RAIDER PRIDE

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

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

THE GRAND REVEAL



Together, with the nine municipalities that comprise the Seneca Valley School District, students officially unveiled our new "Home of the Seneca Valley Raiders" signs during a special ceremony held Nov. 3 in Jackson Township, the epicenter of the District.

Last April, a group of passionate students launched a meaningful initiative: a districtwide signage project designed to strengthen connections, boost school pride and celebrate what it means to be part of the Seneca Valley family.

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





These 12" x 18" reflective signs are more than decorative. According to the research conducted by the student team, data shows that visible displays of school pride can positively impact students' mental health, improve attendance and strengthen the bond between schools and the neighborhoods they serve.

Special thanks to our students, administrators, teachers and municipality leaders for their collaboration and dedication towards this project!





TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Preparing for Winter Weather....4
World Kindness Day....9
Athletics....17
Successful Strides: Honoring Sgt. Ryan Gloyer....22
27th Annual Senior Holiday Event....26
Smart Corner....31

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 26-Dec. 1	District Holiday, No School
Dec. 4	School Board Reorganization Meeting, SHS Auditorium, 5 p.m.
Dec. 8	ACT Testing, SHS, 7:30 a.m.
Dec. 22	Senior Holiday Event, IHS Auditorium, 12:30 p.m.
Dec. 24-Jan. 2	Winter Break, No School

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

IT'S AN HONOR!

Click here to view the 2025-26 First Nine Weeks Honor Rolls for grades 7-12

HONORING SV VETERANS

We'd like to take a moment to share our deep appreciation for all United States Armed Forces military veterans. As we recognize November as National Veteran and Military Families Month, we're excited to spotlight some incredible SV staff members who have served our country.

Learn more about each veteran below.

John T. Kortz - JROTC Instructor



Command Sergeant Major / Motor Transport Operator / Recruiter – U.S. Army

Years of Service: 25

Wars served: Operation Iraqi Freedom

Military Decorations: Meritorious Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal

What are you most proud of about your service?
Assisting in the enlistment of thousands of Americans into today's military. I am also proud of my service during the war on terror.

Howard Keebler – JROTC Instructor

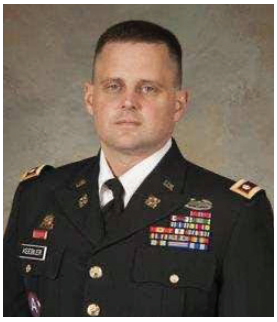


Colonel / Logistics Officer / Enlisted Infantryman – U.S. Army

Years of Service: 33

Wars served: Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

Military Decorations: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge



What are you most proud of about your service?
I've enjoyed meeting and working with the greatest soldiers in the world. I was blessed to work with America's very best and brightest sons and daughters. A pure joy to teach, coach and mentor America's next generation of leaders.

Robert Buchanan – Intermediate High School Custodian



E-5 55BROVO Ammunition Specialist – U.S. Army

Years of Service: 8

Wars served: Operation Desert Storm

Military Decorations: Army Service Ribbon, Army Lapel Button, M16 Sharpshooter Badge, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Air Assault Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Stars

What are you most proud of about your service?
Liberating Kuwait

Amber Christy – SV Head Security



E5 / Aviation Fueler and Handler – U.S. Navy

Years of Service: 8

Wars served: Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

Military Decorations: Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (NAM)

What are you most proud of about your service?
I am proud to say that I took an oath that stands solid to this day. To be able to take a step into a role that I was terrified of the unknown and what was to come of it. To be able to create bonds and a family that I still have to this day. Being able to be a part of something bigger than myself and say I did it and come out on this side and be able to give advice to those who are thinking about taking the route of joining the military. I say do it. It's an experience you will never forget!

Matthew Setnar – Connequenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) School Resource Office (SRO)

Zelienople Police Department

Lance Corporal (LCpl.) / Military Police – U.S. Marine Corps

Years of Service: 6



School Resource Officer Matthew Setnar pictured (right) with Officer Logan Brink

ECMS STUDENTS HONOR VETERANS

Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) honored veterans this month by hosting their annual Veterans Recognition Breakfast. The breakfast consisted of about 50 veterans along with the students who invited them as their special guests. The ECMS Band performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" followed by special performances by the ECMS sixth grade Chorus and Orchestra. Taps was played by sixth grade soloist Matthew Tomaszewski. Guests were greeted with cards and heartfelt messages from students and enjoyed a presentation featuring names and photos of local veterans.

Shoutout to Ms. Angela Cardillo's second grade class from Rowan Elementary School for making the placemats used at the breakfast and for ECMS fifth and sixth grade teachers for organizing a fantastic event!





















A PATRIOTIC WELCOME

Students in Ms. Bobbi Lyn Cooper's kindergarten class at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School placed American Flags along the inner entry circle to honor veterans this Veterans Day.







SV PREPARES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

As colder temperatures move into the region, we want to take this opportunity to share our plans for inclement weather delays and closures for the 2025-26 school year. We understand how much students look forward to the excitement of a snow day, and we want them to experience that joy when the snow is truly falling! **Like last year, decisions about the type of school closure will be made in real time based on the specific weather conditions at the time.** As a result, the first closure might not be a traditional snow day; it could be a remote learning day if conditions like an ice storm or extreme cold occur. However, if we opt for a traditional snow day, there are two makeup days built into the school calendar:

- Should the first snow day occur before Feb. 13, 2026, the makeup day will be Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.
- Should the second snow day happen before March 16, 2026, the makeup day will be Monday, March 16, 2026.

When the District announces a remote learning day, it will be a **livestreaming day with a two-hour student delay start time. Students will be expected to log on to the SV Portal and access the teacher-provided livestreaming link(s) in the Announcements section.** Students can also access meetings through their calendar on Teams. Inclement weather school/class announcements will be made available for student/parent viewing via the SV Portal after 9:30 a.m. on the day of the closure.

Here are the schedules for remote learning days:

K-6 Schedule for inclement weather CLOSURE days:

10:55 a.m. - 3:25 p.m. - Remote Synchronous Instruction with Students (teachers will post classroom schedules in the announcement section of the portal)

Modified A.M. Kindergarten: 10:55 a.m. - 12:43 p.m.

Modified P.M. Kindergarten: 1:37 - 3:25 p.m.

7-8 Schedule for inclement weather CLOSURE days:

10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Remote Synchronous Instruction with Students

Period 1 - 10 – 10:25 a.m.

Period 2 - 10:30 – 10:55 a.m.

Period 3 - 11 – 11:25 a.m.

Period 4 - 11:30 – 11:55 a.m.

LUNCH - Noon – 12:30 p.m.

Period 5 - 12:35 – 1 p.m.

Period 6 - 1:05 – 1:30 p.m.

Period 7 - 1:35 – 2 p.m.

Period 8 - 2:05 - 2:30 p.m.

9-12 Schedule on inclement weather CLOSURE days:

10:01 a.m.– 2:33 p.m. - Remote Synchronous Instruction with Students

Period 1 - 10:01 – 10:26 a.m.

Period 2 - 10:30 – 10:55 a.m.

Period 3 - 10:59 – 11:24 a.m.

Period 4 - 11:28 – 11:58 a.m.

Period 5 - 12:02 – 12:32 p.m.

Period 6 - 12:36 – 1:06 p.m.

Period 7 - 1:10 – 1:35 p.m.

Period 8 - 1:39 – 2:04 p.m.

Period 9 - 2:08 – 2:33 p.m.

The above schedule and closure information will be made available via the homepage of the District website (www.svsd.net) anytime the District announces a school closure.

As we have learned, livestreaming can sometimes be disruptive to optimal learning in both the traditional and remote environments. Therefore, we want to ask for your assistance when students are livestreaming:



- **Learning environment** – Students should be ready and prepared to learn. Students should be seated at a table or desk **free from distractions. The student should not be traveling in a car or livestreaming in a loud environment. Please have student supplies readily available.**
- **Laptop Cameras** must be turned on (students are permitted to blur their background for privacy).
- **Laptop Microphones** should stay muted until the student needs to speak.
- **Recording & AI notes** – Due to privacy laws, students are not permitted to record a live lesson/ session or use AI to record notes. However, some teachers may choose to do so for absentee students. If a teacher chooses to record their teaching session, student names and videos must be redacted before sharing with others.

