BVHS VIKINGS

Newsletter

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!

Each month, we will highlight outstanding Viking accomplishments, important news, and opportunities for students and families.

From the Principal's Office – End of Year Message



As we close out another successful school year at Blacklick Valley, we take great pride in all that our students, staff, and community have accomplished together. This time of year always brings reflection, celebration, and anticipation for what lies ahead.

On May 22, we will gather to celebrate one of the most meaningful milestones in a student's journey—graduation. This moment truly represents the pinnacle of a student's school career at BV. It is a time to honor not only academic achievement, but also the growth, perseverance, relationships, and memories that have shaped our seniors into the young adults they are today. Each graduating class leaves behind a legacy—one that contributes to the pride, tradition, and spirit of Blacklick Valley.

To our seniors: thank you for the mark you have left on our school. You have led, competed, performed, and represented BV with pride. As you move on to the next chapter—whether it be college, career, military service, or other pursuits—know that you will always be a part of our Viking family. I wish you nothing but success, happiness, and fulfillment in all that lies ahead. It has truly been an honor to serve as your principal.

At the same time, we are wrapping up state testing, and I commend our students and staff for their hard work and focus throughout this important period.

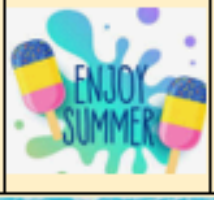
Looking ahead, student schedules for next school year have been sent home for review, and we encourage families to take time to look them over and reach out with any questions.

As we transition into summer, I hope everyone takes the opportunity to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends. This break is well deserved, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall refreshed and ready for another great year at Blacklick Valley.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. As always, I am proud to be your principal—and proud to be a Viking.

Upcoming Events



					1 Field Trip Kennywood (Physics and Calculus classes)	2 Field trip – Drama Mishler Theater
3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo Field Trip – Tru Harrisburg	6 Safe Driving Presentation – Grades 10-12	7	8 Field Trip - Fishing Field Trip - Trout Release	9
10 Mother's Day 	11 PIAA Physicals	12 NHS Banquet PD 5 Spring Keystone Testing Day 1 of 4	13 Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal Spring Keystone Testing Day 2 of 4	14 Field Trip – Senator for a Day SENIOR finals 7-8 Spring Keystone Testing Day 3 of 4 Senior Awards 6:00pm 	15 Senior Class Trip Underclass Awards Spring Keystone Testing Day 4 of 4	16
17	18 Finals Period 1-3	19 Finals Periods 4-6 Senior Grades Due	20 Finals 7-8 (underclassmen only) Graduation Practice 8:30-11	21 Graduation Practice & Pictures 8:30-10 Senior Banquet 10-1:30 BVEC Graduation Walk 12-12:30	22 Last Day for Students Graduation 6:30PM 	23
24	25 Memorial Day 	26 Teacher's In-Service	27 Teacher's In-Service	28 Last Day for Staff 	29	30
31						

Leadership Opportunities

Youth Leadership Council

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia now offers a Youth Leadership Council, a leadership and development opportunity available in the Greater Pittsburgh area. Members selected for the Youth Leadership Council will learn about philanthropy by volunteering with Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the local chapter of the international wish granting organization.

Our goal with the Youth Leadership Council is to encourage youth to give back to children with critical illnesses, right in their community, while making new friends and having fun.

Who can apply?

Applicants must meet these requirements:

- A resident of the Greater Pittsburgh area (in-person YLC)
- In grades 9 through 12
- Passionate about helping raise money to help grant wishes to local children with critical illnesses
- Able to attend **ALL** monthly meetings
- **Virtual option** for students outside the Pittsburgh Area



What are the requirements?

Members are required to:

- Commit to a one-year term on the council, September to June
- Attend monthly meetings during the term
- Commit to planned activities within that term
- Commit to planning one fundraiser with the group
- Attempt to find a committed adult advisor (teacher or student council advisor) willing to help during the term

$30
Registration Fee that includes student designed T-shirt!
*Doesn't apply to the virtual YLC

Why join?

