RAIDER PRIDE

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

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

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

As we look forward to the new year, we are also excited to move forward with the Intermediate High School and Performing Arts Center Construction Project, a major initiative that will modernize our learning spaces and expand opportunities across academics, the arts and beyond.

As you know, **beginning Monday, Jan. 5, 2026**, construction staging will be in place on the Seneca Valley secondary campus, grades 7-12. The estimated construction timeline is 4-5 years and will be completed in four carefully planned phases. Phase 1 involves a new academic building addition to the Intermediate High School.

Construction is planned around a fully operational campus with classrooms staying open. To minimize disruptions and prioritize student safety, areas in the lower Senior High parking lot and the front-facing portion of the Intermediate High School will be fenced off during Phases 1-3.



As we move into this exciting next phase of the project, some temporary logistical changes will affect drop-off and pick-up, parking, walking paths and more. To stay informed, please visit our new webpage at www.svsd.net/IHSconstruction, where you'll find updates, interactive maps, and helpful tools for navigating the secondary campus. Please use the drop-down menu on the webpage to browse topics related to the construction project.

We are committed to clear communication, safety and the well-being of our students, staff and visitors. Thank you in advance for your patience, flexibility and partnership as we take this important step forward.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wishing you warm and thoughtful greetings this winter season and happiness throughout the coming year! The Seneca Valley School District will be on winter break (no school for students and staff) from Dec. 24, 2025 - Jan. 2, 2026. Students will return to school on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 24-Jan. 2	Winter Break, No School
Jan. 12	School Board Meeting, Regular Session, SHS Auditorium , 7 p.m.
Jan. 15	End of First Semester, Grades 7-12
Jan. 16	Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School for Students
Jan. 23	Release of Report Cards, Grades 7-12

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

JANUARY

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

EVENT OF THE SEASON

Festive holiday melodies filled the air at the 27th Annual Senior Holiday Event, welcoming 450 attendees to the Intermediate High School on Dec. 22.

During their time at this free program, guests were entertained by the Seneca Valley Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra and Senior High School Madrigal Singers.

At the conclusion of the performances, members of the National Honor Society served a sit-down holiday meal in the school's cafeteria. The day concluded with special cafeteria performances and a take-home treat.

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our event organizers, performers, as well as the JROTC cadets who greeted and helped guests to their seats along with National Honor Society members who decorated and assisted cafeteria staff.





















BALLOONS OVER EHRMAN CREST

Just days before the famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade kicked off in New York City, students at Ehrman Crest Elementary School (ECE) took part in their own special tradition, staging their own parade to celebrate the holidays. The hallways of ECE were filled with smiles, laughter and many balloons during the school's third annual Balloons Over Ehrman Crest.

Third grade classes read the book "Balloons Over Broadway," by Melissa Sweet. After learning about the history of the Macy's Day Parade, students designed their own balloon displays and proudly presented their creations in a parade for kindergarten, first, second and fourth grade students along with their parents. Special accompaniment was given by Ehrman Crest Middle School band students!











FLY FISHING FUN

Students at Haine Middle School (HMS) cast their way into a real fly-fishing adventure this November during a hands-on outing to the Conway Sportsman Club in Zelienople. After months of practicing casting techniques and learning the art of fly tying in class, they finally put their new skills to the test—and it paid off! Dozens of rainbow trout were reeled in, with several students catching a fish for the very first time!

The club is led by HMS sixth grade teacher Mr. Cammisa, who is already looking forward to welcoming a fresh crew of anglers this spring. Special thanks to Mr. Kenneth Cahall for joining the trip and helping make the day an off-the-hook success!















BRIGHT EYES AND BUTTERFLIES

Prior to the winter season, students at Haine Elementary and Middle School took their learning outdoors to learn the physical, emotional and behavioral benefits offered through nature. Haine Middle School teacher Mr. Ken Cahall led the outdoor education program, offering lessons and activities on categorization, monarch butterfly preservation, decomposition and dissection. Learn more about each activity below.

Elementary students were excited and eager to learn how to categorize objects based on color, shape and texture!



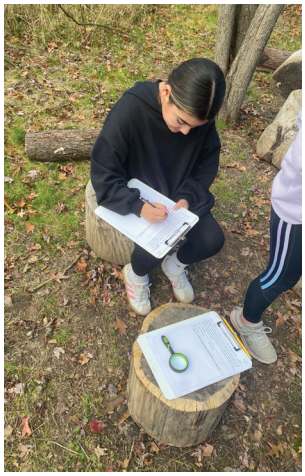


Haine Middle School conservationists did their part to preserve the declining Monarch butterfly population by creating large plots of milkweed for developing caterpillars. Students planted milkweed, the sole source of food for Monarch caterpillars, in the fall and will design pollinator gardens in the spring to help provide nectar for adult butterflies and other pollinators. As a special bonus, these garden spaces will provide hands-on observation areas for third grade classes studying butterfly lifecycles and for world language classes exploring the great Monarch migration!





Fifth graders got a “magnified” view into the decomposition process, learning the important role detritivores play in keeping our planet clean! Students scanned for millipedes, earthworms, isopods, slugs and other detritivores which break down organic material, returning nutrients to the soil.





Learning didn’t stop with students! Over 50 Haine Middle School students and their families participated in an afterschool program focused on how owl adaptations like feather structure, large stationary eyes, and offset ears help owls hunt and locate prey.

Mr. Cahall added, “The highlight of the program was when families dissected owl pellets to identify bones which determined what their owl had eaten!”









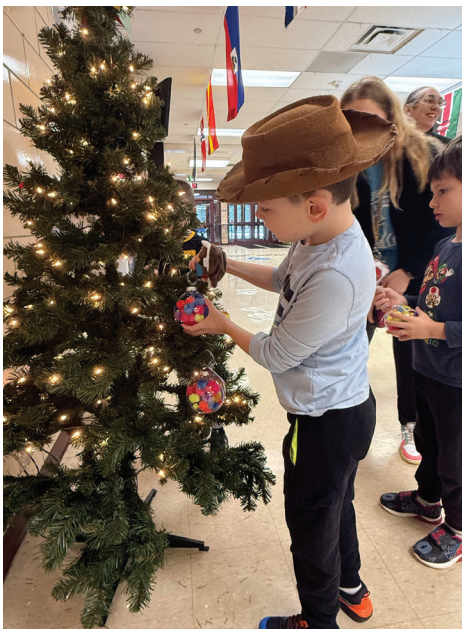
BEST BUDDIES TAKE PART IN FESTIVE FUN

Haine's Best Buddies chapter hosted their winter group activity where students made festive holiday ornaments to adorn the Best Buddies tree on display in the Haine Middle School lobby. Teacher-nominated fourth and sixth graders teamed up with students from Haine's Multiple Supports classrooms for a fun and heartwarming collaborative experience. Everyone had a great time making these colorful and unique ornaments while building friendships and spreading holiday cheer.