Students unable to livestream due to childcare needs or illness will be given assistance when they return and time to make up the day's assignments.

If you have any extenuating circumstances, you may reach out to your child's teacher(s).

SV RECOGNIZES CHILDREN'S GRIEF AWARENESS DAY

On Thursday, Nov. 20, faculty, staff and students from across the District recognized Children's Grief Awareness Day by wearing blue and taking part in a variety of activities. At Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE), a parent who authored a heartfelt book about the loss of a loved one generously shared their story, while students at Rowan Elementary School read "The Invisible String" and decorated butterflies recognizing those they are connected to by an "invisible string." The butterflies were adorned in the hallways to encourage schoolwide support.





At the secondary level, high school students raised funds for Highmark's Caring Place by collecting donations from local businesses to assemble raffle items. Junior Savannah Inman and senior Ainzley McGee sold raffle tickets during lunch periods, raising more than $400, with all proceeds benefiting the Caring Place.

Students also created a "Chain of Hope," writing heartfelt notes to support anyone coping with grief.

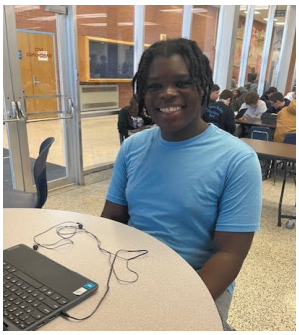
Intermediate high students partnered with guidance counselors and teachers at the LIGHT Center to decorate votives in honor of loved ones they have lost. Additionally, the school community was encouraged to wear blue on Nov. 20 to show support for all who have experienced the loss of someone dear.

If SV students, staff and/or their families are in need of mental health support services, Care Solace is here to help. Visit www.Caresolace.com/Seneca. Other mental health resources are also available on our website at www.svsd.net/mentalwellness. ■











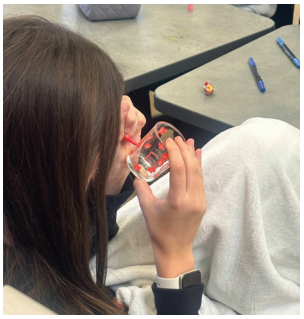














AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE DAY

No passport was needed for this exciting global experience! On Friday, Oct. 10, Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) students took part in an interactive Cultural Day, getting a glimpse into the traditions and customs of 14 different cultures. ECMS fifth and sixth graders enjoyed learning about styles, foods, histories, holidays and lifestyles from around the world through engaging activities.

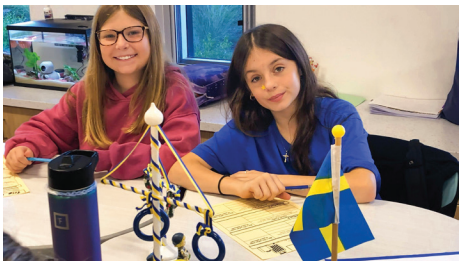
"Culture is an important part of the way we experience life," said Michelle Steinmetz, ECMS Guidance Counselor. "These presenters helped share a larger view of the world outside the classroom and allowed students to connect the similarities and differences between their culture and the cultures introduced on Cultural Day."

"One fifth grader said, "Knowing global awareness and learning about other countries helps me work with other people because it can show me other perspectives and beliefs and learn to compromise."









"I learned that it's important to ask questions and learn about others instead of assuming things," mentioned an ECMS sixth grade student. "This can help me work better with teammates who have different backgrounds."

Special thanks to all those who attended Cultural Day and represented the fourteen cultures: Belize, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand and the Zuni Tribe.

SWEET AND STICKY CELEBRATIONS

Students at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) were ready to GLOW! The school wrapped up its fall booster fundraiser with a glow dance and a lively, schoolwide assembly. After surpassing their goal and raising over $35,000, students celebrated in style, and with plenty of laughs!

Select students had the chance to "pie" principals Mr. Jeremy Womer and Dr. Taisia Papariella, while top fundraisers earned a trip inside an inflatable igloo to claim special prizes. As an extra treat (and a slightly sticky twist), Mr. Womer even found himself duct-taped to the wall!

All proceeds from this fun-filled event will support playground upgrades.

Way to go, CVE! What a sweet way to end the day!











SV BEST BUDDIES CELEBRATE FALL FUN

Celebrating the fall festivities, Haine's Best Buddies chapter recently hosted a pumpkin painting event! Teacher-nominated third, fourth and fifth graders teamed up with students from Haine's Multiple Supports classrooms for a fun and heartwarming collaborative experience.

Best Buddies International is a nonprofit organization consisting of volunteers that create opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. At the elementary level, it's about promoting inclusion and friendship among students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities through group activities. For more information about the program, visit www.bestbuddies.org.

The chapter looks forward to continued group activities in the winter and spring, including the third Annual Seneca Valley Best Buddies walk on May 30, at North Boundary Park.

















A VOTE TOWARD 'STUMPKIN'

In collaboration with Haine Elementary School's PTO Read-A-Thon, third graders held their annual Pumpkin Drawing Contest. Each pumpkin design was inspired by a book that students read. After voting, one student from each class was awarded a copy of "Stumpkin" by Lucy Cummins, generously provided by the Haine PTO.



SPECIAL VISITS FROM FIREFIGHTERS

Our youngest learners recently celebrated Community Helpers Week with a special visit from the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company (CTVFC). SV preschoolers learned about fire safety and the important role of a firefighter. After exploring the firetruck and equipment, students had the exciting opportunity to sit inside! We thank the members of CTVFC for taking the time to teach students not to be afraid when they see a firefighter or fire truck. Special shoutout to SV juniors Eshan Abedin, Mason Durst and Fynn O'Donnell for arranging this visit!















At Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE), kindergarteners were fired up for a special visit from the Harmony Fire District! Along with learning key fire safety lessons, students proudly presented a donation check made possible through their schoolwide change collection.









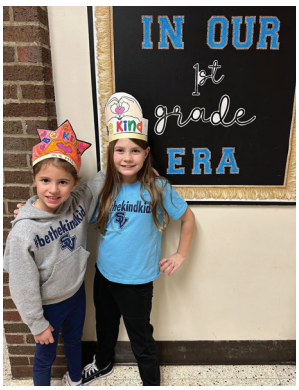
BOXES, BAGS AND BUNCHES OF SV KINDNESS

*"No act of **kindness**, no matter how small, is ever wasted."* - Aesop

World Kindness Day was celebrated on Nov. 13 with districtwide activities and events. Students in Ms. Angela Cardillo's class at Rowan Elementary School treated their bodies with kindness by taking part in a calming yoga session while Haine Elementary first graders in Ms. Rachael Gales' class created colorful art to promote kindness.







SHARING SWEETS AND OUR SUPPORT

Throughout November, the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) partnered with the SV Senior High School, Ryan Gloyer Middle School and Rowan Elementary to support the Military Connections program by collecting candy for our troops. This initiative encouraged students, staff and families to donate sweet treats, which were packaged and sent to military personnel serving overseas. We're proud to be part of such a meaningful community effort, showing our gratitude and support for those who serve.



BAKED WITH CARE

It was an extra "sweet" day for the Ryan Gloyer Middle School Bobcat Team! Students volunteered to bake cookies and brownies that were added to free meals provided in the community. The team made over 150 individually wrapped desserts to share with local families.













STRENGTH IN REMEMBRANCE

Monday, Oct. 27, marked seven years since the tragic shooting that took place at the Tree of Life synagogue. In an effort to further educate students and confront the realities of hate, Remember, Educate and Combat Hate (REACH), the 10.27 Healing Partnership's Speakers' Bureau, visited Seneca Valley Intermediate High School on Wednesday, Oct. 29, to share their powerful, personal stories with students.



