



RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

MARCH 2025



ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR SV'S 'THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL'

Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of "The SpongeBob Musical" for five amazing performances over the weekend of Feb. 28 - March 2! They were all met with standing ovations and rave reviews! See page 2 for more photos and read about the production on page 16. ■



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DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 7 School Board Meeting, Regular Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- April 14-18 Spring Break, No School for Students
- April 21 Act-80 Day, No School for Students

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

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

'THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL!' *continued*



A SWEET LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Students at Haine Middle School (HMS) wrapped up their maple sugaring studies with a truly sweet experience—a maple sugaring festival that took place on Tuesday, March 11, right at HMS!

Throughout the season, students immersed themselves in the sugaring process, from identifying maple trees in the fall to tapping them in January and collecting the sap for harvest. The festival brought it all full circle with a live maple sugaring demonstration, offering an up-close look at how raw sap transforms into rich, golden syrup.

And the best part? A delicious taste test of pure maple syrup made from sap collected by their very own classmates!

Organized by HMS sixth grade teacher Mr. Kenneth Cahall, this event is part of an exciting outdoor education initiative being piloted at Haine Elementary and Middle School—bringing learning to life in the great outdoors! ■

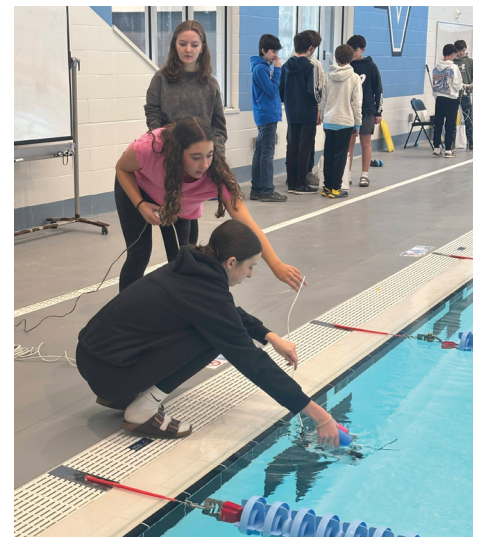
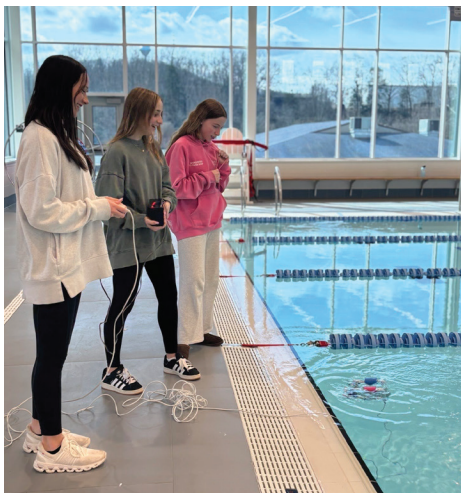


PROBLEM-SOLVING PIONEERS

Eighth-grade robotics students have been hard at work in their robotics rotation, developing both technical skills and engineering problem-solving abilities. Throughout this class, students learn and practice soldering, drilling and waterproofing electrical connections to ensure their components could function underwater. They also explore key

engineering concepts such as buoyancy, balance and propulsion while designing and assembling their own SeaPerch ROVs—underwater remote-operated vehicles.

Late last month, these tech-savvy creators put their designs to the test at the SV Aquatic Center, maneuvering their ROVs through the water to see how well their design choices performed in real-world conditions. This hands-on experience gave them valuable insight into the challenges of underwater robotics and reinforced the importance of testing and refining designs as part of the engineering design process. ■



CIRCUITING CREATIVITY

What if Ivan the gorilla could talk? That's the question third graders in Ms. Rachael Belschner's WIN (What-I-Need) enrichment class explored while reading "The One and Only Ivan." Determined to bring Ivan's voice to life, they dove into STEAM learning by using Makey Makey kits, which transform everyday objects into touchpads that produce sound.



In collaboration with CIRC teacher Ms. Caroline Dillon, students 3D-printed a banana and crayon and crafted a paper-mâché gorilla—key components in their interactive design. When the banana and crayon are connected, the circuit is complete, and Ivan speaks!

To make Ivan's voice even more meaningful, students recorded three key quotes from the book, and ESL teacher Ms. Jessica Scerbo's students translated them into their native languages. Now, Ivan speaks English, Portuguese, and Spanish—a powerful way to reflect the diverse voices of our classrooms!

This project was a great blend of technology, art and literature—all while showing the magic of creativity and collaboration! ■




Seneca Valley Academy of Choice

SUMMER CAMPS!

REGISTER TODAY TO GUARANTEE A SPOT AND A T-SHIRT!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.](#)


 A collage of four small photos showing students participating in various summer camp activities. The first photo shows a student sitting on the grass with a water gun. The second photo shows a student holding a small robot. The third photo shows a group of students in blue shirts standing in a kitchen. The fourth photo shows two students holding a small robot.

CRAFTED FROM THE HEART

Ehrman Crest Elementary students were all smiles after receiving a heartfelt surprise from their friends at Luther Court in Zelienople! Residents hand-designed adorable snowmen for each student, adding a touch of winter cheer to their desks.

"We love the snowmen!" said Adam Rahencamp and Liam Ball.

"They are so cute," added Sadie Tornifolio. "I'm putting mine on my desk at home!" ■



EC STUDENT LEADS THE WAY IN HEART HEALTH AWARENESS

Kennedy Rader, a third grader at Ehrman Crest Elementary, is turning her personal experience with a congenital heart condition into an opportunity to educate and inspire others.

Diagnosed with a bicuspid aortic valve at just two years old, Kennedy hasn't let her condition hold her back. Instead, she's become a passionate advocate for the Kids Heart Challenge, raising funds for the American Heart Association (AHA) and supporting children with "special hearts."

This month, Ehrman Crest Elementary launched its Kids Heart Challenge with special activities and presentations. As the school's Heart Hero, Kennedy led three presentations, sharing her story and teaching peers about heart health. Thanks to the enthusiasm of students and staff, Ehrman Crest raised over \$18,000 for the AHA, helping fund research and resources for children with heart conditions.

The Kids Heart Challenge, a nationwide initiative by the AHA, promotes heart-healthy habits while empowering students to make a difference. Through education and fundraising, participants support life-saving efforts and learn the importance of cardiovascular health.

Kennedy's courage and efforts are a powerful reminder that even the youngest advocates can make a lasting impact. ■



READING WITH HEART AND DETERMINATION

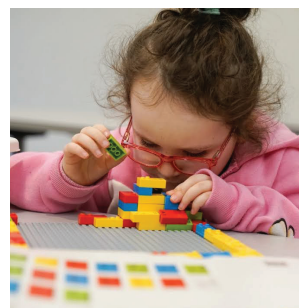
Raegan Kertz, a kindergartner from Ehrman Crest Elementary School, joined five other students from the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV to participate in the Regional Braille Challenge, hosted by the AIU3. Having recently begun learning braille, Raegan excelled in the foundational level of the competition.

Open to students from Pre-K through 12th grade, this regional event offered a fun and encouraging environment where students could showcase their braille literacy skills. Beyond the competition, participants had the opportunity to connect with peers, celebrate their achievements, and engage in a variety of hands-on activities. Students explored braille resources and enjoyed tactile experiences such as making braille bracelets, coloring raised line drawings, building with braille Legos and much more.

"Raegan is a dual media reader (learning both braille and print) and has only been studying braille for about four months," said

Ms. Jessica Sloan, Midwestern Intermediate Unit (MIU) IV Teacher of the Visually Impaired. "It's truly remarkable how much progress she has made in such a short time—she's already able to keep up with her peers! This event also gave her a wonderful opportunity to meet other students her age with similar vision needs, and she quickly became a little social butterfly, making new friends. She really shined the entire day!"

The Regional Braille Challenge celebrated learning, creativity, and community, leaving students inspired and excited to continue their braille journey. ■



WORDS MATTER

Students at Ehrman Crest Elementary School (ECE) celebrated Spread the Word Day on March 5 by taking part in activities promoting inclusion and wearing their words matter T-shirts! Spread the Word was created in 2009 to encourage kindness, inclusion and standing up for others. Great job, students and staff, for making our schools a friendly environment where everyone belongs and thrives! ■



SENECA VALLEY 2ND ANNUAL

BEST BUDDIES WALK

May 31, 2025
9 A.M. - Noon

NORTH BOUNDARY PARK
REGISTRATION OPENS: 9 A.M.
\$10 PER PERSON
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!](#)

Special visits from the Seneca Valley High School, Ryan Gloyer Middle School and Haine Elementary Unified Bocce Teams!



