RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication JANUARY 2026

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

PURPOSEFUL PRESENTATIONS

In recognition of National Braille Literacy Month, students at Ehrman Crest Elementary (ECE) participated in a special braille lesson designed to foster understanding and inclusion as students engaged in activities alongside their visually impaired classmates.

Michael Doerfler, proud Seneca Valley graduate of 2001, visited the entire first-grade class at ECE. Visually impaired, Mr. Doerfler read a braille book to students, shared his personal experiences and explained the importance of adaptive tools that played a major role in helping him remain independent and successful when in school. These adaptive tools include a Perkins Brailler (braille typewriter), Clover CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) a magnifier for viewing items up close and at a distance and a Cranmer Abacus (tactile calculator used by individuals who are blind or visually impaired).

First grader at ECE, Raegan Kertz, has been learning braille since last year with the support of Ms. Jessica Sloan, Midwestern Intermediate Unit (MIU) IV Teacher of the Visually Impaired. Raegan joined Mr. Doerfler, and she helped teach her classmates how to form the braille alphabet through a fun, hands-on activity. She was especially excited to meet another braille reader and proudly shared the skills she has learned.

"This experience provided meaningful connections and valuable learning opportunities for students," said Ms. Sloan. "They gained a deeper understanding of braille and the tools that support individuals with visual impairments in their everyday lives."











The makeup day for the Dec. 2 school closure/snow day will be made up on **Friday, Feb. 13**; therefore, SV students and staff are to report to school.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 2 School Board Meeting, Work Session, SHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Feb. 9 School Board Meeting, Regular Session, SHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Feb. 13 Snow Makeup Day #1
Feb. 16 Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students

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

FEBRUARY

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

SV PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENING SOON





Seneca Valley Preschool registration for the 2026-27 school year will be held at 9 a.m. on Feb. 2 at the SV Senior High School LGI. Seneca Valley Preschool is part of the SV Senior High School Child Development program. Guided by the teaching staff, high school students study the growth and development of children from birth to age five and use this information to assist in planning and teaching age-appropriate preschool lessons.

Enrolling your child in the SV Preschool program will provide them with an opportunity to participate in hands-on learning experiences while working one-on-one with high school students. The program runs every week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from mid-October through mid-May. The AM session is 8:55-10:55 a.m. and the PM session is 11:50 a.m.-1:50 p.m. Cost is $180/year. Children must live in the district or have parents who work for Seneca Valley. Children must also be toilet trained and three years of age on or before Sept. 1.

Enrollment forms can be found on the preschool website, www.svsd.net/Preschool. Please bring your completed form along with a $20 non-refundable deposit to registration day. Acceptance will be on a first come basis. Completed paperwork and registration fee can be dropped off to the Senior High School. All guests arriving to drop off forms are asked to park in the guest parking lot located in front of the Senior High School. Parking maps can be viewed at www.svsd.net/IHSConstruction/Parking. ■

SUMMER READY ... SV STYLE!

The Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) summer camps registration is now open! This program offers a variety of exciting experiences for every interest– from artistic masterpieces to culinary delights, LEGO adventures to sports thrills. Register today for a summer filled with creativity, fun and confidence-building! ■







MUSICAL MILESTONES SHARED TOGETHER

Making this performance one to remember, students shared the spotlight with their biggest supporters. On Jan. 13 and 14, fourth grade band and string students from Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) and Ehrman Crest Elementary (ECE) showcased their talents during an "Informance" held at Ehrman Crest. Audiences were treated to a special glimpse into the incredible progress our young musicians have made since September. For the first time, students played together as a full group, creating a memorable and heartwarming experience for all.

Did you know our students can embark on their instrumental journey as early as fourth grade by joining band and/or orchestra!









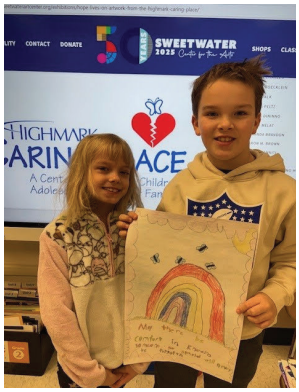
EMPATHY ILLUSTRATED

Earlier this month, Rowan Elementary students in Ms. Cardillo's class created thoughtful and artistic posters for the Highmark Caring Place centered on the theme, "How Can You Help a Grieving Friend?" Through the activity, students reflected on ways to show kindness and support to peers experiencing loss. The posters will be submitted to the Highmark Caring Place poster contest. Winners will be announced in the spring!





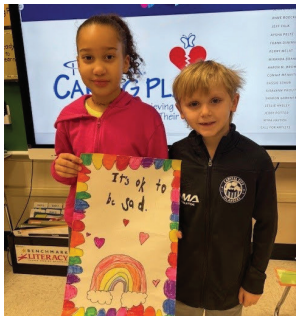












EXCITING DISCOVERIES

Nearly 50 Seneca Valley alumni who have entered STEM programs or fields of study spoke on Monday, Dec. 22, during Seneca Valley's STEM Alumni Days at the Seneca Valley Senior High School.

The SV Senior High Science Department and Science Honor Society hosted the event, which is in its 12th year.

Students had the opportunity to listen to presentations from alumni about their education, careers and their experience in areas such as cybersecurity, neuroscience, mechanical engineering, actuarial science, nursing, biology and more.

The intention of SV STEM Alumni Days is to inspire and inform current students, encouraging STEM fields of study. As part of a network of opportunities organized by a committee of teachers, SV STEM Alumni Days joins the highly successful SV Science Honor Society, STEM Lecture Series, and STEM Fair, as a way to become more engaged in STEM career possibilities.











AROUND THE WORLD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Intermediate High School (IHS) students explored how Christmas and other holidays are celebrated around the world through a new program at the IHS LIGHT Center called Snack and Learn days. Student ambassadors led engaging presentations on holidays such as Kwanzaa and Hanukkah, followed by traditional snacks and games that reflected each celebration. The experience encouraged students to learn more about diverse cultures and traditions while fostering understanding and appreciation for holidays observed by people from different backgrounds.







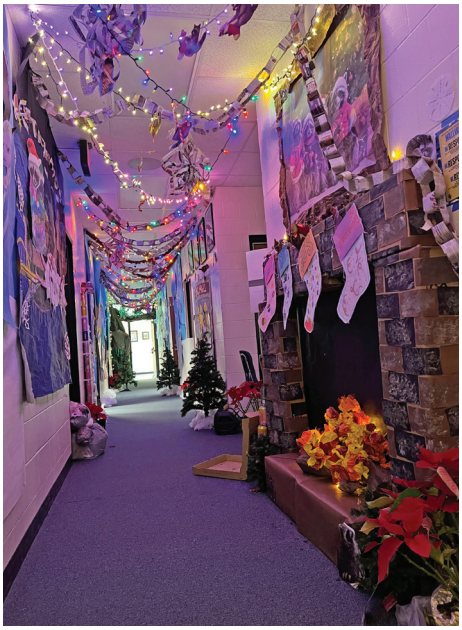


DONATIONS AND DECORATIONS

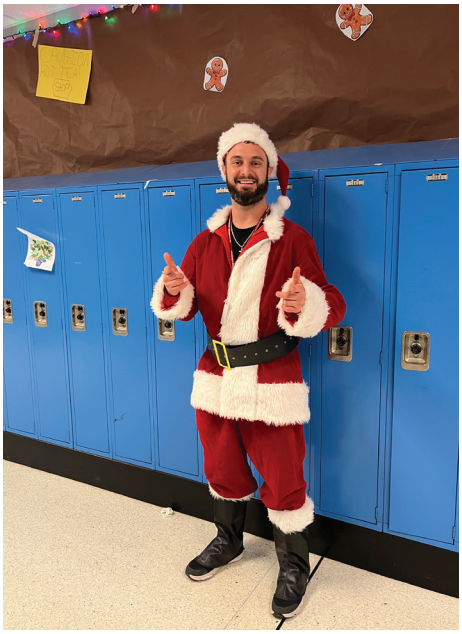
Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) geared up for break while celebrating in style! The annual door decorating contest made the hallways merry and bright, while unique exhibits created entirely from recycled materials, designed by students on the Condor Team, highlighted holiday traditions from around the world.