The speakers included survivors and family members who lost loved ones in the October 27, 2018 synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. They recounted their firsthand experiences with hate-fueled violence and later participated in a Q&A session with students. Among those who shared their stories were Ms. Peg Durachko, Ms. Carol Black, Mr. Stanley Mallinger and Mr. Alan Mallinger.

As students learned about the tragedy, they created a butterfly mural along the hallway to honor the victims. A heartfelt gesture of remembrance and hope, the mural featured powerful tributes, uplifting messages and personal pledges to stand against hate. After the discussion, many students stayed to ask thoughtful questions and speak with the family members.

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







THINK PINK

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, observed in October, several staff members at Haine Elementary School participated in a "Pink Out" to support our staff, students, families and friends who have been affected by breast cancer.



By Varden Armstrong,
Performing Arts Coordinator

SV ORCHESTRA STUDENTS EARN REGIONAL RECOGNITION

This month, 23 Seneca Valley orchestra students in grades 7-9 participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 String Fest at Sharon City High School. This one-day string fest combines students from school districts across Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. Orchestra students learned three pieces during the school day and performed them that evening with guest conductor Ms. Gretchen Wyder Zunic. Ms. Wyder teaches high school and middle school orchestra in the Upper Arlington School District in Ohio. It was a wonderful day of collaboration and hard work!



Student participants:

Emma Bergen (9th, Violin)

Kendal FitzGerald (9th, Violin)

Layla Kinney (9th, Violin)

Aubrey Morelli (9th, Violin)

Cole Neiswender (9th, Violin)

Lila Padgelek (9th, Violin)

Monique Polas (9th, Viola)

Charlotte Riggle (9th, Cello)

Charley Shipley (9th, Viola)

Yoel Tuquabo (9th, Bass)

Sienna Vitalbo (9th, Violin)

Emily Browne (8th, Cello)

Lily English (8th, Viola)

Stana Galitsis (8th, Violin)

Ainsley Hmel (8th, Viola)

Kyler Leroy (8th, Bass)

Noah Negley (8th, Bass)

Eddie Ryu (8th, Cello)

Shea Skwortz (8th, Violin)

Zachary Sypien (8th, Cello)

Japas Duggal (7th, Viola)

Cora Monhemius (7th, Viola)

Chau Tran (7th, Violin)

LIVE IN STUDIO

With the launch of the official SV Jazz YouTube channel, Seneca Valley Jazz Ensemble I released the recordings from last year's studio session. The Vault Studio sponsored the educational outreach in February, which was featured in a previous issue of Raider Pride. The band had the amazing opportunity to record in a professional studio and learn firsthand about the challenges of producing a final product. Photographer Tim James took photos that now accompany the recordings on the new YouTube channel.

www.youtube.com/@svjazz.

The ensemble is honored to have been invited back and will return to the studio to record two more tracks in January 2026.





PERFECT PITCH

Each year, all choral students in grades 9-12 from Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties are invited to audition to be a part of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Honor Choir. This year, 26 of the 96 chosen for the choir were Seneca Valley students! The students are scored on pitch, intonation, rhythm, interpretation, technique and tone.

"We are very proud of the individual effort that goes into these auditions," said choir directors Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander and Mr. Kyle Masson. "We are so happy for the personal growth that takes place. Our students earned four of the eight first-place chairs and represented themselves and SV very well!"



Congratulations to the following students:

Soprano I
Shayla Kemp - Chair 3 - Grade 12

Hannah Callender - Chair 4 - Grade 10

Julia Miller - Chair 9 - Grade 11

Soprano II
Morgan Stanton - Chair 3 - Grade 11

Madelyn Tresky - Chair 4 - Grade 12

Madelynn Karns - Chair 12 - Grade 12

Alto I
Aydan Danylo - Chair 1 - Grade 12

Calleigh Foulkrod - Chair 7 - Grade 12

Jillian Snyder - Chair 8 - Grade 12

Ava Beaudoin - Chair 10 - Grade 9

Chloe Robertson - Chair 11 - Grade 11

Alto II
Autumn Holmes - Chair 3 - Grade 12

Morgan Clay - Chair 5 - Grade 11

Anna DeVyver - Chair 10 - Grade 11

Tenor I
Jacob Maietta - Chair 1 - Grade 12

Layne Vandenburgh - Chair 3 - Grade 11

Jayden Wiedmeyer - Chair 10 - Grade 12

Tenor II
Nathan Capizzi - Chair 1 - Grade 12

Jacob Harding - Chair 6 - Grade 11

Bass I
Gavan Traugh - Chair 2 - Grade 9

Jacob Hensler - Chair 4 - Grade 12

Bernardo Casimiro Vilas Boas - Chair 5 - Grade 11

Artie Covell - Chair 6 - Grade 12

Bass II
John Rieger - Chair 1 - Grade 12

Quintin Hixon - Chair 5 - Grade 10

Evan Reckless - Chair 8 - Grade 12

A NOTE-ABLE VISIT

On Nov. 13, students in our Seneca Valley Chamber Orchestra and String Orchestra were rehearsed by Grove City College Orchestra Director Dr. Jeffrey Tedford. Students in these ensembles showcased pieces for their upcoming concert including sections from "Capriccio Espagnol," "Lullaby to the Moon," and "In Winter." Dr. Tedford worked with students on advanced ensemble skills, helping them elevate their musical performance.







STANDOUT SV MADRIGAL PERFORMANCES

On Nov. 2, the Seneca Valley Madrigal Singers joined the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale (PCC) for a collaborative performance at the Third Presbyterian Church in Shadyside. Students performed their own portion of the concert and joined the PCC in a finale featuring the world premiere of "Time to Rise," a newly commissioned choral work by nationally recognized choral composer Sherry Blevins. After hearing the SV Madrigals, Ms. Belvins invited them to Carnegie Hall in New York City this April, where she will premiere new works and showcase the creative partnership between the composers and singers. While this opportunity is cost prohibitive for this spring, it is being explored for the future.

In addition to the performance, two Seneca Valley students, John Rieger and Morgan Roithner, were awarded scholarships in recognition of their musical excellence, leadership and future pursuits in the performing arts.







"This was an incredible opportunity for our students to perform in a beautiful architectural setting and to be part of a world premiere," said Seneca Valley Choral Director Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander. "The experience not only celebrated their hard work and talent but also reinforced the importance of collaboration and artistic growth."

On Nov. 9, at The Strand Theater in Zelienople, the Madrigal Singers and Quartets performed as the opening act for a capella group "Ball in the House." Based in Boston and performing for over two decades, the group is up for Grammy consideration through the Recording Academy with their original song "Take A Chance," receiving nominations as Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, Best Song Arrangement, Song of the Year and Record of the Year. Students were humbled and honored to have this opportunity through the Strand Theater!

These events continue Seneca Valley's long-standing tradition of providing outstanding musical experiences for students while strengthening connections within our district and the broader Pittsburgh arts community.

Photos courtesy of Christopher Leisie, photographer at The Strand Theater





'STRINGING' TOGETHER

Last month, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) seventh grade Orchestra students had the opportunity to participate in a side-by-side rehearsal with the high school Chamber Orchestra. This was the first side-by-side collaboration between the two ensembles! More than 80 students took part in this rehearsal, which included working together on a seventh-grade Orchestra piece that will be performed at their Winter Concert. The Chamber Orchestra then played a medley from "Star Wars" for the seventh graders, followed by an engaging question-and-answer session.

This side-by-side experience allowed our seventh graders to see what participating in high school Orchestra is like, create connections between ensembles and collaborate in the music-making process.



"It was cool to see the Chamber Orchestra play 'Star Wars,'" said seventh grade violinist Lilly Carey. "The rehearsal inspired me to continue playing and practicing my instrument to reach my goal of playing in the Chamber Orchestra!"

SV High School students in Mr. Shaffer's eighth period photography classes attended the rehearsal to take and edit photos. Thank you to the photography department, Ethan Heid, Michael Clark, Colton Macdougall and Mr. Shaffer, for your collaboration in making the side-by-side rehearsal a success!







