investigations.

Ms. Weston added, "This competition is open to any Science Honor Society member, and I hope that the number of students participating continues to grow." ■

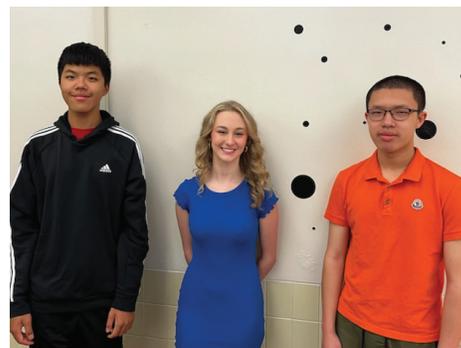
HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCHERS ACCEPTED INTO PRESTIGIOUS CANCER CENTER ACADEMY

We are proud to recognize three Seneca Valley High School students who were recently accepted into the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Academy, an elite summer program. These prestigious opportunities highlight the students' ongoing dedication to achievement in advanced academic fields.

Senior Julia Lipscomb and juniors Addison McClane and Ivan Chen will be attending the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Academy, a hands-on summer program that engages students in cutting-edge cancer research. Ms. McClane was asked to return, for the second year, to continue her impressive research – an exceptional honor to be invited back! Through the eight-week program, high school students will work in laboratories directed by dedicated faculty at sites across the University of Pittsburgh campus. Scholars in The Hillman Academy explore complex questions within a particular area of cancer research. The majority of their time is spent working in the lab with their assigned mentors. The remaining time is spent receiving didactic instruction,

touring facilities dedicated to clinical cancer care and research, participating in journal clubs, and attending cameo presentations by accomplished professionals in the field. At the end of the program, each scholar delivers a ten-minute oral presentation and participates in a poster symposium that reflects their findings in the lab.

"These students have been a part of Seneca Valley's Center for Biotechnology Research Lab," said Ms. Patti Griest, Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Gifted Support teacher. "It speaks to the preparation and experience they are gaining here at Seneca Valley to get accepted into these programs."



Congratulations, Julia, Ivan, Addison, and the other outstanding Seneca Valley students who have earned places in these respected summer programs. Their dedication and hard work continue to set a high standard of excellence for our school community. ■

STANDOUT SCHOLAR

Congratulations to SV '24 graduate Katie Mack who was recently awarded a \$1000 scholarship through the Science National Honor Society (SNHS). The SNHS awards college scholarships to its members in recognition of their passion for science, participation in their local chapter's activities, academic excellence and leadership. Ms. Mack has served as both the SV Science Honor Society's Treasurer and Co-President and will be attending Clemson University in the fall. ■

AWARD-WINNING PIECES

Four rising sophomores from Seneca Valley Intermediate High School were recently recognized for their award-winning pieces at the 2024 Waldman Arts & Writing Competition, hosted by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

To conclude the Holocaust unit in Ms. Michele Russo's 10th grade English class, students completed a project focusing on rescue efforts during the Holocaust. Students showed their learning through poetry, writing an essay or producing 2-D or 3-D art. The top projects in each category were chosen as entries to represent Seneca Valley at the Waldman Arts & Writing Competition.

Paige DeStasio placed first in the 2-D art category with her artwork showcasing her research on the Bielski brothers and how they rescued Jewish people by hiding in the forests. Miss DeStasio was also named the grand prize winner of the overall competition.

John Eaton won in the 3-D art category for his 3-D model of Tadeusz Pankiewicz's pharmacy. His model depicted how the pharmacist operated his store in the Nazi-occupied Krakow Ghetto while helping and saving countless Jews during the Holocaust.



Additionally, Mary Kokuashvili won the top prize for her essay and Landon Clark for his poem. Miss DeStasio and Mr. Eaton were also awarded monetary prizes and educational books.