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.

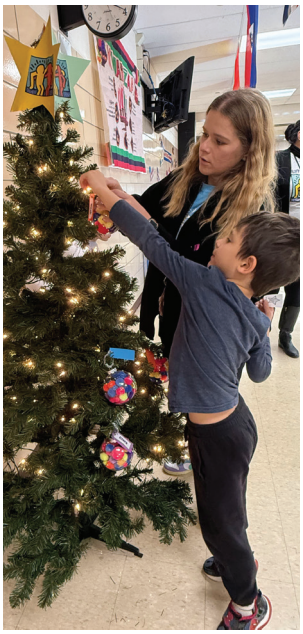




















GORILLA-APPROVED ENGINEERING

Kindergarteners at Ehrman Crest Elementary School are exploring engineering and design using the NoRILLA table, an innovative learning tool that bridges the physical and virtual worlds to enhance STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education.

Our elementary engineers recently learned structural concepts like height and stability by building towers and testing them on the table's shaking platform. After reading "The Three Little Pigs," students created their own houses and put them through an "earthquake" stimulated by the NoRILLA table to see which structures could withstand the big bad wolf's huff and puff! They observed how their houses responded, analyzed why some designs were stronger than others and discussed improvements – building critical thinking and problem-solving skills along the way.

With the assistance of a friendly virtual gorilla, NoRILLA provides engaging challenges that allow students to predict, observe and explain, just like real scientists.

"The NoRILLA table will continue to support hands-on STEAM learning, including lessons on balance, force, motion and engineering design," said Ms. Danielle Fagan, Ehrman Crest CIRC teacher. "These activities foster curiosity, collaboration and creativity, helping students develop a strong foundation in science and math through play-based learning."

Seneca Valley elementary schools received the NoRILLA table as part of a district initiative to bring cutting-edge STEM resources into classrooms.














TIDINGS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

The holiday season is a time for giving, which is exactly what Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) students aimed to do before the winter break.

Seventh graders on the Tiger Team and their families recently donated over 700 items that were used as gifts for the residents of Passavant Nursing Home.

In addition, about 35 students stayed after school on Dec. 9 to deliver the donated items and visit with residents to spread holiday cheer by playing music, singing carols, performing dance routines and even giving a comedic skit!

"This visit was filled with the joy and magic of the holiday season—for the residents, the students, and the teachers alike," said RGMS teacher Ms. Jessica Phillips. "It was truly a special experience for everyone involved."



























IT'S GREEK TO ME

Mythology came to life at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS)! Students in Mr. Cene's World History class researched gods, heroes and monsters in Greek Mythology and wrote about their studies. Following the weeks of research, parents and teachers were invited to watch the students become "living statues," complete with costumes and informative speeches.

Parents enjoyed seeing their students' educational showcase and students did a great job bringing their mythological statue to life!

















SV ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TAKE PART IN PENSFIT FUN

Elementary and middle school students across the district are getting an exciting introduction to the sport of hockey thanks to ball hockey equipment generously donated by the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation.

Through PensFIT, presented by FedEx, students are participating in hands-on activities that promote teamwork, coordination and healthy habits. PensFIT is a Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation initiative designed to introduce children to hockey by removing barriers to entry and bringing high-quality physical education opportunities directly to schools. The program provides complete ball hockey equipment sets, teacher training and a ready-to-use physical education curriculum all aimed at increasing student activity and promoting healthy lifestyles across communities.

Physical Education teachers from Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle, Connoquenessing Valley Elementary, Haine Elementary/Middle and Rowan Elementary Schools were recently presented with their PensFIT equipment by Jaden Lindo, Manager of Community Hockey for the Pittsburgh Penguins. After the presentation, teachers had the chance to practice with the materials and left with a full classroom set of ball hockey equipment to use with their students.

Each school received a comprehensive ball hockey equipment package that includes a goal bag with foldable goals, a stick bag with hockey sticks, black and white pinnies and a ball bag and balls.

"Our goal is to give every child the opportunity to learn and play the sport in a safe, fun, and accessible way, and the PensFIT program is a great example of our pursuit of that," said Mr. Lindo. "Through this program, we are able to provide hundreds of kids throughout the Pittsburgh region with the chance to learn the basic skills of the game and to support healthy living. We are deeply grateful to our presenting partner, FedEx, for helping us achieve this vision, as well as to the wonderful physical education teachers who are bringing the sport to their schools."

The PensFIT program is eligible to elementary and middle schools that consist of grades 3, 4 and/or 5 in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas who are looking for an opportunity to integrate ball hockey into their physical education curriculum. Aligned with the National Physical Education curriculum standards, the curriculum emphasizes offensive and defensive tactics, helping students build fundamental sport knowledge and learn the essential skills of ball hockey in a fun and inclusive format.











WORLD LANGUAGE SHOWCASE

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) hosted a World Language Showcase led by enthusiastic high school student volunteers from the French, Latin, German and Spanish programs. Eighth graders enjoyed learning about their future language options, asking questions and listening to their presenters share firsthand experiences. Thanks to the energy and leadership of our high school volunteers, the event helped eighth graders feel inspired, informed and confident as they look ahead to course scheduling!







By Varden Armstrong,
Performing Arts Coordinator

CRESCENDO OF TALENT

On Oct. 28, auditions were held for the 2025 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Honors Band at Westminster College. Over 200 students auditioned for a band of only 125 musicians. This year, Seneca Valley had 33 students earn a position in the Honors Band, more than any other school!

District 5 comprises all school districts in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer counties. To audition, students must be in at least ninth grade and prepare a piece from a predetermined solo list for each school year. These college-level solos are selected by the directors of District 5.

This year's Honors Band was guest conducted by Dr. Tyler Austin, Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at the F. Ludwig Diehn School of Music at Old Dominion University. The three-day festival culminated with a concert in Orr Auditorium at Westminster College on Dec. 13. Seneca Valley secondary band instructors include Mr. Varden Armstrong, Mr. Robert Babick, Ms. Sara Snyder, and Mr. Brian Croach.