As a member, you will have the opportunity to:

- Make a difference in the lives of children with critical illnesses, who have been qualified for a wish through Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia
- Have fun learning new skills including public speaking, teamwork and nonprofit management
- Develop strong relationships with Make-A-Wish Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia staff, business professionals and other youth who are passionate about volunteering and philanthropy
- **Earn volunteer hours**
- **Receive a certificate of completion**

Scan to apply!

Application Deadline:
July 17, 2026

Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia
The Koppers Building 436 Seventh Ave, 25th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
P. 412.471.9474
tgoodman@greaterpawv.wish.org

Make-A-Wish
GREATER PENNSYLVANIA AND WEST VIRGINIA

BV Signing Day 2026

On the afternoon of Friday, April 17, 2026, our high school proudly hosted its 10th Annual Senior Signing Day Assembly in the auditorium, celebrating the accomplishments and future plans of the Class of 2026. A total of 23 seniors were recognized for their commitment to the next chapter of their lives, including 17 students who will attend a college or university, one student pursuing a technical school program, and five students who have chosen to enlist in the armed services. Surrounded by proud families, faculty, and peers, each student was honored for their hard work, dedication, and determination. The event highlighted not only their individual achievements but also the bright futures ahead, making it a memorable and meaningful milestone for our school community.





Photos by Kylea Noble
KMN Photography


PROM
2026

Summer Work Opportunities



SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR CAMP!

HIRING FOR:

- SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS
- SUMMER CAMP GROUP SUPERVISOR (18+)
- SUMMER CAMP ACTIVITY LEAD

SEE JOBS HERE!

CHECK OUT OUR CAREERS PAGE AT ICYMCA.ORG/CAREERS FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON APPLYING!



Special thanks to Stella Lanzendorfer for sharing her talents to create a mural in the boys' locker room.



Virtual Reality Career Exploration with 10th graders and the STEM Network from IU08!

Vikings Supporting the Community

BLACKLICK VALLEY BLOOD DRIVE

AP biology students hosted our Spring Blood Drive on April 10th! A total of 21 pints were collected throughout the day!











TRU (The Tobacco Resistance Unit) students ran a spirit week March 30-April 2. Teachers donated $4 to dress down. Proceeds were sent to the American Lung Association.



NHS members raised $512 by selling pinwheels to raise money for the Cambria County Child Advocacy Center for Child Abuse Awareness month.



Upcoming Events

The TRU Day At the Capitol will be Tuesday May 5th!

tobacco resistance unit

The Trout Release will be on Friday, May 8th!



PIAA Physicals will be Monday, May 11th!

Thursday May 14th!



Friday, May 15th - Senior Class Trip!!!

SENIOR 2026

Opportunities to Get Ahead

START COLLEGE WITH CONFIDENCE. START TUITION-FREE.

Get up to 100% of your first-year tuition and comprehensive fees covered at Penn Highlands without student loan debt.

The **Cambria County Smart Start Promise Program (Smart Start)** is a pilot program to help recent Cambria County high school graduates begin college with confidence. The College will provide a last-dollar scholarship that pays for your tuition and comprehensive fees for up to 30 college credits during your first year. This includes your fall, spring, and the following summer sessions, directly following your high school graduation.

Our goal is to remove financial barriers, allowing Cambria County residents to focus on earning their degree or certificate. 2026 Cambria County High School Graduates can now apply.



PENNSYLVANIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE | Smart Start

WHY SMART START

We built this program to help you succeed academically and financially.

- **Zero Tuition Costs:** We pay your tuition and comprehensive fees for your first 30 credits.
- **No Student Loans Required:** You do not need to take out loans to pay for covered tuition and comprehensive fees.
- **Flexible Options:** Take classes at any Penn Highlands location, including Penn Highlands Online.
- **Maximize Dual Enrollment Credits:** College credits you earned during high school do not count against your 30-credit Smart Start maximum.