The Waldman Arts & Writing awards ceremony took place on May 9, at Chatham University. This annual event allows students in grades 6-12 to compete for financial scholarships and winners are honored with prizes and certificates. ■

STUDENT EMPLOYEES SERVE WITH RAIDER PRIDE

As the 2023-24 school year came to a close, our on-campus student employees had a lot to celebrate!

Seneca Valley's Student Services department honored the 59 Raider Roast and Seneca Square student workers at the high school with an Employee Collaboration Luncheon. Together, these student employees, along with field students in the College in High School (CHS) Foundations of Special Education class, served a total of 16,953 items this school year!

We are proud of the vocational and social skills our students continue to develop to prepare them for their future! ■



SV ALL-STAR: END OF AN ERA

Chief Terry Seilhamer to retire from Jackson Township PD after 50 years of service

Jackson Township Police Chief Terry Seilhamer is a “stats whiz.”

And not just his police department stats, but when it comes to Seneca Valley sports team stats, “he’s better than any Google search,” according to Mr. Jason Young, SV Safety and Security Director.

Chief Seilhamer, who is retiring in August after 13 years with the Jackson Township Police Department (JTPD) and 50 years (yes, 50, another amazing statistic!) in law enforcement, plans to hang up the uniform, but not his love for SV.

“More often than not, he would show up early to basketball games to talk to Ms. Heather Lewis, SV Athletics Director, about this year’s varsity boys’ and girls’ teams,” shared Mr. Young.

Of course, he wasn’t early just for the game, but to ensure the area was a secure environment. It was common to see the Chief on the secondary campus walking the stadium plaza with his officers, providing traffic control to move cars on and off the campus, and stepping in whenever and wherever needed.

Naturally, we couldn’t let him go without a proper thank you.

At the Monday, June 10, Seneca Valley School Board meeting, the Board and Administration named Chief Seilhamer the SV All-Star Award Winner for June 2024. The SV All-Star Club was developed to officially recognize and show appreciation to individuals who are often the unsung heroes of our school community. In the spirit of security, District officials were delighted to recognize Chief Seilhamer. And while it’s bittersweet, it is also very deserving for his years of dedicated service.

“You have always recognized and beautifully handled the delicate balance of chain of command, leading a police staff and understanding that we have to work together to make our schools safe,” said Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools. “You have the respect of everyone in this



School District and we will miss you dearly.”

The recognition included – and we would like to thank for their participation – JTPD officers, including our secondary campus school resource officers, neighboring department chiefs and township officials. Chief Seilhamer was appreciative, as well.

“Working to provide a safe and secure learning environment for the students and staff of the Seneca Valley School District has truly been a pleasure,” said Chief Seilhamer. “The years have flown by, and I have enjoyed them immensely, primarily because of the people with whom I interacted.”

Our hat’s off to you, Chief! Enjoy retirement and we’ll see you in the stands!

Why the #12 Jersey?

Municipal police officers in the state of Pennsylvania are required to be certified through the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Officers’ Education and Training Commission (MOPEC).

Chief Seilhamer was a municipal officer prior to joining the state police and was one of the

first classes to be certified through MOPEC, which requires all municipal officers to have a certification number that is used to write citations, criminal complaints and attend trainings. For most law enforcement officials, that’s a five-digit number today.

At a training session a few years ago, a sign-in sheet was passed around and every officer was tasked with filling out his/her name, department name and MOPEC number. During a break on the first day, the instructor asked for Chief Seilhamer to please revisit the sign-in sheet and complete his MOPEC number. The chief looked at the page, then up at the instructor and told him, simply, “That is my number.” The instructor, looking puzzled, asked surprisingly, “Your number is 12?” The chief, humored, smiled and responded, “Yes, it is.”

This was a regular occurrence over the past few years, especially when he filled out paperwork.

So, we decided it was only fitting to forever commemorate that number with Chief Seilhamer’s very own SV #12 jersey. ■

TURNING THE PAGE TO A NEW CHAPTER

During a recent school board meeting held on June 3, 27 retirees were recognized for their combined total of over 600 years of hard work and dedication to the Seneca Valley School District.