Participants:

Violet Acosta - Trumpet
Dreden Anderson - Tuba
Camden Armstrong - Alto Saxophone



Jonathan Brower - Trombone
Willow Campbell - Flute
Jordan Courtney - Trumpet
Colton Frankovich - Trumpet
Emma Gallie - Clarinet
Megan Gates - Clarinet
Aaron Hardy - Clarinet
Josh Heere - Baritone Saxophone
Grace Hofmann - Clarinet
Autumn Holmes - Bass Clarinet
Caroline Holmes - French Horn
Catey Hunter - Trumpet
Benny James - String Bass
Maddy Karns - Alto Saxophone
Rileigh Karns - French Horn
Emelyn Kaye - Clarinet
Ella King - Clarinet
Chloe Lewis - Trumpet
Nathan Lui - Euphonium
Dahlia Marcin - Clarinet
John Rieger - Trumpet
Gio Salgado – Alto Saxophone
Eli Scanlan - Trombone
Jack Schaar - Percussion
Lola Schwendemann - French Horn
Brendon Shick - Trumpet
Claire Thompson - Flute
David Weisgerber - Bass Clarinet
Adrian Wrubel - Trumpet
Autumn Zacherl - Flute

SINGING AND SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

On Dec. 6, the SV Madrigal Singers entertained crowds at the Seven Fields Light Up Night singing many seasonal favorites. That same day, volunteers from the group gave an additional performance in Zelienople for a Service of Remembrance held by Boylan Funeral Homes. Our singers provided music to uplift the spirits of those who have an empty seat at the table this holiday season. The SV Show Choir and Madrigals put on a performance at Kennywood Park for their annual Holiday Lights. They celebrated with their annual Madrigal Alumni gathering on Dec. 15. On Dec. 22, the Madrigals and Quartets sang for the Seneca Valley Senior Holiday Event, and finally on Dec. 23, the Show Choir, Madrigal Singers and Quartets traveled to Rowan Elementary and Haine Middle School to conclude their extracurricular December performances!







"It's our pleasure to serve our community through music and to share our music with audiences beyond our boundaries," said choir director Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander. "Bringing joy to people is our goal!"



SV BAND COMMISSIONING PROJECT LAUNCHES WITH 'SUNRISE IN SENECA'

The SV Band program began a project two years ago to commission original music for Seneca Valley bands in grades 4-12. Over the years, students have had opportunities to interact with music composers, both in person and virtually. However, having a piece of music written specifically for them and being the first to premiere it for a live audience is an entirely different and unforgettable experience.

The first official commission for this project came to fruition when Mr. Mark Surovchak was asked to compose a piece of music for the SV sixth grade bands at Haine Middle School (HMS) and Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS). Mr. Surovchak is currently the band director at Belle Vernon High School but is also an accomplished band composer with many published works. HMS Band Director Mrs. Kelly Levere and ECMS Band Director Mrs. Tracy Glass began working with Mr. Surovchak in the spring of 2025 to develop the concept of the original composition. The piece was completed in September, and the sixth grade bands began preparing to perform the piece for the first time at their December concerts.

Mr. Surovchak donated his time to visit both bands on Friday, Nov. 21. He rehearsed both ensembles and had an opportunity to answer questions from students about the composing process and how he created the original work "Sunrise in Seneca," specifically for them.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be part of this year's commissioning project for the Seneca Valley Music Department. I have long admired the music department and how well the program runs in all aspects, said Mr. Surovchak. "To be included in this project is a true honor for me. Not every school district has an opportunity such as this, and you can tell that music in the Seneca Valley School District is truly something special."







Our musicians also enjoyed and valued the experience:

"'Sunrise in Seneca' was a blast to learn and play. As the tenor saxophonist, I love the high notes and beautiful harmony. It was an absolute blast playing with Mr. Surovchak," said ECMS tenor saxophonist Carter Moon. "He was funny and he showed us how to do the right notes and techniques. I loved how it started out all boring and slow; then it went to fast and exciting. Thank you to Mr. Surovchak, for the time and effort you put into this song."

"'Sunrise in Seneca' is a really calm and energetic song. It gives all the different parts of the band their own solo," added ECMS percussionist Mahaant Gopalakrishnan. "I loved learning it because it taught me many more ways to play my instrument."

An additional component to the project included having the Seneca Valley High School Wind Ensemble record the new work as a demo recording for our younger students to reference as they learned the piece. The piece will be published through Murphy Music Press (https://murphymusicpress.com/), a nationally recognized publishing company owned by SV Alumnus Sean Murphy (SV Class of 2007). The SV Wind Ensemble's official demo recording will be posted on the publisher's site as a reference for anyone who would like to purchase the piece in the future.

This is just the beginning of this amazing project, as another piece is currently being composed for the Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) eighth grade band which will be premiered at their May concert. The long-range goal for the SV Band Commissioning Project is to provide opportunities for all SV band students in grades 4-12 over the coming years. The educational value of this project for the students and directors is immeasurable. The project is financially housed within the Seneca Valley Band Foundation. If you would like to make a donation, please read more here – **SV Band Commissioning Project**, or contact Mr. Varden Armstrong, secondary instrumental music teacher.

Mrs. Tracy Glass perfectly summed up the experience, "Working with Mr. Surovchak from the initial brainstorming for 'Sunrise in Seneca' to the performance at our winter concert was an incredible opportunity. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning this music, and having the experience of rehearsing with the composer is something they will never forget. I'm so grateful to the SV Band Foundation for providing this opportunity for our band students!" ■









By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

CULTURE, COMMITMENT, COMMUNITY

A message from Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley School District Athletic Director

Time and again, there are moments where I step back, recognize and appreciate how important the #SVRaiderNation community is to our Athletics & Activities department. On the first weekend of December, two distinct moments paused me in my travels. The first came during my walk through Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) for the Junior High Raider Wrestling Duals where our District hosted twelve teams for a top-flight tournament. The wrestlers competed with pride and tenacity, even as some early-season nerves were evident in this first competition. Matching the athletes' performance was the Raider Wrestling volunteer community overseeing this tournament like a well-oiled machine. Every detail – from the event program and concessions to team brackets, scoring and officials – was executed with precision. The army of volunteers was impressive, and my gratitude overflows for how they provided our visiting teams with a first-rate experience, both in competition and hospitality.

On my walk back from RGMS, I stopped in to visit SV's first Breakfast with Santa, co-sponsored by our boys and girls basketball boosters. It is such a wonderful event for the youth in our community.



Our student-athletes led activity stations in the Intermediate High School gym, including with photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, reindeer feed for the North Pole and ornament making. When the students were ready for a break from the gym, our parents were waiting in the cafeteria ready to serve pancakes with plenty of toppings and many other breakfast favorites. Nearly 200 young guests attended this event and it was truly a heartwarming example of our #SVRaiderCommunity coming together in the spirit of the holiday season.