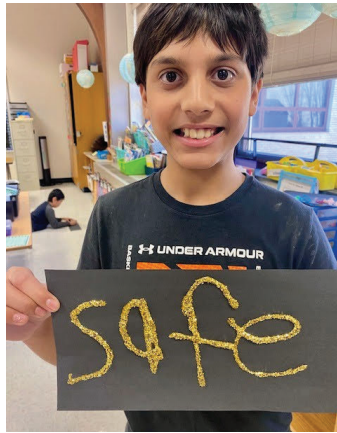
WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL

This month, Haine Elementary School recognized World Down Syndrome Day with educational lessons and engaging activities. In a lesson developed by Haine guidance counselor Ms. Ashley Nardone, students learned about Down syndrome and why it is important to respect and be kind to others and celebrate differences. Students in Ms. Rachael Gales' first grade class talked about what makes them unique and special and how those talents and qualities are what make the world more interesting. The class also designed World Down Syndrome Day socks, wore their "Spread the Word: Inclusion" wristbands, and read the story, "Different – A Great Thing to Be!" ■



CELEBRATING HER-STORY

Hopeful, Hero, Brave. These are just a few of the words that students chose to describe how the impactful women in their lives make them feel. In recognition of Women's History Month, Rowan Elementary students in Room 12 created a display of influential women. The class brainstormed words that remind them of important women in their lives and then created art to express those qualities. As we wrap up Women's History Month, we recognize the contributions of women to history and celebrate those who inspire the next generation of female leaders. ■



BOOKS AND BUDDIES

Students from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) shared children's books they created with younger students in the Seneca Valley Preschool program. In celebration of Read Across America, an annual event promoting

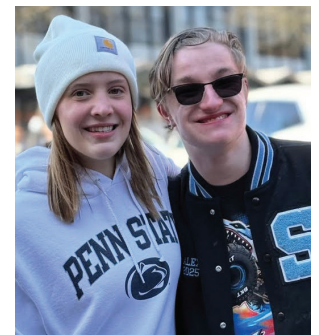
reading and literacy for all ages, winners of the children's literacy project from the eighth-grade Personal Development class read their original books and organized a fun activity to complement the story. ■



MAKING A SPLASH FOR INCLUSION

This month, Seneca Valley's Unified Sports Bocce team held their fifth annual Polar Pop event. Over 300 students and staff members in grades 7-12 popped ice-cold water balloons over their heads to show support for school-wide inclusion.

The SV Polar Pop directly contributes to the Pittsburgh Polar Plunge, an event that raises funds and awareness for Special Olympics Pennsylvania. In the past five years, SV has raised over \$20,000! Proceeds from the event help provide year-round sports-specific training and competition for thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities, including the Seneca Valley Bocce Teams. ■

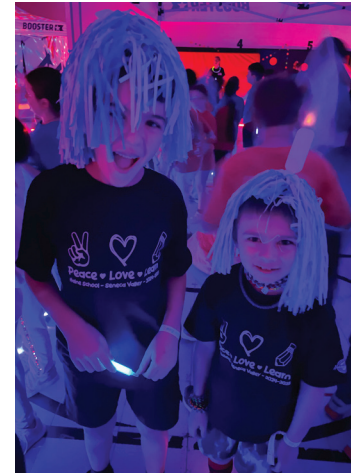


GLOWING AND GOING STRONG

For the third year, Haine Elementary and Middle School students participated in a schoolwide Glow Run! Leading up to the event, students fundraised while following MyBooster Castle Quest, learning about self-awareness, focus, respect, trustworthiness, creativity and building character.

The Glow Run served as a pay-per-lap fundraiser to support enriching field trips, new assemblies, educational materials, and other experiences to boost school community. With fun incentives and a 50 State Challenge, students earned donations from 47 states and three countries, surpassing their goal and raising an impressive \$52,180!

Congratulations to all the Haine students, staff, and volunteers! ■

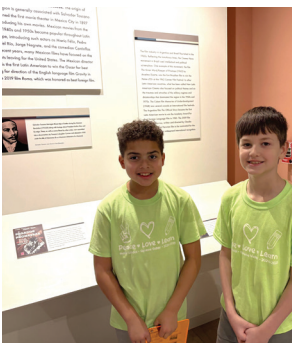
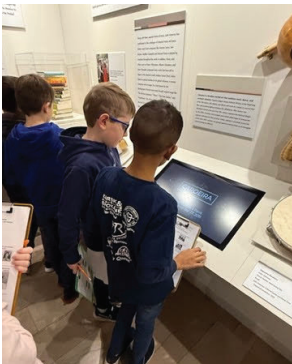


CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Haine Elementary fourth graders recently stepped into the world of history, culture and global connections during their visit to the Latin American Cultural Center and Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh. At the cultural center, students explored vibrant exhibits showcasing rich traditions, art and history. They learned about the diverse countries, customs and contributions that shape Latin American culture today.

The journey continued at the Nationality Rooms inside of the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning. Each room, representing a different country's heritage, transported students through time, offering a glimpse into the art, architecture and traditions of various cultures.

"From admiring intricate designs to discovering historical artifacts, our students left with a deeper appreciation for the beauty of global cultures," said CIRC teacher Ms. Angela Reaves. "This hands-on experience truly brought their social studies lessons to life!" ■



THE ART OF THE IRISH DANCE

Students at Seneca Valley Intermediate High School had a shamrockin' good time in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. They brought the spirit of Ireland to campus with a lively St. Patrick's Day celebration.



Two talented junior students, Abby Stack and Anna Molyneux, took the lead in teaching their classmates the art of traditional Irish dance. Additionally, students crafted their own lucky shamrocks throughout the day, writing down what makes them feel fortunate. And in the true spirit of gratitude, they also created special shamrocks for teachers that shared why they're lucky to have them.

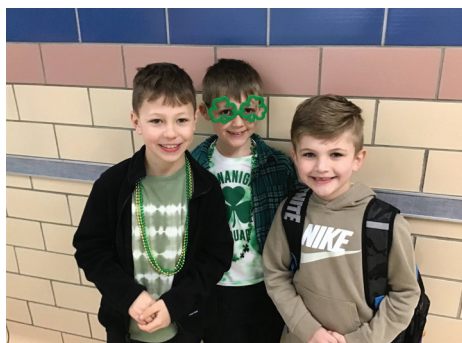
The heartwarming St. Patrick's Day celebration highlighted culture, community and kindness! ■



'PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY' PASSES NEW SCHOOL RULE

Paige Roth, a third grader at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE), recently stepped into the role of "Principal for the Day!" As the lucky winner of a drawing held during the I Love CVE event, Miss Roth spent March 17 shadowing Mrs. DeeAnn Graham and Dr. Taisia Papariella. Included in her official duties, Miss Roth declared a green dress code in honor of St. Patrick's Day and gave students a homework-free day!

Assisting her in these tasks was her friend Audrey McClelland. Special thanks to Mrs. Graham and Dr. Papariella for being wonderful role models to our youngest leaders! ■



EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVORS

On Monday, March 3, about 50 sophomores from Ms. Michele Russo's English class, along with gifted students from Mr. Greg Smolinski's class attended a field trip to Chatham University, where they gained deeper insight into how various groups unite to create meaningful change.

Students toured the "Revolving Doors" Holocaust Exhibit with the Director of the



Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, Emily Loeb. Mrs. Loeb also shared a powerful personal connection, speaking about her uncle, Rabbi Everett Gendler, who knew Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and joined him in Selma in March 1965.

Additionally, students met Marcel Walker, the project coordinator, lead artist, and book designer for "ChutzPow!," a comic book highlighting the heroic stories of Holocaust survivors. Having studied

the comic in class for research, students gained deeper insight as Mr. Walker discussed the power of storytelling through comics.

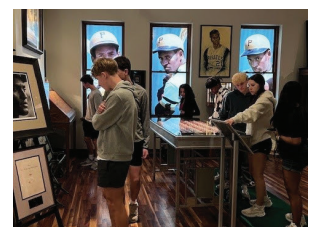
This impactful educational trip was sponsored by the Leadership through Innovation in Genocide and Human Rights Teaching (LIGHT) Initiative, a program dedicated to inspiring, preparing, and empowering the next generation of humanitarians. ■



A TOUR THROUGH TIME

Several students from Seneca Valley Intermediate High School (IHS) embarked on an inspiring field trip to the Clemente Museum, home to the world's largest collection of Roberto Clemente memorabilia. Guided through an immersive tour, students explored historic baseball artifacts, powerful works of art, rare photographs and more—all highlighting Clemente's legendary career, his teammates, and his lasting impact as a humanitarian.

Throughout Black History Month, the IHS LIGHT Center hosted a series of engaging activities and events celebrating the rich culture, achievements, and contributions of African Americans. Students who actively participated in three or more events earned the opportunity to experience this unforgettable trip, deepening their understanding of history, resilience and social change. ■



'STEPPING' INTO HISTORY

To celebrate Black History Month, the IHS LIGHT Center organized a variety of engaging activities and events. Sophomore Leila Wright delivered a brief presentation on Step and the Divine 9 before teaching



her peers a few step moves. Stepping, a dynamic percussive dance form, is a cherished tradition within the Divine Nine—nine historically Black fraternities and sororities—showcasing unity, pride, and cultural heritage through rhythmic movements, chanting and lyrical poetry. ■





ECMS INSTRUMENTALISTS VISIT SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY

For the eighth year, Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) sixth grade band students had the incredible opportunity to visit Slippery Rock University (SRU) and work with music education majors in Dr. Kathleen Melago's Instrumental Methods course. After a greeting from Dr. Melago in the Swope Music Hall, students participated in a band clinic with Dr. Jonathan Helmick, where they worked on their musical selections. ECMS instrumentalists had the chance to perform for SRU students and receive insightful feedback during a mock adjudication. SRU students then led sectional rehearsals and masterclasses. To top off the collaborative event, Dr. Helmick and the SRU Wind Ensemble treated ECMS students to an outstanding performance! ■



ORCHESTRA STUDENTS BREAK SCHOOL RECORD

Late last month, six Seneca Valley Orchestra students participated in the PMEA Western Region Orchestra festival, held at Richland High School. This festival brought together 165 students from western Pennsylvania, including over 50 school districts. Students performed a program inspired by cinema, including two original pieces by the guest conductor Mr. Chris Thomas. Based on audition results, four students – Elizabeth Browne, Heath Lyon, Isabella Muthler and Jake Pieszak – are advancing to the All-State Orchestra to be held in April.

