RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication MAY 2026

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

THE FUTURE AHEAD

On Friday, May 15, Seneca Valley seniors concluded one of their final milestones before graduation as they presented their Graduation Projects to panels of judges made up of teachers, administrators and staff members.

Inside classrooms across the school, students rotated through a series of stations, where they delivered presentations highlighting their projects, research and learning experiences.

"I continue to be impressed by the creativity, professionalism and dedication demonstrated by our seniors through their Graduation Projects," said Seneca Valley Superintendent Dr. Tracy Vitale. "These presentations showcase not only the knowledge and skills our students have developed throughout their time at Seneca Valley, but also their passion, confidence and readiness for the future."

The Seneca Valley Graduation Project is a required educational experience completed during a student's senior year and consists of three major components in a student-chosen area of study: a project, a portfolio and an oral presentation.







Student ingenuity was on full display with project examples such as artwork, a completely built go-kart, digital architecture models and more.

Throughout the year, students develop projects that may be community, career or enrichment oriented while documenting their progress and experiences within an individual portfolio reviewed by judges during the presentation process.

For students, the presentation portion of the project serves as an opportunity to explain their project process, demonstrate passion and enthusiasm for their learning, and expand upon elements not fully represented within their portfolio materials.







GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Blue skies and mild temperatures greeted the thousands of families and friends who attended Seneca Valley's Commencement Ceremony at NexTier Stadium on Thursday, May 28. Several photos are available on our social media platforms with picture pages planned for next month's issue of Raider Pride. Congratulations, SV Graduates, we are #SVProud!





Photo credit: Bill Paterson

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DATES TO REMEMBER

June 1	School Board Meeting, Work Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
June 5	Last Day for K-11 Students (Early release times will be communicated through your child's building)
June 8	Staff In-Service Day, No School for Students
June 8	School Board Meeting, Regular Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
June 12	Report Card/Reports of Student Progress Release

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

JUNE

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				

WALKING IN HOPE

The week of May 4, Seneca Valley secondary students participated in activities of hope, celebration and awareness in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. On Thursday, May 7, the Seneca Valley Hope Squad hosted their fourth annual Hope Walk as part of a culminating event following a week of special recognitions. Students in grades 9–12 stepped away from their desks to walk — not only for themselves, but in support of one another. Throughout the day, hundreds of students and faculty members united to bring Hope Week to a powerful close, carrying forward an important message: no one walks alone.

Hope Week is an initiative designed to promote mental health awareness across the district and community, educate the public on suicide prevention and reduce the stigma around mental health. Throughout the week, students participated in various activities that not only built awareness but also highlighted the resources available both inside and outside of school. The Hope Walk offered students a meaningful break where they could enjoy a beautiful afternoon walking the track, music from a live DJ, outdoor games, booths showcasing SV clubs and activities and refreshing Dilly Bars.

As part of their ongoing mission, the Hope Squad raised nearly $4,000 to support their initiatives for grades 9–12. These funds will directly benefit programming and create opportunities for mindfulness activities, self-care initiatives, and provide additional mental health resources for students at Seneca Valley. The SV Hope Squad did a great job planning a week of school spirit and unity!

Thank you to all the organizations that helped make this year's Hope Walk a success, including the Rotary Club of Cranberry Township Sunrise, Cranberry Dairy Queen Grill & Chill, Digi Group Entertainment, The Positive Painting Project and our SV clubs and sports teams. Your support was instrumental in bringing this important week to life.






















Photo Credit: Glory Days Photography

‘CASINO NIGHT’

Seneca Valley students hit the jackpot with an unforgettable evening at the Seneca Valley 2026 Prom on Saturday, May 16. Prom-goers enjoyed an evening at Stage AE inspired by the excitement and sophistication of a high-stakes casino and a dazzling “Casino Night” atmosphere filled with glimmering lights, elegant décor and the classic colors of red, black and gold.

Earlier this month, seniors chose 22 classmates to represent their prom court. The ladies of the 2026 Prom Court are Addie Baker, Rylin Barbe, Molly Bell, Alaina Cairns, Jordan Courtney, Olivia Gallup, Gabby Grizzle, Lindsey Helfer, Autumn Holmes, Addie Koliscak and Ada Wood. The gentlemen of the court include Jake Berg, Fletcher Boice, Ethan Bulvin, Artie Covell, Jamie Day, Connor Eggleston, Jeb Kellar, Aiden Kephart, Jacob Maietta, John Rieger and Andy Weng.

At the event, Ada Wood was crowned queen and Connor Eggleston king.

Ada is the daughter of Jason and Jean Wood of Cranberry Township.

Connor is the son of Ryan and Julia Eggleston of Cranberry Township.

Congratulations to Seneca Valley’s 2026 Prom Queen and King!





















HAINE BEST BUDDIES ROCK!

Haine Elementary School's rock garden will soon be blooming with kindness. The school's Best Buddies chapter recently hosted their spring activity with a stroke of color and creativity! Students got crafty by painting rocks that will be added to their rock garden displayed near the entrance of Haine Elementary School.

Best Buddies is an international organization consisting of volunteers that create opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. At the elementary level, it's about promoting inclusion and friendship among students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities through group activities.








FROM THE STORYBOOK TO THE STAGE

Ehrman Crest Elementary third graders took a whimsical journey to Wonderland as they presented their school musical, "Alice's Adventures with Idioms." Students in Ms. Rebecca Ganter's, Ms. Hannah Hendershot's, Ms. Denise Harlan's and Ms. Amanda Breindel's class shined on stage during two performances for peers and family members. Each student was given at least one speaking line and together they sang 10 different songs!

The humorous performance brought idioms and other figurative language to life in a way that was clever and memorable!

These talented student actors and actresses did a great job and had the audience grinning like the Cheshire cat!

















MILES OF SMILES

Clear skies and plenty of excitement set the stage for a memorable day as Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) hosted its fifth annual I Love CVE Fun Run at Zelienople Park on Saturday, April 25.

Students had a fantastic time racing alongside their peers and connecting with friends and family throughout the event. This year, CVE welcomed more than 400 runners, each crossing the finish line to earn a medal and enjoy a sweet treat. The celebration also featured a variety of popular food vendors. Thank you to all of the community members, volunteers, SV staff and teachers who came out to support.









HITTING A NEW MILE-STONE

Seneca Valley senior Nick Berger achieved an extraordinary milestone by completing the DICK'S Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon, a 26.2-mile race that challenges runners both physically and mentally.

After months of dedicated training, Nick crossed the finish line with determination and pride, joining thousands of participants from around the world in one of the region's most celebrated athletic events. The accomplishment reflects not only exceptional endurance, but also perseverance, discipline and a commitment to personal goals.





TO THE FINISH LINE

Our SV Kids of Steel sure are fast! It was great to see all the Seneca Valley pride on the streets of Pittsburgh at the Kids Marathon held Saturday, May 2.

Ms. Sara Coon, Ehrman Crest Elementary Physical Education teacher, said, "The program really highlights the family wellness and community connections that are the foundation for a life-long healthy lifestyle."

Special thanks to the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) for providing busing for the school community.



Ms. Ashley Salman, Haine Elementary Physical Education teacher, added, "It was an amazing day celebrating exercise, community and a shared trip into the city together!"













(SCIENTIFIC) METHOD TO THE MADNESS

Congratulations to our Seneca Valley students who showcased their innovative research projects at the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair (PRSEF) that was held at the Kamin Science Center.

They joined hundreds of students from over 75 schools across the region to participate in this esteemed fair. The PRSEF invites middle and high school students to take on the challenge of designing, implementing, and communicating an original experiment while competing for cash prizes and scholarships. On average, students spend about one year leading up to the Science Fair developing and executing their project by utilizing the scientific method.

Seneca Valley participants included seventh grader Anaya Kandikuppa, eighth grader Cameron Swope, juniors Albert Pimenov and Mac Wilson and senior Autumn Zacherl. Anaya placed third in the Earth & Environment category and Cameron placed third in the Engineering & Robotics category. They each received a medal, certificate and a $50 cash prize.



Pictured L-R: Anaya Kandikuppa and Cameron Swope

PUTTING NATURE KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

The Seneca Valley Biology Club won third place at the Butler County Envirothon that was held on April 28, at Alameda Park in Butler.

Teams earned high scores in Forestry, Wildlife and Soils. They were also tested in Aquatics and Current Environmental Issues.

Team members include freshman Avy Neurohr, juniors Albert Pimenov, Shann Israel, Max Stewart, Jacob Platt, Bella Landy, Carina Lombardo, Ella Schwaderer and Alec Zebra and seniors Addie Baker, Mya Henderson, Ashley Meeder, Genevieve Citrone and Sidney Karner.

Envirothon is the largest high school level environmental education competition in North America. In this event, students prepare and compete in topics related to topics in Wildlife, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use and Current Environmental Issues. The competition is managed by our state agencies including the Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, PA Department of Agriculture and Conservation of Natural Resources.



Hundreds of teachers and professionals throughout Pennsylvania guide high school students through this natural resource environmental education program that combines classroom learning and outdoor activities. Seneca Valley Senior High School Biology Teacher Ms. Dana Hadley advises the Seneca Valley group.

By Varden Armstrong,
Performing Arts Coordinator

‘PILLARS OF GOLD’

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) eighth grade band students recently brought their school’s positive behavior reinforcement program to life through a one-of-a-kind, world premiere of “Pillars of Gold.” Inspired by the school’s “Three R’s”—Respectfulness, Responsibility and Resilience, “Pillars of Gold” was composed by Robert Traugh, Assistant Professor of Composition for Media and Program Director of Composition for Media at Duquesne University, as well as a Seneca Valley parent.

Created specifically for the RGMS eighth grade band and their directors, Brian Croach and Sara Snyder, the original commissioned work reflects the core values woven into daily life at RGMS. Students regularly engage with these principles, and now, they hear them come to life through music.

As part of the creative process, Mr. Traugh worked directly with students to discuss what Respectfulness, Responsibility and Resilience mean to them. Their voices helped shape the composition, transforming everyday character lessons into a meaningful musical experience. Each section of the piece represents one or more of these pillars through moments of tenderness and care, strength and determination, and the resilience that rises after challenge.

Adding to the significance of the project, “Pillars of Gold” was published by Murphy Music Press, led by Sean Murphy, a Seneca Valley alumnus, creating an even deeper connection between the district, its students and its alumni community.

This unique commissioned work made its debut at the RGMS band concert on May 7, at the Intermediate High School.

Prior to the performance, Mr. Traugh worked directly with students during rehearsal, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the commissioning process and the rare opportunity for students to collaborate with a living composer, an experience that highlights how arts education connects learning, leadership and community.

This project is part of the larger SV Band Commissioning Project, an initiative of the Seneca Valley Band Program in cooperation with the Seneca Valley Band Foundation. The program seeks to further instrumental music education by commissioning original works from notable composers for students in grades 4–12.













MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Seneca Valley School District has once again been honored by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation with the prestigious Best Communities for Music Education designation, recognizing the district's outstanding commitment to music education. This marks the fourth time Seneca Valley has earned this distinguished recognition.

Now in its 27th year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement for providing music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Seneca Valley answered detailed questions about funding, music class participation, instruction time, facilities and community support. Responses were verified by school officials and reviewed by the leading arts educational research firm, WolfBrown.

"We are honored to once again receive this prestigious designation, which reflects the longstanding excellence of music education at Seneca Valley," said Dr. Sean McCarty, Deputy Superintendent for



Secondary Education. "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our talented staff and student musicians, as well as the unwavering support of our parents, administration and community. It celebrates both the strong traditions built over time and the continued impact of our music program today."

Music education plays an important role in the growth and success of all students, and Seneca Valley proudly continues its longstanding legacy of musical excellence. Through the district's music program, students are encouraged to collaborate, express their creativity and deepen their understanding of the connections between music, culture and history. This year, numerous Seneca Valley student musicians advanced to the state level of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA), earning the opportunity to perform at the prestigious PMEA All-State Conference and Festival, among many other notable achievements.

"This recognition exemplifies the honored traditions as well as the continual growth of all of our music programs," said Varden Armstrong, Seneca Valley Marching Band Director and Seneca Valley Academy of Choice Performing Arts Coordinator. "The district's investment in the new Performing Arts Center/Auditorium further demonstrates the support for the performing arts throughout the Seneca Valley community. We are honored to be nationally recognized as a destination for excellence in music education."

About The NAMM Foundation

The NAMM Foundation is the charitable arm of the National Association of Music Merchants, the global trade association for the music products industry. The foundation works to remove systemic barriers that limit access to music-making and career pathways in the music industry. By investing in bold ideas and innovative solutions, we strive to build inclusive and thriving musical communities. For more information about The NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

CHORUS STUDENTS BRING HARMONY AND HEART TO ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION

The Seneca Valley Chorus didn't just sing on Armed Forces Day, they served. With voices full of pride and a spirit rooted in gratitude, a group of SV Chorus students volunteered their time to perform at the Mission BBQ restaurant in Cranberry Township, honoring veterans, active duty service members and their families. Their performance was one of those moments where community, music and meaning all meet in the same place. Mission BBQ is known for its deep commitment to the military community, and on Armed Forces Day the restaurant transforms into a gathering place for reflection and appreciation. The addition of live music from local students elevated the atmosphere into something truly memorable.



SVAOC PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES WITH 'SIGNING DAY'

The Seneca Valley Performing Arts department celebrated students who will be pursuing performing arts related fields in college by organizing its annual "Signing Day." Students and families were invited to participate by having a picture taken to commemorate their decision. The Seneca Valley Performing Arts department includes Band, Choir, Orchestra, Dance, Theater and Video Production students.



Hope Reep
Seton Hill University
Acting (Bachelor of Fine Arts)



Emelyn Kaye
High Point University
Music



Madelynn Karns
Slippery Rock University
Music Education/Saxophone Minor



Morgan Roithner
Slippery Rock University
Music Education



Kian Watt
Point Park University
Film Production



Lola Schwendemann
Slippery Rock University
Music Therapy

FINAL FLOURISH

The SV Madrigal Singers closed out their season with a flourish, delivering heartfelt performances at the Passavant Retirement Center and the Cranberry Township Municipal Center this May. These final concerts of the year highlighted not only their musical talent but also their commitment to uplifting and supporting the community through song.

The ensemble's visit to Passavant brought warmth and nostalgia to residents, many of whom expressed how meaningful it was to hear live choral music in such an intimate setting. The group's appearance at the Cranberry Municipal Center



culminated in a spirited celebration for families, neighbors, and local supporters.

"These performances capped off a year of dedication, collaboration, and artistic growth," stated Madrigal Singers Director Bobi-Jean Alexander. "More importantly, they reinforced the group's mission: to use music as a bridge—connecting generations, strengthening community ties and spreading joy wherever they perform."

As the SV Madrigal Singers look ahead to future seasons, their commitment remains unwavering. They will continue to share their voices, their time and their passion for the arts to support and enrich the community they proudly call home.

AN UNFORGETTABLE SUCCESS

Photo credit: Katie Gemperlein

The SV Thespians wrapped up their production of "Noses Off" in a truly unforgettable manner. They forgot their lines, tripped over the set, and the director hid in the wings. But, hey, that's show business, right?

Actually, that was all part of the script! The SV Spring Play, now in its 25th year under the direction of Amber Hugus, delivered non-stop laugh-out-loud moments to packed audiences. Having previously directed this comedy, Ms. Hugus was excited to give the opportunity to this year's thespians.

"These students possess a deep dedication to their craft, a brilliant sense of humor and a willingness to spend their Saturdays building the set and then going home covered in paint," said Ms. Hugus in her program note.

Junior Morgan Stanton added, "For me, Spring Play is always an amazing opportunity for a small group of people to give audiences an entertaining story. It's one of my favorite parts of the school year and I love being able to spend time with my friends and make new ones! It's such a wonderful thing to see current and future thespians improve their talent, blossom on or off stage and find their place in the home that spring play creates!"









"Noses Off" is a nod to the original play "Noises Off" which is a nod to Agatha Christie's play "Ten Little Indians." Confused? Thankfully, our students weren't and rose to the challenge! The cast and crew officially kicked off rehearsing following Spring Break. In a little over three weeks' time, the students helped build the set, learn their lines and stage directions, and rehearse how to expertly pull off the comedic timing and physical comedy of the play.

SV JAZZ ENSEMBLE RECEIVES TOP RATING AT SRU JAZZ ADJUDICATION

On May 2, members of the SV Jazz Ensemble I performed at the Slippery Rock University Jazz Festival and Adjudication. The ensemble performed for two adjudicators and received written comments, a rating and a personalized clinic following the performance.

The SV Jazz Ensemble I received a superior rating (the highest rating) from both adjudicators. Comments included high praise for intonation, solos, balance and musical maturity. Headlining this year's festival was guest artist Matthew Whitacker. Matthew is a Grammy winning piano player who can be heard on many recordings of the highly acclaimed "8-bit Big Band." Students then attended instrument specific masterclasses and a clinic with Mr. Whitacker. His energy was infectious, and he brought wonderful insights. The event concluded with an SRU Jazz Ensemble concert featuring Mr. Whitaker. Students are led by Varden Armstrong and Bob Babick, secondary instrumental teachers.





SCOTTISH FIDDLE GROUP VISITS SV ORCHESTRA

On May 8, Seneca Valley's high school Orchestra classes welcomed Westminster College's Scottish fiddle group, Ceòl na Teud. This group is comprised of college students who play a variety of instruments: violins, cellos, recorders, mandolins, guitars, bass and percussion. Ceòl na Teud played a variety of jigs, reels and marches for our Orchestra students. This group is directed by Dr. Melinda H. Crawford Perttu, professor and Orchestra Director at Westminster College.





"Ceòl na Teud is a really fun and inspiring group," said SV Violist Knox De Rosa. "It's cool to see how the college students have applied their skills to a different genre."

OUT-OF-THE-PARK PERFORMANCE

The Pirates are stepping up to the plate this year and so is the Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) Chorus! Over 140 eighth grade chorus students had the opportunity to perform the National Anthem before the May 1 Pittsburgh Pirates game at PNC Park. For decades, students at Seneca Valley have proudly taken part in this long-standing tradition.

While waiting for a rain delay to pass, students had the unique opportunity to visit the Pirates press conference room, giving them a behind-the-scenes experience inside the ballpark.

After months of preparation and rehearsal, students took the field with anticipation and pride for the performance ahead. Before singing, Pirates outfielders added to the excitement by tossing three baseballs into the group.

Throughout the evening, students remained patient, flexible and in good spirits despite the chilly conditions and shifting schedule. When it was finally time to perform, they stepped onto the field with focus and unity, delivering a strong and confident rendition of the National Anthem.



"Our students showed incredible professionalism and heart throughout the entire experience," said RGMS Chorus Director Chessa Fernandez-Crum. "They worked for months preparing this music and, even with the cold weather and unexpected delay, they represented our school with pride. Watching 142 students come together and perform in that environment was truly special."

For many students, the experience marked a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, one that blended music, teamwork, resilience and school pride on one of baseball's grandest stages.

By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

BRINGING HOME THE HARDWARE

It is safe to say Mother Nature has not been kind to our spring sport athletes and it was no different for the WPIAL Track & Field Championships. However, our Seneca Valley Raiders were undeterred. Listed below are podium-worthy finishes. Those with an (*) have also qualified for the PIAA State Championships. Congratulations to all on a fantastic season!

Boys Track & Field

- Mitchell Everly * – Wheelchair Shot Put, **WPIAL Champion!**
- Mitchell Everly * – Wheelchair Discus, **WPIAL Champion!**
- Reese Fatur * – Javelin, **WPIAL runner-up!**
- Mitchell Everly * – Wheelchair 400m, **WPIAL runner-up!**
- Mitchell Everly * – Wheelchair 100m, 3rd place
- Andrew Mejia * – Javelin, 3rd place
- Dakari Payne * – Triple Jump, 4th place
- Eddie Strong * – Triple Jump, 5th place
- Dakari Payne – High Jump, 7th place
- 4 x 400 Relay – 8th place: Julian Varlotta, Eddie Strong, Noah Rieger, John Negley

Girls Track & Field

- Tenny Voll * – Pole Vault, **WPIAL Champion!**
- Audrey Wolfe * – Javelin, **WPIAL Champion!**
- Addison Weaver * – Javelin, **WPIAL runner-up!**
- Kate Skeen * – Long Jump, **WPIAL runner-up!**
- Jordan Monteleone * – High Jump, 3rd place
- 4 x 100 Relay * – 4th place: Addie Bokash, Aubrey Popp, Kate Skeen, Izzy Yuhouse





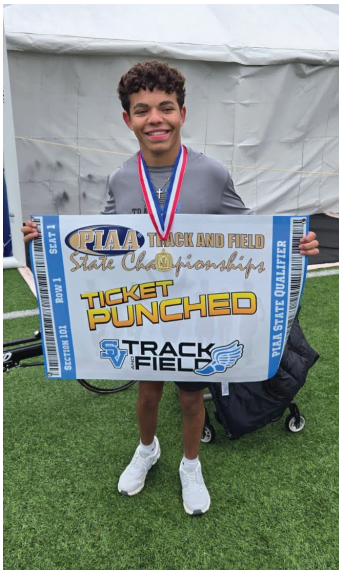












WE ARE PLANNING FOR 2026-27

Physical, drug & concussion test dates

The athletic department has announced its summer physical, drug testing and baseline concussion testing dates for 2026-27. Please note these plans are subject to change.

REMINDERS for 2026-27:

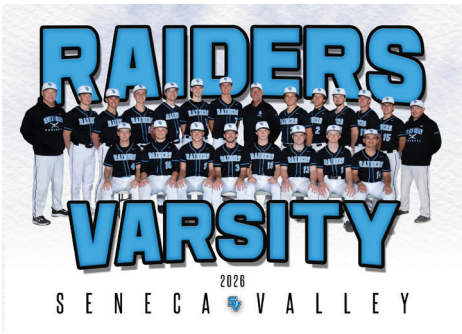
- All required paperwork for athletic participation in 2026-27 will be available on Parent Portal and the Athletics website starting May 1, 2026. **Reminder:** No paperwork may be completed prior to May 1.
- **ALL fall** sport paperwork is due in the athletic office no later than **Thursday, July 30, at 3 p.m.** Coaches will not accept paperwork on the first day of tryouts.
- Dates for physicals are not yet confirmed. Once dates are set, we will announce. Please note physicals are first come, first served - we do not take reservations in advance. *We encourage families to have their physical completed as soon as possible after May 1. You may visit your PCP or any Urgent Care Clinic for an athletic physical.*
- The PIAA mandates their CIPPE form as the only permissible physical form for the doctor's signature.
- All student-athletes must register in the Parent Portal under "Sports Registration" before tryouts/practice begin. Registration opens May 1.
- Complete information available on the District's Athletics website under "Participation and TRYOUT information" starting May 1.
- Concussion baseline testing only needs completed every other year. Parents may call the Athletics Office at (724) 452-6040, x1752 to confirm the status of their child's baseline concussion test.

Summer Drug Testing and Baseline Concussion Testing Dates – Senior High School (Physical dates to be determined)

- **Tuesday, July 7,** from 3-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 8,** from 8 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.
- **Tuesday, July 28,** from 3-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 29,** from 8 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.

SPRING SEASON PLAYOFF BOUND PROGRAMS

Baseball



At the time of this writing, Raider baseball was currently awaiting their WPIAL opening round playoff contest. The Raiders finished third in the section standings with a section mark of 5-7 and an overall record of 10-10 on the season. Seneca Valley entered the WPIAL 6A bracket as the seventh seed and faced off against second seed Canon-Mac. Great job and great season, players!

Softball



The second seed Raiders entered the WPIAL championships with a bye in the first round and faced Pine-Richland on Tuesday, May 19 in the semifinals. The Raiders completed their regular season with a 14-5 overall record and 11-3 in section play. Good luck in postseason play!

Boys Tennis



Congratulations are in order for first-year head coach Andrea Morrisard and the 2026 boys varsity tennis squad for their historic season, including qualifying for the WPIAL Team Championships bracket for only the second time in program history. The team took Sewickley Academy to the very end, falling 3-2 in the first round. The playoffs were a fitting reward for the hard work and dedication these young men and coaches poured into the season. The team finished 10-4 overall and 4-3 in section play, earning third place. The four losses are the fewest in the history of our boys tennis program.

Boys Volleyball



The Raiders finished in a tie for second in their section with a 5-3 record and an overall mark of 12-4. Seeded third in the WPIAL championship bracket, the boys faced off against Penn Trafford after receiving a first-round bye and swept the Warriors in three sets (25-18, 25-14, 25-16). The team faced Butler on Monday, May 18 in the semifinals. Congratulations on an impressive season!

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED IN SPRING SPORTS

The Big 56 Conference recently announced its spring sport honorees in baseball and softball, and the Raiders were well represented. The following Seneca Valley student athletes were recognized for their excellence on the field.

SOFTBAL

1st Team	*2nd Team*
Abby Kalkowski	Riley Geyer
Neve Miller	
Paige Volz	

BASEBALL

1st Team	*2nd Team*
Danny Drennan	Micah Olayer
Mason Fisher	

BOYS VOLLEYBALL ALL-SECTION

The WPIAL boys volleyball coaches recently announced their All-Section teams for the 2026 season and the Raiders were well represented.

1st Team	*2nd Team*	*3rd Team*
Malachi DeGraff	Josh Glover	Parker Budney
Gavin Gorajewski	Sean Kane	Eiken Downing
	Mac Wilson	Thomas Quinlan

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2026

Raider student-athletes have recently made their college commitment official, officially signing to attend their college of choice. We congratulate these seniors for achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of you is a tremendous representative of Raider Athletics and we are immensely proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Ethan Bulvin	Lacrosse	Barry University	Cybersecurity
Owen Eastgate	Soccer	College of Wooster	Business Management

DEFYING THE ERA OF SPECIALIZATION

In an era of specialization, a genuine three-sport athlete is rare. The Northern Area Athletics Directors Association (NADA) recently honored a small collection of student-athletes who compete in three sports during their senior year. We recognized our two honorees – Hannah Hornick and Riley McGee – for their vast contributions to our Athletics program. Hannah, a Washington & Jefferson College wrestling recruit, will graduate as a three-sport letter winner in golf, wrestling and softball. Riley, committed to attend Edinboro University and compete on their cross-country and track & field teams, will graduate as a three-sport letter winner in cross-country, indoor track and outdoor track & field. We thank Hannah and Riley for their contributions as students, athletes and commendable citizens in our community. Well done!



SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT

On Tuesday, May 19, we had an opportunity to recognize many accomplished students, including six very deserving student-athlete award recipients. The following awards were presented, and honorees recognized.



The Sherman Award – Female MVP awarded to Karly Majeski (Soccer): The Sherman Family presents this award. It goes to a female athlete with the following characteristics: athletic ability 50%, character 30%, and scholarship 20%.

- Program's first-ever Regional All-American (2025)
- Three-time Big 56 All-Conference First Team selection and Coaches Association All-WPIAL & All-Section honoree
- Two-time All-State Player and Big 56 Conference Player of the Year
- Team leader in 2024 and 2025 Section Titles, WPIAL Championship game and PIAA Quarterfinals



The NexTier Award – Male MVP awarded to Chris Nichols (Ice Hockey): This award is given to a male athlete with the following characteristics: athletic ability 50%, character 30%, and scholarship 20%.

- Two-time Post-Gazette Stellar Six selection and PIHL Ice Hockey Player of the Year
- Starting goalkeeper for Raider Ice Hockey teams that captured back-to-back Penguins Cup and State Championships
- Two-time PIHL All-Star selection (2025 & 2026)
- Compiled a two-year record of 30-2-1 with a 95.1% save percentage



The O'Shea Award is awarded to Reese Fatur (Football, Basketball, Track & Field): This award is given to a boy or girl who most ably demonstrated the traits of Perseverance, Courage and Desire during the current year. He/she need not be a starter, a star or a letter winner. The boy/girl should be the athlete who has overcome the most severe handicaps or the greatest adversity to participate in athletics during the current year. The O'Shea Award is presented by the Knights of Columbus in Zelienople in memory of Doc O'Shea.

- Three-sport standout athlete in football, basketball and track & field
- Demonstrated perseverance and resilience while overcoming numerous injuries throughout his athletic career
- Key contributor on both sides of the ball for Raider football, selfless basketball team player who served in ways beyond what's documented in a scorebook, and top scorer in throwing events for the track & field program, earning WPIAL runner-up honors and PIAA qualification
- Successfully transitioned to Seneca Valley midway through high school while remaining committed to future plans at Slippery Rock University and a potential career in physical therapy



The Bertha M. Murray Award – Female awarded to Natalie Hambly (Basketball): This award is given to a senior girl who has outstanding athletic and academic standards.

- All-time leading scorer in Raider Girls Basketball history
- Two-time All-Big 56 Conference First Team honoree
- Back-to-back team leading scorer, helping the Raiders capture consecutive WPIAL section titles
- Graduating with a weighted GPA above 4.9 and continuing her academic and athletic career at University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where she plans to study nursing and compete in women's basketball



The Garman C. Murray Award – Male awarded to Danny Drennan (Football, Baseball): This award is given to a senior boy who has outstanding athletic and academic standards.

- A two-sport standout in football and baseball
- A two-time All-Big 56 Conference First Team honoree
- Helped lead the Raider Baseball team to a 2025 WPIAL title
- Graduating with a weighted GPA above 4.0 and continuing his academic and athletic career at Penn State Behrend, where he plans to study mechanical engineering and play baseball



Knichel Logistics Female Positive Athlete Award awarded to Ali Waters (Swim & Dive): This award is designed to recognize a female student-athlete who exhibits the aspects of positive sporting behavior, exceptional sportsmanship and genuine leadership.

- Two-time PIAA State Championship qualifier in diving
- Two-time top-three finisher at WPIAL diving championships
- School and pool record holder for six-dive score
- Team captain of the Raider Swimming & Diving program
- Graduating with a weighted GPA above 4.8 and continuing her academic and athletic career at University of North Carolina Wilmington, where she plans to compete on the Seahawks swimming & diving team

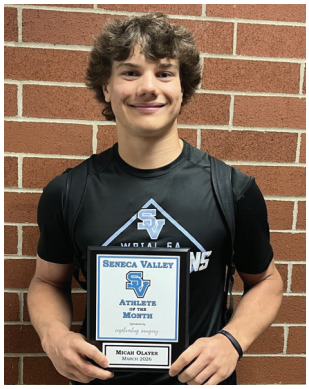
ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, MARCH 2026

Sponsored by Captivating Imagery - Your local professional portrait photographer

captivating imagery



The Captivating Imagery Female Athlete of the Month for March was senior softball player Neve Miller. Neve played a key part in a 6-1 start for the Raiders, displaying versatility in the field (playing third base and catcher) and great plate discipline. Over those seven games, Neve boasted a batting average of .579 to go along with five singles, five doubles and an impressive nine runs batted in (RBIs). Her standout game came in a 17-0 win over Mt. Lebanon where she went four for four including a grand slam. For a stellar month, we recognized Neve as the March Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Neve!



The Captivating Imagery Male Athlete of the Month for March was baseball player Micah Olayer. A senior first baseman, Micah had an impressive start to the season as the Raiders looked to repeat on their 2025 Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic League (WPIAL) Championship. Through the last month of games, Micah boasted a batting average of .303 with eight runs scored, seven RBIs and eight walks. He has also shown his speed on the bases with five stolen bases and six extra base hits. Over a three-game stretch, he went five for nine with three doubles, one triple and four RBIs. Micah was also a nominee for the WPIAL James Collins Scholar-Athlete Award. For an impressive month, we recognized Micah as the March Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Micah!

RAIDER ATHLETICS PARTNERS

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

NexTier Bank

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heritage Seubert Financial Baseball Field
"We help families, businesses and institutions grow, preserve and transfer wealth."
www.heritageseubert.com

HOP, SKIP AND JUMP FOR HEART HEALTH

The American Heart Association recently awarded a grant to Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), supporting an initiative led by physical education teacher Renae Brown and school nurse Liz Williams. The funding was used to purchase new PE equipment, including jump ropes and balls for use during classes and flex periods.

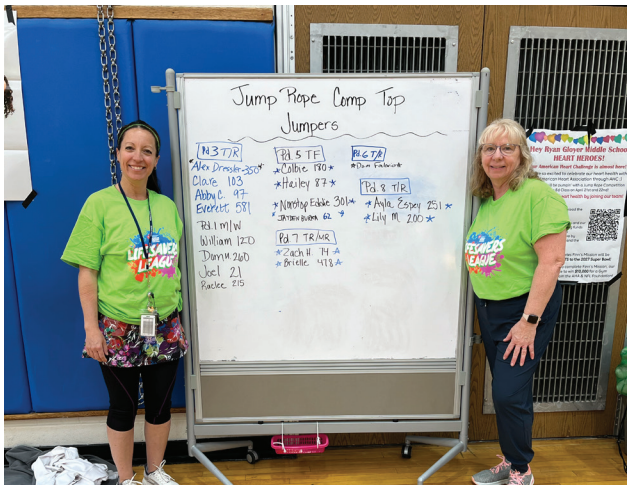
To promote heart health and student engagement, RGMS hosted a jump rope competition during PE classes the week of April 20. Additional funds from SVF provided prizes for top performers, adding excitement and motivation for participants.

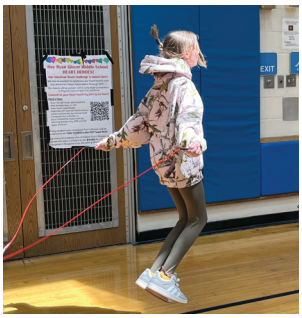


The competition was a great success. The top seventh-grade student achieved an impressive 942 consecutive jumps, while the top eighth-grade student recorded 510. Many other students surpassed 200 jumps, demonstrating strong participation and enthusiasm. Congratulations to all the winners!









CELEBRATING RAIDER EXCELLENCE

The Seneca Valley Foundation is proud to announce Elaina Donahue as the recipient of its second annual "We Are SV" Scholarship. Elaina is a standout student who truly embodies the heart of Seneca Valley.

"I really wanted this scholarship," Elaina said after receiving the award. "I have loved working with the Foundation."

The "We Are SV" Scholarship celebrates a student who exemplifies SV norms such as being respectful, responsible, safe and an active learner. It was created to recognize students who inspire others and help make the District a welcoming place for all to thrive.

Elaina was selected not only for her academic achievements, but also for the integrity, kindness and leadership she demonstrates every day as a Seneca Valley student.

"Elaina is a very worthy candidate to receive this scholarship," said a member of the Seneca Valley Foundation Scholarship Committee. "Her application and essay demonstrated everything it means to be a Seneca Valley Raider. We know she will continue to make us proud."

Congratulations, Elaina! We are #SVProud of you and cannot wait to see all that you achieve in the future.



INSIDE THE INVESTIGATION

Senior High students had a unique learning opportunity during the “Inside the Investigation” Guest Speaker Series held last month. Open to all senior high students, the event, hosted by Senior High Criminal Investigations teacher Ms. Heather Perella, gave attendees a closer look at careers in law enforcement and forensic investigation.

Students heard from former Secret Service agents Shane Chessey and Jeff James, along with Butler County Coroner Korynne Young, who shared real-world insights into investigative work, law enforcement careers and the science behind solving cases.

A special thank you to our guest speakers for sharing their time and expertise with our students. Experiences like these help bring classroom learning to life and inspire future career paths for our students!







STUDENTS CELEBRATE ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Last month, students at Seneca Valley Intermediate High School (IHS) took part in meaningful “Snack and Learn” sessions at the IHS LIGHT Center, where they learned from their peers in recognition of National Arab American Heritage Month.

Student ambassadors, Riham, Mustafa, Hiba, Rayan, Marah, Radj and Areej, led engaging presentations, sharing insights into their lives, traditions, cuisine and annual celebrations. The day was filled with joy, curiosity and inclusion as students danced, crafted, shared food, sang and laughed together.





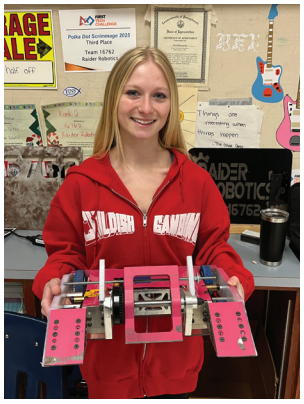




NAVIGATING TERRAINS

Seneca Valley robotics and engineering students were joined by other schools from southwestern Pennsylvania for the annual Sea, Air and Land Challenge, held at the senior high school on April 30. Hosted by the Penn State Applied Research Laboratory, the Sea, Air and Land Challenge is a STEM initiative in which teams of high school and/or middle school students design and build robotic vehicles which are used to compete in challenges that mimic missions encountered by the military, national security agencies and first responders.

The challenges took place in various locations throughout Seneca Valley Senior High School where students put their creativity, problem-solving and engineering skills to the test, navigating unpredictable courses with the vehicles they engineered from the ground up.

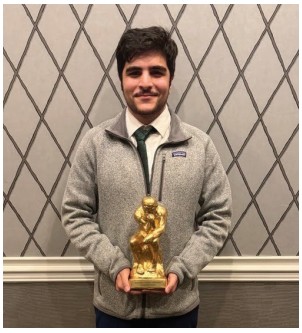




SV STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL HONORS AT AGLOA TOURNAMENT

Seneca Valley senior Arvand Esni and sixth grader Madison Tunstall brought home major honors at the recent Academic Games League of America (AGLOA) National Tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina. Arvand was named a 2026 AGLOA Outstanding Senior, the first Seneca Valley student to win the prestigious recognition. Madison captured the national championship in Equations, leading a strong showing by Seneca Valley's youngest competitors at the national level.





Overall, Seneca Valley students delivered impressive performances across all divisions of the competition. At the junior/senior level, Maddox Grupp earned ninth place in both Propaganda and Current Events and helped lead the team to a second-place finish in Current Events alongside Arvand and Michael Kravec. Heath Lyon placed fifth in Theme, correctly answering 29 of 30 questions.

In the elementary division, Seneca Valley students also earned second-place team finishes in both Theme and Current Events. Maddie Montgomery contributed to both teams, alongside Josh Jacobs in Current Events and Quinn Vogan in Theme, competing with other regional students. Individually, Maddie placed ninth in Propaganda, while Nora Grider earned a 10th-place finish in Current Events. The middle division was represented by eight students, led by Emily Browne, who earned a ninth-place individual finish in Propaganda.



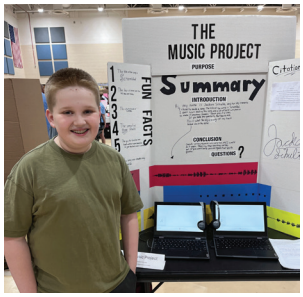
In total, 35 Seneca Valley students participated in the national competition, representing the district with excellence, teamwork and academic dedication.

"Academic Games challenges students to think critically, collaborate effectively, and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways," said Seneca Valley Academic Games advisor Mike Stebbins. "We are incredibly proud of these students for their success and for representing Seneca Valley so well on the national stage."

The Academic Games League of America is a series of competitive academic events for students across the country, culminating in a national championship tournament each spring. According to their website, Academic Games challenges participants to apply higher-order thinking skills in mathematics, language arts and social studies, encouraging critical thinking, strategy and academic excellence.

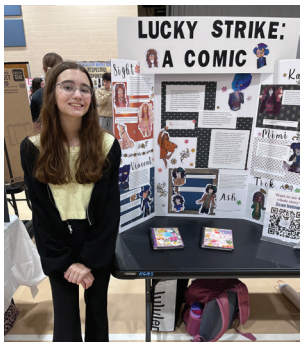
IMPRESSIVE PROJECTS

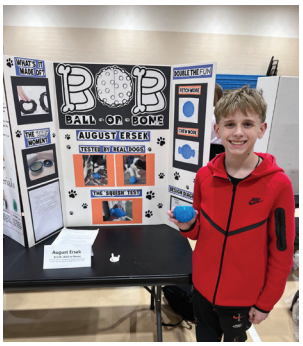
Students in the purpose program at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) recently participated in the annual Scenario Showcase, where more than 150 seventh and eighth graders presented their impressive projects that they've been working on all year.

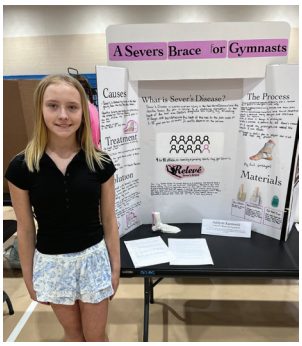












For approximately 20 years, this event has celebrated creativity, innovation and the hard work of RGMS students in the program who take on the challenge of designing their own independent projects.

Projects included entrepreneurship ventures, learning a new skill, song development, scientific research, 3-D printing, culinary arts, photography, fundraisers and more.

REMAKE LEARNING DAY EVENTS SPARK EXPLORATION AND FUN

Ryan Gloyer Middle School and Ehrman Crest Elementary School each hosted a Remake Learning Days event earlier this month. At Ryan Gloyer Middle School, educators across the region gathered for a hands-on professional development event. From fly tying and fishing to macroinvertebrate sampling and nature photography, participants explored how to turn local streams into powerful outdoor classrooms.

These experiences helped bring lessons in fly fishing, ecosystem health, and environmental stewardship to life!

Huge thanks to our amazing sponsors - the SV Foundation, our vendors, volunteers and representatives who made this event possible.











On May 19, Ehrman Crest Elementary School hosted “Play with Purpose: Structured Dramatic Play in Action” a family event for incoming kindergarten students to experience the power of structured dramatic play. Part of the annual Remake Learning Days, this event offered real-world play experiences based on Fred Rogers’ educational philosophy.

During the program, families explored nine different play centers that included practicing standing in a cafeteria line, riding a Seneca Valley school bus, connecting with staff and more. Students enjoyed engaging in activities designed to foster language development, expressive and receptive communication, listening skills and social interaction.







NEARLY 1,000 YEARS OF SERVICE

During the May 11 school board meeting, 37 retirees were recognized for their combined total of 960 years of hard work and dedication to the Seneca Valley School District.

Members of the Seneca Valley School Board and Administration thanked the 2025-26 retirees for their unwavering commitment and service to students and staff members across the District.

Prior to the school board meeting, some retirees attended a reception where they enjoyed refreshments and shared stories about their time at Seneca Valley.

Retirees are as follows:

Bobi-Jean Alexander - SV Senior High School Music Teacher – 34 years 3 months

Rosalie Bentley - SV Intermediate High School Cafeteria – 23 years

Sandra Bilbao - Ryan Gloyer Middle School Spanish Teacher – 28 years 10 months

Tracey Clarke - Haine Middle School Sixth Grade Teacher – 24 years 5 months

Beth Clegg - Haine Elementary School Reading Teacher – 16 years

Chris Clutter - SV Intermediate High School Social Studies Teacher – 28 years

Andrea DeFabbo - Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School Third Grade Teacher – 29 years

Carol-Lynn Dubovi - SV Senior High School Autistic/Emotional Support Teacher – 18 years 4 months

Michelle Eppinger - SV Senior High School Paraprofessional – 19 years 5 months

Rebecca Finch - SV Senior High School Biology Teacher – 33 years

Gregory Hayward - SV Senior High School Social Studies Teacher – 33 years

Kate Henderson - Ehrman Crest Elementary School Second Grade Teacher – 30 years

April Householder - Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School Cafeteria – 20 years 2 months

Jody Householder - SV Senior High School Paraprofessional – 20 years

Susan Huber – Haine Middle School Fifth Grade Teacher – 30 years

Michelle Huffman - Connoquenessing Valley Elementary Speech & Language Teacher – 27 years 3 months

Julie Kaufman - Haine Middle School Fifth Grade Teacher – 31 years

Terri Keasey - SV Intermediate High School Paraprofessional – 14 years 4 months



Joni Klotz - Ehrman Crest Elementary School Third Grade Teacher – 32 years

Traci Kuntz - Ryan Gloyer Middle School Science Teacher – 30 years

Jacqueline Larson - Haine Elementary School CIRC/Librarian – 23 years

Jim Lucot - SV Senior High School Social Studies Teacher – 23 years

Catherine Lusty - Ehrman Crest Middle School Paraprofessional – 19 years 8 months

Thomas Magill - SV Senior High School Math Teacher – 33 years 11 months

Mike Manipole - Ryan Gloyer Middle School Health & Physical Education Teacher – 31 years 5 months

Dana Nicklas - Ehrman Crest Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher – 26 years 5 months

Cynthia Peterson - SV Senior High School Chemistry Teacher – 26 years

Darla Ramirez-Lightner - SV Senior High School Coordinator of Collegiate and Career Affairs – 33 years 10 months

Dr. Becky Rockey - SV Senior High School Guidance Counselor – 16 years 10 months

Lisa Salak - Transportation Routing Specialist – 23 years 4 months

Todd Schoeffel - SV Senior High School Health & Physical Education Teacher – 33 years 11 months

Terry Serman - SV Intermediate High School Paraprofessional – 17 years 4 months

Jason Shorr - SV Intermediate High School Art Teacher – 27 years

Julie Smith - Ryan Gloyer Middle School Science Teacher – 20 years 5 months

Sandy Thompson - Ehrman Crest Middle School CIRC Teacher – 30 years

Rose Walsh - Ehrman Crest Elementary School Paraprofessional – 26 years 10 months

Jamie Zeigler - SV Intermediate High School Chemistry Teacher – 25 years











EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

In partnership with Classrooms Without Borders, members of the Haine Middle School sixth grade team attended a viewing of "Hold On to Your Music: A Mother's Legacy." The documentary follows Mona Golabek as she shares her mother's story of escaping Vienna on a Kindertransport as one of 10,000 unaccompanied children rescued and brought to London in 1938.

"This professional development opportunity continues our effort to empower educators to promote diversity, acceptance and respect for all," said Haine Middle School Principal Dr. Erin Wilcher.



PLUGGED IN

This month, Haine Elementary and Middle School, in collaboration with the PA State Police, hosted an informational event on online safety with a focus on Roblox.

The event was well received by parents and community members alike, offering attendees a deeper understanding of the online environments and social platforms children use today.

As only the second school district in the county to host this event, we appreciate the opportunity to provide meaningful programming for the Seneca Valley community.



SV ALL-STAR

For May, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Mr. Jade Feathers, bus driver for First Student, Inc. and a dispatcher.

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.

Jade serves our district in two critical roles, as both a school bus driver and a dispatcher. As a driver, he transports students each morning from Seven Fields, Forward and Callery to the secondary campus, followed by a run to and from Ehrman Crest serving students in Callery and Evans City. In the evenings, Jade is often behind the wheel of one of our activity buses, ensuring students get home safely from after school activities on the secondary campus. If he is not actively driving an activity bus, he is on the radio supporting the drivers covering those routes.

"Jade has an exceptional understanding of our transportation operation, with a working knowledge of all 135 vehicles on the road each morning and afternoon," said Dr. Tony Babusci, Transportation Director. "He regularly puts in



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

13-hour days and is someone we depend on without hesitation. Despite the long hours and the pressure that comes with balancing both roles, he remains patient, calm, and consistently kind to students and staff."

Dr. Babusci added, "A school bus driver is often the first and last representative of the district a student sees each day. Anyone who has the opportunity to observe Jade's route will quickly notice how much his students enjoy being on his bus and how positively he impacts their day."

Jade is finishing his eighth year with the district, which means some of the students he transports today may have first ridden his bus back in fourth grade. He has an outstanding work ethic, is very professional, reliable and has genuine connection with students. We are fortunate to have him as part of our team.

'I LED THE PLEDGE'

Elementary students from Seneca Valley's K-6 schools have appeared at this year's school board meetings, leading the members of the School Board and public in saying "The Pledge of Allegiance." For the May 4 work session meeting, Henry Meyer, a third grader at the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice, was chosen to say "The Pledge." Henry shared that his favorite subjects in school are math and science and he wants to play professional baseball when he grows up. In addition to playing baseball, golfing, coding and spending time with his siblings, Henry is an expert at riddles and brain teasers! He even stumped our School Board with one of his intriguing math teasers!



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

Kylee Killian, SV '18, is a contemporary dancer, choreographer and crafter! We asked her to catch us up on what she is doing and how Seneca Valley influenced her life and career.

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

A: I'm a professional contemporary dancer based in Portland, Oregon, where I also teach dance, choreograph and direct! After graduating from SV in 2018, I attended Point Park University and earned my Bachelor of Fine Arts in Modern Dance and a minor in Entrepreneurship in 2022.

That summer, I moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, to dance with the SALT Contemporary Dance company for two years before relocating to Portland to dance with the company I am currently with, Open Space. In conjunction with my performance career, I teach dance and travel nationally to choreograph and collaborate with other artists and dance companies.

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

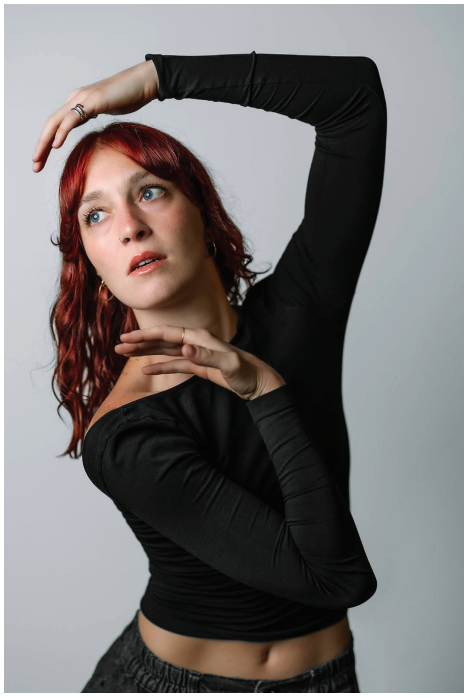
A: My family is based in Cranberry Township. My mom Melanee Killian works in the health office at Ehrman Crest as a nurse paraprofessional! My dad Kevin is a national sales manager for NTA Enterprises on the North Shore. I have two younger brothers who are also Seneca Valley alumni—Braeden (SV '20) is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and currently works at PNC as a procurement specialist.

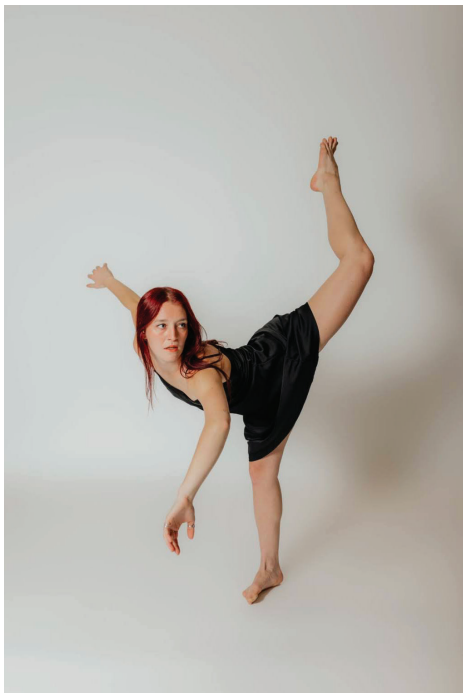
Bryson (aka Bif, SV '23) is studying marketing at West Virginia University.

I'm definitely the outlier in the family—we're still not quite sure where my dancing genes come from!

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

A: Something that may surprise others is how I supported myself through college by turning a pandemic hobby into a small business. The Covid lockdown hit during my sophomore year at Point Park and





paused my ability to train and perform. I felt lost without my daily routine in the dance studio. I had to find new ways to stay creative, busy and inspired, and I found it in crocheting and jewelry making which led me to launch my small business, KyleeTheKreator. From local artist markets to online sales, my "creative outlet" quickly evolved into a successful small business that kept me inspired, engaged and employed throughout college!

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

A: In eighth grade, I joined the SV Academy of Choice dance program, which completely changed the trajectory of my training and future career. The program offered incredible, high-level dance education and a cyber format, allowing more time to fully invest in my growth as a dancer while staying on top of my academics.

More importantly, it introduced me to a faculty that not only challenged and pushed me but also genuinely believed in my potential. Before that, I didn't think a professional dance career was realistic for me. The dance program and my teachers gave me the confidence, support and foundation to start believing it was and encouraged me to pursue it fully.

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

A: Seneca Valley values and supports students not just academically, but in their passions, interests and dreams. The school offers something for everyone through the wide variety of classes, extracurricular activities and clubs, allowing each student to explore what excites them and find a sense of community.

What makes it even more impactful is the support from exceptional teachers and coaches who share similar interests and who genuinely invest in their students, guiding and encouraging them every step of the way. It's an environment where students are not only educated but inspired to grow into who they aspire to become.

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

A: So many to shout out—it's hard to choose just one!

Of course, the biggest thanks go to all of my dance teachers over the years. Many of whom are still in my life today as mentors and friends, and their impact continues to shape both my career and who I am as a person.

My pottery teacher Ms. Bonistalli left a lasting impression on me. Watching her dedication to her craft and the way she shared it with her students is something I still carry into my own work as both a dancer and teacher. She also sparked a lifelong love for pottery and ceramics that I still cherish.

My Pom Pon coaches, Missy Armstrong and Katie Huttinger, taught me grit, discipline and work ethic. I don't think anything quite compares to band camp—hours of kicking in the summer heat definitely builds character!

I also have to mention Ms. Hugus, who was never my actual teacher but always made me feel supported and welcomed in the theater community at SV.

And finally, Ms. Diane Repp, former Rowan Elementary School secretary, who still sends me handmade cards every month—and somehow keeps up with my ever-changing addresses! That kind of care and thoughtfulness is something truly special.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Seneca Valley? We'd encourage you to recall a moment or event that had a particularly strong influence on your life.

A: Again, it's hard to choose just one favorite memory. Some of my most meaningful moments came from my time on the Pom Pons team and performing in the musicals. I was involved in both, all four years of high school, alongside my best friends, which made those experiences even more special.

I'll never forget the energy of dancing in the halftime show under the Friday night lights and the excitement that came with each musical season. I also had the opportunity to step into leadership roles as a captain for both the Poms team and as dance captain for the musicals, which had a lasting impact on me. Those experiences gave me confidence and helped me discover my passion for teaching, choreographing and directing others.

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

A: If I had one message for teachers and staff, it would be to listen to your students; truly see them, support them and believe in them. It only takes one person, teacher, coach or mentor to change a student's life.

Encourage them to dream big—and then stand beside them as they pursue those dreams! No dream is too big or too far out of reach—they just need guidance, encouragement and someone who believes in them and permits them to dream BIG!

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



A: Seneca Valley may be a large school district, but every student has the opportunity to find their place and be recognized for who they are. It's a place where you can truly nurture your talents, ambitions, and interests.

With so many opportunities to get involved in, there's genuinely something for everyone. No matter what you're passionate about, Seneca Valley gives you the chance to explore it, grow in it and feel a sense of belonging along the way.



TOP 10 APPS PARENTS DON'T REALIZE HAVE MESSAGING

When most parents think about monitoring their child's messages, they picture the obvious suspects: iMessage, Instagram, Snapchat. But a troubling case out of Jacksonville, Florida, is a reminder that predators will go to any platform where kids are.

Here's the hard truth: almost any platform that lets two people share something can also let them talk. Comment threads, in-game chats, collaborative documents, and even drawing apps can become private messaging channels. And in spaces that are shared by kids and adults, such as a platform used for schoolwork, parents should stay alert to the possibility of hidden messaging.

Here are 10 apps that parents often overlook as communication risks.

1. Canva

Hidden feature: Comments on shared projects

Canva is a graphic design tool used in millions of classrooms. When two people share a project, they can leave comments back and forth — essentially a private thread that lives inside a homework assignment. Most parents have no idea this feature exists. A recent case exposed the dangers of how Canva's collaborative tools can become a hidden back channel.

2. Google Docs / Drive

Hidden feature: Comments and suggestion mode

The comment sidebar in Google Docs is a fully functional back-and-forth conversation thread. Students routinely use it to chat while appearing to collaborate on schoolwork. Because parents see "Google Drive" and think "school stuff," they rarely check what's in the comments. Students will even just share a blank Google Doc and write notes to each other on the doc itself. Once they know the other person has read it, they simply delete the text without a trace.

3. Roblox

Hidden feature: In-game chat and private messages

Roblox has robust chat features right alongside gameplay. Players can message each other privately, and because it looks like "just a game," parents often don't realize conversations are happening. Even with the chat function turned off, players can use what look like posters or signs in certain games to write anything they want and communicate with each other.

Roblox has been involved in numerous predator cases, and there's more going on than most parents realize, including kids routinely migrating to Discord the moment Roblox's filters get in the way.

4. Minecraft

Hidden feature: Multiplayer server chat

Multiplayer servers in Minecraft have open chat rooms and often direct messaging. Students can play with total strangers on public servers, and the chat happens completely outside any parental radar.

5. Steam

Hidden feature: Community chat, forums, and direct messages

Steam is where children and teens go to buy and play PC games — most parents see it as a game store and nothing more. But Steam has a full social layer underneath: public chat rooms, community forums organized by game, and direct messaging between users. Steam openly states it allows nearly all content on the platform, which means kids can stumble into adult games, explicit conversations and contact with strangers, all while appearing to just be "playing games."

6. YouTube

Hidden feature: Comments and community posts

Most people don't think of YouTube as a social platform, but comment sections are public conversations, and kids sometimes use them to arrange contact before moving somewhere more private.

7. Pinterest

Hidden feature: Direct messages and comments

Pinterest has a direct messaging feature that's easy to overlook because the platform is known for recipes and home decor. But Pinterest's DM feature is one of the primary ways predators make contact. If a stranger finds your kid's board, all they have to do is send a message to strike up a conversation.

8. Spotify

Hidden feature: In-app messages and collaborative playlists

Spotify allows users to follow each other, see listening activity, collaborate on shared playlists and even send direct messages. There have been cases of predators communicating with kids through the descriptions of a playlist. It's one of the least-suspected platforms, which is exactly what makes it risky — and there's more on there than just music.

9. Twitch

Hidden feature: Live chat and whisper DMs

Twitch's live chat moves fast and is difficult to moderate in real-time. "Whispers" are private direct messages between users. Kids who watch gaming streams can easily be drawn into conversations with adults, and once that connection is made, it doesn't stay on Twitch for long.

10. Kik

Hidden feature: Full anonymous messaging — no phone number required

Kik has a long history of being used by predators, specifically because it doesn't require a phone number to sign up, making it easy to create anonymous accounts and contact kids.

What Parents Can Do Right Now

All of these apps might feel overwhelming, but you don't have to go full surveillance on all of your child's apps. There are some simple, healthy practices you can do whenever your child gets a new app to ensure you're informed and they're better protected.

- Look for comment, message and chat features even in "non-social" apps.
- Talk openly about why adults should never ask to communicate privately with a child.
- Review privacy settings together — many apps are public by default.
- Report any concerning adult contact to your school and local law enforcement.

Article provided by Bark

- As we recognize graduates, we want to remind all the teachers and coaches out there: seniors never forget the impact you made on them! Your lessons went far beyond textbooks, shaping minds and hearts for a lifetime. Thank you for being the guiding stars in their educational journey. Here's a heartfelt example of that influence; senior members of the baseball team made special visits to thank an SV staff member who left an impact on them during their time at Seneca Valley. Take a look at a memorable moment that took place last month.

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

- As part of our ongoing commitment to employee support and retention, Seneca Valley is pleased to introduce the Food Service Employee Incentive Program for the 2025–26 school year. This new benefit provides free reimbursable school meals for the children of SV Food Service staff members, based on their years of service to the district. The program is designed to recognize employee service, offer meaningful family support and create added value to food service positions. Click here to learn more.

- For the 2026 tax year, the IRS offers several key tax credits and benefits for families with children, most notably the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Parents can learn more at irs.gov/parents.

- SV Backpack Flyers - Flyers are updated frequently and feature information on student and community events/activities. Learn more at Backpack Flyers / Backpack Flyers (svsd.net).

- Healthy habits - SV's Health Services Department would like to remind everyone to eat well, sleep well, stay hydrated and wash hands frequently. Additionally, they ask that you please stay home or keep your child home when sick, and for 24 hours after fever is gone without medication or 24 hours without vomiting/diarrhea. Thank you!



- Seneca Valley residents 62 years of age or older are invited to apply to become a member of the Seneca Valley School District Gold Card Club. Membership entitles card holders to attend home athletic events, music, dramatic and other school productions. To apply for a gold card, please visit Gold Card Club (svsd.net).

- Reality Tour is an accessible substance prevention program that delivers information to get parent and child on the same page.
  - Substance Abuse Prevention for Parents - CANDLE, Inc. (candleinc.org)

- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!

- Drive for SV! Driver incentives are now being offered.

- Join the SV Team! Visit www.svsd.net/HumanResources to learn more and apply.

- Visit Niche to view SV rankings.

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

988
SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

CRANBERRY SUMMER NIGHTS

SPONSORED BY UPMC | PASSAVANT

July 9 - 11, 2026 ✻ 4-10 pm

at Cranberry Community Park



Carnival Lights + Thrills



Cool Drinks + Cool Friends

SIGNATURE EVENTS:

New! Artisan Market ✻ The Terrace at Summer Nights

- ✻ Carnival Rides
- ✻ Cranberry Chase 5k
- ✻ Cruisin' Cranberry Car Show
- ✻ Food Vendors + Trucks
- ✻ Kids Zone (Saturday)
- ✻ Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
- ✻ Live Music
- ✻ Local Businesses + Vendors
- ✻ Pyrotecnico Fireworks
- ✻ Rotary Vine + Ale Garden

CranberryFoundation.org/SummerNights

Cranberry FOUNDATION

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP



Music to Our Ears!

Introducing: The Terrace at Summer Nights

There's a unique and new way to experience the weekend via The Terrace at Summer Nights, a private hospitality space offering premium food, drinks, designated parking, and more. This space not only provides a relaxing lounge atmosphere with the best view of the live entertainment, but it also serves as a fundraiser for the Cranberry Foundation.

Visit CranberryFoundation.org/Terrace to learn more and secure your tickets.

Learn more about
YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT DAY AT Kennywood



Friday, June 19, 2026

SENECA VALLEY

Tickets only

$32.99

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(price increases to $35.99 after above deadline)

FOLLOW THE STEP-BY-STEP PURCHASE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2 AND SAVE TODAY!

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