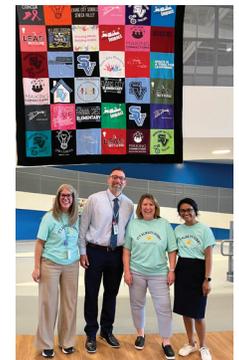
Members of the Seneca Valley School Board and Administration thanked the 2023-24 retirees for their unwavering commitment and service to students and staff members across the District.

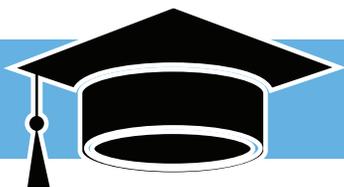
Take a look at our 2024 Retirement Recognition video highlighting these staff members who have proudly served our SV community for many years: <https://youtu.be/fM8sFEDNxil>.

Additionally, students and staff at Ehrman Crest Elementary School (ECE) ended the 2023-24 school year with a special surprise for Ms. Lauri Pendred, ECE Principal and 2024 retiree. The entire school took part in a special celebration, lining the hallways with banners and signs to help give Ms. Pendred a **joyous final walkthrough**. Thank you, Ms. Pendred, for your dedication to SV and reminding students that it's always sunny at ECE!

Retirees are as follows:

- Janet Becker – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Reading Teacher -27.5 Years
- Julie Blackburn – Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School - Third Grade Teacher – 26 Years
- Lynn Burtner – Business Manager – 14 Years
- Keith Chrestay – SV Senior High School Counselor - 25 Years
- Valerie Damiani – Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Administrative Assistant - 16 Years
- Nannette Farmar - Rowan Elementary School Principal – 16 Years
- Jennifer Fiscus – Rowan Elementary School Fourth Grade Teacher - 23 Years
- Deborah Gray - Rowan Elementary School Speech Therapist -18.5 Years
- Karen Greenawalt – SV Senior High School Administrative Assistant - 27 Years
- Patricia Griest – SV Intermediate High School Gifted Support Teacher – 24 Years
- Rebecca Hester – Rowan Elementary School Gifted Support Teacher – 33 Years
- Erin Kerr – Rowan Elementary School Reading Teacher - 23 Years
- Jan Kovacevic – Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School Speech Therapist - 15 Years
- Brenda Lynn – Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School Paraprofessional – 27 Years
- Kelly McDonald – Rowan Elementary School CIRC Teacher/Librarian - 32 Years
- Marie McLachlan – SV Intermediate High School Family and Consumer Science Teacher - 22 Years
- Tracey O'Toole – SV Intermediate High School Chemistry Teacher -31 Years
- Amy Palaski – SV Senior High School Chemistry Teacher - 15 Years
- Lauri Pendred – Ehrman Crest Elementary School Principal - 21 Years
- Robert Raso – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Assistant Principal –35 Years
- Catherine Rawson - Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School Technology Paraprofessional – 4 Years
- Noele Reynolds – Haine Middle School Art Teacher – 29.5 Years
- Linda Starosta – Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School Nurse -24 Years
- Deborah Stocklas – Haine Elementary/Middle School Nurse Paraprofessional - 14 Years
- John Sulia – SV Senior High School Custodian- 19 Years
- Ann Wise – SV Intermediate High School Paraprofessional - 22 Years
- Stanley Zimmerman – Ryan Gloyer Middle School Art Teacher - 26 Years





Jess Pollis, SV '07, has worn many hats in her expansive experience as a graphic designer! Her designs have appeared on various billboards, magazines and venues. 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: Not sure where to start; so much has happened since high school! After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts specializing in Graphic Design, I embarked on a dynamic journey through various corporate settings, including graphic design roles at Allegheny Health Network, First National Bank, and, currently, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. My designs have appeared on various Pittsburgh billboards, magazines and in PPG Paints arena. Aside from corporate work, I also enjoy helping small local businesses build their brand identity.