“I am so overjoyed for our students who are advancing to All-State Orchestra,” said Ms. Sarah Miller, secondary orchestra director. “Four students is a new record for our program and these students have worked hard, not only to advance in PMEA but to establish a culture of excellence in the SV orchestra program. They are paving the way for musical distinction for years to come.”

Participants:

Elizabeth Browne (Violin), Benny James (Bass), Heath Lyon (Viola), Isabella Muthler (Viola), Jake Pieszak (Violin), Ava Platt (Viola). ■



SVTV SPORTS JOURNALISM – AWARD-WINNING PROGRAM

On Sunday, March 9, Seneca Valley TV (SVTV) members participated in the second annual Myron Cope High School Athletic Communication Awards for sports journalism. The SVTV crew brought home second place in the High School Live Sports Broadcast category for its broadcast and recording of the SV Raider football team's game against Hempfield!

The awards show was hosted by Point Park University in association with the Cope family at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. The event began with student producers meeting with peers from various Pennsylvania and West Virginia high schools. It continued with addresses from WTAE sports reporter Andrew Stockey, Elizabeth Cope (Myron's daughter), KDKA



sports reporter Bob Pompeani, and Pittsburgh Penguins in-arena host Jaden Becker, before transitioning into the awards section. Seniors AJ Barrett and Gavin Cress



were also given an honorable mention in the High School Sports Broadcasters of the Year category. SVTV is very proud of these outstanding seniors! ■

TUNING IN AT PMEA REGION BAND FESTIVAL

Nine SV Band students were recently selected to participate in the PMEA Region 1 Band Festival that was held March 6-8, at Ambridge High School. Region Band is a select group of students who have advanced through audition to the regional level of the state festival process. Region 1 comprises eight counties from three PMEA district-level bands. The guest conductor for the festival was Colonel Michael J. Colburn, retired Director of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. Based on audition results at this festival, Camden Armstrong and Mackenzie Tunstall will be advancing to the All-State Festival in April.

Students are led by Varden Armstrong, Robert Babick, Brian Croach and Sara Snyder, secondary instrumental instructors.



Participants:

Maya Anglero – baritone saxophone, Camden Armstrong – alto saxophone, Noah Bracht – tuba, Elora Dabravalskas – trumpet, Emma Gallie – clarinet, Isaac Hixon – French horn, Steven Patterson – clarinet, Eli Scanlan – trombone, Mackenzie Tunstall – clarinet. ■

SINGING SOPHISTICATION

Ten Seneca Valley chorus members in grades 11-12 recently participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Region Chorus held March 19-21, at Waynesburg University. The chorus festival comprises students from Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington and Westmoreland counties. Dr. Daniel Singer, a professor at the University who currently directs choirs for the Pittsburgh Symphony, selected the music which included selections written in Hindustani, German, Latin and English.

"This was a great regional choir group who learned much more difficult music than normally seen at this level," said high school choir director Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander. "They performed an incredibly energetic and impressive concert."

Based on audition results at the festival, the following students will be advancing to the All-State Choir Festival in April: Ayla Alexander, Addison Grassa, Isaac Hixon, Madelynn Karns, Madeleine Tomo and Madelyn Tresky.

Participants: Ayla Alexander, Aydan Danylo,



Addison Grassa, Isaac Hixon, Madelynn Karns, Shayla Kemp, Jacob Maietta, John Rieger, Madeleine Tomo and Madelyn Tresky. ■

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

Congratulations to our Superior-rated choirs! For the 28th consecutive year, the Seneca Valley Choral Department hosted a Music Performance Assessment (MPA) event on March 13, in honor of Music In Our Schools month. Approximately 800 Seneca Valley Chorus students in grades 6-12 participated in this Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) event. The goal of an MPA adjudication is to provide opportunities for students within ensembles to receive a clinic with a collegiate judge, scores, written and recorded comments, and a rating that reflects performance levels. It provides a “snapshot” evaluation of the implementation of music curriculum and provides meaningful feedback to the directors and students via adjudicator verbal and written comments. The PMEA assessment forms correlate to state standards, testing terminology and traditional grading. Ensembles can receive comments only, or ratings of Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor. Attending an adjudication is valuable, however, hosting one is an even greater indicator of the dedication our SV Choral department has. All SV choirs, grades 6-12, performed.

The adjudicators for the event were Dr. Mark Boyle from Seton Hill University, Dr. Craig Denison from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Ryan Keeling from Westminster College.

“Seeing all of the wonderful ensembles at Seneca Valley is inspiring,” said Dr. Ryan Keeling. Dr. Mark Boyle continued “I work with high school choirs around the Pittsburgh area every Friday. This chorus program is far beyond the norm. There is something very special at Seneca Valley!”

The SV Choral directors who participated included Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander, Ms. Claire Barker, Ms. Chessa Crum, Mr. Kyle Masson and Ms. Elizabeth Schroder. Pastor William Brewer was the accompanist for all groups. The Seneca Valley Choral Boosters provided support as chaperones and as assistants in organizing and implementing the details of the event!



The SV Madrigal Singers, Concert Choir, Treble Choir, Men’s Choir, 9/10 Choral Union, Eighth Grade Choir, Seventh Grade Choir, and Haine and Ehrman Crest Sixth Grade Choirs all received Superior ratings, the highest rating given! The collaboration of District officials, students, parent helpers, teachers and collegiate judges made the day a fantastic educational experience and great success! ■



A WEEKEND OF TRIUMPH: CELEBRATING THE MAGIC OF THEATER

"It was the BEST day ever!" The air crackled with excitement as the curtain rose on a culmination of weeks of dedication, resilience and pure theatrical magic. Nearly 200 students were involved in the success of "The SpongeBob Musical."

More than just an evening or afternoon of entertainment, we celebrated the unwavering spirit of our cast, crew and orchestra with our production. The students' journey from a bare stage in January to the striking of the set on March 3 was a testament to their collective strength. Who could have predicted the challenges they would face? With several obstacles along the way and unforeseen circumstances, these students have proven their ability to overcome adversity with grace and determination. Just like SpongeBob and his friends, they pulled together, demonstrating the power of teamwork and shared passion.

The essence of theater lies in its ability to reshape our perceptions. It allows us to step away from the routines of daily life, inviting us into realms where creativity takes center stage. It serves as a refuge, a space where the weight of everyday worries lightens and is replaced by the compelling force of narrative. More than just a form of amusement, theater cultivates a strong sense of unity. The audience's enthusiasm and resounding applause for these gifted students highlight the deep-seated feeling of connection that theater nurtures.

It was a well-earned recognition of their tireless efforts, the countless hours spent memorizing lines, perfecting choreography, mastering musical scores, and honing their craft. These past months were not merely rehearsals; they were the building blocks of cherished memories and moments that will resonate for years to come.

As SpongeBob wisely reminded us, "If you believe in yourself, with a tiny pinch of magic, all your dreams can come true!" Through "The SpongeBob Musical," we witnessed the embodiment of that belief, a testament to the power of dreams realized through hard work and a touch of theatrical magic. ■



EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMANCE

On March 18, the Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) Instrumental Music Department hosted an adjudication event for all sixth and seventh grade instrumental students. Referred to as a Music Performance Assessment (MPA), this activity is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) with the intent of providing feedback to students based on their performance. Each ensemble prepares two pieces that are performed for a panel of judges who assess the group's performance and provide input based on a set of statewide criteria. The feedback provided to the students gives them an idea of how they rank with similar schools across the state in terms of overall performance. This year's panel of adjudicators were educators from Mt. Lebanon School District, Peters Township School District, Carnegie Mellon University and Seton Hill University.

In addition to performing chosen pieces, the seventh grade band and orchestra participated in a sight-reading component, where they were evaluated on their ability to play through a piece of music for the first time with as few mistakes as possible. In place of sight-reading, the sixth grade ensembles had the opportunity to work with one of the adjudicators in a masterclass setting where they were given live feedback of their performance.

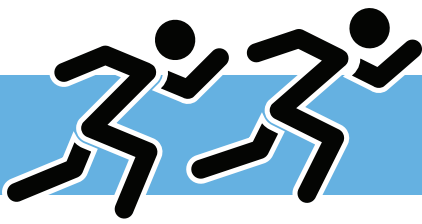
The RGMS seventh grade band and Ehrman Crest sixth grade band received Superior Ratings for their performance. The RGMS seventh grade orchestra and Ehrman Crest sixth grade orchestra also received Excellent Ratings. The Haine Middle School



sixth grade band and orchestra received comments only. Haine Middle School instrumental directors are Kelly Levere (band) and Marlena Hasara (orchestra). Ehrman Crest Middle School directors are Tracy Glass (band) and Mandy

Lesney (orchestra). RGMS instrumental directors and event hosts are Sarah Miller (orchestra), Millie Shay (orchestra), Brian Croach (band) and Sara Snyder (band). ■





WINTER SPORTS FINAL RECAP

Girls Basketball

Fresh off their section title – the first in 48 years – the Raiders were the No. 3 seed in the WPIAL bracket and hosted a tough Mt. Lebanon squad in the first round of playoffs. It was apparent to all in the gym that the Raiders started off very cold from the field and found themselves down by 11 entering the fourth quarter. A valiant comeback in front of a raucous home crowd, SV tied the score and forced overtime. But the energy could not be sustained, and the Blue Devils found a way to go home with a 47 – 45 win, knocking SV out of the WPIAL tournament. One game does not define the season, and we congratulate this team on a great year. We thank seniors Gracie Cato, Lily Hudac, Legacy Joseph-Short and Lillian Sperry for their contributions over the years. They have raised the standard of this program.



Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving

The postseason has wrapped up for the boys and girls swimming & diving teams and listed below are the medalist performances from both the WPIAL and PIAA championships. On the team side, the girls program finished in fifth place overall at the WPIAL championships and the boys came in 15th.

Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships:

Girls team WPIAL & PIAA medalists

- WPIAL Diving, 1m – Ali Waters, 4th place
 - PIAA – Ali Waters, 4th place
- WPIAL 200 Medley Relay – Lena Rothrock, Katie Bookwalter, Elle Alexander, Audrey Wolf – 6th place
- WPIAL 200 Free Relay – Audrey Wolf, Lena Rothrock, Alissa Wilson, Sasha Myers – 6th place



- WPIAL 100 Breaststroke – Katie Bookwalter, 3rd place
- WPIAL 400 Free Relay – Ava Walker, Mya King, Katie Bookwalter, Sasha Myers – 8th place

Boys team WPIAL & PIAA medalists

- WPIAL 100 Backstroke – Triston Sasala, 8th place

Boys and Girls Wrestling

WPIAL and PIAA postseason competition proved quite challenging for our Raider wrestling programs. The boys program sent three qualifiers to WPIALs – Riley Smith (107 lbs.), Bryce Berekstazi (114 lbs.) and Zach Hill (139 lbs.) – and all faced tough brackets in their attempt to qualify for the PIAA West regional. Unfortunately, luck was not on their side and all three fell just short of PIAA qualification. Nonetheless, it was a great season and we look forward to 2025-26 when all three return to bolster the lineup.

On the girls' side, five athletes qualified from WPIALs to the PIAA West Regional and all advanced to the "blood round" – Everly Harrell (100 lbs.), Adele Shih-Calabro (106 lbs.), Maddee Fischer (130 lbs.), Kaeleigh Tuell (155 lbs.) and Hannah Hornick (170 lbs.). Unfortunately, the competition was tough, and we sent only Hannah Hornick to Hershey for the PIAA 3A championships. For Hannah, wrestling at the Hershey Park Giant Center was a great opportunity to gain championship-level competition. While the results may not have gone Hannah's way, the matches will serve as incentive for the 2025-26 season, and another shot on the big stage! We thank senior Maddee Fischer for her talents and leadership in our girls program – it has been a joy to watch Maddee compete. We also wish graduating senior Jillian Atwood all the best in her future endeavors. The program will return the remaining four qualifiers in addition to a number of letterwinners from this past season. The future continues to shine bright for this program! ■



SPRING SPORTS ARE UNDERWAY

The seasons keep coming and, already, spring sport teams are in action – some evening facing section competition in mid-March. Here is a quick look at the upcoming spring season.

Baseball

Head Coach Eric Semega, entering his 25th season, fields a roster of 18, including five seniors. What the team may lack in experience they certainly make up in their camaraderie on and off the field. Watching the Raiders play this season, one will find a fundamentally sound team out on the field and a disciplined team at the plate. The team opened regular season play on Monday, March 17 vs. Sto-Rox.



Softball

Head Coach Marlesse Hames returns for her fourth season and returns a squad fresh off a WPIAL championship in 2024. The team will be led by seniors Lauren Folino, Bella Gross, Lexie Hames, Izzy Schall and Addison Winkle – all with plenty of experience to position SV to compete for another WPIAL title. The team opened regular season play on Tuesday, March 18 vs. Armstrong.



Flag Football

Head Coach Chris Eden, in his second year, returns a roster of 49 players intent on capturing their first-ever championship title. The 2025 season will be the program's final under the Pittsburgh Steelers' guidance and support. In the spring of 2026, girls flag football will become an officially sanctioned PIAA sport. The team opened their season on Sunday, March 30 at North Allegheny.

Boys Lacrosse

Dave Hall returns as head coach for Raider boys lacrosse and the team is excited to build upon last year's playoff appearance. Their goals include advancing further through the WPIAL championship bracket and they will rely on seniors Grant Adams, Landon Davis, James Erfort, Colton Garner, Sean Manns, Tristan Moeslein and Kaden Tuell to provide steadying leadership and game-decisive play. The team opened their regular season schedule on Friday, March 14 and came away with a 17-9 win over visiting Canon-Mac.

Girls Lacrosse

Katie Smolter, in her 14th season as head coach, leads a core of returning players from last season's playoff team. Seniors Bronwyn Burns, Zoe Craft, Gia DiTullio, Rachel Humphreys, Megan Marley, Julia Roy and Jillian Wise will be instrumental in leading a roster that includes 18 freshmen. The season started off on Friday, March 14 at Knoch, and the Raiders came home victorious, 17-5, with seven different goal scorers!



Boys Tennis

Head Coach Eric Grove, in his 25th season, opened regular season competition on Wednesday, March 12 vs. Riverside and the Raiders were successful 5-0. This year's squad combines tremendous athleticism with experience in key positions. Seniors include Liam Carney, Eric Chen, Andrew James, Mason Klingensmith and Paul Weis.

Track and Field

Both the boys and girls track & field teams – under head coach Ray Peaco, in his 17th season – opened their season with a section meet against visiting Shaler. The Titans proved no match for either squad as the boys won 123-27 and the girls 126-23. Both teams are 1-0 to start. Senior Aubrey Erdos set the school record in the pole vault at 12' 0" and numerous athletes found their way into the program's top ten list.

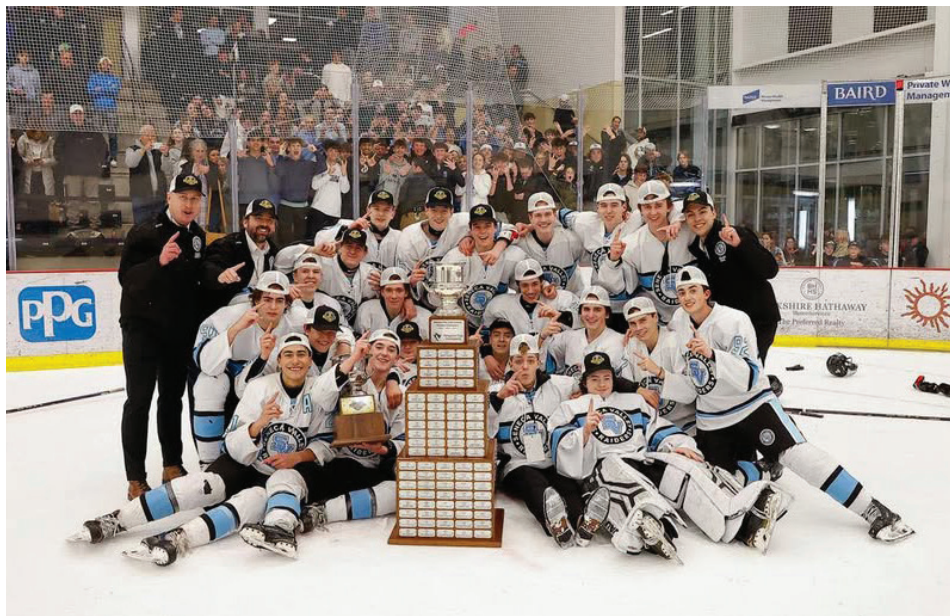
Boys Volleyball

Head Coach Brett Poirier, in his fifth season at the helm, has a team currently ranked No. 2 in the WPIAL preseason poll. Talk about a competitive section, the top four teams in the preseason rankings all come from the Raider's section; this will make great competition night in, night out. Seniors Mario Ardolino, Mason Chapman, Chase Crawford, Matt Dudash, Jordan Hoover, Jaxson Jeffers, Connor Matson, Abheek Nelikil and Brandon Suski provide the depth, talent and experience to position the Raiders for a chance at a WPIAL title. The team opened their season on Friday, March 14, with a 3-0 road win over Central Catholic. ■



HOW TWO GAMES TURNED INTO ONE TROPHY

I am not sure where you may have been on Monday, March 17, but if you were not at the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex for the PIHL 3A Penguins Cup championship game between Seneca Valley and South Fayette – you missed out! So many words come to mind following this championship performance by Seneca Valley Raider Ice Hockey. The game broke the record for longest PIHL playoff contest – spanning three regulation periods and almost three, full overtime periods. In short, the Raiders played overtime that lasted almost an entire extra game. Marshall Hewitt’s game-winning and trophy-clinching goal came at the 12:29 mark of the third overtime to clinch a 3-2 victory and bring the Penguins Cup Trophy home to SV – the first since 2018. Goaltender Chris Nichols recorded 48 saves on the night solidifying an outstanding defensive effort on display all evening. What all of us in the rink were fortunate to witness was an unbelievable display of guts, grit and pride. Not to mention, talented players and coaches worthy of calling themselves



CHAMPION! When adversity mounts, it is your teammate that will lift you up, inspire you to continue and be there to celebrate. Celebrations didn’t stop there and on Saturday, March 22, the Raiders delivered again with a knockout 7-2 State

Championship win over the Holy Ghost Prep Firebirds. On this night, there could not have been a more fitting display of teamwork than Raider Ice Hockey. Congratulations! ■

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2025

Many Raider student-athletes made their college commitment official with the early signing period starting in mid-November. We congratulate these seniors in 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 proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community. ■



Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Lana Khilji	Golf	Allegheny College	Business

RAIDER ROBOTICS ROBO NIGHT

Join us for Raider Robotics Robo Night, an exciting evening showcasing the innovation, skill and dedication of Seneca Valley's robotics students! Powered by the Seneca Valley Foundation, this event is designed to highlight the incredible achievements of our Raider Robotics program while emphasizing the critical role community support plays in shaping the future of STEM education.