As we pause for the winter holidays, I share my immense gratitude for the many volunteers who make "Wearing the SV" an honor. Your contributions to event management, community engagement and supporting our students are not taken lightly by any of us in the Athletics & Activities Department. We send our best wishes to #SVRaiderNation for a Happy Holiday Season. May we cherish the time with family and friends.

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2026

Raider student-athletes have recently made their college commitment official, 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 you is a tremendous representative of Raider Athletics and we are immensely proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Quin Carney	Baseball	PennWest California	Electrical Engineering
Adam Gehm	Football	Vanderbilt University	Human & Organizational Development
Bella Gianfrancesco	Soccer	Slippery Rock University	Health Administration & Management
Abby Kalkowski	Softball	Gannon University	Finance
Cassie Leonard	Soccer	Pitt-Johnstown	Exercise Science
Neve Miller	Softball	Waynesburg University	Nursing
Luis Torrenegra	Baseball	Point Park University	Mechanical Engineering
Owen Voelp	Baseball	Penn State Behrend	Finance
Paige Volz	Softball	PennWest California	Physical Therapy

WINTER SPORTS SEASON UNDERWAY

The PIAA winter sports season officially began on Friday, Nov. 28. The following is a brief recap of the start of the respective seasons.

Boys Basketball (Head Coach Kevin Trost):

Boys basketball opened their season hosting Montour on Friday, Dec. 5, and came home with a 10-point win (54-44) over the visiting Spartans. Leading scorers were seniors Andrew Omasits (18 points), Ryan Priester (11) and Owen Congdon (10). Next, the Raiders traveled to Peters Township where, once again, Omasits



(23 points) and Priester (18 pts.) gave big performances to lead SV to a 62-46 win on the road. The Raiders then hit a bump in the road, falling in overtime to visiting South Fayette and bringing their record to 2-1, at the time of this writing. The Raiders of 2025-26 are a veteran team including seven seniors: Easton Blair, Owen Congdon, Reese Fatur, Jaxon Householder, Andrew Omasits, Ryan Priester and Nico Santapau. All seven will hold key roles as the season unfolds. To finish out the month of December, SV has the following remaining games: away at Fox Chapel, home vs North Allegheny, home vs New Castle, and away at the Tampa Holiday Tournament.

Girls Basketball (Head Coach Dorothea Epps):

Raider girls basketball opened the season at the Woodland Hills Play for Mae Tip-off Tournament with a split, falling to perennial PIAA state contender York Suburban (51-39) and beating John Carroll out of Maryland (47-16). Their non-section slate continued with two challenging



home matchups against Upper St. Clair (L, 50-35) and North Catholic (L, 53-43). The Raiders rebounded with a 57-45 win against Neshannock before traveling to Washington, D.C., for the annual She Got Game Classic tournament. To close out the month, the girls returned home to open section play at North Allegheny on Dec. 17, followed by a home contest against North Hills on Dec. 22. The team will finish 2025 at the Shadyside Academy Holiday Tournament with games against Shadyside Academy and Plum.

Boys Bowling (Head Coach Tim Malis):

Raider boys bowling has opened the season at 1-2 with a win over Freeport and losses to Shaler and Butler. At the time of this writing, the team was preparing to face Mars. Senior Chance Evans returns as the team's only senior and top bowler.

Competitive Cheer (Head Coach Laura Wise):

Raider competitive cheer competed at the WPIAL championships on Saturday, Dec. 20. A full recap will be provided after the squad competes at Nationals in late January.

Ice Hockey (Head Coach Tyler Mesisca):

At the time of this writing, the defending PIHL state champion Raider Ice Hockey team is off to another great start, currently undefeated (9-0-1-0) and in first place in the PIHL AAA standings with 29 points. The Raiders opened the season by winning the PIHL Charities tournament with a 9-0 win over Peters Township. Following that title, the Raiders kicked off their PIHL regular season without a loss. Junior Braden Morin was recently named the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Athlete of the Week for his incredible start to the season, including three consecutive hat tricks against North Allegheny, Fox Chapel and Central Catholic. Senior goalie Chris Nichols has retained his championship form in goal, giving up only six goals on 138 shots for a save percentage of 95.7%. Great start SV – keep working hard!

Swimming & Diving (Head Coach Brian Blackwell):

At the time of this writing, Swimming and Diving had hosted Riverside and Northgate with the girls winning both meets and boys splitting – winning against Riverside and falling to Northgate. Multiple athletes



from both squads have already posted WPIAL cut times. The Raiders closed out 2025 with a home meet against Oakland Catholic/Central Catholic and the girls with an additional home meet against The Ellis School.

Boys Wrestling (Head Coach Kevin Wildrick):

Raider boys wrestling opened the season with a non-section loss at home against West Allegheny and opened their section competition with a win over Pine-Richland. Sandwiched between the two dual



meets was a runner-up finish at the JMI Invitational at John Marshall High School where the Raiders fell to McGuffey in the finals. To close out the month of December, the boys will go on the road to compete at the Panther Classic at Mount Aloysius.

Girls Wrestling (Head Coach Jess Leighty):

At the time of this writing, Raider girls wrestling lost their only dual match of the season against visiting Pine-Richland. Winners on the evening were Everly Harrell, Kaeleigh Tuell, Hannah Hornick and Haley Hunter. To close out the month of December, the Raiders will wrestle at the Redbank Valley tournament, Beast of the East event and the prestigious Powerade Tournament at Canon-Mac.

In addition, all sub-varsity teams have started their seasons and are off to great starts. As always, we are very appreciative of our coaches and grateful for all they do for our student-athletes.



ADDITIONAL HONORS ANNOUNCED FOR FALL SPORT RAIDER STUDENT-ATHLETES AND COACHES

While the fall season is in the books, the awards continue to arrive for Raider student-athletes and coaches.