BARBERSHOP AND BEAUTYSHOP QUARTETS JOIN TO HONOR VETERANS

Members of the Seneca Valley Barbershop and Beautyshop Quartets performed on Nov. 11 for Veterans Day at Sherwood Oaks and Mission BBQ in Cranberry Township.

"It's an honor to sing for our community's Veterans and their loved ones," said senior Nathan Capizzi.

Quartet members include Aydan Danylo, Autumn Holmes, Shayla Kemp, Morgan Roithner, Nathan Capizzi, Artie Covell, Jacob Maietta and John Rieger.







ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR FOR 'THE SENECA SCOUT'

The first semester of the 2025-26 school year has brought with it the return of our unique, Seneca Valley-focused news program called "The Seneca Scout." Produced by the college in high school (CHS) Broadcast News class, "The Seneca Scout" weekly show has students writing and reporting on current events and lesser-known items, ranging from school to district to national and, occasionally, international news. This year's crew is comprised of students, grades 9-12, including those with and without prior video or writing experience, creating a dynamic and hardworking crew! Throughout the week, in addition to research and writing, student journalists shoot relevant video footage for their stories, interview experts, make graphics and videos, test all technical equipment and do run-throughs before recording and airing their final show on Fridays. This crew has already reported on countless district stories, notable academic and artistic accomplishments, sports and entertainment, and current world events. Students have produced polished and in-depth video packages detailing the Ryan Gloyer Middle School Musical, Madrigal Choir, Youth and Government club, local takes on the government shutdown, and the SV Boys Hockey Team, to name a few.

"I really like this class because it's letting me learn more about how to get real world journalism experience in high school," said junior Kellen Mattas.











Audiences can see a new episode of "The Seneca Scout" every Friday at 7 p.m. on SVTV (Armstrong channel 208), premiering live on SVTV's YouTube page (youtube.com/senecavalleytv), or streaming live from the SVTV website. The CHS Broadcast News class is a fantastic opportunity for any students interested in journalism, technology, media literacy and video production, all with the possibility of earning college credit through Point Park University.

A 'FROZEN' ADVENTURE: MARCH 2026

Even as we celebrate the fall, the All-School Musical team is working hard to bring the pure magic of Disney's "Frozen" to the SV stage! Auditions were held mid-November, and excitement is building as we prepare to transport our community to the kingdom of Arendelle. This powerful tale of sisterhood and finding the true meaning of love is scheduled for March 12-15, 2026!

We are also thrilled to announce that we will once again offer a sensory-friendly performance of "Frozen." This is a relaxed experience designed for individuals with sensory sensitivities or anyone who benefits from a more accommodating environment. Watch for the sensory-friendly schedule in the coming months!

Disney's FROZEN THE MUSICAL

CURTAIN CALL! SV THEATER LOOKS BACK AND LEAPS AHEAD

The lights went down, the curtains closed and, just like that, our spectacular fall musical season at Seneca Valley is officially over – and what a ride it was! From the electric energy of "Rock of Ages," to the classic charm of "Singin' in the Rain, JR.," our stage was buzzing with talent. With over 250 amazing students involved, these experiences, on and off stage, created truly unforgettable memories.

Why do we pour our hearts and souls into the theater program? It's simple: it's about the profound impact on our students and the joy of offering our audience a much-needed escape from everyday life.

Theater is a complete celebration of collaboration and community. Every round of applause is a testament to the students' tireless effort toward perfecting their craft. These moments build a deep sense of belonging and equip our theater students with lifelong skills: teamwork, public speaking, creative thinking, leadership, and future career opportunities.

We constantly remind our students to believe in themselves and, as Broadway veterans shared with students in February, to "shut out the noise and follow their star." To keep our community strong, Seneca Valley Performing Arts focuses on student empowerment and cross-curriculum collaboration with departments like Visual Arts, Graphic Arts, Video Production and the Purpose Program to enrich shows and expand their reach across the school.

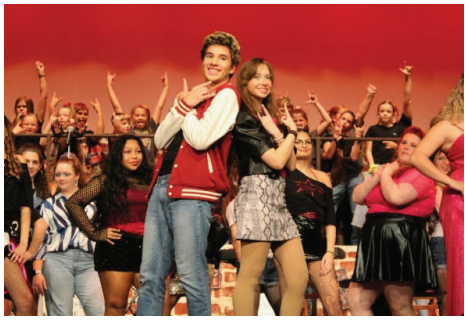














By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

WHEN SPORT IS BIGGER THAN A SCOREBOARD

Sports often create defining moments, and I had the joy of a front-row seat to many this past fall. A few standouts among the countless competitions — Pink Night and Shoulder Check pre-game festivities, the final-game victory by Raider Football over North Allegheny, and Raider Soccer's appearance at Highmark Stadium for the WPIAL championships — reminded me that sport, itself, is much bigger than the scoreboard. In each of these moments, I watched the SV logo galvanize a community, saw #SVRaiderPride unite us all and witnessed our student-athletes compete with uncommon respect, unwavering effort and profound school pride.



Prior to the start of our final home football game, Raider Athletics hosted our annual Pink Night game and introduced our collaborative efforts with ShoulderCheck.org. As a breast cancer survivor, Pink Night is personal to me. What makes the evening so special is that it honors not only those impacted by breast cancer, but anyone affected by cancer. Before kickoff, I had the privilege of meeting many community members who I consider my "teammates" – warriors for life in the journey of battling cancer. I have shared hugs and tears with families whose loved ones traveled their journeys with courage and valor until the very last step. It is a night that inspires me each October. We also highlighted the importance of mental health and the power of a simple gesture — a hand on the shoulder to remind someone they are not alone. Shoulder Check is a commitment to checking in on each other daily. We may not always know who needs a hand, but we all have a hand to give. Even before the game began, we united two communities around a shared purpose: support, empathy and togetherness.

For an athlete, there are some games that carry just a bit more weight and Raider Football vs. the Tigers of North Allegheny is undeniably one of them. Our neighboring rival had held the upper hand for several years; one team was headed to the playoffs, while our seniors were



lacing up their pads one last time on their home field. Despite predictions of a Tiger victory, this team — this senior class — had other plans. From the very first whistle, our Raiders demonstrated a tenacity of champions. Their focus and preparation were apparent and they outperformed their opponent on every snap. Following a Danny Drennan game-clinching pick-six and the hard-nosed running of Cayden Parker to close out the game, the team erupted in celebration as the clock hit 00:00 and the scoreboard beamed: SV 21 – NA 18. The ensuing celebratory madness of teammates and families, peers and community members was a sight to simply step back and soak in. The sea of blue and black, embodying the pride of



#SVRaiderNation, is one that will remain etched in memory. And for our graduating seniors, there was no more fitting farewell; their legacy is the foundation on which future success will be built.

Those at Highmark Stadium on Halloween witnessed a student section proudly cheering on their peers, with Halloween costumes on full display. Their directive was simple: "don't show up if you're not in costume." And oh, did they deliver! Their festive spirit and energy made for a remarkable evening. Behind them sat #SVRaiderNation dressed in blue and black, loud and proud of our Raider soccer teams. We were treated to an incredible display of soccer talent, and yet, as sports often remind us, we felt the sting when the heartbreak of defeat struck not once, but twice. For me, what stood out even more than the final score was the character of our athletes. They congratulated their opponents with handshakes and hugs, then graciously accepted their silver medals and trophy. That is the power of sport — teaching us to win with humility and lose with dignity, lessons first learned on the field and carried for life.



As we enter this season of gratitude, I want to share with our community the immense pride I feel in wearing the SV logo — a symbol of a student body committed to humble excellence and a community overflowing with pride. I eagerly anticipate countless more moments where sport and activity continue to teach lessons that last a lifetime.

- Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley School District Athletic Director

FALL SPORT POSTSEASON RECAPS

Cross-Country

As reported in our October issue, Raider Cross-Country teams were preparing for the Oct. 23, WPIAL Championships at White Oak Park. The boys team finished in sixth place and senior Riley McGee claimed the spot as SV's top runner, finishing in



16:12.10 and at 23rd place overall, earning a trip to the PIAA State Championships! Teammate Ian Wahl was close behind at 16:24.20, earning 27th place. Rounding out the team's top five scorers were Jackson McClune (48th, 16:56.50), Chase LaPaglia (71st, 17:10.60), and Henry Collins (84th, 17:23.80). At the PIAA State Championships, McGee ran a 17:53 in his final cross-country race wearing the SV. We congratulate Riley on an outstanding senior season as a state qualifier! The Raiders will return all (including Hunter Petersen) but Riley in 2026 – a season that will be full of great potential. For the girls, SV finished 10th overall and were led by a tight pack including Gracie Gordon (57th, 20:20.50), Siena Varlotta (60th, 20:22.40), Elyse Cilik (67th, 20:30), Paige D'Amico (70th, 20:32) and Giulia Pologruto (78th, 20:44.50). This team will return its top four-point scorers in addition to Everly Harrell; and, like the boys, the future is very promising for Raider Girls Cross-Country. We congratulate this team on their success this year.

Football

The 2025 Raider Football squad sent its senior class off in style, defeating long-time rival North Allegheny in NexTier Stadium by a score of 21-18. Senior Danny Drennan scored the game-winning points off a pick-six and the Raider defense stood tall as the Tigers attempted their comeback. Senior Cayden Parker capped off a brilliant night, running the football and gaining a key first down on the final drive of the game. Teammate Andrew Loebig was able to run out the clock, and the Raiders were victorious – a great way for the Class of '26 to go out on their final home game. We



congratulate this group of seniors, thank them for their outstanding leadership and look forward to hearing of all their success in future years. The foundation they built in 2025 will catapult Raider Football into 2026 and beyond.

Boys Soccer

Since our last publication, it has been an exciting few weeks for the Raider Boys Soccer program. Following a first-round



bye in the WPIAL 4A bracket, SV hosted Canon-McMillan in the quarterfinals and secured a 3-1 win to square off against top-seeded Peters Township. The semifinal was a lopsided affair as the Raiders controlled pace of play, dominated possession and saw Owen Eastgate score a hat trick in a 3-0 win. Two decisive playoff victories had SV facing off against Fox Chapel in the WPIAL 4A Championship.

The championship match was all it was billed up to be – quality soccer played with a high level of respect between two outstanding teams. Through regulation and double overtime, neither squad was able to penetrate outstanding defensive and goalkeeping play, setting up penalty kicks (PK) to determine the winner. On this night, the Foxes came out victorious in PKs and successfully defended their WPIAL title. With their runner-up trophy in hand, SV traveled to Erie McDowell, weathering wind, cold and even a delay from light outage to secure a 2-1 overtime



win. On the road again, the Raiders faced Warwick in Chambersburg earning a 1-0 win thanks to stingy defense and a timely goal from, once again, Owen Eastgate. Suddenly, the Raiders were one of only four teams remaining in boys 4A soccer, with a state semifinal against Abington on the horizon. As sport often reminds us, some nights simply aren't yours. Against an experienced, physical Abington squad, the Raiders were unable to find their rhythm. In the end, the eventual state champion got the better of our Raiders, bringing to close an unbelievable run towards another state title. We congratulate the players on their resilience, wish our departing seniors the best and look forward to 2026 with great anticipation.





Girls Soccer

Following a first-round bye, the second-seeded Raider Girls Soccer team hosted Upper St. Clair in WPIAL quarterfinal action. In a tightly contested match-up, Maddie Marcotte's goal in double overtime secured the victory, advancing SV to the WPIAL Girls 4A Soccer Semifinals. On neutral ground, the Raiders squared off with third-seeded Norwin and neither team was able to score a goal through regulation and two overtimes. The team advancing to the WPIAL Championship game would be decided on penalty kicks (PK). On this special night, senior goalkeeper Brynn Houser and teammate Maddie Marcotte were clutch – Houser stopping one PK and Marcotte with the game-clinching PK in the fifth spot. A third game with the North Allegheny Tigers awaited the Raiders at Highmark. Despite going up 1-0 on another Marcotte goal, the Raiders could not hold off a strong Tiger attack and the teams headed to overtime (OT) deadlocked at 1-1. In the second OT, heartbreak fell upon the Raiders as North Allegheny scored to take home the championship trophy. With the runner-up medals around their necks, the Raiders turned their attention quickly to the upcoming state playoff bracket. The first round of play took place on the road at Erie McDowell and despite giving up a goal in the first minute, SV rallied back on goals by Maddie Marcotte and Cassie Leonard to win 2-1. The team advanced to PIAA quarterfinal action against C.B. East. Unfortunately, the magic and greatness of the 2025 season would end as the Patriots of C.B. East came away victorious, 3-1. Despite the disappointment of falling to the eventual state champions, the Raiders can hold their heads high, proud of another remarkable season. We congratulate the seniors on outstanding careers, selfless leadership and highlight-worthy play all season. We look forward to 2026 with much anticipation of another chase at WPIAL gold.

Photos courtesy of A. DeFanti

Slow-Pitch Softball

Raider Girls Slow-Pitch Softball opened their postseason play as the sixth seed and squared off against Shaler in their opening game, coming away victorious 20-13. Next up were the Tigers of North Allegheny. SV fell to the eventual WPISL champions 20-6. We congratulate the entire team on a successful run in 2025 and wish our graduating seniors all the best.

Girls Volleyball

As shared in our last issue, Raider Girls Volleyball opened the WPIAL playoffs with a strong win over Armstrong and advanced to face section-foe Pine-Richland in the quarterfinals. On this particular Saturday afternoon, the Rams were just a bit better and came away with the victory. Throughout the season, this team played with tremendous heart and showed remarkable resolve whenever their backs were against the wall. We congratulate them on a fantastic season and know that the lessons of 2025 will pay dividends in 2026. Thank you, seniors — it has been a joy to watch you compete over the years.

WPIAL FOOD & FUND DRIVE CHALLENGE

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!



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** www.nextierbank.com
  "We're more than just a bank – we provide personal and business banking solutions that support our communities and help you reach your dreams."
- **Myers Law Group** www.jpmyerslaw.com
  "Official Law Firm Partner of Raider Athletics."
- **Allegheny Health Network** www.ahn.org
  "Official Sports Medicine Partner of Raider Athletics."
- **Field Turf, USA** www.fieldturf.com
  "A world leader in artificial turf and field surface for Raider Athletics."
- **Hawkins Financial Services** www.hawkins-fs.com
  "We strive to exceed our clients' long-term goals."
- **Captivating Imagery** www.captivatingimagery.com
  "Your local professional portrait photographer and proud sponsor of Raider Athletics 'Athlete of the Month' program."
- **Cranberry Psychological Center** www.cranberrypsychcenter.com
  "Don't play games with your family's emotional health. Proud sponsor of our Raider Athletics 'Game Day Stats' program."
- **Khara Family Baseball Field**

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

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED IN FALL SPORTS

The Big 56 Conference recently announced its fall sport honorees in football, boys and girls soccer and girls volleyball and the Raiders were well represented. The following Seneca Valley student-athletes were recognized by the Big 56 Conference for their excellence on the field and court.