I recently took on a volunteer position as the Design Educator for AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts) Pittsburgh chapter. In this role, I facilitate collaboration among aspiring young designers and students, fostering connections with industry professionals to equip them for success in the field.

I have always felt like Pittsburgh was home so I decided to buy a house in Shaler. Beyond design, I am also involved in the animal rescue community with a strong love for pitbull-type dogs. I serve as a board member and volunteer coordinator for The Proper Pit Bull and I'm dedicated to educating others about the breed and providing valuable resources through low-cost classes.

When I am not working or volunteering you will find me paddle boarding at North Park, working on my yard, attending art events and walking my dogs around the city. I still enjoy playing hockey and I currently play for the Pittsburgh Puffins women's ice hockey team.

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



A: I wish I could say all is well with my family, but life had other plans and I lost my mom to an aggressive cancer last summer (2023). This has turned my world upside down, but I am lucky to have a great support system. My younger sister, Melissa, is doing well and lives in the area with her husband Trevor.

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

A: It might come as a surprise to some that I'm a member of the Shaler Garden Club. Although it's typically associated with an older demographic, I find joy in delving into the world of plants and landscaping. Among my favorite activities is attending the Shaler Garden Tour, and I aspire to eventually have my own home featured on it.

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

A: Seneca Valley gave me resources and classes that directly prepared me for real-world challenges. Access to technology and extensive library facilities proved instrumental in my educational journey. Seneca Valley provided a supportive community where I could seek guidance from teachers, counselors and peers.

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



A: Seneca Valley is special because they prepare students for their future endeavors, whether pursuing higher education, entering the workforce, or following other paths. Also, the academic challenges, social interactions in large classes and extracurricular activities all contribute to helping shape students for their future. Seneca Valley is well-rounded when it comes to having a group or activity for everyone to join.

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

A: It's tough to single out just one person. The first person who pops into my head is Mr. M (Mike Manipole). He made gym class an absolute blast with his infectious enthusiasm. Then, there's (the late) Mr. Steve Russo, who is dearly missed. He had a knack for making math class engaging and offered tutoring that really made a difference for me. Additionally, Ms. Heather Winters ignited my passion for fitness. I looked forward to her step aerobics class, even taking it for extra credit!

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: This question reminds me of my in-line hockey days. Taking the courageous step to join an all-boys team stands out vividly.

I found myself embraced and recognized as a valued player. Playing in a predominantly male sport presented its challenges, constantly feeling the pressure to demonstrate my value. Life often demands stepping out of your comfort zone and this is one experience I will never forget!

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

A: In these challenging times, let's continue to promote kindness and inspire students to pursue their dreams!

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

A: From prom to sporting events to academic competitions, Seneca Valley is filled with memorable experiences that



contribute to personal growth. I wouldn't be the person I am today without SV! ■



MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

When educators nurture leadership skills in students, they empower them to create positive change, foster collaboration and contribute to a thriving educational environment. Mr. LaVarr Stephens-Howling, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) Acting Assistant Principal and student council advisor was recently awarded the Region A Middle School Advisor of the year from the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC).

Mr. Stephens-Howling has been serving as the RGMS Student Council Advisor for nine years and is being recognized for his outstanding service to RGMS and its students. As 2024 PASC Region A Middle School Advisor of the year, he was chosen from representatives in a 10-county area: Beaver, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren.

"It's been an honor being the student council advisor at Ryan Gloyer Middle School for the past nine years," said Stephens-Howling. "It's truly amazing watching students join the student council with little knowledge of the organization and finish the year as strong school leaders. One of my favorite things about being a middle school student council advisor is watching the same group of students become members of the senior high student council and host events such as Homecoming and Raiderthon! It is truly inspiring watching my students continue to dedicate their time and effort to improving their school community through student council."

In addition to being awarded the Region A Middle School Advisor of the year, Mr. Stephens-Howling is now eligible and will be completing the application for the State-Level Advisor of the Year.



The Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils develops and elevates leaders by providing opportunities, training, networking, civic engagement, recognition and resources necessary for students and advisors to engage in their schools, communities and the world. ■

VOICES



A podcast from the Seneca Valley School District

Want to hear directly from the voices at Seneca Valley on the most current topics and updates? Join us in listening to Voices, a podcast brought to you by the Seneca Valley School District.

Check out our latest podcast highlighting artificial intelligence (AI) with Dr. Matt McKinley, Assistant Superintendent for 7-12 Instruction, and Mr. Sean VanScoyoc, Director of Information Technology. Listen as they discuss opportunities for students and educators to learn about AI and its applications. Be sure to subscribe to SV Voices and listen online [here](#) or anywhere you listen to podcasts.



Voices, a Podcast from the Seneca Valley School District

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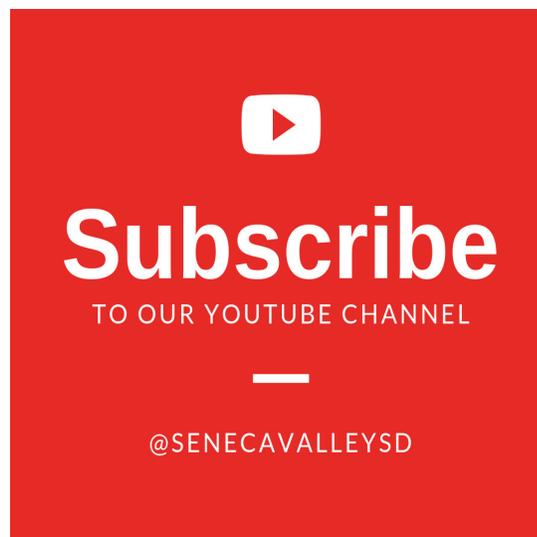




- This spring, the SV Center for Biotechnology recognized student researchers and grant recipients, hosted engaging Lab Chats and even took a field trip to Penn State University - Beaver. [Take a look at innovations and insights from our SV Center for Biotechnology.](#)
- Seneca Valley School District is proud to meet every student's needs through our customized learning initiative. [Check out this article](#) from Kidsburgh highlighting our partnership with the The School Superintendents Association (AASA), and our dedication toward preparing students for tomorrow.
- Students, grades 9-12, in Mr. Jason Shorr's art classes have been working for over a year to create two special mural panels depicting the former Blum's Shoe Store, a four-generation local business. The project was funded by Randy Hart through a mini grant from his family foundation. Mr. Shorr said that students especially enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to "the area's history and investment in the community." [Read the Cranberry Eagle article here.](#)
- The Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) summer camp registration is now open! This program offers a variety of exciting experiences for every interest - from artistic masterpieces to culinary delights, LEGO adventures to sports thrills. Register [today](#) for a summer filled with creativity, fun and confidence-building!
- SV Backpack Flyers - Flyers are updated frequently and feature information on student and community events/activities. Learn more at [Backpack Flyers / Backpack Flyers \(svsd.net\)](#).
- Healthy habits - SV's Health Services Department would like to remind everyone to eat well, sleep well, stay hydrated and wash hands frequently. Additionally, they ask that you please stay home or keep your child home when sick, and for 24 hours after fever is gone without medication or 24 hours without vomiting/diarrhea. Thank you!
- Seneca Valley residents 62 years of age or older are invited to apply to become a member of the Seneca Valley School District Gold Card Club. Membership entitles card holders to attend home athletic events, music, dramatic and other school productions. To apply for a gold card, please visit [Parents/Community / Gold Card Club \(svsd.net\)](#).
- Reality Tour is an accessible substance prevention program that delivers information to get parent and child on the same page.
 - [Substance Abuse Prevention for Parents - CANDLE, Inc. \(candleinc.org\)](#)
- 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.

CHECK IT OUT

Check out our latest [YouTube videos](#) and don't forget to subscribe!



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. ■



JOIN THE SENECA VALLEY TEAM!



Applications accepted at www.svsd.net/Employment.



APPLY TODAY!