Boys Soccer

Butler Eagle All-Stars
- Owen Eastgate - Player of the Year; 1st Team
- Owen Ali – 1st Team
- Chase Good – 1st Team
- Jacob Prex – 1st Team
- Fynn O'Donnell – Honorable Mention

Post-Gazette All-Area Team
- Owen Eastgate

Trib HSSN Boys Soccer All-Stars
- Owen Eastgate

WPSCA Boys Soccer All-Star Game
- Owen Eastgate

Girls Soccer

United Soccer Coaches Association (USCA) High School Regional All-American
- Karly Majeski

Pa. Soccer Coaches Association (PSCA) All-State
- Karly Majeski

Butler Eagle All-Stars
- Bella Gianfrancesco – 1st Team
- Maddie Marcotte – 1st Team
- Karly Majeski – 1st Team
- Cassie Leonard – Honorable Mention
- Sydney Postler – Honorable Mention

Post-Gazette All-Area Team
- Karly Majeski

Trib HSSN Girls Soccer All-Stars
- Karly Majeski

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, SEPTEMBER

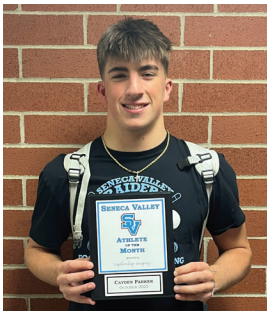
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The Captivating Imagery Female Athlete of the Month for October was girls soccer senior midfielder Maddie Marcotte. Maddie was a vital member of a Raider midfield that has dominated games all season. She provided goals, assists and defensive contributions to help her team finish the regular season with a record of 10-3-2 along with a section championship. Her run of form extended into postseason play as she scored four goals in four games including a double overtime game winner in the WPIAL Quarterfinals and game winning penalty kick in a shootout in the WPIAL Semifinals. Maddie was named All-Section and All-WPIAL by the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association (WPSCA) and First Team All-Big 56 Conference. For a stellar month, we recognized Maddie as the October Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Maddie!



The Captivating Imagery Male Athlete of the Month for October was senior two-way football player Cayden Parker. Playing as a running back and linebacker/edge, Cayden was a force on both sides of the ball. He led the Raider ground attack with 828 yards, good for an 82.8 yards per game average. Cayden added 150 receiving yards and led the team with 10 total touchdowns. On defense, he totaled 30 tackles, four sacks, two forced fumbles and one interception. His standout game came in a 47-8 section win over Hempfield where he tallied 180 rushing yards on 19 carries and two touchdowns. Cayden's efforts were recognized by area coaches as he was named a First Team All-Section Running Back for the Big 56 Conference. We recognized Cayden as the October Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Cayden!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

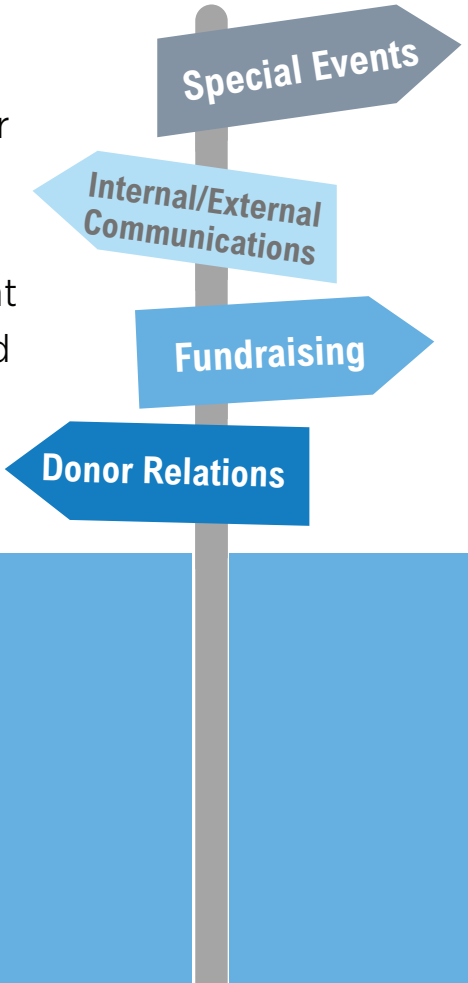
HIRING GRANT & DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

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

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

Requirements:

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



To learn more and apply:

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

ROBOTIC RECRUITMENT

Seneca Valley Raider Robotics is excited to host a major robotics qualifier event on Jan. 10 and 11, at the SV Senior High School. The Raiders are expecting over 64 teams, along with their families, mentors and local industry partners — making this one of the largest robotics events in our region.

To ensure this event is a huge success for our students and guests, the club is seeking volunteers to assist in a variety of roles throughout the weekend. Click here to view details and a sign-up link for those interested in helping.



OPEN FOR ALL

For the second year in a row, Seneca Valley's No Cost to Shop has received a generous $3,000 donation through a Seneca Valley Foundation grant from the Ethel Verney Foundation. The check was presented by Diane Miller of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Zelienople and Chris Trimble of Zion Lutheran Church in Harmony.

Run entirely through donations and located in the Senior High School, No Cost to Shop serves students in grades 7-12, offering brand-new and gently used clothing, shoes, outerwear, and a wide selection of hygiene products. Whether preparing for a special event, formal occasion, or simply needing everyday wear, the store has been a vital resource since its establishment in 2021.

On hand to receive this generous donation were several student volunteers who help run the store: Gage Mikulan, Astrid Benson and Ryan Cox. Also in attendance, teacher Alicia Scopelite who oversees daily operations and committee members; Assistant Principal Megan Lizewski, Transition Coordinator Jessica Pyle transition and Job Coach/Paraprofessional and Founder Michelle Eppinger. Since its inception, No Cost to Shop has given away thousands of clothing, shoes and hygiene items to hundreds of students.



For more information about No Cost to shop or how to donate, visit their website.

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 $115,000 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 (Strengthen the Foundation Annual Support Campaign 2025) 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.



SV WELCOMES RYAN GLOYER MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

During Seneca Valley's School Board Meeting on Monday, Nov. 3, board members approved the appointment of Dr. Samantha Flanhofer as the District's new assistant principal of Ryan Gloyer Middle School.

A resident of Gibsonia, Dr. Flanhofer brings more than 15 years of experience in education. For the last 10 years, she has served the Mars Area School District in a variety of educator and administrative roles, including interim assistant principal and fourth grade teacher at Mars Elementary School and life skills teacher at Mars High School. She previously spent four years as a learning support and life skills teacher in the Ambridge School District and also gained experience as an elementary teacher in the Pine-Richland School District and an autistic support teacher in the Allegheny Valley School District.

"I am thrilled to step into the role of assistant principal at Ryan Gloyer Middle School," said Dr. Flanhofer. "My focus will be on enhancing student achievement and continuing to foster a positive, supportive school culture. I can't wait to build strong connections and celebrate the many successes ahead. I am especially excited to work alongside Mrs. Butschle and the outstanding staff at Ryan Gloyer Middle School."