What to Expect:

- Live demonstrations of student-built robots in action
- Meet the talented students and mentors behind Raider Robotics
- Hands-on activities for all ages to experience the world of robotics
- Learn how robotics impacts our local industries and workforce
- Discover ways to support the program through sponsorship and donations

Why Robotics Matters

The Raider Robotics program is more than just building and coding—it's about problem-solving, teamwork, and preparing students for high-tech careers in fields like engineering, automation, and artificial intelligence. These future innovators will play a vital role in industries that drive our local economy, from manufacturing to healthcare and beyond.

Your support ensures that our students have access to cutting-edge technology, competition opportunities, and the resources needed to continue excelling. By investing in robotics, you're investing in the future workforce of our community.

Date & Time: Thursday, April 10 from 5-8 p.m.

Location: Seneca Valley Sr. High School

Come see the impact of robotics firsthand and be part of something extraordinary. We can't wait to welcome you to Raider Robotics Robo Night!



RAIDER ROBOTICS ROBO NIGHT

Innovate, Inspire, Invest

Thursday, April 10
5 - 8 p.m.
SV Sr. High School
Students, Families & Industry Experts Welcome

[Register Here](#)

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZQSkCY9Ab8>

For additional information, please contact SV Foundation Development Director, Annie Mersing, via email at mersingam@svsd.net.

SUPPORTING HANDS-ON LEARNING: VO-TECH MINI GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

We are proud to again support the next generation of skilled professionals through our Vo-Tech Mini Grants! Funding may be used for the supplies and equipment required to attend Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School and are available on a first come, first served basis. Students interested in a mini-grant can apply here: <https://forms.office.com/r/DeKWwFk8mC>.

VO-TECH MINI-GRANTS

The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) is offering financial assistance to SV students to purchase the supplies & equipment required to attend Butler Co. Area Vocational-Technical School. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible students. Apply today!

<https://forms.office.com/r/DeKWwFk8mC>

PI(E)ING FOR POSITIVITY

Students at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) celebrated Pi Day with a purpose!

Students had a blast 'pie-ing' their teachers during a fundraiser organized by the RGMS Hope Squad. They raised over \$200 for the Positive Painting project—a nonprofit organization that uses visual art to promote positive mental health and suicide prevention. A little whipped cream for a whole lot of good! ■

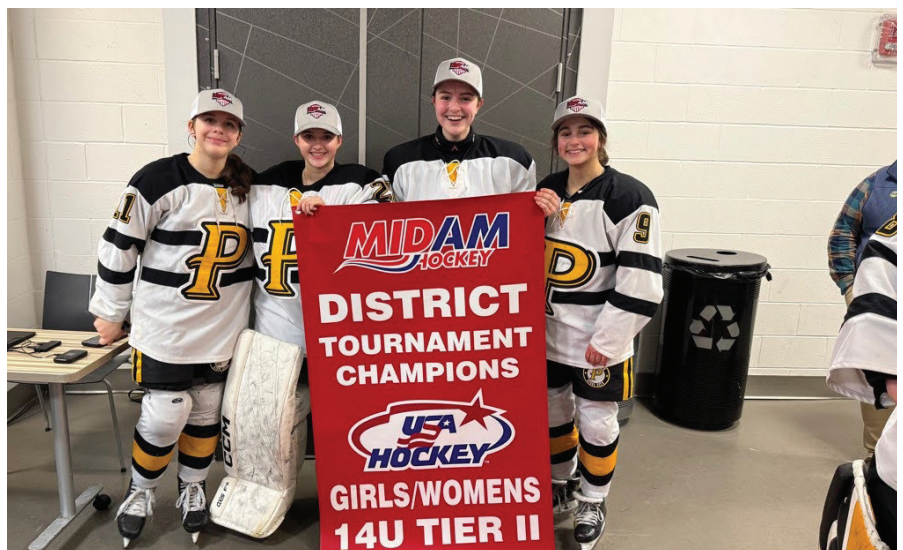


STANDOUTS ON THE ICE

Recently, four SV students found themselves as national championship contenders in their all-female hockey team.

Ryan Gloyer Middle School students Farrah Scarletelli, Charlotte Eaves, Addison Stevens and Elena Morasczyk of Pittsburgh's Steel City Selects 14U Black team went undefeated at their MidAm District Tournament, securing the first-place championship in their division. These athletes are now qualified for the 2025 Chipotle-USA Hockey Girls Tier II 14U National Championships to be held April 2-6, in Coral Springs, Florida!

Congratulations, girls, and good luck! ■



SCIENCE SUCCESSES

Eight Seneca Valley Science Honor Society members excelled at the 68th annual Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) competition held at Slippery Rock University on Feb. 22.

Senior Ivan Chen, juniors Elaina Donahue, Abby Stack, Aubrey Popp, Autumn Zacherl and Teagan Hmel along with sophomore Cruz Sanders all received a first-place award and the opportunity to compete at the state competition in May. Cruz also won the Senior High Botany Directors Award.

Additionally, sophomore Mariana Marino Escobar also completed and received a second-place award.

“We are so proud to have such a great, intelligent group of students,” said Ms. Kelly Weston, Seneca Valley Senior High School AP Chemistry teacher, Science



Department Chair and Science Honor Society advisor.

Entry fees for the regional PJAS competition were funded by the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF). The Pennsylvania Junior

Academy of Science (PJAS) is a statewide organization of junior and senior high school students designed to stimulate and promote interest in science among its members through the development of research projects and investigations. ■

EXCELLENT ESSAY

Highlighting her incredible talent and passion for civic engagement, Lanie Koliscak, an eighth-grade student from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), was named a 2024-2025 Patriot's Pen winner. Her compelling essay on, "My Voice in America's Democracy?" earned first place in Pennsylvania and an impressive 10th place nationwide!

Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of nearly \$1 million in state and national awards. This year's national winners were announced at the 2025 VFW Washington Conference in Washington, D.C., during the Parade of Winners ceremony.

This essay contest encourages students to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300-400-word essay, expressing their views.

“Placing first in the state and 10th in the nation for my essay is a humbling reminder of the power of hard work and dedication, and a moment that fuels my passion for writing even further,” said Miss Koliscak.

Miss Koliscak won \$1,800 in the state competition. She also received \$1,500 from nationals and an additional \$3,300 after winning 10th in the nation. Miss Koliscak was sponsored by VFW Post #879, District 1.

To read the essay in its entirety, [click here](#).



Lanie pictured with Ryan Gloyer Middle School Co-Principals Ms. Trisha Butschle and Dr. Tony Babusci

DEFENDING THE DIGITAL FRONTIER

Two Seneca Valley CyberPatriot teams showcased exceptional talent in the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, a prestigious nationwide cybersecurity challenge that featured 4,023 teams. Demonstrating outstanding teamwork, critical thinking and technical expertise, both teams delivered remarkable performances.

The all-male team advanced through the first two rounds, earning placement in the Gold Division, while the all-female team achieved an impressive second place finish in the state within the All-Service Division's Silver bracket. Their strong performance propelled them to the National Semi-Finals, where they secured eighth place nationally and earned awards for both achievements.

CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air Force Association to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to the nation's future.

"We were so excited to finally tally a score high enough for the Gold Division considering all the hours the team put in over the last several months," said



sophomore Albert Pimenov. "The Summer AFA CyberPatriot camp at the University of Pittsburgh was the main reason why our team performed so well and helped our team to be prepared for this competition. We also are always looking for more people to join the team."

The competition took place online and students worked together as a team during each round. As part of the competition, students were challenged to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities in virtual operating systems.

"CyberPatriot has been an incredible source in learning about technology and leadership," said senior Heather Schwartz. "Last year, I was brand new to the program and was taught by seniors who had a passion for Cybersecurity, and



its uses in the world. Isabella and I followed in their footsteps and dedicated this year to teaching others while learning from them. Everyone on the team has different strengths and weaknesses, and I am grateful for the opportunity to pass on my skills learned last year to underclassmen while learning new skills, especially in the Boeing Challenge!"