Note: You are responsible for paying for required textbooks, specific lab or class fees, and any tuition costs for credits beyond the 30-credit maximum.

MAINTAINING SMART START ELIGIBILITY

Once you enroll, you must meet a few expectations to keep your funding active.

- **Academic Progress:** Keep a minimum cumulative college GPA of 2.0 and successfully finish at least 67% of your attempted credits.
- **Community Service:** Give back to the community by completing one service hour for every three credits you take. For example, if you take 12 credits, you will complete 4 hours of community service that semester. The College will provide opportunities for authorized community service activities.

While students who fail to meet the requirement for one semester may remain eligible, failing to do so for two consecutive semesters will result in the loss of Smart Start eligibility.

WHO CAN APPLY

You are eligible for the Smart Start if you meet the following core requirements.

- **Recent HS Graduate:** Graduated from high school in the spring or summer directly before fall college classes begin. *(Typically enrolling immediately after high school graduation.)*
- **Cambria County Resident:** Meet the College's Residency Policy for Cambria County. If you graduated from a Cambria County high school, but need time to establish residency, you may become eligible for the spring semester.
- **Credential Seeking:** Plan to earn an approved degree or certificate while taking a minimum of 6 credits each semester.
- **File Applications:** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filing process to receive a valid Student Aid Index (SAI), complete the PA State Grant application through PHEAA (must accept any grant aid), and apply for at least one additional scholarship outside of Smart Start.

SUPPORT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

We want you to succeed from your first day of class to graduation. As a Smart Start student, you will gain a competitive advantage.

- **Early Academic Advising:** Plan your schedule and chart your path to graduation before classes begin.
- **Financial Aid Guidance:** Understand your financial aid options and complete your paperwork with our expert guidance.
- **Campus Resources:** Access all student support services available at the College to stay on track.



Supporting BV Students

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR

BLACKLICK VALLEY SPANISH CLUB

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH | 4-8PM

4580 ADMIRAL PEARY HWY, EBENSBURG, PA, 15931

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **YXNVXJR**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

CHIPOTLE

For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. $150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

MYTH VS. FACT SCAVENGER HUNT

Grab an answer sheet from 218. Look for the Mental Health Awareness Ribbons!
There will be three each week. Read the Myth and bust it! Fill in the FACTS. Return your sheet to 218 by the end of the day on Thursday each week to be entered for a chance to win a prize.

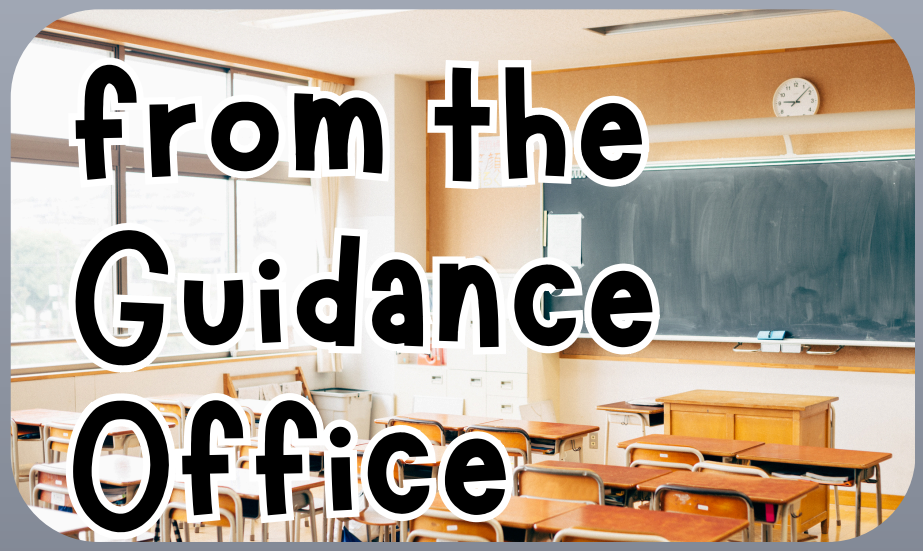
EVERYONE WINS WHEN WE DESTIGMATIZE MENTAL HEALTH

THE HUNT BEGINS APRIL 27TH
PRIZES AWARDED FRIDAY MAY 1ST, 8TH, 15TH, & 22ND

Turn your answer sheets in by Thursday each week!