Dr. Flanhofer holds multiple advanced degrees, including a Doctorate in Special Education from Slippery Rock University and a Master of Education in Reading Education from University of Pittsburgh. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with Urban Emphasis from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



"We are very fortunate to welcome Dr. Flanhofer to us as Assistant Principal of Ryan Gloyer Middle School," said Dr. Sean McCarty, Deputy Superintendent for Secondary Education. "Her accomplishments as an educator and academic leader make her an excellent fit for Seneca Valley as we continue to raise the bar for student success. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience that will enhance the great team at Ryan Gloyer Middle School."

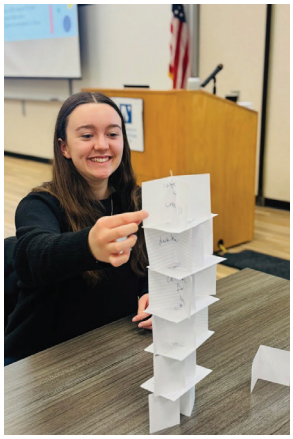
Dr. Flanhofer replaces Mr. Rob Rasso who retired from Seneca Valley after 35 years of service within the District.

MAPPING THE JOURNEY

Junior and senior students enrolled in Seneca Valley's College in High School (CHS) Introduction to Special Education and CHS Child Development 2 had the opportunity to attend a two-day event called "Special Education Destination: Mapping the Journey to Your Career," held at the Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4. During this experiential learning opportunity, students learned about the various fields in Special Education, how to navigate through the educational career path, the modern technology used with students who have a disability and the personal rewards associated with a career in education. There were several hands-on learning opportunities, a deep dive into two career paths of each participant's choice and plenty of time to speak with professionals who are currently leading the way in education.









ACTIVE MINDS

Purpose students at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) navigated through a six-part outdoor challenge aimed at building on RGMS' three R's – Responsibility, Respect and Resiliency.

The event featured a series of mental, physical and team-building activities—with the added incentive of a pizza party for the first-place team. Students were required to complete each task before moving on to the next, and all team members had to arrive together at every checkpoint. This structure encouraged students from multiple grades and teams to collaborate, communicate, and support one another in a wide range of situations.

Challenges included decoding a cypher, tackling a physical task that allowed only two feet on the ground for every four team members, hitting two targets with a football, and locating a hidden resource bundle on the cross-country course. Once found, teams used the materials to complete an "airmail" activity, transporting resources across a 15-foot span without letting anything touch the ground. Any item that did hit the ground couldn't be used in the next challenge.

For the final task, students engineered and built a freestanding model at least three feet tall that featured a face, eyes, nose, and mouth and proudly displayed "SV."

Students battled through the elements and challenges to learn that failure, at first, is not the final story. You could struggle and push through to victory.











FLAPJACKS FOR PROUD SCHOLARS

Seventh grade students on the Lions team at Ryan Gloyer Middle School who achieved all A's and one B enjoyed a sweet, well-earned celebration. Their teachers rolled up their sleeves, fired up the griddles, and served unlimited pancakes to recognize their hard work and dedication!







HEART OF SERVICE

Mr. Mike Manipole honored for over 30 years of service to school and community

Mr. Mike Manipole has dedicated more than 30 years to serving Seneca Valley students, the District and the greater community. As he celebrates his retirement from both Ryan Gloyer Middle School and the Cranberry Township Board of Supervisors, members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, including state Rep. Stephenie Scialabba, honored his long-standing commitment to service.

Mr. Manipole was recognized at Rep. Scialabba's Open House on Dec. 3, alongside retiring Cranberry Township Police Chief Kevin Meyer.

In a citation issued by the House, Mr. Manipole was commended for "his exemplary record of service... earning the respect and gratitude of all those who have received the benefit of his tireless devotion to duty."



Mr. Manipole pictured with, from L-R, Rep. Stephenie Scialabba and retired police chief Kevin Meyer

UN-BOWL-IEVABLE FUN

On Tuesday, Dec. 9, Chris Camp and the team at Fun Fore All welcomed Seneca Valley High School Multiple Supports job coaches and paraprofessionals to their Duckpin Bowling Suite for a special appreciation event. The gathering served as a heartfelt thank-you for their unwavering dedication to supporting students each day. We are incredibly grateful for their hard work and for community partners like Fun Fore All, whose generosity helps celebrate and uplift our staff.



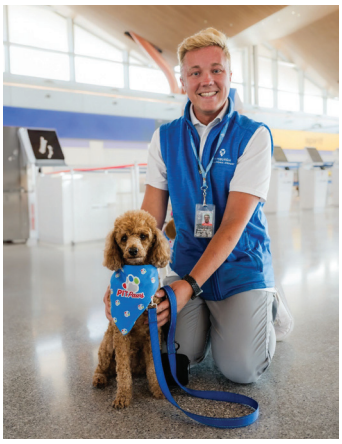


STAFF OF SV

Volunteering with my therapy dogs, Sophia and Levi, during the opening day of the new landside terminal at Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) was an experience I will always remember. Both pups are certified therapy dogs through Alliance of Therapy Dogs and proud members of PIT PAWS, a group of more than forty dogs who help create a welcoming and calming environment for travelers.

My connection to the airport goes back to childhood. My dad flew for USAir, USA 3000, and now American Airlines, so PIT has always felt like a second home. That early love of aviation carried into my classroom, where students board "Dr. S-West Airlines" each day and take on roles like Captain, Co-Pilot and Flight Crew. Those roles help us learn that every person has a seat, every job has value and every voice matters. Watching Sophia and Levi connect with travelers on opening day reminded me of those same values of belonging and kindness.

Opening day was full of memorable moments. We were interviewed by Pittsburgh Today Live and WTAE about the PIT PAWS program, and passengers enjoyed collecting the dogs' trading cards with their favorite treats and quirks. The biggest surprise was running into my own fourth grade teacher Mrs. Patterson, which made the day feel truly full circle since I teach fourth grade now.



Some of my favorite times at the airport are our Friday evening visits. Ending the week with Sophia and Levi greeting travelers always helps me start my weekend on a PAWsitive note. During my doctoral program, those visits gave me the balance and encouragement I needed to keep pushing toward the finish line.

Although we will miss the old tram rides, the new landside terminal is beautiful, and the people there are what make PIT such a special place. Sophia, Levi and I are grateful for the friendships we have built with airport employees and fellow PIT PAWS teams, and we look forward to many more visits ahead.

With gratitude from the flight deck,

Dr. Josh Sektnan













FEEDBACK IN FOCUS

We recently asked staff, grades 7-12, to share with us their perspectives regarding Seneca Valley's "Phone-Free SV" initiative. In summary, respondents agree that the phone-free policy has led to increased student engagement both academically and socially, with many respondents noting improved focus, higher academic scores and growth in positive routines.