Together, these festive decorations and creative cultural displays transformed the building into a winter wonderland, spreading cheer and strengthening the sense of community throughout the school.

















DECK THE HALLS

Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) Band and Orchestra students in grades 5–6 wrapped up their final week before break with cheerful morning performances that welcomed students and staff as they arrived each day.

During their annual "Deck the Halls with Music" event, they collected over $500 that was donated to local food banks!

Both Ms. Tracy Glass, ECMS Band Director, and Ms. Mandy Lesney, ECMS Orchestra Director, shared how meaningful it was for our SV young musicians to showcase their talents while giving back to the community.









FA LA LA FUN

Ehrman Crest Elementary students were all smiles as they visited their friends at Luther Court on Dec. 17. The residents were filled with joy, imagination and kindness. Students each received their own copy of a special poetry book that two talented residents created just for them! The book even features additional space in the back for students to write their own poems! Together, the group sang carols, competed in an Ugly Sweater Contest and enjoyed delicious snacks. Students are already looking forward to their next visit!











CONNECTED THROUGH KINDNESS

Last month, students at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) visited first graders at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) to create wreaths and cards for residents of a local nursing home. Both schools enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate on this meaningful peer project. Special thanks to CVE counselor Ms. Christina Karmecy, CVE first grade teacher Ms. Sarah Boyles and RGMS counselor Mr. Lavarr Stephens-Howling for coordinating this heartwarming event!













BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Selected students on the Lions Team at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) volunteered at the Help Your Neighbor (HYN) warehouse, where they packaged food bags for distribution throughout Pittsburgh as part of 412 Food Rescue's efforts. Students also assembled food boxes and helped load them into vehicles used for local pick-ups at the HYN warehouse. This community service project was part of the ongoing Community Grown initiative, which provides students with opportunities to give back to the communities that have supported their education.







By Varden Armstrong,
Performing Arts Coordinator

SWEET SYMPHONY

Students in the Seneca Valley instrumental music program participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 2, 3 & 5 Orchestra under the direction of esteemed conductor Dr. Rebekah O'Brien.

The festival was held at Indiana Area Senior High School in Indiana, PA with a culminating concert on Jan. 24. Conductor Dr. O'Brien programmed unique repertoire, with a focus on music from Hispanic cultures.

As a result of auditions, seven Seneca Valley students will advance to PMEA Western Region Orchestra to be held March 5-7 at Heinz Hall. Those advancing include Elizabeth Browne, Benny James, Rileigh Karns, Ella King, Heath Lyon, Dylan Neal and John Rieger.

Students are led by Ms. Sarah Miller and Ms. Millie Shay, secondary orchestra instructors.



Student Participants:

Elizabeth Browne (12) – Violin
Hunter Brucker (10) – Violin
Quintin Hixon (10) – Trombone
Caroline Holmes (10) – French Horn
Benny James (11) – String Bass
Rileigh Karns (10) – French Horn
Ella King (11) – Clarinet
Heath Lyon (12) – Viola
Dylan Neal (12) – Violin
John Rieger (12) – Trumpet
Imogen Tomo (11) – Violin
Madelyn Tresky (12) – Violin

A CHORUS OF CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the 21 SV Chorus students who represented Seneca Valley in Hermitage at Hickory High School for the Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) District Chorus! Over 50 school districts participated in the event held Jan. 8-10. The choir was conducted by Dr. Lisa Wong, a distinguished choral conductor and educator who serves as the Director of Choruses for the Cleveland Orchestra.

The choir received thunderous applause and a standing ovation as the full-house audience enjoyed diverse song selections ranging from Haitian and German to classical and modern. Students from Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer counties collaborated for an experience they will never forget.

"Dr. Wong demonstrated a generous amount of choral experience to help students grow," said Bobi-Jean Alexander, SV Choir Director. "More importantly, seeing students from so many schools come together as one to make music, make new friends and perform a great concert is heartwarming and gratifying!"

Seneca Valley participants in grades 10-12 included: Nathan Capizzi, Bernardo Casimiro Vilas Boas, Hannah Callender, Morgan Clay, Arthur Covell, Aydan Danylo, Jacob Harding, Jacob Hensler, Quintin Hixon, Lincoln Hugus, Autumn Holmes, Madelynn Karns, Shayla Kemp, Jacob Maietta, Jacqueline Matchett, Evan Reckless, John Rieger, Morgan Stanton, Madelyn Tresky, Layne Vandenburgh and Jayden Wiedmeyer.



In addition, 14 of these students qualified to move on to the regional level of competition in February! Congratulations to all!

THE COLD NEVER BOTHERED US ANYWAY!

The SV Intermediate High School (IHS) stage is transforming into Arendelle as rehearsals for Disney's "Frozen" are well underway. Our cast is already bringing the movie's iconic soundtrack to life, capturing the magic of Anna and Elsa's epic journey to save their kingdom.

The set build team—comprising dedicated students and parent volunteers—spent winter break and early January weekends transforming the auditorium. To bring Elsa's "Ice Palace" to life, we are introducing a raked stage this year. This sloped design creates a stunning illusion of height and depth. The team worked quickly to assemble the stage extensions and apply the first coats of paint in time for the cast to get started in the space.

Our student Costume Crew tackled organizing the vast number of costumes to find the perfect pieces to outfit our performers. They have worked tirelessly to find just what is needed for our large cast of 85 students. This crew will create all the magical effects that are iconic to the film – including Elsa's transformation.

Mark Your Calendars:

- **Public Sale:** Feb. 5, at Noon
- **Performances:** March 12-15

Don't miss out on this story of sisterhood and the power of true love. Get your tickets early—you won't want to "Let it Go!" For more information, visit: https://www.showclix.com/event/sv-disney-frozen-musical.













NOTABLE EXPERIENCES

Congratulations to the students who proudly represented Seneca Valley at the Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) Junior District Chorus on Jan. 16. Students worked diligently to prepare a wide-ranging repertoire which included numerous rehearsals with other students in PMEA District 5 and a special evening concert for family and friends. Throughout the festival, students had the opportunity to work with distinguished guest conductors Mr. Brandon Martin and Mr. Matt Carlson, who traveled from Florida and Texas respectively to guide our young musicians in their pursuit of artistic excellence.





Seneca Valley grade 8-9 participants: Ava Beaudoin, Tanner Boros, Abryana Busser, Brayden Coleman, Julianna Coleman, Owen Craft, Brooks Culley, Eyoel Damtew, Alivia Duffield, Ainsley Faber, Chelsea Federowicz, Gabriella Foster, Devin Galligan-Stierle, Eli Hardy, Dylan Howe, Derek Junko, Isaac Kose, Konner Martin, Shayne Mason, Alex Meeder, Emma Parnell, Cash Reep, Cruze Reep, Eli Stehle, Zachary Sypien, LJ Thurman (not pictured), Leilana Zurrica.

Well done, SV musicians!

By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

WINTER SPORTS UPDATES

Basketball, Boys & Girls: At the time of this writing, our girls basketball team sits atop of their section and our boys team is in a four-way tie for second place. TribLive has our girls ranked second and our boys are currently fourth in their 6A WPIAL rankings. Coaches Dorothea Epps and Kevin Trost have their teams rounding into form as both squads enter the second half of section play. With plenty of basketball to be played, we wish both teams good luck in their pursuit of section titles and a berth in the WPIAL tournament.

Team	Conf. Record	PF/PA	Overall Record
Seneca Valley	5-0	267-163	9-5
Pine-Richland	4-1	255-140	9-7
North Hills	3-2	213-197	5-8
North Allegheny	2-3	229-172	7-7
Butler	1-4	208-226	8-7
Woodland Hills	0-5	71-345	0-13

Team	Conf. Record	PF/PA	Overall Record
New Castle	8-0	491-337	14-0
North Hills	4-4	446-508	10-5
Seneca Valley	4-4	334-354	9-6
Woodland Hills	4-4	383-368	8-8
Butler	4-4	404-427	6-8
Fox Chapel	3-5	377-378	8-7
Pine-Richland	3-5	407-404	7-9
North Allegheny	2-6	379-445	6-9

Bocce: Raider Bocce celebrated Senior Day on Friday, Jan. 9, hosting the Knoch Knights. While the scoreboard did not play in favor of Seneca Valley, it was a great afternoon of competitive bocce and celebrating our wonderful seniors!



Competitive Cheer: By virtue of their ninth-place finish at WPIALs, Raider Competitive Cheer qualified for the PIAA state championships in Large Varsity traditional 3A classification! At the PIAA state championships, Seneca Valley advanced to the semifinals, narrowly missing an automatic finals qualification by 0.5 points. In the semifinals, despite a performance with zero deductions, the Raiders fell 0.1 points shy of the finals. It has been a great WPIAL and PIAA season and now the squad turns their attention to Nationals which will be held at Disney World in Orlando. Well done, Raiders!



Ice Hockey: At the time of this writing, Raider Ice Hockey is in first place in the PIHL 3A standings with a record of 12-0-1. The team has six games remaining and will look to lock up the No. 1 seed in the PIHL bracket. Goalkeeper Chris Nichols was honored by the PIHL as its December Player of the Month. He was 4-0 (including three shutouts) with a 96% save percentage and a 0.75 GAA (goals against average). He gave up three goals on 84 shots for the month – that is some outstanding play in net!

VARSITY CLASS AAA
– 2025-2026 Season Regular Season

TEAM	GP	W	L	OTW	OTL	PTS
Seneca Valley	14	12	0	1	0	40
Peters Township	16	12	3	0	1	37
Central Catholic Varsity	14	8	3	1	1	28
North Allegheny	14	6	4	1	2	23
Thomas Jefferson	14	7	6	0	0	22
Pine-Richland	14	4	5	2	1	20
South Fayette	14	4	7	1	0	18
Franklin Regional	14	5	7	0	2	17
Upper Saint Clair	16	2	9	2	1	13
Fox Chapel	15	1	10	2	0	11
Mt Lebanon	13	1	8	1	3	8

Swimming & Diving: Raider swim and dive teams are in the middle of their section schedules and are training hard for WPIAL and PIAA championships. The girls team is currently undefeated (9-0, 2-0) in dual meets and the boys are 5-3 and 2-0 in section meets. Seneca Valley currently has two relays in the top six of current WPIAL top times: girls 400 free relay (third) and girls 200 free relay (fifth). In addition, diver Ali Waters sits in second place of top scores with a six-dive score of 269.95. Final season and postseason results will be available in a later Raider Pride issue.



Wrestling: At the time of this writing, Raider boys wrestling had a key section match against Mars to determine their fate for the WPIAL Team Championships. On the girls' side, while there are no WPIAL team championships this year, the Raiders have fared very well in their tournament and dual match season. Their tournament schedule included Red Bank Valley Invite, Beast of the East, and nationally known Powerade. The month of February will find both teams competing in sectional and WPIAL individual qualifiers with the hope of earning a berth in the PIAA state championships in Hershey in early March. Final season and postseason results will be available in a later Raider Pride issue.

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 are tremendous representatives 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
Riley McGee	Cross-Country/Track & Field	Edinboro University	Physical Education

ALUMNI VISIT WITH SALT TO TALK COLLEGE

Prior to winter break, the Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT) welcomed nine Raider student-athlete alumni to talk about college and what it is like to be college student-athlete. Joining SALT were:

- Creed Erdos ('24) - West Virginia University, Baseball
- Addison Fowler ('25) - Robert Morris, Volleyball
- Aedan Fowler ('25) - Gannon University, Baseball
- Colton Garner ('25) - Ohio Wesleyan University, Men's Lacrosse
- Lexie Hames ('25) - Clemson University, Softball
- Anna Kalkowski ('24) - Seton Hill University, Softball
- Chloe Leonard ('23) – University of South Carolina Aiken, Women's Soccer
- Beaux Lizewski ('23) - Lafayette College, Men's Soccer



- Kara Pasquale ('24) - Slippery Rock University, Volleyball

The panel shared their experiences on the daily life of a student-athlete, the importance of finding the right fit, balancing academic responsibilities with athletic commitments, how the transfer portal has impacted college athletics, and ended with words of advice for students in the audience. We are grateful for their willingness to come back "home" for an afternoon and share valuable words of wisdom with our Seneca Valley students.

Leading up to winter break, SALT members spent a few days visiting our elementary buildings and spending time with students.



Activities included making ornaments, coloring snowflakes for classroom décor, reading stories, playing Jeopardy-style holiday trivia and taking questions from our inquiring young minds. They capped off their visits as "rock stars" at Ehrman Crest during the lunch hour.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, NOVEMBER 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 November was soccer senior midfielder and captain Karly Majeski. Karly scored 18 goals and provided seven assists to lead the Raiders to a 13-5-2 record. Her midfield work played a key part in a Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) section championship, WPIAL 4A runner-up and quarterfinal finish in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) 4A tournament. Karly was named All-Section, All-WPIAL, All State, First Team Big 56 and voted Section 3 Player of the Year. She also made history by becoming the first SV girls soccer player to be named a Regional All-American by United Soccer Coaches. For a fantastic season, we recognized Karly as the November Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Karly!



The Captivating Imagery Male Athlete of the Month for November was senior soccer forward Owen Eastgate. Owen was prolific in front of the net, scoring 22 goals in 23 games. His offensive output included three hat tricks along with dishing out nine assists. As a captain, he led the Raiders to a 19-4 record that included a Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) 4A runner–up finish and semifinal berth in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) 4A tournament, losing to the eventual champions Abington High School. His impressive season was recognized by local and statewide coaches as he was named All-Section, All-WPIAL, All State and First Team Big 56. We recognized Owen as the November Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Owen!

RAIDER ATHLETICS PARTNERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

REMINDERS FOR SPRING SPORT PARTICIPATION

Key Dates to Remember

- Feb. 4: Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals for Spring Sports in Senior High School
  - 30 physicals offered 2:45-5:15 p.m.
- Feb. 18: Final Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals for Spring Sports in Senior High School
  - 30 physicals offered 2:45-5:15 p.m.
- Feb. 19: **Deadline** for Spring sport paperwork; all papers are due in athletic office.
- **March 2:** First official day of Spring sports – mandatory tryouts begin this day.
  - For tryout schedule, please contact the coach directly. Coaches contact information is located on athletics website under Participation Information tab.

REMINDERS for 2025-26:

- **ALL** paperwork for Spring sports is due in the athletic office no later than **Thursday, Feb. 19, by 3 p.m.** Coaches cannot accept paperwork on the first day of tryouts.
- The PIAA mandates the CIPPE Section 6 form as the only permissible form for doctor's signature.
- All required paperwork for 2025-26 athletic participation is available on Parent Portal or Athletics website. Paperwork includes PIAA CIPPE Sections 1, 2, 5, & 6 and Drug Test Consent Form.
- IF a student played in a fall and/or winter sport, the only paperwork needed is PIAA CIPPE Section 7 and, if applicable, PIAA CIPPE Section 8 – these forms can be dated no earlier than Jan. 19.
- All student-athletes must register in the Parent Portal under "Sports Registration" before the start of each season.
- Tryouts are mandatory. Student-athletes are expected to attend every tryout session.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Prior to Winter Break, students in grades 9–12 were invited to attend the Holiday Shop at Seneca Valley's No Cost to Shop (NCTS). The Holiday Shop featured festive decorations, hot chocolate, and the opportunity for students to select up to four free gifts for their friends and family.

Multiple tables were set up with a wide variety of gift options, and once students made their selections, they visited designated wrapping stations to add the finishing touches.

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







Since its inception, No Cost to Shop has distributed thousands of clothing, shoes, and hygiene items to hundreds of students.

For more information about No Cost to Shop or how to donate, visit https://shs.svsd.net/services/no-cost-to-shop/welcome.

HELPING HANDS AND WARM HEARTS

The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) awarded a grant to the Owls Team at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), which was used to purchase fabric for making blankets as part of the team's Community Grown initiative. Teachers and students dedicated several class periods to carefully measuring, cutting and assembling the blankets, which were then donated to local children in foster care.

The bright, soft blankets offered comfort to children navigating times of transition, many of whom arrive in new placements with very few personal belongings. Through this meaningful service project, RGMS students developed important skills like communication and teamwork while experiencing the reward of giving back to their community.











ANNUAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

With your support, the Seneca Valley Foundation's Annual Support Campaign was a huge success! Through many generous contributions, we raised nearly $17,000. These funds will be used to continue our important mission in supporting Seneca Valley's students and staff.

Thank you to the following donors:

Platinum Donors (1,000+)

Mr. Randy Miller - *In memory of Marcie Peaco*
Mr. & Mrs. Dusty Thompson
Mr. Gregory and Dr. Tracy Vitale
Mr. Jason Young

Gold Donors ($500-$999)

Dr. Cynthia Davenport
Dr. Mallory Eyles
Ms. Heather Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Peterson
Ms. Claire Zovko
Anonymous

Silver Donors ($200-$499)

Ladd Family
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Andree
Ms. Margie Beggy
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ceh
Dr. Chet Henderson
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Ms. Christine Roe - *In memory of Ashley Roe-Snyder*
Mr. Dean Walker
Ms. Kelly Weston
Ms. Elizabeth Williams

Bronze Level ($20-$199)

Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander
Ms. Elizabeth Allen-Boyle
Ms. Tesin Amoscato
Mr. Ivan Aranha
Dr. Anthony Babusci
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Ms. Torrie LaMantia
Ms. Holly Lingenfelter
Ms. Meagan Loewy
Dr. Jaclyn Macioce
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Dr. Jeff Roberts
Ms. Kristin Robinson
Drs. Joel & Brianne Roth
Ms. Jennifer Roush- *In honor of Jodi Albert & DeeAnn Graham*
Ms. Ashley Salman
Ms. Jessica Scerbo
Mr. Terry Shulsky
Ms. Suzanne Sloan
Ms. Sarah Smith - *In honor of Cheri Mihalik*
Mr. LaVarr Stephens-Howling
Ms. Samantha Stewart
Dr. Andrew Teti
Ms. Lisa Tyson
Ms. Gioia Warecki
Dr. Kristen White - *In honor of Haine Elementary Staff*
Dr. Erin Wilcher
Mr. Stephen Wolfe
Mr. Jeremy Womer
Mr. & Mrs. Matt & Kari Zimmer
Ms. Chrystal Zinkham - *In memory of Tommy Zinkham*
Anonymous - *In honor of SV Marching Band Directors*
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
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Anonymous

SUPPORTING THE SV FOUNDATION THROUGH EITC

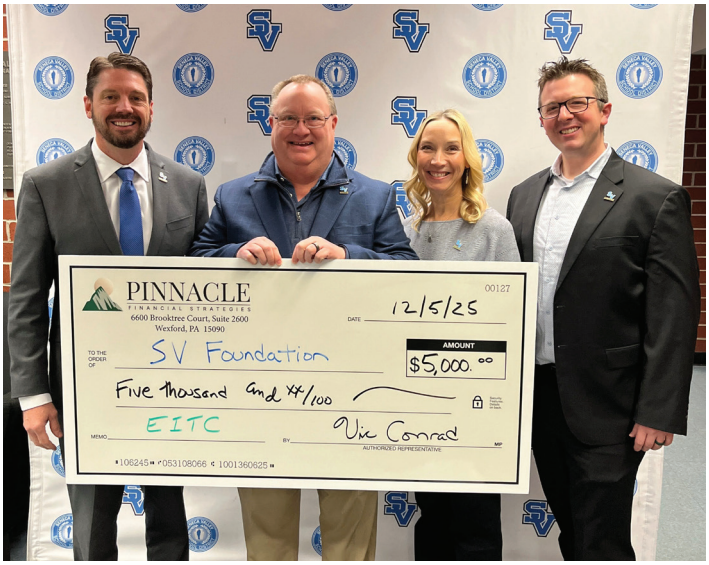
Many thanks to the following businesses for supporting the mission of the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) through Pennsylvania's Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program:

- NexTier Bank
- Waste Management
- Buncher Company
- Pinnacle Financial Strategies
- Huntington Bank

This tax-credit program is a vital part of the Seneca Valley Foundation's ability to contribute to Seneca Valley School District and we are honored to have the support of these generous businesses. All gifts received support the following classes in the SV Senior High School:

- Women in Engineering (a class for high school girls that focuses on engineering concepts)
- Honors Engineering (an enhanced course on engineering exploration and robotics technology)
- Accounting (college-credit accounting class for high school students in grades 10-12)

We kindly ask staff, families and community members to help connect us with businesses also willing to contribute to SV through this program. To learn more about how to become our newest "Partner in Public Education," visit Overview.



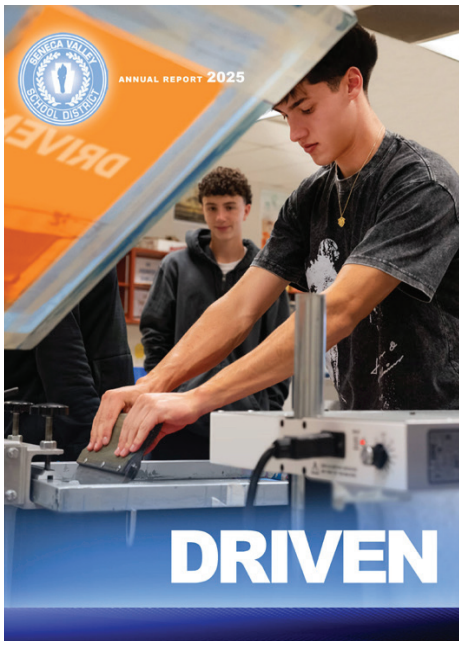
Pictured from left to right: Dr. Sean McCarty, Deputy Superintendent for Secondary Instruction; Mr. J. Victor Conrad, Pinnacle Financial Strategies; Ms. Julia Benson, SVF Secretary; and Mr. Ian Hunter, SV Communications Director



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Sean McCarty, Deputy Superintendent for Secondary Instruction; Dr. Marie Palano, SVF Trustee and Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education; Ms. Carol Aspelin-Fennick, NexTier Bank SVP/Treasury Management Officer; and Mr. Ian Hunter, SV Communications Director

SENECA VALLEY PRESENTS 'DRIVEN'

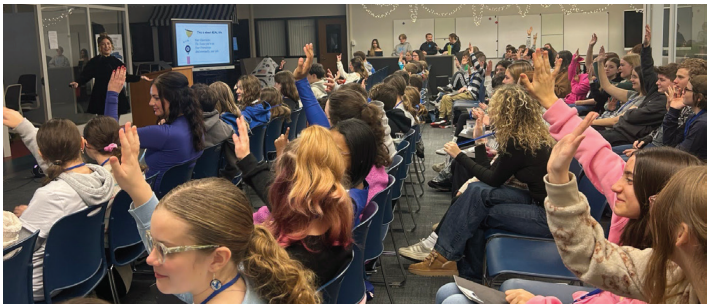
The 2025 Seneca Valley Annual Report is coming soon! Here's a sneak peek at what you can expect to see.





BLASTING OFF

On Friday, Jan. 16, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) Student Council hosted the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) Middle Level Conference, themed "Blast Off to Leadership." The conference is designed to strengthen leadership skills in middle level students. This year's event welcomed student leaders from Union School District, Haine Middle School, Ehrman Crest Middle School and RGMS, including members of Best Buddies and Hope Squad.







The day began with a keynote address from Ms. Brittany Neish, founder of "What You Do Matters." Ms. Neish shared five key components of effective leadership: being coachable, listening well, collaborating with others, learning how to learn and managing emotions.

Following the keynote, students participated in interactive leadership workshops led by Student Council members from the Intermediate and Senior High Schools. These sessions allowed students to further develop their skills through peer-led discussion and activities.

The conference concluded with a schoolwide service project in which students wrote positive messages on sticky notes and placed them on lockers throughout RGMS to spread encouragement and positivity. RGMS Student Council members also prepared sets of encouraging notes for Union School District participants to take back to their school and display.



STILL LEADING THE WAY

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) is one of only 12 exemplary Middle Grades Schools in Pennsylvania to be named a 2025–26 PA Don Eichhorn Schools: "Schools to Watch" by the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education (PAMLE) as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Ryan Gloyer Middle School is receiving this honor as a fifth redesignation, having first earned the distinction during the 2010–11 school year.

The PA Schools to Watch program recognizes middle schools that demonstrate academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and strong organizational structures and processes. Schools must undergo a rigorous application and review process every three years to maintain the designation.

"This recognition is especially meaningful because of the feedback we receive through the Schools to Watch process," said Trisha Butschle, Ryan Gloyer Middle School principal. "The visiting committee takes the time to speak with our students, teachers and staff, and they often recognize strengths within our school community that we don't always see in ourselves. Achieving re-designation would not be possible without the collective efforts of everyone in our building."

As part of the re-designation process, members of the PAMLE Don Eichhorn Schools to Watch Committee visited Ryan Gloyer Middle School to observe classrooms and engage in conversations with students, teachers, administrators and other staff members. The visit allows schools to receive meaningful feedback while reflecting on current practices and identifying opportunities for continued growth.

District leadership also emphasized the importance of the recognition.



Pictured, L-R: Ryan Gloyer Middle School Acting Assistant Principal Mr. Gabe Miller, Assistant Principal Dr. Samantha Flanhofer, Principal Ms. Trisha Butschle and Dean of Students Mr. Tom Donati

"The Pennsylvania Schools to Watch designation is a testament to the outstanding leadership, collaboration and dedication of the Ryan Gloyer Middle School staff," said Dr. Sean McCarty, Deputy Superintendent of the Seneca Valley School District. "Their commitment to high expectations, student engagement and continuous growth makes this recognition especially meaningful."

Ryan Gloyer Middle School will be formally recognized during the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education State Conference in February 2026 at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia. The school will also receive national recognition at the National Forum's National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, D.C., in June 2026. A local celebration will be held at Ryan Gloyer Middle School later this spring.

The Schools to Watch selection process begins with a written application requiring schools to demonstrate how they meet criteria established by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Schools that meet the criteria receive an on-site visit from a state team that observes classrooms, interviews administrators, teachers, students, and staff, and reviews achievement data, lesson quality, and student work.

Schools are recognized for a three-year period and must demonstrate progress on identified goals to be re-designated. Unlike one-time recognition programs, Schools to Watch emphasizes continuous improvement and sustained growth.

Launched in 1999, Schools to Watch is a national program designed to identify middle schools that meet or exceed research-based criteria for effective middle-level education. More than 700 schools across 20 states have been recognized through the program.

SV DAY OF SERVICE

On the Jan. 19 In-Service Day, Seneca Valley teachers and staff dedicated their afternoon to meaningful volunteer service across the community. Opportunities included volunteering with the Andrew Effect and Inspired Hearts and Hands, assisting with cleaning efforts at the Rose E. Schneider Family YMCA, creating care packages for Children's Hospital, assembling blankets for Passavant residents, preparing homemade baked goods and delivering them to first responders, picking up trash along a local hiking trail and more.

In addition, one building organized a fundraiser to support Zip With Us, a nonprofit organization that provides free, custom-adapted medical clothing to babies, children and young adults with cancer and other serious illnesses. These garments allow medical ports and lines to remain accessible during treatment. Through this effort, staff members donated 293 T-shirts along with $100 in monetary contributions.

Staff greatly appreciated the opportunity to give back and make a positive impact. Thank you, Seneca Valley, for your continued commitment to fostering a culture of kindness, service and support, both within our district and throughout the community.









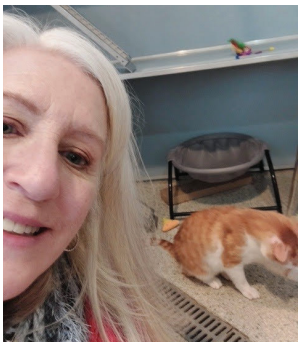


















RAISING THE BAR

Seneca Valley's Mock Trial team earned a fifth-place finish at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral Classic Tournament, competing against 50 teams from across Pennsylvania. Throughout the rigorous competition, students immersed themselves in a complex legal case, developing both prosecution and defense strategies, mastering their assigned roles, and presenting arguments in simulated courtrooms.

In addition to the team's strong overall performance, senior Calleigh Foulkrod was recognized with a Best Witness award, distinguishing her among hundreds of high school competitors.

The SV Mock Trial Team is comprised of students in grades 9-12 in the gifted program and is advised by Ms. Brieana Nassan, Senior High School gifted support teacher and the team's attorney advisor, Mr. Philip Sbrolla.

"Our placement at Pitt is especially exciting because it reflects how much this young team has grown together in such a short amount of time," said Ms. Nassan. "Throughout the competition, they demonstrated a strong understanding of the case as a whole, supported one another in every role, and showed an impressive demonstration of objections and courtroom procedure. Their ability to work collaboratively under pressure speaks to the time, preparation, and commitment they've invested, and this result is a well-earned recognition of that effort."

Members of the SV Mock Trial Team include Jacob Hensler, Julia Gibilisco, Calliegh Foulkrod, Lillian Eaves, Ziva Schmitt, Mariana Silva, Erin Sbrolla, Jonathan Brower, Liam Janouskovec, Seliah Catterall, Josie McMichael, Riya Patel, Breanna Zimmerman, Lauryn Fencik, Juliann Matter, Monique Polas, Jovi Pencek, Graysen Hundertmark and Autumn Holmes.





The Seneca Valley Mock Trial team is preparing for the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Statewide Competition with their District Mock Trial Competition taking place at the Butler County Courthouse in February.

HONORING THE FORMER SV EDUCATOR BEHIND PENNSYLVANIA FLAG DAY

A lesson that began in a Seneca Valley classroom more than 40 years ago recently came full circle at the Pennsylvania State Capitol.

Former Seneca Valley School District teacher and track and field coach Wayne Roccia was honored on the floor of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in Harrisburg for his role in helping establish Pennsylvania Flag Day, an official observance celebrated each year on October 14, William Penn's birthday.

While teaching sixth grade in the early 1980s, Mr. Roccia made it a point to educate students about the United States flag and, just as importantly, the Pennsylvania state flag. During those lessons, he discovered that many students were unfamiliar with the state flag, its symbolism and the Commonwealth's coat of arms. Those conversations led to deeper discussions about Pennsylvania's history and state symbols and eventually sparked an idea.

Through classroom research, Mr. Roccia and his students learned that while the United States had a designated Flag Day, Pennsylvania did not. The class decided to act, writing a letter to then-state Representative Jim Byrd suggesting the creation of a Pennsylvania Flag Day. They proposed Oct. 14 in honor of William Penn's birthday.

The idea gained momentum, ultimately leading to the resolution's unanimous passage in both the Pennsylvania House and Senate and its signing into law by then-Governor Richard Thornburgh, formally establishing Pennsylvania Flag Day.

Four decades later, that classroom initiative was rediscovered — thanks to Mr. Roccia's grandchildren.

After sharing the story with his family, Mr. Roccia provided a newspaper article documenting the original resolution to one of his granddaughters. Unknown to him at the time, several of his grandchildren decided to investigate further and reached out to State Representative Jeremy Shaffer. His office located the original resolution in the House archives and invited Roccia to Harrisburg to be formally recognized for his role.

Mr. Roccia and his family traveled to the Capitol once all his grandchildren were home from college. They were welcomed by Representatives Jeremy Shaffer and Stephanie Scialabba,



received a tour of the Capitol and archives, and were honored on the House floor — 40 years after the resolution's passage.

"It was a long day, but an extremely rewarding one," Mr. Roccia shared.

The recognition serves as a powerful reminder of the lasting impact educators can have — and how classroom learning can extend far beyond school walls.

SV WELCOMES THREE NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Seneca Valley welcomes to the School Board three new members representing Cranberry Township Region 1; Callery and Harmony Boroughs and Jackson Township, Region 9; and Cranberry Township Region 4.

We look forward to working with them in making decisions that shape our schools and provide pathways to success for every student.

Ms. Alyson Mazzoni



Allyson Mazzoni was elected to represent Cranberry Township East 1 & 2, Region 1.

Ms. Mazzoni is a 2003 graduate of Seneca Valley and a proud lifelong member of the Cranberry community. Following her time as a Seneca Valley student, she earned a degree in Electrical Engineering from Penn State in 2007, followed by an MBA in 2011. After beginning her career with Westinghouse—where she worked from 2007 to 2018, including four years in China—Ms. Mazzoni transitioned to rehabilitating residential homes in Butler County, a field she continues to enjoy.

Ms. Mazzoni has a strong record of local civic involvement. She served six years on the Cranberry Public Library Board and has been a Judge of Elections in Cranberry for the past seven years. Her commitment to public education is deeply personal, and she is passionate about giving back to the system that shaped her own academic and professional journey.

Ms. Mazzoni lives in Cranberry with her partner of 13 years, Jake. She is honored to represent Region 1 and is dedicated to supporting students and families across the Seneca Valley School District.

Mr. Mark Gartner



Mark Gartner is excited to be the school board representative of Callery and Harmony Boroughs and Jackson Township, Region 9.

Mr. Gartner has been a proud resident of the Seneca Valley community for more than 23 years. He and his wife Amanda have been married since 2001 and have two sons: Mark Jr., a 2023 Seneca Valley graduate, and Conner, who will graduate in 2027. After graduating from Claysburg-Kimmel High School in 1995, Mr. Gartner served in the U.S. Army with the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and later in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 28th Infantry Division as an infantry squad leader, completing nine years of combined service.

He earned his degree in Health and Physical Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2002 and has been a middle school health and physical education teacher at Hampton Township Middle School for the past 22 years. He also completed a master's degree in Education from Slippery Rock University in 2008.

In addition to his work in education, Mr. Gartner owns and manages a residential real estate portfolio and has been active in community leadership through youth football and high school wrestling coaching.

Mr. Travis Savitt-Kraft



Mr. Savitt-Kraft is representing Cranberry Township West IV and West VI, Region 4.

A Penn State graduate, Mr. Savitt-Kraft is a secondary mathematics teacher with 17 years of instructional experience across Maryland and Pennsylvania. His career includes teaching on film and television sets, six years in a private Jewish school, and work ranging from K–6 general studies to college-level math. He has contributed to curriculum design, consulted on Discovery Channel programming, produced instructional videos during COVID, and served as a point person for standardized testing, including state assessments, SATs and AP exams.

With years of experience translating complex concepts into accessible language for students, he hopes to strengthen communication between the board and the community.

Mr. Savitt-Kraft and his wife, Brooke, who has worked in the California film industry and as a federal investigator, live in the district with their son Sylar, a student at Haine Elementary. As a family, they enjoy gaming, golfing and playing tennis together.

SV RECOGNIZES SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

In honor of school boards' commitment to our students, schools and communities, January is nationally recognized as School Director Recognition Month.

Pennsylvania public schools educate nearly 2 million students, including over 7,500 students here at Seneca Valley. The nine members of our school board are a vital part of the district's administrative team, making informed decisions that lead Seneca Valley and provide opportunities for every student to succeed.

School directors, who are unpaid volunteers, devote an average of 10 hours each month to the challenging and complex responsibilities of board business, including voting on budgets, adopting policy and conducting comprehensive planning.

As citizens and parents, the success of our schools is a collective interest. We recognize the time and dedication of our School Board and thank them for ensuring our schools remain a pathway to opportunity for every student. To learn more about Seneca Valley School Board members, please visit School Board Members.



'I LED THE PLEDGE'

Seneca Valley students from the District's K-6 schools are appearing at this year's school board meetings, leading the members of the School Board and public in saying "The Pledge of Allegiance."

Maris Profeta, a Rowan Elementary fourth grader, led the Pledge at the Jan. 12 Seneca Valley School Board Meeting. A bright learner with a passion for art and reading, Maris dreams of becoming a veterinarian or fashion designer. Outside of school, she enjoys participating in local musical theater productions and is active in her Girl Scout troop. Last month, Maris further immersed herself in her interests by caroling at a local nursing home with her troop, one of her favorite events of the year.



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

SV ALL-STAR

For January, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Ms. Kayla Moore, bus driver for First Student, Inc.

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.

Kayla has been driving for Seneca Valley for four years and has had her CDL for nine years. She is such an asset to our team going above and beyond and always putting the safety of our students first. A perfect example of Ms. Moore's dedication to safety occurred on Friday afternoon, Dec. 19, when an unexpected snowstorm hit as buses were dismissing from the secondary campus.



Pictured from L-R: Dr. Tony Babusci, Transportation Director, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President, Ms. Kayla Moore and Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools

Conditions deteriorated quickly, especially on Yellow Creek Rd. in Forward Township, a steep, icy stretch maintained by PennDOT. Because the storm came so fast, PennDOT had not yet treated the road. When Ms. Moore reached the top of the hill that leads to East Lancaster Rd., she saw a box truck stuck at the bottom in the middle of the road. The hill was covered in ice, and there was no guardrail on the right ride, only a drop to the creek. Faced with these hazards, Ms. Moore made the calm, professional decision not to attempt the descent. She immediately called in, explained her plan and kept the two students on board calm and safe while waiting at the top.

An SV van arrived at the bottom of the hill, and the students were able to walk down safely. Later, PennDOT treated the road, and Ms. Moore skillfully navigated the empty school bus down the hill using her knowledge and experience.

"Throughout the entire ordeal, Kayla was never rattled," said Dr. Tony Babusci, Seneca Valley Transportation Director. "She communicated clearly, stayed composed and made sound decisions that ensured everyone got home safely."

Kayla's actions reflect the highest standards of safety and professionalism. We are grateful for her calm leadership, commitment to our students, and we are fortunate to have her as part of our team.

Matthew Mularski, SV '19, recently inspired secondary students at the Dec. 22 STEM Alumni Days where he shared his journey from SV student to a Traffic Engineer in training. 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: After graduating from SV, I went on to pursue my Bachelor's in Environmental Engineering at the University of Georgia and graduated in 2023. Currently, I live in Orlando, Florida, and am working as a Traffic Engineer In Training. Mainly I work in traffic studies and retiming, which includes analyzing intersections for installation of traffic signals, redesign of signing and pavement markings, and retiming signals to improve traffic flow. I also spend time out in the field taking speed measurements, setting up traffic cameras and driving the corridor before/after retiming. In my free time, I'm a huge roller coaster enthusiast, so I usually go to Universal or Disney once or twice a week.

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

A: Both of my parents were born and raised in the Pittsburgh area before moving around a few times after they got married. They always knew they wanted to come back to the 'Burgh, so when they had an opportunity to return in time for me to start school, they jumped at the chance. They're huge Penguins fans and also play in a rock band!

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

A: I think that one of the most surprising things to know about me is that I'm also a performer. I design, sew and choreograph for the local art scene when work isn't as busy. I think we often see the arts and STEM as very separate disciplines, but I've found that they're amazingly intertwined. I've found that having a creative outlet is crucial to prevent burnout in STEM, and that having good fundamentals of algebra, biology, physics, etc., is necessary to produce high-caliber art.

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

A: Seneca Valley played a huge part in giving me access to AP (Advanced Placement) and CHS (College in High School) classes that allowed me to get ahead on my degree. These courses engrained in me the value of preparedness. Because I was ahead in my degree, I could take fewer classes per semester, allowing me to focus more on each course and get better grades. Even to this day, I try to prepare as best as I can for any work projects so that I can handle any curve balls that come my way.

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

A: In my personal experience, the most special part of Seneca Valley was seeing my friends grow up with me. I was very fortunate to graduate alongside many kids from my kindergarten class, and being alongside them for those 13 years allowed me to form extremely deep connections that I feel will be with me for the rest of my life.

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

A: It is very hard to choose a favorite, but I'd say the teacher that really influenced



my path after graduation was Mr. John Fetchko. He saw my passion for science, believed in my abilities, and pushed me to accept nothing but the best from myself. Shout out to Ms. Christ, Ms. Nassan, Mrs. Palaski and both Mr. Magills, too.

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 from Seneca Valley was during my junior or senior year when the Show Choir and Madrigals went to Rowan Elementary and Haine Elementary School to perform for the holidays. It was amazing to look out into the crowd and see all of my past teachers in the audience.

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

A: I wish people knew that Seneca Valley is a great representation of the communities it serves.

8 FAMILY TECH HABITS TO BUILD IN 2026

Why have any screen time policies/rules for our kids anyway?

Devices provide endless entertainment, connection to others, relief from FOMO, a sense of competency that comes from leveling up in a game, and much more. But at a cost.

Allowing the "treat" side of tech (vs. the "tool" side) to consume our children's time in excess is not in their best interest, nor in that of our families or schools. That's why having policies/rules around tech is valuable and worth the work.

At times, your kids may want to refrain from participating. But don't give up. Make sure you have some protected time to talk about science, love, and all the reasons why this is important.

Why now?

Katherine Milkman, a researcher and author of How To Change, has found that people are particularly motivated to change behaviors after a "fresh start," such as the New Year or the start of a new month.

As humans, we love the idea of a clean slate.

8 Family Tech Rules/Policies to Consider

Below are eight examples to consider talking about with your kids and making some decisions.

As a parent, you may need to make some executive decisions if you can't agree on things together.

Finally, deciding on policies depends on many things, like your child's age, so I've provided different variations.

1. Creating "you show, I observe" time
This involves having your teen scroll on their social media for a few minutes while you sit with them. You get to see what comes up, and you don't react or critique, just observe.

And then, a day or two later, you can reconvene to debrief a bit. Not to be judgmental or mad, but to think together about some messages and dynamics you both noticed on your teen's social media.

Pointer: Try to schedule a day, like the first of each month, when this will occur regularly.

Learn more about showing our movies in your school or community!

2. Same as above, but with video gaming social platforms like Discord and specific games such as Roblox, Minecraft, Fortnite, etc.

3. Everyone takes an inventory of their own screen time for family discussion: Conducting a family screen time inventory

a. Agree on a time to share findings, such as at two dinners from now.

b. Determine the method for tracking screen time that works best.

   i. Check device settings to see if the time spent is recorded

   ii. Estimate time spent on different apps (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, Netflix, email) based on an average day

   iii. Log screen time for one day and estimate for the week

c. Each family member records their own screen time using the chosen method.

d. At the agreed time, share findings with the rest of the family and discuss.

4. Creating a rule of a maximum of 1 hour of continuous video game play before taking a break
You may have existing rules at home that allow for more overall play time, but try to ensure sessions are broken up with regular breaks.

5. Matching offline activity time for an equal amount of time engaged in online activities
For example, after using TikTok for 20 minutes, maybe they can help with cooking for the same amount of time.



6. All devices away at shared/family meal times
If eating alone, devices are okay. But encourage mindfulness around the types of content. What would nourish the mind, in the way food nourishes the body?

7. Keep devices put away in the kitchen/dining area altogether
I.e., when making dinner and while cleaning up after dinner, creating the space for conversations to thrive in a communal setting.

8. Put all devices out of the bedroom for sleep every night
This is one of the biggest things parents can do to protect and improve kids' wellbeing.

Our Screen-Free Sleep campaign website addresses this in more detail, but over half of teens get less than 7 hours of sleep most nights, leaving them tired and contributing to worsening school performance and mental health.

Questions to get the conversation started with youth:

1. What one of these new habits should we try?
2. Should we commit to a month and then see how we feel about it?
3. Is there a different habit we want to try instead?

Article provided by Screenagers

- SVAOC Summer School Registration is Open! Exciting news! Summer School is now available for students currently in grades 8-11. Secure your spot by registering at Summer School Registration. Seats are limited– enroll today!

- 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.



- 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. ■

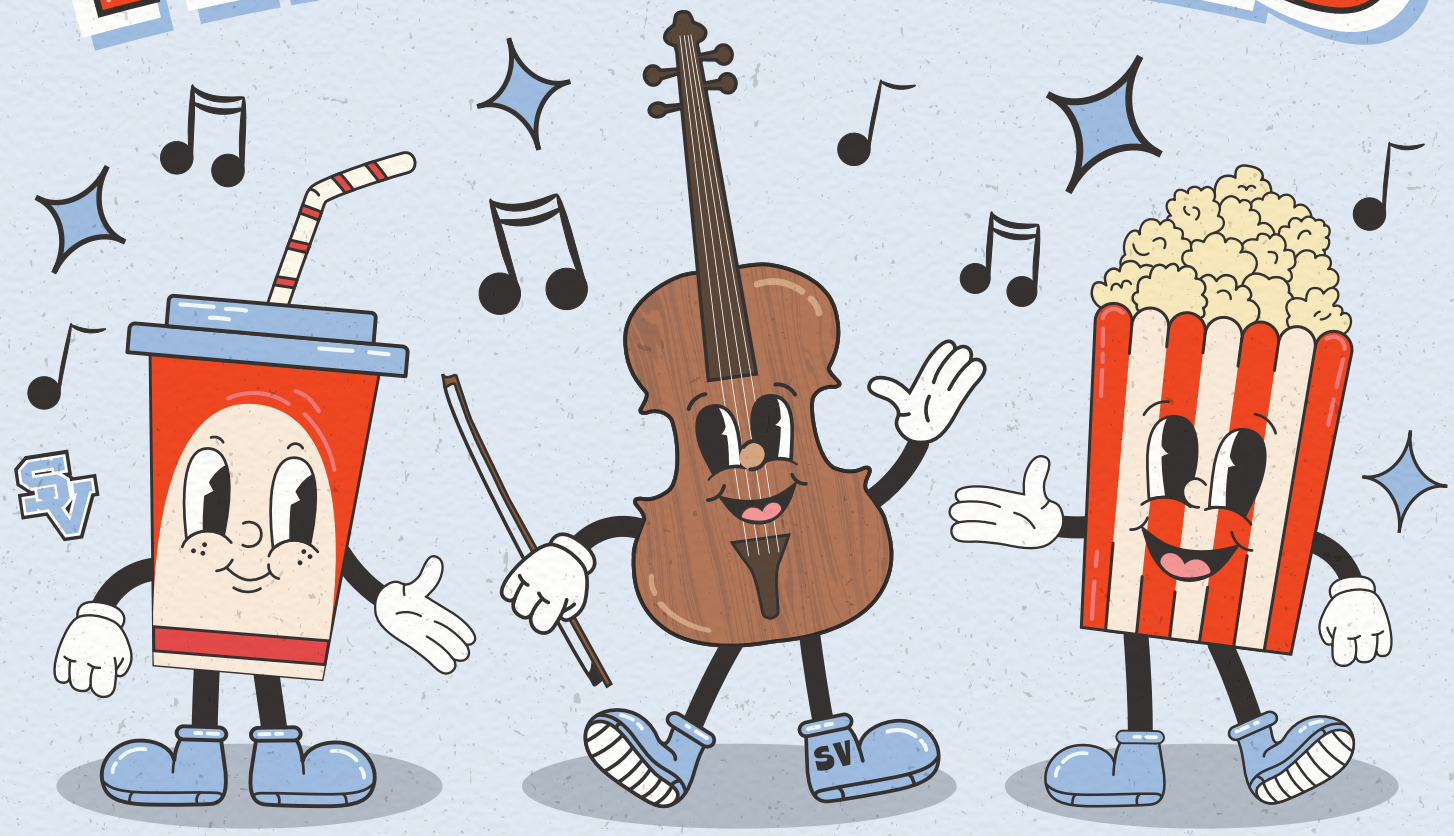
The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of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

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

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

JOIN OUR TEAM!

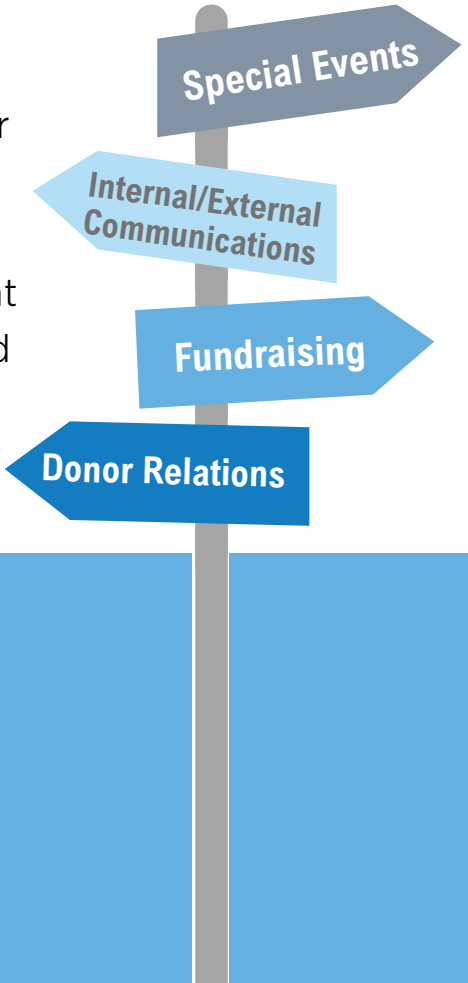
HIRING GRANT & DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

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.

Valentine's Day themed

Parents Night Out

Kids aged 5-12 years old
$30 per child **nonrefundable*
Only 30 available spots!

FRIDAY
FEB
13

Seneca Valley Intermediate High School

5:30PM UNTIL 9:00PM

Pizza | Craft | Games | Dance Party

Hosted by FCCLA and Mrs. Carrie Ehrenberger

MORE INFO HERE



"Screenagers: Elementary School Age Edition" updates the original "Screenagers" movie with the latest research, expert insights and advice, specifically tailored for parents and educators of elementary students to help them better navigate this digital age.

Rescheduled to

Thursday, Feb. 19

6 p.m. | Haine Elem. Cafeteria

Only **400** seats available!
Scan the QR code or click here to RSVP

*This movie program is **FREE** and open to parents/guardians, staff and the general public. This event is intended for adults only (no students or children should attend).*

Act 48 credits available to SV teachers.

Seneca Valley Track and Field – Elementary Program Grades (3-6)

The fee is $75.00 per student we will honor any financial waiver approved by the school district. The money will go towards a team t-shirt and the Track and Field Program. The Elementary Program will finish with the Annual Community wide Track and Field Meet on May 15th more information will be provided once your child is registered for the program.

Schedule:

This program is open to all third - sixth graders within the Seneca Valley School District in the evening on the following dates April 8, 13, 20, 29 and May 2, 4, 9, 11. Saturday practices will be (10:00 am- 11:30 am) and week day practices will be (5:30 – 7:00 pm).

May 15th (Track and Field Meet) – more information will be coming soon

Conditioning Start Date – April 8 please meet the coaches and varsity athletes down on the back turf field behind the stadium. During each session the athlete will have exposure to running, hurdling, jumping and throwing activities.

Expectations:

You may come to all sessions or just the ones that fit your schedule, since this is a beginning Track and Field Program. Success (meaning improvement and fun) is more likely to occur if you come more often.

Behavior expectations: Be on time and prepared for running activities you need to come dressed for activity. Being prepared means having athletic clothing (dress for the weather), lightweight running sneakers that fit well, a water bottle, and anything else you might need individually. Be good, positive, and encouraging to all teammates and stay where you are directed. Lastly, all activities will take place on the school district campus. The beauty of this sport is the entire range of experiences and desires everyone can be genuinely successful. This is a beginner program to get ready for an Elementary Track and Field Meet. If you come regularly, set goals, accept challenges, and work hard you can have success. Success is mainly measured by times and distances: setting new and improved PR's is success regardless of your place in an event. (There are other ways, too!) Our Philosophy of this program/rationale: We want to build our program from the enjoyment of wanting to be an athlete. We hope many of you find this type of activity as important, meaningful, and fun and eventually decide to join our MS Team as a 7th/8th grader and eventually our HS Track & Field Programs in the coming years.

This Program is an evening community Booster Sponsored program designed to inspire boys and girls of all abilities to recognize and embrace their inner strength. They will learn lessons that emphasize the important connection between physical and emotional health. Through safety modifications and specific training by the coaches. At the end of the program, everyone will be able to compete in a Track and Field meet, which provides a tangible sense of accomplishment, setting a confident and goal-oriented mindset into motion.

Questions please contact:

Ray Peaco (Seneca Valley Head Coach)

peacorf@svsd.net or call/text cell# (724) 452-0560

This correspondence is being circulated as a community service at the request of a non-school organization. This information and/or activities are not associated with the Seneca Valley School District. Any questions or correspondence should be directed toward the activity coordinator.

Online Registration: (Please complete by Wednesday, April 1st 2026 at the latest)

Follow this link to register online –

- For this program to take place, we would like to have 10-20 girls and 10-20 boys to participate in grades 3-6
- Link to online registration page - https://2026-elementary-school-track-and-field-program-grades-3-6.cheddarup.com/
- Annual Community Elementary Track and Field Meet – May 15th