RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication JUNE 2026

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

A FUTURE SO BRIGHT

The Class of 2026, over 600 strong, graduated at NexTier Stadium on Thursday, May 28.

Congratulations to all SV Graduates!

See more on page 2.







INSPIRATION THROUGH ANIMATION

For the past nine months, four Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) eighth graders, Kimani Whetstone, AJ Hart, Autumn Peterson and Ashawn Peterson, had the opportunity to collaborate closely with Wonder Media, a Los Angeles-area animation studio, to create an animated film titled "Finding Alice in Wonderland." Wonder Media creates impactful educational content focused on important topics such as social-emotional learning, inclusion and life skills.

Additionally, students had the privilege of working with Terry Thoren, a highly respected animation executive and former CEO of Klasky Csupo, the studio behind well-known children's programs including "Rugrats," "Rocket Power" and "The Wild Thornberrys."

"Terry and his team provided our students with an unforgettable real-world learning experience," said RGMS Acting Assistant Principal Gabe Miller. "Our students took full ownership of the creative process by writing the script, designing backgrounds for each scene and completing professional voice-over recordings in the RGMS recording studio, all of which were featured in our designated scene in the film."

Seneca Valley students worked alongside students from nine other school districts throughout the project. Through this experience, they developed and strengthened essential skills in creative thinking, written and verbal communication, collaboration, problem solving, technology integration, adaptability and perseverance.







Additionally, students gained firsthand experience in project development through revision, critical thinking and learning through trial and error. Most importantly, they worked together to create a meaningful film designed to inspire children and teach positive life lessons that can stay with them long after viewing.

On May 22, the students made a debut of their animation to a crowd of parents and other supporters. The Seneca Valley student's involvement with the project was sponsored by The Grable Foundation.

The entire film can be viewed here. The The work completed by Seneca Valley students Kimani Whetstone, AJ Hart, Autumn Peterson and Ashawn Peterson begins at the 29:31 mark.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

First Day Reminder!

The 2026-27 First Day of School will be on Thursday, August 20, 2026.

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

AUGUST

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	31					

A FUTURE SO BRIGHT

Continued from page 1

Of Special Note:

Samuel Boyer II - Academic Speaker

Sarah Ghaffar - Academic Speaker

Jillian Snyder - Speaker At-Large

Senior Class Officers:

Audrey Wolfe - President

Alaina Hahn - Vice President

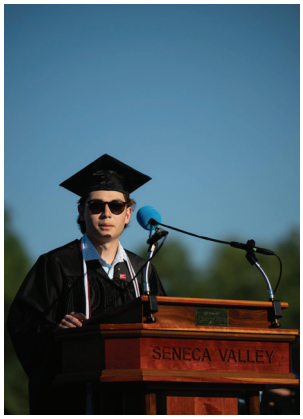
Rylin Barbe - Secretary

Ada Wood - Treasurer

Photo credit: Bill Paterson





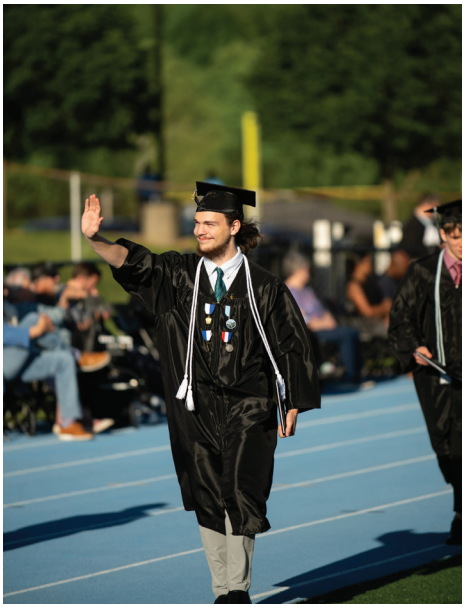
















COMMUNITY GROWN

Throughout the school year, students at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) dedicated their time and talents to meaningful service projects across the community. From planting trees and shrubs and spreading mulch to washing police cars, painting benches, pulling weeds, painting signs and more, students participated in a wide variety of hands-on projects designed to make a positive impact.

As part of the ongoing "Community Grown" initiative, the program reflects RGMS's commitment to empowering students to give back to the communities that support their education while fostering a lasting legacy of service, connection and civic responsibility.

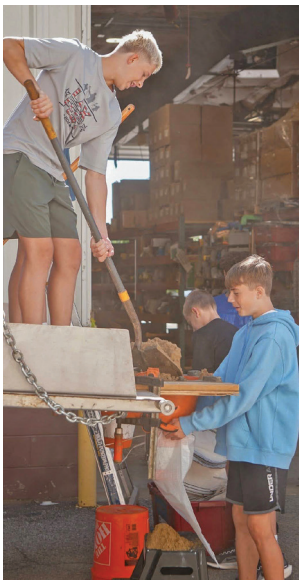
Established in 2023, Community Grown is a building-wide service initiative that connects students with the nine municipalities within the Seneca Valley School District. RGMS staff members and administrators collaborated with each of the school's 10 teams to identify local needs and develop projects that would address them in meaningful ways.