"It's been an easy transition and is much needed," one staff member commented. "Students are learning positive face-to-face socialization and the policy is providing less distraction in all areas."

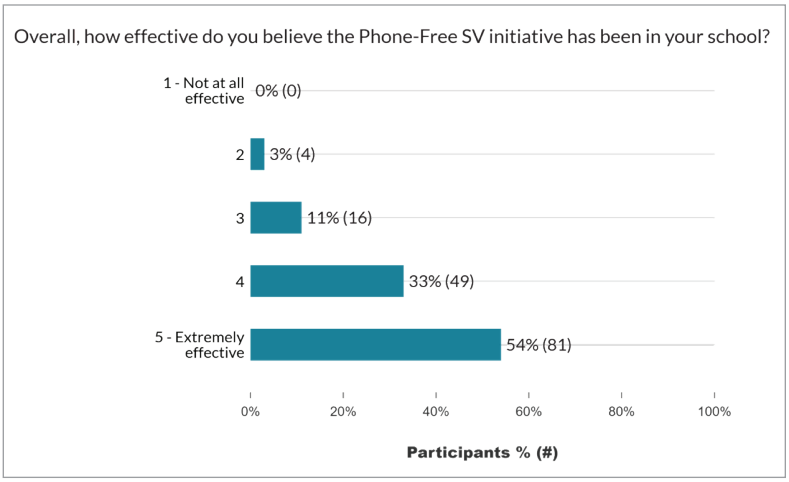
Staff also value that students are interacting more with peers and teachers, fostering better communication skills and social development.

Another respondent added, "Since phones have gone away, bonding as fellow students has improved. The elimination of cell phones decreases bullying, improves concentration in the classroom and increases creativity.

However, some concerns were raised about students substituting phones with other distractions. While the policy has generally been well-received, a few respondents recommended more opportunities to teach responsible phone use.

90% of staff participants agreed with the statement:

"Eliminating cell phone use during the school day has had a positive impact on students' focus, behavior and wellbeing."





Overall, the survey results indicate an appreciation for a consistent policy that promotes student wellbeing and a focused learning environment. We will take these results into consideration as we plan related mental health and wellness initiatives, and we appreciate the feedback. To learn more about this policy, check out our recent podcast where Ryan Gloyer Middle School Principal Ms. Trisha Butschle, Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Principal Dr. Chet Henderson and Director of Student Services Dr. Cassandra Doggrell share the feedback they've received.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are open to the public and are held at 7 p.m. in the Intermediate High School auditorium unless otherwise noted. The agenda development (work session) meetings are used for discussion and are typically held on the first Monday of the month. There are some exceptions. The Board is allowed to take action items at this meeting if it is necessary. The regular action meeting is held on the second Monday of each month unless otherwise noted and the Board votes on most or all of that month's agenda items. To view school board meeting dates for 2026, visit School Board Overview.

Stephanie Hammons, SV '15, has taken her SV pride to Texas, where she lives with husband, daughter and furry friend. We asked her to catch us up on what she is doing and how Seneca Valley influenced her life and career.

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

A: I am a Registered Dietitian working in private practice with a group in Austin, Texas. I provide individual nutrition counseling for teens and adults with disordered eating and eating disorders and aim to foster a positive relationship with food and body image. I also help people manage conditions such as PCOS, diabetes, heart disease, and more.

I received my undergraduate degree in Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics at Texas A&M University and hold a Master's Degree in Human Nutrition from the University of Houston.

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

A: I am married to my husband Sean and we have a five-month-old daughter and an eight-year-old rough collie.

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

A: I only went to Seneca Valley for my senior year! And though I do counseling, I'm a very introverted person.

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

A: SV offered a lot of great electives that expanded my awareness of what I enjoyed and, equally as valuable, what I didn't enjoy, professionally. I took engineering and realized that is not my brain space. This likely saved me frustration in picking a major before college.

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



A: I went to several high schools; SV being my last year. From that perspective, I felt SV offered the best education, a great variety of electives and a safe environment for students.

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

A: Ms. Finch! I loved her class atmosphere and encouragement. Many of her songs still stick with me years later. And the skills I learned in lab helped tremendously in science labs in college, even helping me work in lab settings later during my undergraduate and master's.

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: Joining choir and participating in musicals! It was such a great way to make friends and have fun outside of classes. I remember on our last musical night that all us seniors cried together knowing it was our last high school show while everyone cheered.





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

A: Your students thank you after their time with you more than they may ever show you directly.

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

A: It's full of opportunities that prepare you for beyond and excellent staff.

HOW TO KEEP A SCAMMER FROM STEALING YOUR HOLIDAY JOY – AND YOUR BUDGET

The holiday season is a time for giving, gathering and goodwill — but for scammers, it's prime season for taking.

While families across Pennsylvania are planning meals, wrapping gifts and hunting for the best deals on the latest items, bad actors are just as busy, looking to cash in on distracted shoppers, tight budgets and generous hearts.

Attorney General Dave Sunday and his Bureau of Consumer Protection are warning Pennsylvanians to be vigilant this year when considering donations. Be sure you are buying from a reputable seller, especially online.

"Do not let the bustle of the holiday season bring your guard down — scammers see this time of year as prime time to steal and defraud," Attorney General Sunday said. "If you find yourself in a situation where things don't seem quite right, or too good to be true, stop and think it over before clicking pay."

Whether you're shopping for your loved ones or donating to a cause close to your heart, Attorney General Sunday and his office are offering the following tips:

Stick with Trusted Retailers

Online deals may look tempting, but not all are legitimate. Scammers are able to create websites that look almost identical to legitimate ones. Oftentimes these fake websites are built to steal your personal and credit card information. Sometimes, these websites may show up as "sponsored results" on your preferred search engine. Just because a website is sponsored or shows up before another website, this does not ensure it is a legitimate website.

Be Smart About How You Pay

Attorney General Sunday strongly advises against paying for any services or items with wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or money orders. Scammers may also ask you to pay for items with a gift card that you normally would not be able to use a gift card for, such as paying bills, parking tickets, or other items. All of these are common tools that scammers use to avoid being tracked.



Read the Fine Print

Buy Now, Pay Later services may help manage big holiday purchases, but these services are not always as simple as they seem. Some of these services come with hidden fees or penalties if you miss a payment. Interest rates can vary dramatically on these buy now, pay later services. You should carefully read all of the terms and conditions before signing up for these services. Feel free to ask questions about the costs and fees before signing. If a vendor refuses or is reluctant to answer your questions, that may be a red flag.