Week 1: April 27th - April 30th
Week 2: May 4th - May 7th
Week 3: May 11th - May 14th
Week 4: May 18th - May 21st

Maggie O'Neil
REACH Room 218



Ms. McGhee



If you need any help feel free to contact me.

749-9211 ext 227

breanna.mcghee@bvvikings.org

Mental Health Tip of the Month

Let Light Lead Your Reset

Daylight is stretching further into the evening! Treat this seasonal shift as a natural cue to reset your routines. You might not need a full-scale spring cleaning, but try adding a short walk, moment of mindfulness, or gentle stretch during the brighter part of the day.



Even five to 10 minutes outdoors can help regulate your sleep cycle and boost mood, energy and focus.

Think of it as a way to sync with the season and make your mood a bit brighter.

ACE Check In! Monday, April 27th.

PENNSYLVANIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE | ACE Accelerated College Education

Representatives from Martin-Baker America will be here on April 28th to present awards to senior students!

Martin-Baker

Assessments

7th and 8th grade PSSAs will happen April 21st-23rd, 28th-30th, and May 1st.

PSSA pennsylvania SYSTEM OF SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

Keystone testing will take place between May 12th and May 15th!

PENNSYLVANIA KEYSTONE EXAMS

Students signed up to take the AP Language test will take on Wednesday, May 6th!

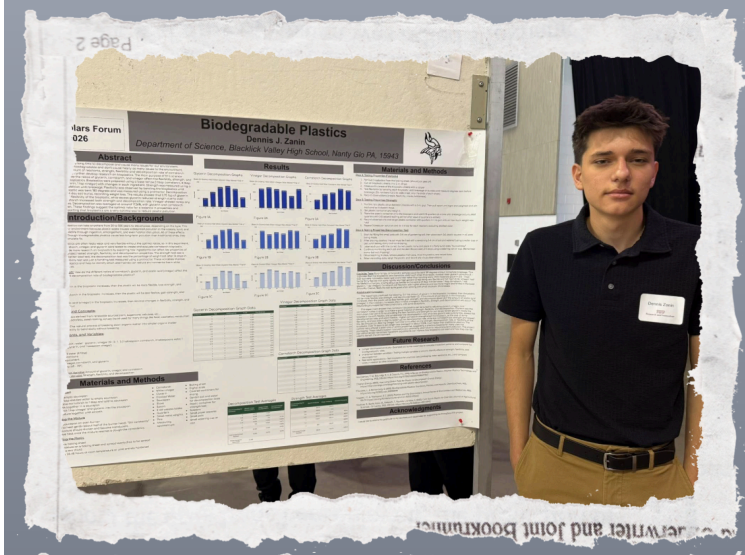
AP®

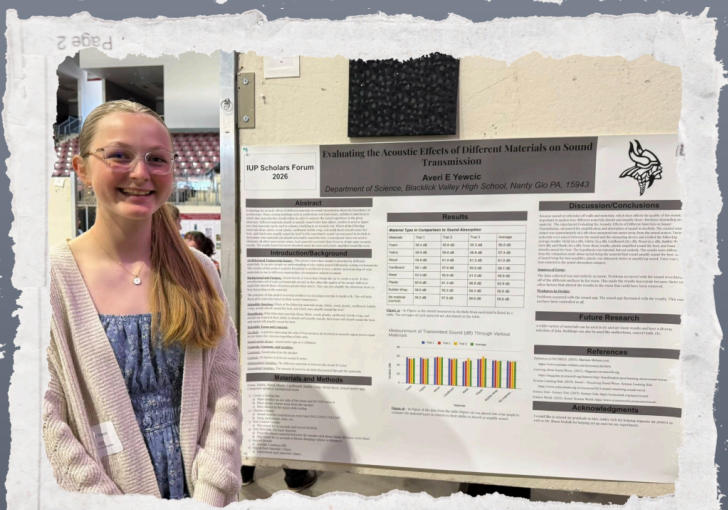
Students signed up to take the AP Literature test will take on Wednesday, May 6th!