FOOTBALL

1st Team
Max Eisenhut, Kicker
Jackson Matthews, LB
Cayden Parker, RB

2nd Team
Adam Gehm, TE
Rory O'Shea, WR
Tommy Wuycheck, DT

BOYS SOCCER

1st Team
Owen Eastgate, For
Fynn O'Donnell, Def
Jacob Prex, Mid
Luke West, Def

2nd Team
Owen Ali, Mid
Chase Good, GK
Chase Lively, Def
Michael Pokrzywinski, For
Zach White, Mid

GIRLS SOCCER

1st Team
Bella Gianfrancesco, Mid
Cassie Leonard, For
Karly Majeski, Mid
Madeline Marcotte, Mid

2nd Team
Joslyn Grillo, Def
Sydney Postler, GK

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

1st Team
Kennedy Hummert, Lib
Cami Mueller, OH

2nd Team
Sheridan Gallagher, Setter

ADDITIONAL FALL SPORT HONORS

Additional Honors – Cross-Country

All-Butler County, Boys – Henry Collins (2nd Team), Jack Crawford (2nd Team), Chase Lapaglia (2nd Team), Jackson McClune (1st Team), Riley McGee (1st Team) Hunter Petersen (Honorable Mention), Ian Wahl (1st Team)

All-Butler County, Girls – Elyse Cilik (2nd Team), Paige D'Amico (2nd Team) Graci Gordon (2nd Team) Everly Harrell (Honorable Mention), Hannah Jones (Honorable Mention), Giulia Pologruto (Honorable Mention), Sienna Varlotta (2nd Team)

Additional Honors – Boys Soccer

PSCA All-State – Owen Eastgate

WPSCA All-WPIAL – Owen Ali, Owen Eastgate, Jacob Prex

WPSCA All-Section – Owen Ali, Owen Eastgate, Fynn O'Donnell, Jacob Prex

WPSCA All-Section Honorable Mention – Michael Pokrzywinski

Additional Honors – Girls Soccer

WPHSGSCA All-WPIAL – Bella Gianfrancesco, Cassie Leonard, Karly Majeski, Maddie Marcotte, Sydney Postler

WPHSGSCA All-Section – Maddie Connellan, Bella Gianfrancesco, Joslyn Grillo, Cassie Leonard, Karly Majeski, Maddie Marcotte, Sydney Postler

Additional Honors – Girls Volleyball

WPIAL GVCA All-WPIAL – Kennedy Hummert (2nd Team), Cami Mueller (3rd Team)

WPIAL GVCA All-Section – Kennedy Hummert (1st Team), Cami Mueller (1st Team), Addison Corbett (2nd Team), Sheridan Gallagher (2nd Team), Eva Beres (3rd Team), Alaina Hahn (3rd Team)

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2026

Raider student-athletes have recently made their college commitment, officially signing to attend their college of choice. We congratulate these seniors for achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of them are tremendous representatives of Raider Athletics and we are immensely proud of their efforts in the classroom, in competition and in the community.

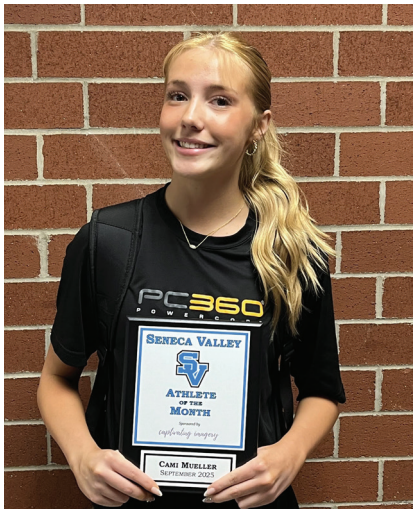
Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Easton Blair	Baseball	Saint Vincent College	Mechanical Engineering
Brandon Godleski	Baseball	Pitt-Johnstown	Accounting
Noah Rieger	Track & Field	Point Park University	Aviation
Kyla Stepp	Volleyball	IUP	Interior Design
Luis Torrenegra	Baseball	Point Park University	Mechanical Engineering
Ali Waters	Diving	UNC Wilmington	Undecided

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, SEPTEMBER 2025

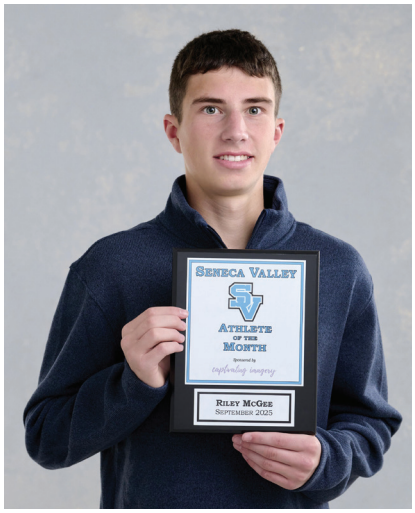
Photos courtesy of Captivating Imagery

Sponsored by Captivating Imagery - Your local professional portrait photographer.

captivating imagery



The Captivating Imagery Female Athlete of the Month for September was junior outside hitter **Cami Mueller**. A volleyball co-captain, Cami has led by example, helping the Raiders to a 7-5 record midway through the season. Through 12 games and one tournament, she tallied 12 blocks, 30 aces (first on the team), 226 assists (first on the team), 176 digs (second on the team) and 187 kills (first on the team). Cami also served at a 91.5% rate with a 20% hitting percentage. Her standout game came in a 3-0 sweep of Hampton, where she tallied 15 kills, three aces, a perfect serving percentage and a 38% hitting percentage. We recognized Cami as the September Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Cami!



The Captivating Imagery Male Athlete of the Month for September was senior cross-country runner **Riley McGee**. Serving as a pace-setter for the Raiders, Riley finished in the Top 10 of all section meets while leading the team to a 5–2 record. He placed fourth in the section meet against North Allegheny and North Hills with a time of 17:03, and won the section meet against Mars and Central Catholic with a time of 16:52. Riley has shown stellar form at invites. He placed 35th out of 311 runners at the PIAA Foundation Invitational; third out of 150 runners at the Youthtowne Invitational with a time of 16:28, helping the team to a second-place finish; and fifth at the Grove City Invitational with a 16:33 to help the Raiders place first as a team. For an impressive month, we recognized Riley as the September Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Riley!

SUCCESSFUL STRIDES: HONORING SGT. RYAN GLOYER

Over 650 people joined together for the third annual SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial 5K Run/Walk to honor the life and legacy of fallen hometown hero, Sgt. 1st Class Ryan A. Gloyer (SV '00) who courageously made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Presented by Westinghouse and hosted by the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF), this year's event welcomed a record-breaking number of participants, families and community members who gathered in memory of Sgt. Gloyer's work ethic, drive and resilience.

On a beautiful fall morning, the Memorial Run served as an opportunity to reflect on the attitudes and beliefs that made Sgt. Gloyer a role model for the entire Seneca Valley community. The record-setting proceeds from the race will support continued educational initiatives at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), that reflect Ryan's commitment to fitness, inclusiveness, perseverance and kindness, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire others.

In the days leading up to the race, RGMS seventh and eighth graders gathered for their annual assembly to learn firsthand about the student and soldier for which their building was named.

During the assembly, Ryan's father, brother and a retired Green Beret from the 10th Special Forces Group shared stories highlighting Ryan's perseverance, selflessness, pursuit of excellence, aspirations to become a teacher, and the lasting impact he had on those around him. Following the presentation, students went back to their classrooms and made heartfelt cards for local veterans' organizations.

Many thanks to the SVF for a successful and inspirational event! Congratulations to SV junior Ian Wahl on his first-place finish!

We, again, wish to extend our sincere thanks to all participants, sponsors, donors and the entire SV community for their support.

Photos courtesy of Chris Leisie and the SV Communications Department.

View more photos on page 23.









SUCCESSFUL STRIDES: HONORING SGT. RYAN GLOYER *continued*



























GLOBAL STAGE FOR SV SCIENCE

Five students from the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology recently presented their conservation genetics research at the Global Impact Forum, hosted by Penn State University at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh on November 4. The event's theme, "Workforce Readiness in the Age of AI and Automation," highlighted the role of innovation and technology in preparing the next generation of scientific leaders.