Protect Your Personal Information

Scammers don't just want your money – they want your identity, too. If a website or email asks you for your Social Security Number or bank account information, that's a big red flag and you should immediately stop communicating with that person.

Be wary of any text messages or emails that appear to be from delivery services (such as USPS, UPS, or DHL), banks, or retailers that you did not request.

Look Out for Loved Ones

Scammers often target seniors, young people, and those who may not be as familiar with digital risks and online scams. Take a few minutes to share these tips with your loved ones to ensure they can keep their money and personal information safe this holiday season.

Pet-Related Scams

Considering a furry friend as a gift?

Be careful when adopting or purchasing a pet online, as some sellers use complex financing offers with high interest rates. Thoroughly research the seller, breeder, inspection records, and medical records.

Pennsylvania's **Dog Purchaser Protection Provision** ensures consumers buying a dog in Pennsylvania know that their new dog has a clean bill of health.

If you think you have been scammed or have encountered a suspicious seller, you are encouraged to report it to your local police. If you used a credit card, contact your credit card company right away to dispute the charge. Consumers who may have fallen victim to a scam are encouraged to file a complaint with the Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection **online** or by calling 717-787-3391.

*Article provided by **Attorney General Dave Sunday***

- 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.

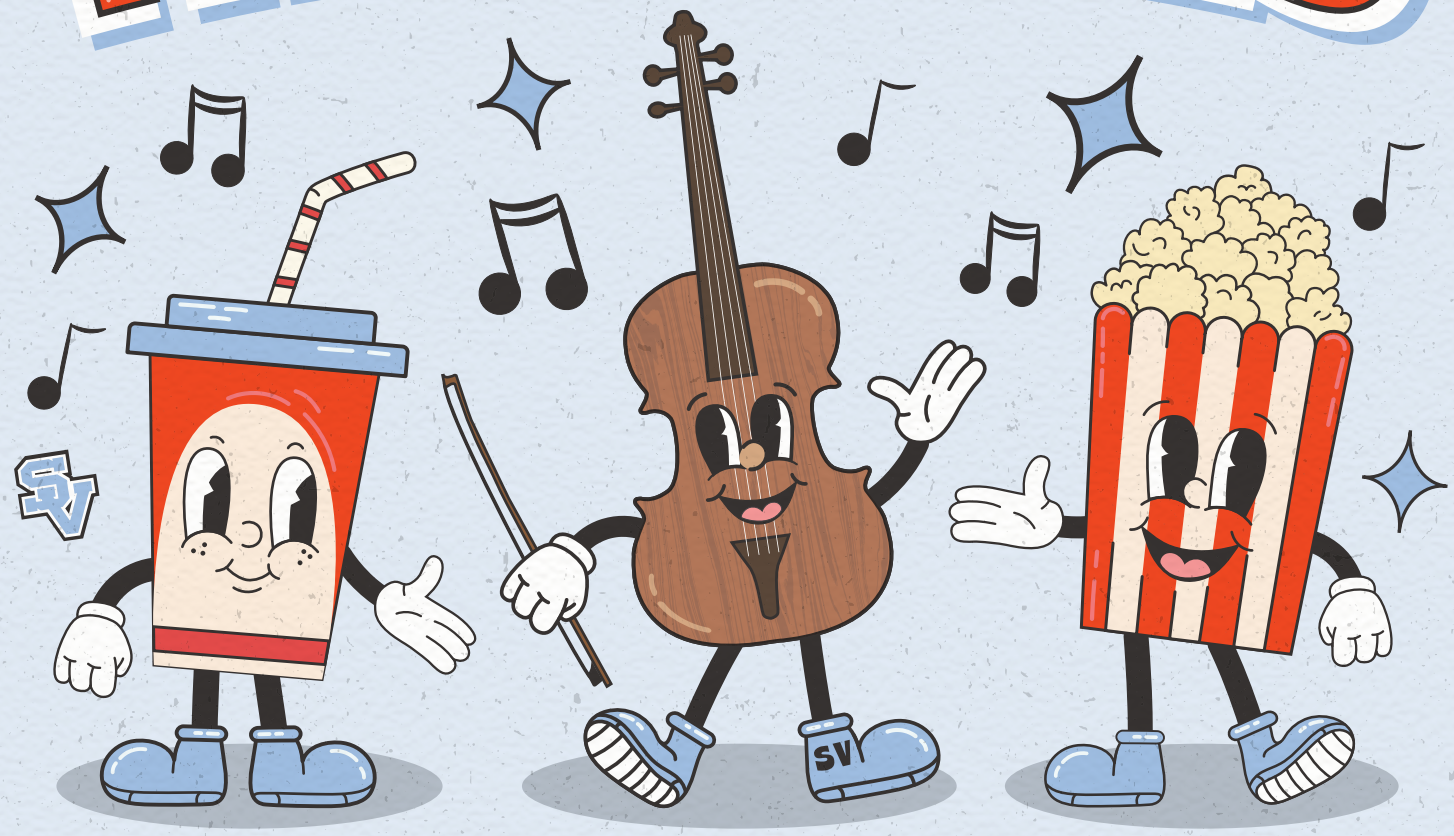
988
SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

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.

Seneca Valley Chamber Orchestra

PROUDLY PRESENTS

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 AT 7 PM

EHRMAN CREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER

CLEAR THE WAY!

Become a Snow Angel!



A volunteer opportunity for Seneca Valley students, faculty & staff!

Shovel snow for those in great need.

Perfect for sports teams, clubs, groups, & volunteer hours!

Register at link or scan QR code.

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

CRANBERRYTOWNSHIP.ORG/SNOWANGELS







CRANBERRY
TOWNSHIP

SEASONAL JOB FAIR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 | 1:30-3:30 P.M.
TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTER - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2525 ROCHESTER ROAD, CRANBERRY TWP., PA.

Waterpark

Various positions are available in Guest Relations, Concessions, Maintenance, and Lifeguarding. Minimum age varies by position, starting at 15.

Camp Cranberry

Coordinator and Counselor positions. Minimum age varies by position, starting at 15.

Cranberry Highlands

Various positions with the Pro Shop, Banquet Facilities, and Course Maintenance. Minimum age varies by position, starting at age 16.

Powell Farm

Long Seasonal Farm Production Assistants are sought as the Powell Farm ramps up operations.

Public Works/Utilities

Long and Short Seasonal Grounds, Streets, Fleet, Traffic, and Utilities Laborer positions.

Township staff will be on-site to answer questions. Applications will be accepted and interviews may be conducted.

Applications for seasonal positions will also be available online.

cranberrytownship.org
/employment