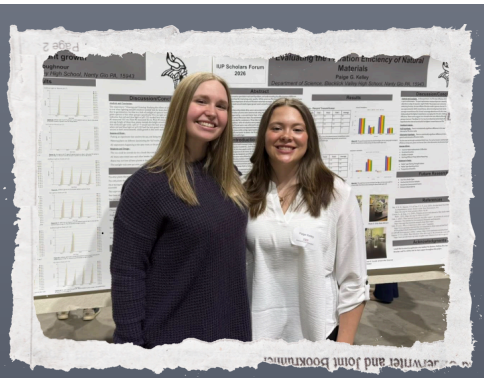
Viking Scholars and All-Stars

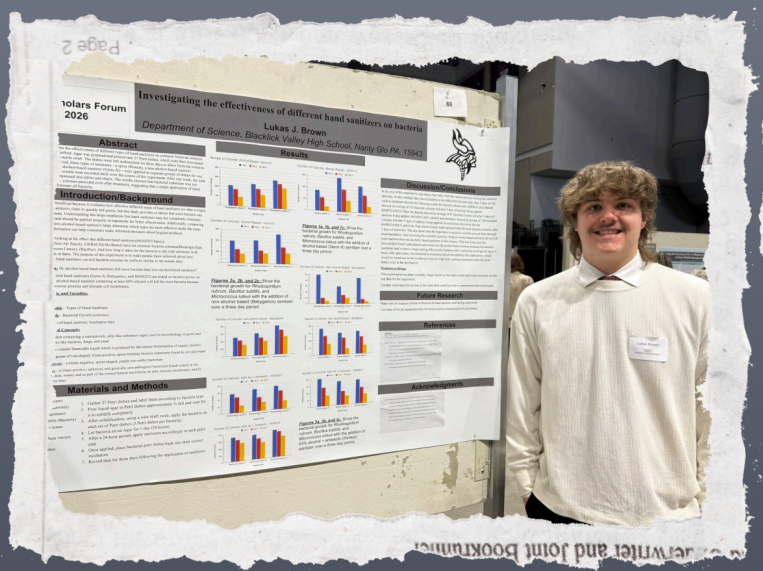
IUP Scholar's Forum 2026

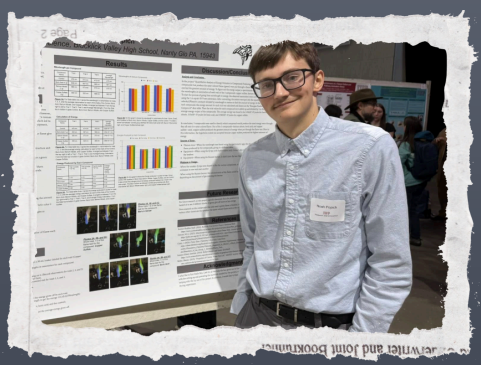
Mrs. Lieb's AP biology class attended their last science fair - The IUP Scholar's Forum on Wednesday, April 8th. Students presented their science projects along with the IUP college students. Dennis Zanin took home a first-place award, Sarah Mourey and Averi Yewcic took home second-place awards, and Lukas Brown took home a third-place award. Other students received awards for excellence, merit, and participation! Special thanks to Ms. McGhee for her help in developing the science projects and organizing the trip.