Seniors Teagan Hmel, Roshini Umesh, Addie Baker, Autumn Zacherl, and junior Chase Lapaglia, along with their advisor and SV Intermediate High School Biology teacher Mr. Thomas Lavelle, are conducting a series of advanced, conservation genetics-themed projects through the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology. Their work includes:

- Using environmental DNA to locate invasive carp species and hard-to-find hellbender salamanders
- Genetically identifying all marine fish species along a North Carolina shoreline using DNA
- Discovering local salamander diversity from small volumes of stream water
- Measuring the effectiveness of DNA purity and quantification through alternative biotechnology methods

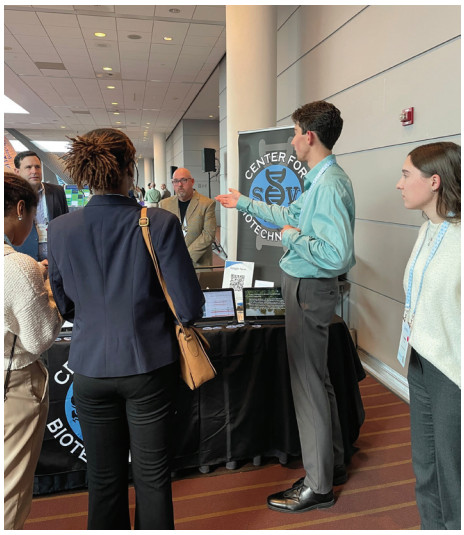
"It was a pleasure to have witnessed how our students were able to professionally communicate and explain their projects to regional leaders in technology and education," said Mr. Lavelle. "The feedback from those who conversed with our student technicians was outstanding. People were especially impressed by the degree of the projects' complexity as well as the students' adeptness and eagerness to describe them."

Many of the projects utilize Geneious bioinformatics software to design protocols and analyze genetic data. The results will be shared with local universities and watershed organizations to support ongoing conservation and environmental monitoring efforts.



"It was inspiring to watch our students present at such a high level and hold their own among university researchers and professionals," said Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale. "Their work in conservation genetics demonstrates not only scientific skill but also the curiosity, collaboration and communication that define true workforce readiness."

These authentic research experiences are made possible through the collaboration of university and government scientists, local zoos and funding from the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF).







STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION

Annual Support Campaign 2025

The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) is excited to launch its Annual Support Campaign and hopes to have your support as we wrap up our thirteenth year of enhancing the educational experience at Seneca Valley School District. We are proud to have invested over $105,000 in the 2024-25 school year and are eager to do more. We know that strong futures are built on solid foundations and we ask that you help us get to our year-end giving goal of $50,000 to STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION at SV.

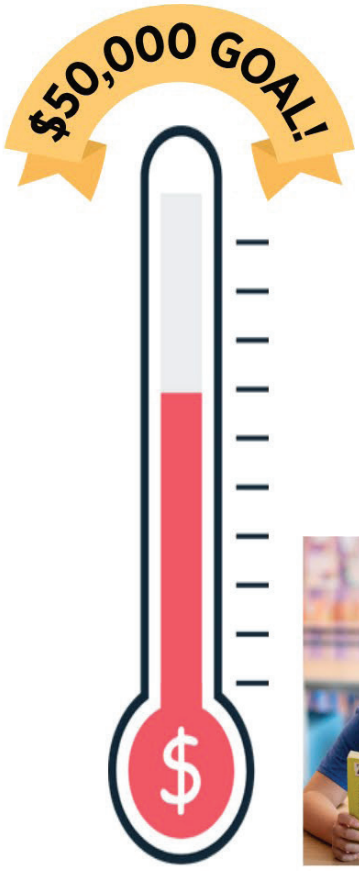
Donations can be made through the pictured QR Code or by mailing a check payable to the Seneca Valley Foundation to the district's central office.

The SVF is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

SENECA VALLEY FOUNDATION

STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION

Annual Support Campaign 2025

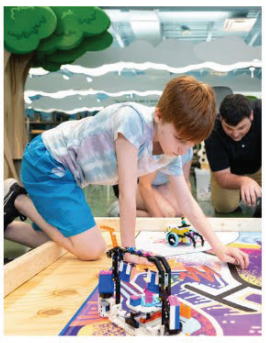
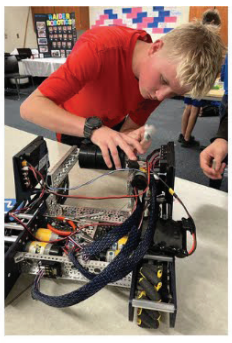


The SVF is building a stronger future for students & staff. Join us to **Strengthen the Foundation** of educational excellence at SV!

Your gift impacts student growth & staff empowerment through academic programs, meaningful professional development, advanced technologies & well-equipped classrooms.

Donate Today!



27th Annual

Seneca Valley Senior Holiday Event

Monday, Dec. 22

12:30–3 p.m.

(Doors open at noon)

SV Intermediate High School

126 Seneca School Rd.
Harmony, PA 16037

This **FREE** festive holiday presentation is open to senior citizens living in the Seneca Valley School community. Performances from the Seneca Valley Jazz band, Madrigal Singers and Chamber Orchestra will take place in the auditorium.

The National Honor Society will serve a sit-down holiday meal in the school's cafeteria following the performances.

Extra assistance will be provided by members of the SV JROTC.

RSVPs are required by Dec. 15. For more information or to RSVP, attendees are asked to please call 724-452-6040, ext. 0

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

ICYMI *(In case you missed it)*

SV chorus students in grades 7–12 recently enjoyed a special visit from Ms. Amanda Pulcini (SV '03), who is currently lighting up Cranberry Cinemas in the major motion picture "Soul on Fire." She shared her path from Seneca Valley to the big screen and the steps she took after graduation.

"Be unique, be curious, be open," said Ms. Pulcini in a recent Q&A. "That's the key to success, no matter where you go."

Want to read more? **Check out our recent Alumni Q&A feature** where Ms. Pulcini reflects on how SV shaped her life and career.













ELITE ELEMENTARY BALL HOCKEY TEAM

Congratulations to the Seneca Valley Elementary Ball Hockey team for being named the 2025 Pennsylvania State Elementary Ball Hockey Champions!

The grade 3-5 team finished the season with a record of 10-1, winning the championship game against Avonworth, 7-3, earlier this month. Great job, athletes!



SV ALL-STAR

For the month of November, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Mr. Bob Buchanan, Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Custodian.

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. Buchanan has dedicated 10 years to the Seneca Valley School District and eight years to serving our country in the U.S. Army. A proud veteran, Mr. Buchanan served in Operation Desert Storm and has been honored with numerous military decorations, including an Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Stars.

"I can't think of a more deserving recipient of the SV All-Star Club recognition than Mr. Bob Buchanan," said Mr. Dan Guerra, Assistant Principal of Seneca Valley Intermediate High School. "Respected by both staff and students, Bob goes far beyond his role as custodian—he builds relationships, offers guidance, and brings heart to our school. Spend just a few minutes in the IHS cafeteria during lunch and you'll see Bob in action: fist-bumping students, chatting with them and offering words of wisdom when needed.





Pictured from L-R: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale, Mr. Bob Buchanan and School Board President Mr. Eric DiTullio

In fact, not many people can say they've inspired a cheering section of high school students to attend a school board meeting."

Mr. Guerra added, "Bob takes great pride in his work, and his dedication reflects how he approaches life: no task is too big, and everything he does is driven by a genuine love for people. After hours, conversations with Bob often turn to his beloved Steelers, fishing trips to Lake Erie, or his greatest joy—his family. If there were an All-Star Club for being a family man, Bob would be a first-ballot inductee."

With November being designated as National Veterans and Military Families Month, it's especially fitting to honor Mr. Buchanan, not only for his service to our school, but also to our country. His commitment to excellence and duty shines through in all he does.



PSBA HONORS SV SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER FOR DEDICATED SERVICE

Congratulations to Ms. Susan Harrison, a valued member of the Seneca Valley School Board, who has been named to the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Honor Roll of School Board Service.

"Ms. Harrison exemplifies what it means to be a servant leader," said Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale. "Her thoughtful decision-making, integrity, and unwavering commitment to doing what's best for students have had a lasting impact on our district. We are truly fortunate to have her as part of our Seneca Valley family."

Ms. Harrison is nearing her 10th year of service and is currently serving her third, four-year term on the board. Since 1983, PSBA has recognized school directors who reach milestones in their years of service, beginning at eight years and continuing in four-year increments.

An ethical and principled leader, Ms. Harrison is deeply committed to supporting public education and the Seneca Valley community. We thank her for her dedication, time and expertise, and celebrate her continued contributions to the legacy of school board service.



'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.