Teacher applicants needed for
2024-25:

Elementary

Secondary

Special Education

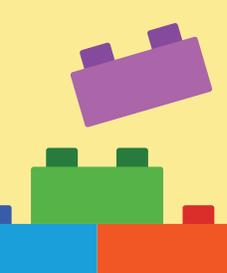
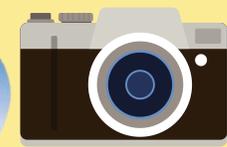


Benefits of working at Seneca Valley:

- Competitive salaries & benefits
- Professional development & faculty mentoring
- Commitment to supporting diverse faculty & staff
- Inclusive community and engaged students
- Commitment to community service
- Exceptional facilities

The Seneca Valley School District is committed to advancing equity and embracing diversity and inclusion in the workplace. EOE.

To learn more and apply, scan
the QR code or visit www.svsd.net/Employment.



Academy of Choice

SUMMER CAMPS

Camp Offerings

June 10-13 week 1

SV Summer Band Camp (HMS)
Band students with at least 1 year of experience | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Haine Middle School

Culinary Arts I
Grades 5-12 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Senior High School Kitchen

Pastry Arts Camp
Grades 5-12 | 12:30 pm – 4 p.m.
Intermediate High School Kitchen

Building Up Your Imagination LEGO® 1
Grades 1-2 | 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ehrman Crest Elementary School

Building Up Your Imagination LEGO® 2
Grades 3-4 | 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Ehrman Crest Elementary School

Dream It, Build It! 3D Printing and Gaming
Grades 4-8 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Intermediate High School

Sign up for both!

June 17-20 week 2

Sports Camp
Grades 4-8 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Haine Middle School

FIRST Robotics & Programming
Grades 7-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Senior High School

SVAOC Dance
Grades 5-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
RGMS Dance Studio

The Art of Photography
Grades 7-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Intermediate High School

June 24-27 week 3

Camp Confidence
Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
CVE School

SV Summer Orchestra Camp
Orchestra students in grades 4-8 with at least 1 year of experience
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Ehrman Crest Middle School

July 8-11 week 4

Camp Chill: Session 1
Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Rowan Elementary School

July 15-18 week 5

Fitness Fun!
Grades 1-6 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Ehrman Crest Elementary School

Art
Grades 5-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Intermediate High School

Camp Chill: Session 2
Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
CVE School

July 22-August 1 week 6

SV Summer Band Camp (ECMS)
Band students with at least 1 year of experience | 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ehrman Crest Middle School

July 30-August 1

week 7

Kinder Kids
Students entering kindergarten
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Haine Elementary School





START YOUR ENGINES



**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Race start: 8:30am

Cranberry Community Park

\$25 Adult • \$15 Child

yourctcc.org/5k



SUMMER STARTS AT THE

WATERPARK!



Opening Day! - Saturday, May 25

Totally Tubular Tuesday Night Swims
Tuesdays, June 11 - August 6, 9-11 PM

Noodle Nights
Fridays, June 14 - August 9, 6-8 PM

Military Appreciation Days
Sundays - May 26, June 30, July 28, August 25

World's Largest Swimming Lesson
Thursday, June 20

Christmas in July - Thursday, July 25

Puppy Plunge - Saturday, September 7

**Rentals available for birthdays, grad parties,
family reunions, & more! - All summer long!**

BUY A MEMBERSHIP & SAVE! VISIT CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/WATERPARK



*THIS IS NOT A SENECA VALLEY SPONSORED PROGRAM

SIGN UP ONLINE AT [CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://cranberrytownship.org/volunteer)

COMMUNITY DAYS

Lend a hand this summer at CTCC Community Days! Volunteers are needed to help manage parking during the three-day festival, Thursday July 11 - Saturday, July 13. Over 50,000 visitors are expected. Volunteers will be provided shirt, snacks, water, and appropriate safety gear/equipment.

Volunteers must be 16+



**VOLUNTEER
CRANBERRY**