The CyberPatriot teams are led by Ms. Diane Kogler, Computer Programming and Mathematics teacher at Seneca Valley Senior High School. The SV All-Male team includes senior Peter McHenry, juniors Aravinth Prabhahar, Mariappan Ramanujam and Wilson Li and sophomore Albert Pimenov. The SV All-Female team includes seniors Isabella Muthler, Heather Schwartz, juniors Roshini Umesh and Leah Martino. ■

HITTING THE MARK

Seneca Valley's Raider Battalion Marksmanship Team took on the best at the Army JROTC Service Championships in Camp Perry, Ohio! Out of 1,200+ teams, they scored in the top 5%, securing an impressive 43rd place nationwide!

Leading the charge was senior Wesley Marks, who set a new school record with 545 points, earning 39th place individually! This marks his second national ranking, after finishing 43rd last year in the Civilian Marksmanship Program Open.

Huge congratulations to the Seneca Valley Raider Battalion Marksmanship Team on this incredible achievement! ■



Pictured L-R: Seniors Wesley Marks and Riley Hubbard & Juniors James Shibata, Maria Wilson and Ethan Campbell

BRINGING HOME THE GOLD AND BREAKING RECORDS

The Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon Team clinched first place at the Western Pennsylvania Regional Competition that was held February 14-15 at Moniteau High School. In an outstanding display of academic excellence, the team set a new SV Academic Decathlon record with a historic team score of 44,601 points—the highest ever achieved by Seneca Valley! In addition to the team's remarkable success, Rohin Jayaraman made history by setting a new Pennsylvania state record with a stunning individual score of 8,483 points!

The following students medaled in the events below:

Music: Ophelia Crano (Gold), Heath Lyon (Gold), Rohin Jayaraman (Silver), Gavin Cress (Gold), Sarah Ghaffar (Bronze), Michael Kravec (Bronze), Roshini Umesh (Gold)

Art: Ophelia Crano (Gold), Heath Lyon (Gold), Kaia Satory (Silver), Rohin Jayaraman (Bronze), Gavin Cress (Silver), Sarah Ghaffar (Bronze), Roshini Umesh (Silver), Abigail Huppert (Bronze)

Literature: Ophelia Crano (Gold), Dhiyasri Gopalakrishnan (Bronze), Rohin Jayaraman (Gold), Heath Lyon (Silver), Kaia Satory (Bronze), Michael Kravec (Silver), Abigail Huppert (Gold)

Economics: Rohin Jayaraman (Gold), Heath Lyon (Silver), Gavin Cress (Gold), Michael Kravec (Silver), Arvand Esni (Silver)

Social Science: Evan MacInernery (Gold), Ophelia Crano (Bronze), Rohin Jayaraman (Gold), Heath Lyon (Silver), Sarah Ghaffar (Gold), Gavin Cress (Silver), Michael Kravec (Bronze), Caelan Buchanan (Gold)

Essay: Dhiyasri Gopalakrishnan (Gold), Ophelia Crano (Silver), Heath Lyon (Gold), Kaia Satory (Silver), Sarah Ghaffar (Gold), Gavin Cress (Silver), Leah Martino (Bronze)



Science: Ophelia Crano (Silver), Evan MacInernery (Bronze), Heath Lyon (Gold), Rohin Jayaraman (Silver), Gavin Cress (Gold), Michael Kravec (Silver), Sarah Ghaffar (Bronze)

Mathematics: Evan MacInernery (Bronze), Rohin Jayaraman (Gold), Heath Lyon (Silver), Michael Kravec (Gold), Rosini Umesh (Silver), Arvand Esni (Bronze)

Interview: Dhiyasri Gopalakrishnan (Gold), Ophelia Crano (Bronze), Rohin Jayaraman (Gold), Gavin Cress (Gold), Sarah Ghaffar (Silver)

Speech: Ophelia Crano (Silver), Dhiyasri Gopalakrishnan (Bronze), Rohin Jayaraman (Silver), Michael Kravec (Gold)

Individual overall medalists include: Sarah Ghaffar (Bronze), Michael Kravec (Silver), Gavin Cress (Gold), Kaia Satory (Bronze), Heath Lyon (Silver), Rohin Jayaraman (Gold), Ophelia Crano (Silver).

Seneca Valley's Academic Decathlon Team placed second in the Pennsylvania State Competition and will travel to the National United States Academic Decathlon Competition in Des Moines, Iowa.

The topic for 2025-26 is The Roaring Twenties. Students interested in joining the team for the next school year can email [Mr. Reichard](#).

SENECA VALLEY COMMUNITY LEADERS

Ten Seneca Valley students recently completed the Butler County Youth Leadership Program. This dynamic program focuses on providing students exposure to issues, resources, and opportunities for service in the Butler County area as well as educating students on the concept of "community leadership."

This year's class consisted of 30 students from various school districts throughout the area. Over the course of four sessions, students engaged with prominent Butler County professionals who shared insights on healthcare, education, human services, manufacturing and finance. In addition to these presentations, students further developed their team building and leadership skills, refined their resumes, and volunteered at a local food pantry. The program concluded at UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex where students toured the facility, enjoyed ice skating, and attended a presentation on financial literacy.



Participating students included seniors Sonya Dietz, Haley Hilliard, Nina Luo, Megan Marley, Gabbie Nye, Maddie Och and Kaia Satory along with juniors Elaina Donahue, Alaina Hahn and Corey Wolfe.

MIND MATTERS

Seneca Valley Hope Squad members participated in the "Mind Matters Conference," hosted by Pine-Richland's Peer 2 Peer club. The event brought together students from local schools to hear from speakers and discuss initiatives aimed at promoting mental health and suicide prevention. Attendees also connected with representatives from Ellie Health, Charlie Health, Glade Run, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP).

Dr. Demetrius Harrell from AFSP and Dr. Maura Paczan, Pine-Richland's Director of Student Services, shared valuable insights on mental health, warning signs of suicide risk, and strategies to support at-risk students. They also emphasized



the importance of protective factors in suicide prevention. Students engaged in leadership exercises, linking their learning to efforts in fostering mental wellness within their schools.



A key highlight of the conference was the opportunity for each school to showcase their mental health initiatives. Seneca Valley students presented on the Hope Squad program, emphasizing its crucial role in suicide prevention and student support. ■

CARSON SCHOLARS

Three Seneca Valley students are among the 579 students nationwide to be named a 2025 Carson Scholar. Haine Middle School sixth graders, Yasmeen Fahs and Ashlynn Kazmarek along with Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) seventh grader, Cameron Swope have earned this prestigious distinction; a recognition of their outstanding academic excellence and commitment to service.

With this honor, these students will receive a \$1,000 scholarship award that will be invested for their college education, along with a medal and certificate. They will be formally recognized at the Carson Scholars Fund's Annual Pittsburgh Awards Banquet on Sunday, April 6.

"We are incredibly proud of Yasmeen and Ashlynn for being named Carson Scholars," said Haine Middle School Assistant Principal Mr. Jeremy Womer. "This honor



recognizes their exceptional academic achievement and dedication to serving their community. Their hard work and success are truly inspiring!"

According to the Carson Scholars Fund, Miss Fahs, Miss Kazmarek and Mr. Swope were selected because they demonstrate the highest standards of academic achievement, integrity, and civic and social responsibility.



"We are incredibly proud of Cameron for being named a Carson Scholar," said Dr. Tony Babusci, RGMS Principal. "This impressive recognition highlights not only academic excellence but also civic and social responsibility, which are core values of Ryan Gloyer Middle School."

For more information and to view the full list of Carson Scholars visit their website at www.carsonscholars.org. ■

VISION TO LEARN

Seneca Valley collaborated with Vision to Learn to offer free eye exams and glasses to students throughout the District. Vision to Learn's mobile vision clinic visited multiple buildings, where a licensed optometrist conducted eye exams. Students also had the chance to

choose their glasses frames, which will be delivered in the coming weeks. To date, Vision to Learn has provided over 15,800 eye exams and 14,300 pairs of glasses to students across Southwestern Pennsylvania. ■



SV DIRECTOR INDUCTED TO PITTSBURGH HALL OF FAME

Randy Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds, has been a dedicated referee and official for the PIAA, WPIAL, and NCAA for over 30 years. On March 2, he received a prestigious honor, being inducted into the Pittsburgh Basketball Club (PBC) Hall of Fame. Adding to this achievement, he was also named the PBC Hall of Fame Jeff Wagner Award winner in the Contributors Division, Class of 2025.

Mr. Miller was celebrated alongside legendary basketball players and officials at the annual PBC Hall of Fame brunch, held at the Montour Country Club.

“When I found out that I was being inducted into the Pittsburgh Basketball Club Hall of Fame and receiving the Jeff Wagner Award, I have to admit, it was a little emotional,” said Mr. Miller.

“Jeff Wagner was not only a colleague in officiating but a very, very, close friend. ‘Wags’ and I were good friends for over 30 years prior to his sudden passing on Christmas Eve in 2020.

I am extremely honored and quite humbled by this induction and inclusion into the PBC Hall of Fame Family. When I look around at this year’s HOF class and also past year’s classes, I truly feel like a small fish in a huge ocean of Basketball Royalty.



This year’s class included all-time greats like Norm Nixon, Jerome Lane, Eddie Benton, and Coach Keith Dambrot. Previous legends include John Calipari, Sean Miller, Sam Clancy and Billy Knight – just to name a few.

I started officiating when I was 19 years old, so I have been an official my entire adult life. The biggest take away after all these years is that it’s not what big game or championship you’re working, but the strong bond & relationships that are gained by this advocacy.



Sam Clancy and Randy Miller

I’ve met so many great people through officiating and many are still friends of mine after all these years.

I have a passion for officiating and truly believe that it should always be about what’s best for the game and more importantly what’s best for the student-athlete.

It’s my job to see that every contest makes this the utmost priority, and we give all those kids our very best effort.” ■



Randy Miller with, from L-R: John Jenkins and Jeff “Wags” Wagner



Randy Miller with, from L-R: daughter Alyssa, granddaughter Harlow and wife Chris

SV ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS RECEIVE AWARDS FOR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

Administrators and teachers from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) recently attended the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education (PAMLE) State Conference, where they received several awards recognizing their commitment to education and leading their school community in dynamic and positive directions.

RGMS School Principals, Dr. Tony Babusci and Ms. Trisha Butschle received the Leonard R. Ference Outstanding Administrator Award, and seven RGMS teachers were recognized as winners of the PAMLE Promising Practitioners Award: New Teacher Award. Recipients include the following teachers: Ms. Mackenzie Clark, Ms. Brooke Wilson, Ms. Erin Burkhart, Ms. Matilda Shay, Ms. Claire Staudacher, Mr. Gabe Miller and Ms. Ellie Sgro.

“This recognition holds great significance for us, as it not only highlights our dedication to middle-level development but also reaffirms our unwavering commitment to continuous growth and excellence,” said Dr. Tony Babusci, Ryan Gloyer Middle School Principal. “We take pride in providing meaningful learning experiences, empowering student success, and making a positive impact.”

The Leonard R. Ference Outstanding Administrator Award is sought to honor administrators who value, understand and support middle level education practices that promote powerful learning for young adolescents. The PAMLE Promising



Practitioners Award: New Teacher Award is presented to teachers who are just beginning their middle school careers and have made a positive impact on both their school and community.

“The entire staff of Ryan Gloyer Middle School should be very proud of these prestigious awards,” said Dr. Matt McKinley, Assistant Superintendent, grades 7-12. “They are deeply committed to their students and, through teamwork and collaboration, strive to foster a love for lifelong learning. I congratulate them on their dedication and hard work.”

PAMLE is the leading advocate for middle level education in the state of Pennsylvania, dedicated to maximizing student achievement in a safe, innovative and developmentally appropriate environment. The conference was held in Pittsburgh where Dr. Babusci and Ms. Butschle were in attendance, along with Mr. Miller and Ms. Wilson who accepted the award on behalf of all the new teachers who were recognized. ■

REMAKE LEARNING DAYS

Stream Guardians: A Professional Development Day for Educators on Fly Fishing and Utilizing Streams for Engaging Environmental Education

Seneca Valley School District is proud to participate in the annual Remake Learning Days Celebration! Join us as Ryan Gloyer Middle School hosts “Stream Guardians,” a professional development day for educators on fly fishing and utilizing streams for engaging environmental education. This event is a fantastic chance for educators to explore how to utilize local creeks and streams for real-world, hands-on learning experiences.

Event Details:

- Date: May 8 (Rain make-up date: May 13)
- Location: Seneca Valley Aquatic Center (located next to Ryan Gloyer Middle School), 122 Seneca School Road, Harmony, PA 16037

- Time: Introductory meeting at 8 a.m. (optional) - participants are free to come and go as they please. The event will wrap up with a Q & A session at 2:30 p.m. in the Aquatic Center.
- Format: “Station Rotation” along the stream on our campus
- Cost: FREE
- Lunch: Provided for interested participants

Who Should Attend:

- Administrators
- Science teachers
- Pre-service teachers
- Outdoor adventure club leaders
- Fishing club leaders
- Educators
- Camp organizers
- Youth group leaders

Additional Information:

- Regardless of arrival time, please report



to our welcome center at the Seneca Valley Aquatic Center, where you will receive a map, schedule and a brief explanation of the day’s structure.

- Please RSVP by visiting our Remake Learning Day website [Stream Guardians: A Professional Development Day for Educators on Fly Fishing and Utilizing Streams for Engaging Environmental Education - Remake Learning Days](#) or [signing up directly by clicking here](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ryan Gloyer Middle School Principal, Dr. Tony Babusci, at babusciak@svsd.net.

We look forward to seeing you there! ■

SV ALL-STAR

For March, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Ms. Angel Kline, security guard at Ryan Gloyer Middle School.

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.

“Angel is a kind soul who consistently goes above and beyond her role to support both students and staff,” said Ms. Trisha Butschle, Co-Principal of Ryan Gloyer Middle School.” She has earned the trust and respect of everyone in the building because of her unwavering commitment to fostering a positive, safe environment. She is incredibly kind, always taking the time to engage with students and staff in a warm, welcoming manner. Whether it’s greeting a student by name in the hallways or offering a word of encouragement to a staff member, her presence creates an atmosphere of security and care.”

Ms. Kline consistently demonstrates a strong dedication to her professional growth. She proactively pursues opportunities to enhance her knowledge and skills, ensuring she can better support our school community. Her commitment to self-improvement reflects her dedication to fostering a safe and thriving environment for everyone.

Ms. Butschle added, “One of the things that sets Angel apart is her ability to make everyone feel valued and important. In the



Pictured from L to R: Jason Young, Safety and Security Director, Dr. Tony Babusci and Ms. Trisha Butschle, Ryan Gloyer Middle School Principals, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools, Angel Kline and Mr. Jeff Widdowson, Board Vice President

sometimes-challenging environment of middle school, Angel brings joy and light, reminding us that happiness is an essential part of a child’s growth. Her commitment to ensuring that students feel safe and happy is truly a cornerstone of her work.”

Ms. Kline is a vital member of our school community and makes a meaningful difference in the lives of both students and staff. We are grateful to have her as part of our team. ■

‘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.” School Board meetings were held on March 3 and 10.

Meet Kinley Eiseman, our “Pledge” student for the March 3 work session meeting. A Haine Elementary School third grader with big dreams, Kinley loves math and hopes to become a teacher one day. She stays active playing on the girls’ basketball fourth grade travel team and enjoys softball. When she’s not on the court or the field, she’s crafting or spending weekends at her cabin — when sports don’t keep her on the go.



Kinsley with, from L-R, Superintendent Dr. Tracy Vitale and School Board President Mr. Eric DiTullio

Meet Brycen Detar, third grader at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary. Brycen’s journey has been one of resilience, love and family. After spending his early years in foster care, he officially became part of the Detar family in 2024—joining his four brothers in a home full of love and support. A proud CVE student, Brycen is a book lover with big dreams—whether it’s becoming a police officer or following in his parents’

footsteps as a business owner. He already enjoys helping out at their family-owned Spring & Main Café and Vocelli Pizza in Zelenople! When he’s not at school or working alongside his parents, you’ll find him swimming, riding bikes or hanging out with his dog, Snickers. ■



Brycen with, from L-R, Superintendent Dr. Tracy Vitale and School Board President Mr. Eric DiTullio

SV Raiderthon

**entertainment
and fun
for all ages =**

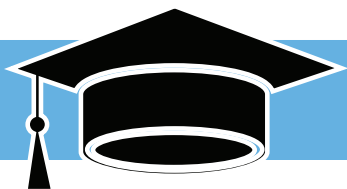
April 4
5-8pm
Senior High School

Tickets:
Students= \$5
Adults= \$7

Refreshments, karaoke,
raffles, face painting,
balloon art, carnival
booths, concessions,
big ball volleyball
+more.
(cash only)

Donate &
buy
tickets





In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Class of 1975 – and with graduation ceremonies just around the corner - we are pleased to share the following Alumni Q&A from **Carlen Blackstone**, SV Class of '75 Valedictorian.

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

A: It has been 50 years since I graduated from Seneca Valley. I moved back to the same piece of property that I grew up on into the new Traditions of America at Cranberry 55+ community. In the last 50 years, I got a B.S. degree in math from Bucknell University, class of '79, an M.S. degree in computer science from Villanova University, class of '85, and a Supervisor's Certificate in Education from Lehigh University. I was a Systems Analyst for Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. for two years before teaching math and computer science at Emmaus High School in the Lehigh Valley for the next 35 years. During those years, I served as Math & Computer Science Department Chair. I enabled my students to participate in the American Computer Science League (ACSL), an international competition for students in grades 3-12. Teams from Emmaus High School traveled all over the country to compete every Memorial Day weekend. They finished in first place internationally in 1985, 2001 and 2017. I have been subbing at the Seneca Valley, Mars Area, Ambridge, Pine-Richland, North Allegheny, Freedom, Riverside-Beaver, and Rochester School Districts since 2019. I am also on a four-person executive team that runs the ACSL competitions, now completely online, for over 5,000 students worldwide. I am a member of Dutilh United Methodist Church, serve on the Cranberry Township IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Advisory) Team, teach swimming at the Rose E. Schneider YMCA, and play Bridge.

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

A: In 1998, I watched a 20-20 documentary about the plight of girls in China and decided to adopt as a single mom. Mei-Ling arrived in the U.S. on February 2, 2000, and just got married on November 16, 2024, to Nick who is from Buffalo, New York, and also graduated from Robert Morris University (RMU). Mei-Ling grew up in the Lehigh Valley and studied Business Administration, Photography and Organizational Leadership for a combined BS/MS degree from RMU in 2021. She works as an event coordinator for Appleseed Events located in Valencia which facilitates a variety of non-profit events in the Pittsburgh area including the Moraine State Park Regatta, Mars New Year, and Light of Life fundraisers. My brother Frank, class of '77, went to Northwestern University and has practiced law. My sister Martha, class of '79, went to Lehigh University and moved back to Cranberry Township in 1993 and is part owner of Brunner, Blackstone, and Associates Public Accounting Firm. My brother Rodney, class of '81, went to Syracuse University and is the self-proclaimed Toastman of the Charleston Dirty Birds, an independent professional baseball team in West Virginia. My mom, Dr. Barbara Bounds Blackstone, passed away in 2013 and my dad, Franklin Blackstone Jr., is 95 years old and living in Allison Park.

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

A: My parents instilled in me a desire to travel and throughout my life, I have been to all 50 states and 25 countries. Most recently, I took Mei-Ling on a 5-week trip to the Canadian Rockies and a 6-week trip to the Southwestern U.S. while she was still in high school. We traveled all over central Europe via Eurail at the end of her semester abroad in 2019 and took a cruise of the Greek Islands in 2022. We are planning to take a 13-day private tour of China this



April. Christian camping has been my most consistent passion and I have spent the last 50 years doing at least one week of camp as a volunteer counselor or Program Director in eastern and western PA.

Read Ms. Blackstone's full Alumni Q&A entry at [Where Are They Now?](#) ■



5 EYE-OPENING STATS ABOUT KIDS AND TECH EVERY PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW IN 2025

Raising kids in the digital age can be a challenge, but not everyone understands just *how much* of a challenge it is. The key word here is digital, because the advent of tech and social media has transformed how kids interact with the world around them — not to mention their friends, school, and even you as their parent.

We've assembled some eye-opening stats that will give you — or maybe even grandparents or your friends without kids — more context into what it's like to be raising a digital native these days. This way, you can better understand the habits, preferences, and even dangers facing your child.

5 Stats About Kids and Tech Every Parent Needs to Know in 2025

1. 26% of kids use ChatGPT

AI is everywhere these days, and no where is it more popular than among kids trying to do their schoolwork. **More than a quarter** admitted to using it for school in 2024, which is double the amount from 2023. Debates are still raging about ChatGPT's place in education, but in the meantime, you may want to talk to your kid about their thoughts on it and if they've used it. Check out [this post](#) for more information and pointers on starting the discussion.

2. 15% of teens use YouTube “almost constantly”

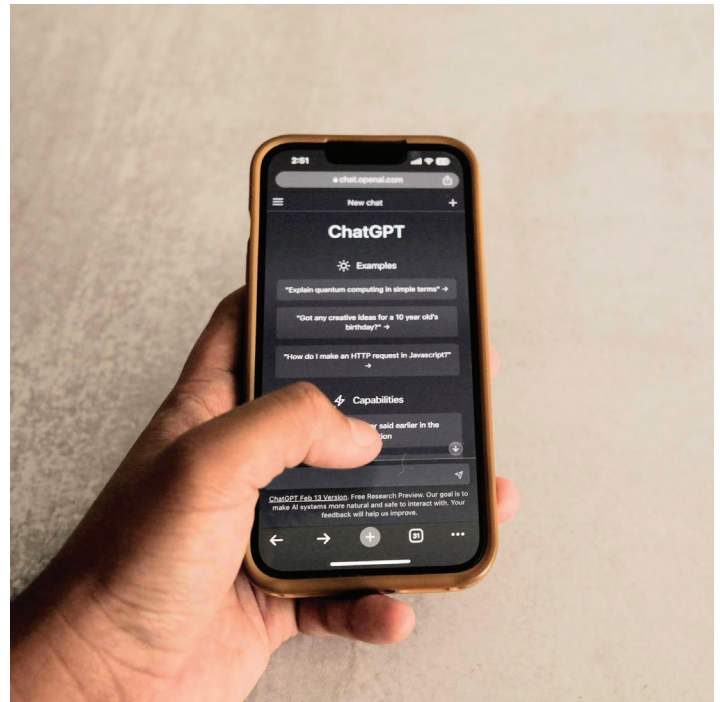
According to [Pew Research Center](#), 90% of kids watch YouTube, with 15% of them using it near constantly, which can mean hours a day. It's interesting to note the generational differences with YouTube that explain this stat. For Gen X and Millennials, YouTube is an occasional stop for music videos, funny shorts, or movie clips. For Gen Z and Gen Alpha, however, YouTube is the destination — full stop. For many young people, it's more akin to watching Netflix or Hulu, and they feel comfortable pulling up a series of videos from their favorite creator and parking there for the evening.

3. 71% of tweens have encountered cyberbullying

This stat from [Bark's 2024 annual report](#) reveals just how common it is for kids to experience cyberbullying, either as a victim, bully, or witness. From hurtful comments on Instagram posts to ganging up on someone in a group chat, bullying can affect a child's sense of self-worth, cause anxiety, and even lead to depression. This means it's crucial to know what's going on in your child's digital world. Make sure they know they can always come to you for help if someone's bothering them.

4. 41% of teens say they play video games at least once a day

Kids and video games have been a thing since the days of old-school arcades, and today **85% of young people** play them. Unlike in the past, though, video games can be played 24/7 on tons of different devices — from cell phones to home consoles. For many kids, playing video games takes up a lot of their screen time, and this can present some issues. From bullying in multiplayer games to extremely violent and disturbing content. Also, many gamers use apps like [Discord](#) to chat, and these present their own dangers, as well.



5. 64% of kids surveyed under 13 had social media — despite 13 being the minimum age

This one's interesting because many parents don't realize that most of the major social media platforms — Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok — are off limits to kids 12 and under. But how do kids create accounts if they're underage, you may be wondering. The answer is unfortunately easy — these apps don't have guardrails preventing kids from fudging their birthdates. Social media is negatively affecting kids (whether they're of legal age or not), and the U.S. surgeon general even recently [issued a warning](#) about its many dangers.

How Bark Can Help

Staying actively involved in your kid's online world is definitely a must for parents today. Here are just a few things that you can do to take control of your child's online safety.

- Join half a million other digital parents in [Parenting in a Tech World](#), a Facebook group where families can ask questions, share advice, and support each other.
- Read “[The Anxious Generation](#),” Jonathan Haidt's revolutionary new book that details how phone-based childhoods are affecting young people's mental health.
- Sign up for our free [Overwhelmed to Empowered](#) newsletter and get parenting tech tips straight to your box.
- Tune in to our [Parenting in a Tech World podcast](#) for more guidance and insight.

Article provided by [Bark, Inc.](#) ■



- 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 <https://www.successfund.com/SVsummerschool>. Seats are limited—enroll today!
- 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!
- Discover how Ehrman Crest continues to redefine learning environments through innovative school design. [Check out this feature](#) on how thoughtful spaces can transform education.
- Our SV Hope Squad members did a great job promoting mental health and spreading uplifting messages throughout the secondary campus during a Positive Painting Project event held last month. Check out this [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article](#).
- Teacher Nominations - WTAE-TV is launching a Teacher of the Month recognition program for the 2024-25 school year. Each month, from September through May, a teacher will be selected from the many deserving submissions that they receive. The selected Teacher of the Month will receive a \$1000 credit to donorschoose.org, a crowd-sourcing page for classroom project/program funding. In addition, Pittsburgh's Action News 4 will feature that teacher and their story (and possibly a surprise school visit) during a news broadcast, as well as social media. Nomination information can be found at [WTAE Teacher of the Month](#).
- All students in Pennsylvania public schools, including Seneca Valley, have access to **free breakfast for the 2024-25 school year**, regardless of family income. Encourage your student(s) to stop for a full breakfast or various grab-and-go items. If you think you might be eligible

for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals, we encourage you to fill out a Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application as many programs are connected to your child[ren]'s eligibility. Please return it to the Seneca Valley Administration Office with attention to Faye Nelson. Applications can be found at www.svsd.net/FreeandReduced.

- SV Backpack Flyers - Flyers are updated frequently and feature information on student and community events/activities. Learn more at [Backpack Flyers / Backpack Flyers \(svsd.net\)](#).
- Healthy habits - SV's Health Services Department would like to remind everyone to eat well, sleep well, stay hydrated and wash hands frequently. Additionally, they ask that you please stay home or keep your child home when sick, and for 24 hours after fever is gone without medication or 24 hours without vomiting/diarrhea. Thank you!
- Seneca Valley residents 62 years of age or older are invited to apply to become a member of the Seneca Valley School District Gold Card Club. Membership entitles card holders to attend home athletic events, music, dramatic and other school productions. [To apply for a gold card, please visit Gold Card Club \(svsd.net\)](#).

FYI

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. ■



- Reality Tour is an accessible substance prevention program that delivers information to get parent and child on the same page.
- [Substance Abuse Prevention for Parents - CANDLE, Inc. \(candleinc.org\)](#)
- [Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!](#)
- [Drive for SV! Driver incentives are now being offered.](#)
- Join the SV Team! Visit www.svsd.net/HumanResources to learn more and apply.
- Visit [Niche](#) to view SV rankings. ■

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

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9:30AM**

**Please arrive @ Zelig Park
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Scan QR code for details and to register

REGISTER by APRIL 11

to guarantee t-shirt & medal



**All participants will
receive a t-shirt and bib!
Kids will receive a
finishing medal!!**

**We invite all CVE students
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MEDAL MONDAY!!*

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Moniteau High grad*



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