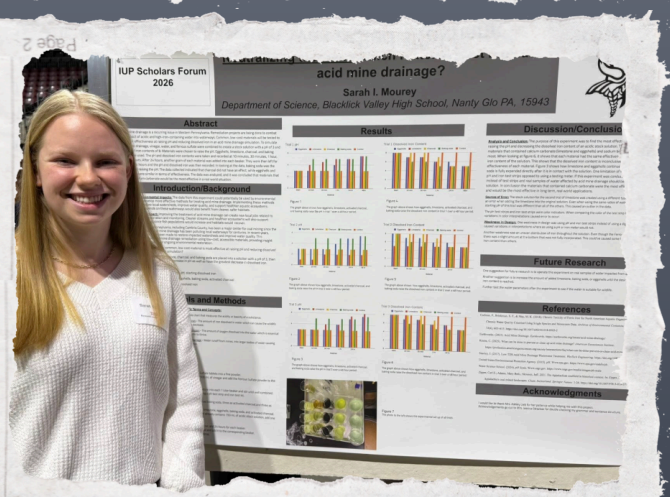


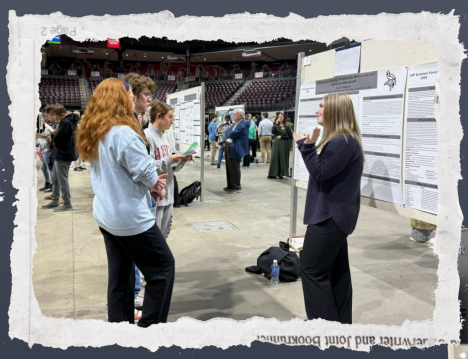


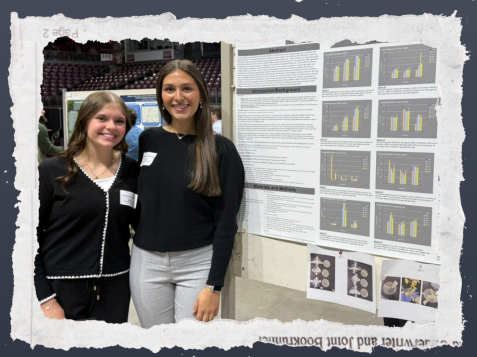


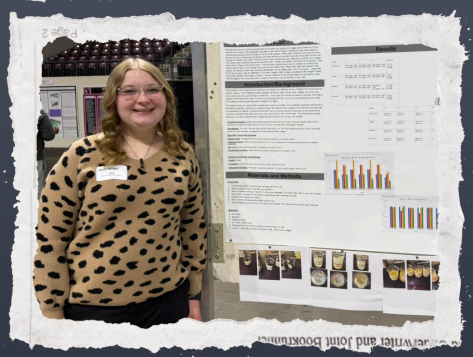














Viking Scholars and All-Stars

TRU Leadership Conference

On March 19th, some of the members of our TRU team attended a leadership conference at IUP. The conference started with keynote speaker Ken Nwadike, who talked about his Free Hugs Project and what being a leader means to him. Following the keynote, students attended breakout sessions that touched on qualities of being a good leader!





On Thursday, April 16th, our school proudly welcomed a new group of students into the National Honor Society (NHS) during a special induction ceremony. This meaningful event recognized students who have demonstrated excellence in the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Inductees were celebrated for their commitment to academic achievement, their ability to lead and inspire others, their dedication to serving the school and community, and their strong moral integrity. We congratulate these outstanding students and look forward to the positive impact they will continue to make both in and beyond our school community.







NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

SENIORS:
Rylan Byich
Nicholas Garver
Kevin Hershberger
Mackenzie Kinter

JUNIORS:
Connor Baldish
Mackenzie Bardell
Zoey Goughnour
Kamryn Kasecky
Paige Kelley
Emma Lepley
Sarah Mourey
Josie Nedrich
Lauren Rohrabaugh
Eli Sheesley
Olivia Sullivan-Mazey
Averi Yewcic

NEW INDUCTESS:
Brennan Altimus
Elizabeth Christner
McKenna Miller
John Mourey
Johnathon Nazelrod
Noah Popich
Kirsten Williamson

Officers:
President-Nicholas Garver
Vice-President- Mackenzie Kinter
Treasurer- Kevin Hershberger
Secretary- Rylan Byich

ADVISOR: MS. AMY EDWARDS

Viking Scholars and All-Stars

The NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) provides standardized, industry-validated certification exams for Career and Technical Education (CTE) students and professionals. It tests job-ready skills in over 120 areas, including written theory and hands-on performance, to verify competency for entry-level work or college credit.

Good luck to the following students completing Nocti Performance Testing at Votech!

Kevin Hershberger
Elisabeth Kotelnicki
Russell Saxon
Dakota Pennington
Connor Altimus
Hayden Cote
Nathan Gongloff
Brandon Silich
Landon Turcheck
Franklin Fertick
Talan Sheesley
Elijah Hill

Art Show 2026

Date: May 13th

Time: 5:00 to 7:00

Location: BVHS Art Hallway

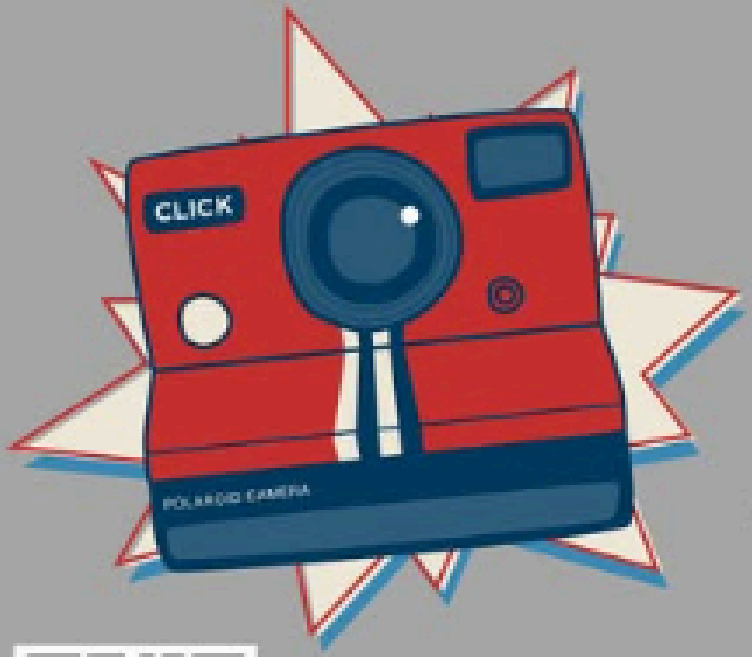
Your paragraph text

Entry Dealine:
Friday, May 1st

*Please include your name, grade or age, title, and art material on back of project

KEEP THE MEMORIES!

2025-2026 HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK



LINK TO ONLINE STORE

BLACKLICK VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

ONLINE STORE CLOSES: JUNE 22ND

THEATER AUDITIONS



Crichton McCormick Park's Backstage Door Club is proud to present its very first summer musical production of Grease!

Important Dates
Auditions: Sunday, June 14 (time TBD) at Portage Area High School
Camp/Rehearsals: June 15th–19th and June 22nd–26th,
8:00 AM–5:00 PM (also at PAHS)
Performances: June 26 & 27 at 7:00 PM, June 28 at 2:00 PM
Primary venue: Crichton McCormick Park
Backup venue: Portage Area High School

Who Can Join
Open to all students in grades 6–12, or ages 11-18, from any school. Students may participate as performers or as part of the crew—acting, singing, dancing, stage crew, costumes, hair, and makeup.

Tuition & Registration: $250 per student
Includes instruction in acting, vocals, choreography, and the opportunity to perform with a live pit orchestra or work backstage
Includes a Stage Door Club t-shirt
Students must bring their own lunch each day.

Website for Registration and more info!
Https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/crichton-mccormick-park/68b9da94eedd451b3ae83f71

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Addison Holyfield at aholyfield@mustangmail.org or 814-736-9636 x1342.