Aleks Egemen, a fourth grader at Haine Elementary, was nominated by school administration and staff to lead The Pledge of Allegiance at the Nov. 3 Seneca Valley School Board meeting. Aleks has a passion for history, especially World War II. Besides history, his favorite school subjects are math, reading and gym. Beyond his studies, Aleks enjoys playing the saxophone, video games and soccer with his younger brother Jaxson. Inspired by his uncle's service in Afghanistan, when he grows up, Aleks dreams of becoming a U.S. Marine!



Aleks pictured with, from L-R, Haine Elementary fourth grade teacher Ms. Lauren Walsh, Haine Elementary School Assistant Principal Dr. Thomas McKelvey, School Board President Mr. Eric DiTullio and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale.

In recognition of Veterans Day, we were honored to have the Seneca Valley JROTC open the Nov. 10 regular session meeting with the Presentation of Colors. Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) sixth grader Sylvia Gaston then joined us to lead members of the School Board and public in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sylvia's favorite subjects are English Language Arts (ELA) and science, and she hopes to become an elementary school teacher when she grows up. When she's not teaching her siblings, she enjoys bike riding, swimming, performing in the ECMS choir and theater, and writing and illustrating short stories!



Sylvia pictured with, from L-R, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale, JROTC cadet Lillian Eaves, JROTC cadet Aubri Holland, JROTC cadet Robinson Sommerville, JROTC cadet Maria Wilson, JROTC cadet Ainzley McGee and School Board President Mr. Eric DiTullio.

You may have seen Jackson Township's Chief **Zeke Reed (SV '92)**, around campus, in the community or even keeping fans safe at an SV game. We asked him to catch us up on what he is doing and how Seneca Valley influenced his life and career.

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

A: I am currently the Chief of Police for the Jackson Township Police Department. I graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Criminal Justice Training Center in 1995 and have been working with Jackson Township for the last 28 years. Prior to my role as Chief, I served as a Patrolman, Corporal and Sergeant. I also specialized in Collision Reconstruction and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. Previously, I worked for the Adams Township and Middlesex Township Police Departments.

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

A: I am married to my wife Rosslyn and have two children, Joseph and Olivia, who are both students and athletes at Slippery Rock University.

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

A: My wife and I enjoy traveling, and our favorite destination is Aruba.

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

A: Seneca Valley helped me become the person I am today by providing me the opportunity to compete in athletics. I played for the varsity football team, and those experiences on the field taught me life lessons that I've carried with me and continue to use daily.

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

A: My favorite teacher/coach was Tim Parish (retired teacher and coach from Seneca Valley after 34 years of service). He was a brand-new teacher for the first half of my fifth-grade year at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) and ended up being my offensive line coach while I was on the varsity football team.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Seneca Valley? We'd encourage you to recall a moment or event that had a particularly strong influence on your life.

A: My favorite memory was being part of the football team. I am a firm believer that athletics teaches many life lessons such as responsibility, dedication, perseverance and the need to self-sacrifice for the good of the team. I have used many of these lessons in both my personal and professional life.



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

A: Today's workforce needs well-adjusted and mature critical thinkers to carry on the tough work in real-world environments that are required to make our society function. Be firm, but fair with your students.



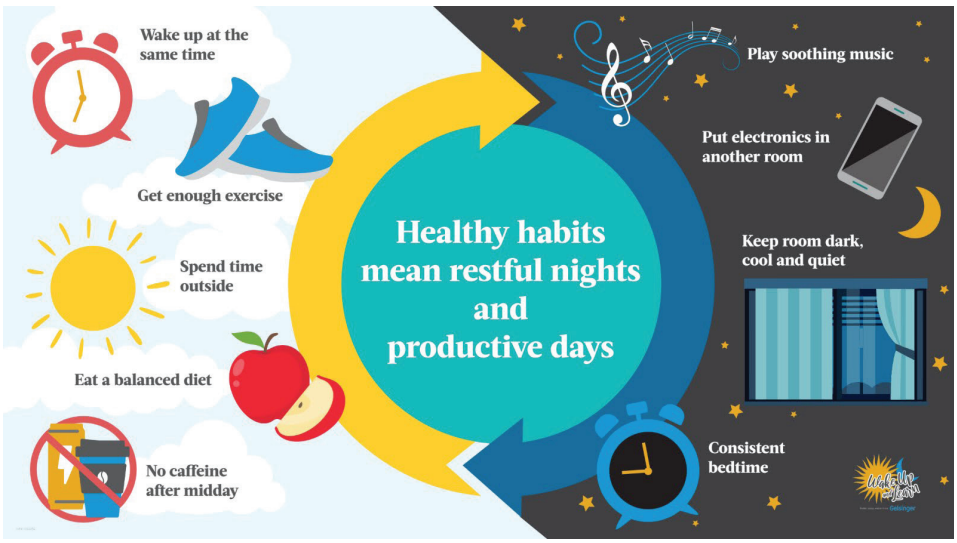
CALLING SV ALUMNI!

Seneca Valley is proud of their graduates who have excelled in their careers. Be sure to let us know if you would like to be featured in our Raider Pride e-newsletter. To keep us in the loop, send your graduation year, a summary of your professional life and a brief review of how Seneca Valley helped pave the way to Ms. Tiffany Hernandez, Assistant Director of Communications.

HEALTHY HABITS TO ADOPT THIS WINTER SEASON

As the holiday season approaches, we look forward to celebrations and time spent with loved ones. But this time of year can also feel overwhelming. With class projects and assignments to finish, many turn to caffeine to keep up. While an energy drink or a festive latte might seem like the answer, too much caffeine can leave you feeling anxious, jittery or even more tired.

This year, why not enjoy the season without the caffeine overload? A few mindful choices can boost your energy, improve your sleep, and help you finish the year strong. Here are some simple tips to cut back the caffeine while keeping the festive cheer.



Reconnect With Routine and Rest

Holiday breaks provide the time to reset sleep habits which can significantly improve mood, focus and overall well-being before returning to the classroom.

Experts recommend seven to nine hours of consistent, quality sleep per night. Going to bed and waking up at the same time each day helps regulate the body's natural circadian rhythm.

Nourishing meals and hydration support clearer thinking. Prioritizing rest is an active investment in better cognitive performance. Students can use the break to set aside quiet moments for reflection, limiting screen exposure before bed or establishing positive morning rituals that can be carried into the new year.

Move Your Body, Refresh Your Mind

Physical activity is essential for mental recovery, and this Thanksgiving break provides time to reintroduce movement without the rush of a school schedule. Finding enjoyable ways to be active supports both physical and mental health. Building positive movement habits now can help students return to school with more energy—and use exercise as a natural tool for managing stress.

Spend Time With People Who Recharge You

Thanksgiving break provides a chance to reconnect with supportive people that bring joy and perspective. Social connection has a measurable impact on emotional well-being, helping to reduce stress and build resilience.

Shared meals, conversations and simple activities with loved ones remind students of the value of community and help prevent burnout by reinforcing the importance of life outside of academics.

At the same time, stepping away from screens and social media can help restore focus and allow students to build real-world connections. Returning to school with a stronger support system can make the transition into the next semester smoother and more enjoyable.

Start Fresh, Stay Balanced

Take this time before the end of the year to rest, reflect, and realign priorities. By restoring healthy routines, engaging in physical movement and reconnecting with supportive people, students can transform their time off into a meaningful reset!



Article adapted from EdTech Innovation Hub. To explore more sleep resources, visit www.geisinger.org/wual.

- Students at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) have come together to collect items for preemie babies in the NICU through the March of Dimes. Donation needs include onesies, diapers, wipes, blankets and other newborn necessities. Items can be purchased through Amazon's product drive or can be dropped off in RGMS Room 227 through Dec. 23.

- If your family or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity or in need of support, several resources are available to help. We encourage any families who need food assistance now and through the holidays - and beyond - to reach out to the following agencies for more information:
  - PA Navigate: Help finding food and other resources
  - www.pa211.org: Local assistance and community support
  - www.feedingpa.org: Locate food banks and meal programs across the state
  - You can also contact your local utility company or visit the PA PUC's utility assistance website to learn more about available utility aid programs.

- 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. ■

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. ■

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE