

BVHS Newsletter

February

From the Principal's Office



MISSION STATEMENT:
**BUILD A COMMUNITY OF STAKEHOLDERS WHO
VALUE EDUCATION AND GRADUATE
STUDENTS WHO ARE COLLEGE/CAREER READY AND ARE
DEDICATED TO LIFE-LONG LEARNING.**

**EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS TO MAKE MEANINGFUL
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD!**

As we move through February, we find ourselves at an exciting transition point in the school year. Our winter sports season is wrapping up, and I want to commend our student-athletes and coaches for their dedication, resilience, and Viking pride. The effort, discipline, and teamwork displayed this season represent the very best of Blacklick Valley. As winter concludes, we eagerly look forward to the start of spring sports. Best of luck to all our student-athletes as practices begin and a new season of opportunity unfolds.

Scheduling for the 2026–2027 school year is officially underway. This is always an important time as students begin thinking about their future pathways. We are reviewing our current offerings and exploring new course opportunities that align with student interests, career readiness, and evolving academic standards. Our goal is to continue providing relevant, rigorous, and engaging options for every Viking.

The high school musical season is also fast approaching. Our students and directors have been working hard behind the scenes, and we are excited to showcase their talent and dedication on stage. The arts remain a vital part of our school culture, and we look forward to a tremendous production.

In addition, preparations for upcoming state assessments are beginning. We will continue supporting our students through focused instruction, review, and encouragement. State testing provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their growth and the strong academic foundation being built each day in our classrooms.

February is a month of transition, preparation, and momentum. Thank you to our students, staff, and families for your continued support and commitment to excellence.

Proud to be your principal — and proud to lead our Vikings forward!



Blacklick Valley JSHS
Home of the Vikings!

Key Dates:

ASVAB testin – Feb. 26

**No School – March 13 –
Act 80 Day**

VIKINGS

COMING UP NEXT MONTH

March 2026 Events

1	2	3 Donkey Basketball 7:00 PM Gymnasium	4 NHS to BVED for Reading Activity	5	6 Musical Disney's The Little Mermaid 7:00 PM	7 Musical Disney's The Little Mermaid 7:00 PM
8 Daylight Saving's Time Starts Musical Disney's The Little Mermaid 2:00 PM	9	10	11 McGhee-Pinto HGAC Job Shadowing	12	13 No School – Act 80 Day Musical Disney's The Little Mermaid 7:00 PM	14 Musical Disney's The Little Mermaid 7:00 PM
15	16	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 Regional Band School Board Meeting 6:00 PM	19 Regional Band McGhee-Lieb TRU Leadership Conference IUP	20 Regional Band Forensics State Tournament	21 Forensics State Tournament
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Upcoming Events: Easter Break April 3-6			



VIKINGS

Student Teachers

Staff Spotlight: Ms. Lassinger
Mrs. Geiser's Student Teacher
by Rylan Byich

We are excited to welcome Ms. Lassinger, Mrs. Geiser's student teacher, to Blacklick Valley! Originally from Butler, PA, Ms. Lassinger brings both enthusiasm and a love of mathematics to our classrooms.

Ms. Lassinger earned her Bachelor's degree from PennWest Clarion and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Teaching at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Although math education wasn't her original plan, everything changed when she began tutoring during her undergraduate studies. What started as a work-study opportunity quickly turned into a passion, inspiring her to pursue a career in math education. Her dream job is to teach high school math and, eventually, a night class at a local community college.

When asked about her experience at Blacklick Valley, Ms. Lassinger shared how much she appreciates the smaller class sizes, which remind her of her own high school experience. She enjoys being able to connect more personally with students and describes Blacklick Valley as a welcoming environment filled with supportive staff and kind students.

Like many new educators, Ms. Lassinger has discovered that the most challenging part of teaching happens behind the scenes. While she feels confident leading lessons, she admits that writing detailed lesson plans and ensuring everything is perfectly prepared beforehand takes the most time and effort.

Her favorite lesson to teach? Derivatives! On the flip side, she says graphing trigonometric functions is her least favorite. Outside of the classroom, she loves potato soup (her all-time favorite food), her favorite color is orange, and she has two cats named Mazikeen and Decker. When reflecting on her time here so far, Ms. Lassinger laughed that her favorite memory has been starting her student teaching experience with two virtual days and two-hour delays — certainly a memorable introduction!

We are grateful to have Ms. Lassinger as part of the Blacklick Valley community and wish her continued success as she works toward her goal of becoming a high school math teacher.



VIKINGS

Student Teachers

Staff Spotlight: Mr. Yahner
Mrs. Bezek's Student Teacher
by Paige Kelley

Blacklick Valley is pleased to welcome Mr. Chris Yahner to our school community! Mr. Yahner is currently enrolled at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), where he is majoring in Social Studies Education.

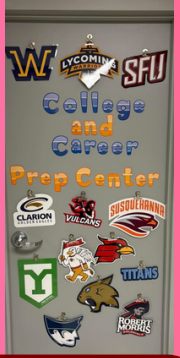
Mr. Yahner appreciates Blacklick Valley's smaller class sizes, noting that they allow him to work more closely with students and better understand their individual interests and needs. While he admits he is still adjusting to our early start time, he proudly shares that he hasn't been late yet! One of the challenges he has encountered during his student teaching experience has been managing his time and keeping each class progressing at a consistent pace. Despite this, his passion for teaching is evident. Mr. Yahner especially enjoys teaching Civics and strives to create an interactive classroom environment where students stay engaged, participate actively, and remain focused on learning.

Mr. Yahner credits many influences for inspiring his career path. His mother and several former teachers encouraged him to pursue education, while his grandfather's strong interest in social studies helped spark his passion for the subject. When asked for advice for future student teachers, he shared: "Prepare yourself before you start, have lesson plans in mind, look forward to activities, and understand that things aren't going to be perfect."

We are grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication Mr. Yahner brings to our classrooms and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

Guidance Office Information

Need information on colleges, careers, counseling, summer programs, financial aid, or the military? Visit Ms. McGhee in the guidance office and check out the bulletin boards in the social studies hallway!



Remember that you can submit community service hours for The Challenge Program! Come see Ms. McGhee for the paperwork!

Interested in learning what business is all about at a summer program? Visit Ms. McGhee for information about the Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week!



Principles of AI

A new semester-long course for grades 9-12 from PLTW



Interested in learning about AI? Check out the Principles of AI course by Project Lead the Way! See the flyer outside of Ms. McGhee's office for more information.

2026 PRE-COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAMS

Check out the 2026 Pre-College Summer Programs through Champlain College! Juniors and Seniors can check their google classrooms for more information.



LOCKHEED MARTIN



Interested in a job at Lockheed Martin? See Ms. McGhee to sign up for our tour on March 10th!



Interested in attending St. Francis? Stop in room 115 during activity period on March 5th to apply!

REMINDER! ASVAB testing will take place for 10-12 grade students on Thursday, February 26th during 1st-4th period!



Ms. McGhee

If you need any help feel free to contact me.



breanna.mcgee@bvvikings.org



749-9211 ext 227

The More You Know...

Attention Parents and Families

Every student at Blacklick Valley has a grade-level Google Classroom where teachers and staff regularly post important announcements, updates, and opportunities. One of the most valuable resources shared in these classrooms is information about scholarship opportunities.

While many scholarships are designed for seniors, there are also several opportunities available for underclassmen to begin earning scholarship money. We encourage families to take a few minutes to review these postings with their child and explore the possibilities together.

Staying informed now can open doors for the future—thank you for supporting your child in taking advantage of these opportunities!



Congratulations to Emily Reger for receiving an honorable mention award for the Southern Allegheny Museum of Art Student Show.
Great work, Emily!

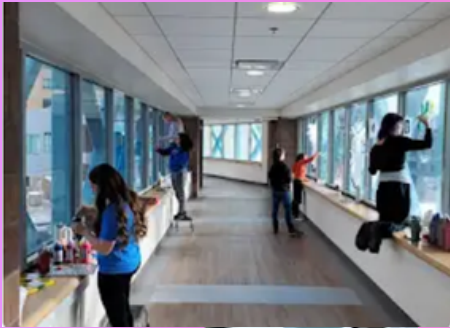


NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE
SPEECH & DEBATE HONOR SOCIETY

Good luck to our forensics team competing at the regional meet at Saint Francis on March 2nd and 3rd!

Clubs and Activities:

Students in the art department painted windows at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center to commemorate heart health month in February. Their work will be featured in Conemaugh's weekly newsletter.



Introduction to Botvin - Life Skills!

This year, Blacklick Valley Jr./Sr. High School has implemented the Botvin LifeSkills Training program, a research-based curriculum designed to promote health, personal development, and positive decision-making in adolescents.

The program will be delivered to our 7th and 8th grade students throughout the months of February and March. Lessons focus on important topics such as decision-making skills, coping with anxiety and anger, understanding violence and media influence, alcohol and marijuana—myths and realities—and strengthening social and communication skills.

Botvin LifeSkills Training is grounded in science and supported by more than 30 years of research demonstrating its effectiveness. The curriculum uses a variety of engaging teaching strategies, with a strong emphasis on proven skills-training methods that help students apply what they learn in real-life situations.

BVHS teachers leading the program include Mr. Havener, Mrs. Worthington, Ms. Borlie, Ms. Edwards, Mrs. Litzinger, Ms. McGhee, Mrs. Karunaratne, and Mrs. Lieb. These educators completed official Botvin training in October and November to ensure high-quality implementation of the curriculum.

To date, two lessons have been successfully completed with 7th graders and one lesson with 8th graders. Students participating in cyber learning will receive their Botvin materials by mail, and Ms. McGhee will be sending additional information home.

We are excited to offer this program and believe it will provide valuable tools to support our students throughout their middle and high school years.



TRU Youth Leadership Conference 2026

March 19, 2026 • 9:00AM-1:00PM

IUP Campus : Ohio Room

319 Pratt Drive, Indiana PA 15701

Ken Nwadike Jr. is a peace activist, motivational speaker, and video journalist best known as the creator of the Free Hugs Project. Ken launched the Free Hugs Project in response to the Boston Marathon bombing, using the power of positive human interaction to promote unity and peace. Today, Ken speaks at conferences, leadership summits, sales trainings, and employee engagement events, inspiring audiences to lead with intention and create cultures of respect and motivation.



From the TRU Committee

On March 19th several of our junior and freshman TRU members will attend a leadership conference at IUP.



CAT KENNEL WISH LIST

4Health Cat Food Grain Free All Kinds and Urinary
Nature Balance Wild and Free Cat and Kitten Salmon or Turkey
Hill's Rx A/D Canned Food
Canned Cat Food
Treats
Kitten Milk Replacer
Rice Cereal

Forti Flora or Cat Probiotics
Lysine Powder
Hi-Vite Liquid Vitamin Drops
Flea and Tick Drops NO GROCERY STORE BRANDS
Ear Cleaner

Clumping Litter
Metal Litter Scoopers
Litter Deodorizer

Toys
Cat Trees
Placemats
Glass Bowls
Metal Bowls
Cat Breakaway Collars

Brooms
Libman Clip On Mops and Mop Heads
Odoban- Gallons and Spray
Bleach
Laundry Detergent
Dish Detergent



220 Beck Road
Indiana PA 15701
724-349-1144
724-349-0923 (fax)
www.fourfootedfriends.org

Shelter Wish List

DOG FOOD

4Health Grain Free
All Flavors
4Health GF Puppy
4Health GF Sm Bites
(All from TSC)

CAT FOOD

4Health All Stages
4Health Grain Free
Canned Cat Food
Kitten Milk Replacer
L-Lysine Powder

MISC

Kennel Decks
Kuranda Beds
Martingale Collars
Scoopable Clumping
Cat Litter
Litter Deodorizer
Probiotics
Canned Pumpkin
Ear Cleaner
Poop Pick-up Bags

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Bleach
Odoban
Odoban Spray
Dish Soap
Laundry Soap (HE)
Floor Cleaner Liquid
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Trash Bags-all sizes
Libman Mops & Heads
Reusable Mop Heads
Window Cleaner
Brooms
Rubbing Alcohol

TOYS

Kongs
Tough Toys
Nylabones
Puzzle Toys
Cat Toys
Cat Wands
Scratching Posts
Cat Trees

OFFICE SUPPLIES

Reams of Paper
Postage Stamps
Envelopes
Tape
Staples
Pocket Folders
Dry Erase Markers
Paper Clips
Sharpie Markers
Sheet Protectors 3-Ring
Batteries-all sizes
Light Bulbs-Fluorescent
Ink:HP Laserjet 4250
HP Laserjet 4250

GIFT CARDS

Tractor Supply
Dollar General
Walmart
Lowe's
Sheetz
Chewy
Amazon



TRU members are collecting donations for animal shelters which will be collected at the conference! Above is a list of items that various animal shelters are in need of! Any donations can be dropped off at the high school office or given to Ms. McGhee and Mrs. Lieb. Students who donate will be given a TRU merch item as a thank you for their donation! Top 5 donors will be given a T-shirt or Hoodie. Donations will be accepted up until March 17th.



BV Boutique: Prom Dress Giveaway



See Mrs. Dorn (Room 111) or email at
sara.dorn@bvvikings.org

Shoes, Accessories and Menswear
are available!



Esports Seating

Founded in 2000, DonorsChoose allows public school teachers to request materials and resources for their classrooms. It connects teachers with donors who want to support their projects, making it possible for anyone to help students in need. More than half of all U.S. public schools have benefited from this platform.

Many BVHS teachers work in partnership with DonorsChoose to help provide students with materials, supplies, and opportunities that they would not normally be able to have for their classrooms.

Each month we'll feature a teacher and their project. If you or anyone you know is interested in donating, please use the links provided.

Our esports team spends long hours practicing, strategizing, and building skills together, and a comfortable couch would make a huge difference in how our space supports them. Right now, students often sit on the floor or hard chairs between matches and practice sessions, which makes it hard to stay focused and relaxed. A couch would create a welcoming, comfortable environment where students can reset, collaborate, and feel like they truly belong on a team.

Our goal is to build an esports program that teaches teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and perseverance—skills that transfer far beyond gaming.

Esports Seating
Mr. Havener

This project is active until
April 17, 2026

[CLICK HERE](#)

Dive Into the Magic: The Little Mermaid Hits the BV Stage Soon!

By Mackenzie Palko

The countdown is on! Blacklick Valley's theater production of The Little Mermaid is just 2½ weeks away!

Our Drama Club has been working tirelessly on choreography, scene changes, and musical numbers to bring this beloved story to life. This incredibly talented group of students is excited to share the magic, music, and fun of life under the sea with our community.

Don't miss your chance to dive into this spectacular production — because, as Sebastian reminds us, "Life is the bubbles under the sea!"

BLACKLICK VALLEY PLAYERS PRESENT:



Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

Music by:
Alan Menkin

Lyrics by:
**Howard Ashman
& Glenn Slater**

Book by:
Doug Wright

Friday, March 6 - 7pm
Saturday, March 7 - 7pm
Sunday March 8 - 2pm
Friday, March 13 - 7pm
Saturday, March 14 - 7pm

Blacklick Valley HS Auditorium
555 Birch Street
Nanty Glo, PA 15943

Adults \$6.00
Students/Children \$2.00

**Based on the Hans Christian Anderson story and the Disney film
produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker and written &
directed by John Musker & Ron Clements**

Originally Produced by:
Disney Theatrical Productions

From the Athletic Department:

Three-Peat Champions: Lady Vikings Claim WestPAC Title Again

By Sarah Mourey

The Blacklick Valley girls' basketball team closed out its season with resilience, determination, and celebration, earning the title of WestPAC Champions for the third consecutive year. The Lady Vikings delivered an exciting performance against Shade, securing a 48–19 victory at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown on February 12. The win marked their 20th of the season, as the team finished with an outstanding 20–4 overall record.

This year's seniors exemplified hard work and dedication, providing leadership and commitment in every practice and game. Their perseverance and team-first mentality played a pivotal role in guiding the Lady Vikings to another championship season.

Here's what our seniors had to say as they reflect on the season:

Averaging 17 points per game, Mackenzie Kinter cherished her first opportunity to play at UPJ after returning from injury. She encourages new and returning players to show up—even on the tough days—to listen to experienced teammates, and to always give their best effort.

Although Madelyn Kinter did not finish the season on the court, she shared that the relationships built with her teammates made the year unforgettable. Her favorite memory of the season was Senior Night, a celebration of commitment and team spirit. For Danica Gailey, basketball provided more than competition—it taught valuable life lessons. Through the sport, she developed leadership skills, self-discipline, and the confidence to face challenges without fear of failure—lessons that will stay with her long after the final buzzer.

Congratulations to the Lady Vikings on an incredible season and another championship banner for Blacklick Valley!





BV Athletics - March 2026

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Boys' Baseball @ Homer Center 4:30 PM Girls' Softball @ Homer Center 4:30 PM	11	12	13	14
15	16 Girls' Softball @ United 4:30 PM	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Boys' Baseball Home Harmony 4:15 PM Girls' Softball Home Northern Cambria 4:15 PM	24	25 Track & Field @ Northern Cambria 4:00 PM	26	27 Boys' Baseball Home Purchase Line 4:15 PM Girls' Softball Home Purchase Line 4:15 PM	28
29	30 Boys' Baseball Home Bishop Carroll 4:15 PM Girls' Softball Home Bishop Carroll 4:15 PM	31				



**Cambria County Child Development Corporation
is opening the Nutrition Nook, a community food
pantry in Ebensburg**

GRAND OPENING

NUTRITION NOOK

Community Food Pantry

Location:

300 Prave Street, Suite 101 (behind the YPCC)

Ebensburg, PA 15931

Date:

Thursday February 26

Time:

3-5 pm

See what the Nutrition Nook has to offer!

Light refreshments available, donations accepted, and open to shopping

With a peck of this and a dash of that, when life has you in a
pinch The Nutrition Nook is here to provide access to groceries
and everyday essentials.

Provide only last name and number of people in your household