In previous years, all service projects took place during a single spring service day. This year, however, projects were carried out throughout the school year as needs arose, creating opportunities for more authentic, sustained and impactful community engagement.
















TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

The deadline to request an alternative bus stop for the 2026–27 school year is July 17, 2026. To ensure the safety of more than 8,000 students and allow sufficient time for coordination with school transportation teams, any alternative stop requests received after July 17 will be processed for a September 17 start date. Families who miss the July 17 deadline will be responsible for providing their own transportation until the alternative stop becomes available. To help ensure your child has access to eligible transportation at the start of the school year, please submit your request as early as possible.

Submit your request here.





AWARD-WINNING PIECES

Four sophomores from Seneca Valley Intermediate High School were recently recognized for their award-winning pieces at the 2026 Waldman Arts & Writing Competition, hosted by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

This year's theme was centered on the preservation of humanity during the Holocaust, inspired by the words of local survivor Albert Farhy, "Life is not just about living but living with people." This theme provided students with the opportunity to commemorate, honor, and connect with survivors who settled in our own community, while recognizing the importance of human connection and altruism during the Holocaust. Students showed their learning through poetry, writing an essay or producing 2-D or 3-D art. The top projects in each category were chosen as entries to represent Seneca Valley at the Waldman Arts & Writing Competition.

Einin Wolf-Johnston won the high school 3-D art category for her beautiful quilt that shared the story of a Pittsburgh Holocaust survivor. Miss Wolf-Johnston was also named the grand prize winner of the overall competition. She received an award and a monetary prize.

Additionally, Noah Eckels, Yousef Alibrahim and Noah Kimmel were named school winners. Mr. Eckels won for his essay, Mr. Alibrahim won for his poem and Mr. Kimmel won for his painting.







The Waldman Arts & Writing awards ceremony took place on May 12, at Chatham University. This annual event allows students in grades 6-12 to compete for financial scholarships and winners are honored with prizes and certificates.



UNVEILING TALENT



Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) students recently displayed their extraordinary artwork during the 20th Annual Unveiling and Artists' Reception, celebrating additions to the school's esteemed permanent student art collection. District employees, parents, students and community members were invited to attend the reception held on May 26.

An ongoing tradition since the 2005-06 school year, RGMS art teachers select and vote on which pieces will be added to the collection each year. With the six new additions this year, the collection has grown to 102 pieces!

This year, six students were recognized, including seventh graders Emma Crede for her piece "Don't Blame Me, I Voted for Kodos," Aleyna Lightcap for her piece "Woman with Temu-sol,"



Madison McNeely for her piece "Jamie Hewlett," Emily Schweizer for her piece "Disney Mashup," Aayla Shorr for her piece "Deku vs. Shigoraki," and eighth grader Shannon Evans for her piece "Gerard Way."

Not pictured: Emily Schweizer











STUDENTS EXCEL AT STATEWIDE SCIENCE COMPETITION

Several Seneca Valley students demonstrated exceptional achievement at the 92nd Annual State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) Competition held at Pennsylvania State University from May 17–19.

Students in grades 7–12 from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), Seneca Valley Intermediate High School and Seneca Valley Senior High School competed in the statewide event, showcasing their research, scientific inquiry and presentation skills among some of Pennsylvania's top young scientists.

Seventh graders Paige Chesler and Lucia Parise received second-place awards and Anaya Kandikuppa received a first-place award. Eighth grader Cameron Swope received a first-place award and perfect score award. These students were sponsored by RGMS Science teacher, Ms. Erin Bosley.

Freshman Maddalyn Beicher received a first-place award. Juniors Abby Huppert, Mariana Marino Escobar and Peyton Mounty received second-place awards and Cruz Sanders received a first-place award. Senior Teagan Hmel received a first-place award. These students were sponsored by Seneca Valley Senior High School AP Chemistry teacher, Science Department Chair and Science Honor Society advisor, Ms. Kelly Weston.

Additionally, junior Everly Harrell, sponsored by Mrs. Megan Oldenski, earned both a first-place award and a perfect score award. During the special awards ceremony, Miss Harrell received the 2026 Oerlein Senior High Award for PJAS Excellence in Biology, which included a $150 cash award. She was also selected as an alternate to attend the Pennsylvania Academy of Science Annual Meeting at Mercyhurst University in April 2027.

"Congratulations to all our students and advisors for their outstanding achievements and dedication to scientific research and inquiry," said Ms. Kelly Weston.



The Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) is a statewide organization that promotes STEM research and public speaking for students in grades 7-12. Participants conduct independent scientific experiments and deliver 10-minute oral presentations at regional and state competitions. Approximately 1,800 students presented original scientific research and competed in a variety of disciplines, including Biochemistry, Botany, Ecology, Microbiology, Behavioral Science, Chemistry, Earth & Space Science, Physics, Biology, Computers, Mathematics and Zoology.

A special thank you to students Emily Schweizer and Ziva Schmitt for serving as technicians during the event and to Mr. David Lowe, who volunteered his time as both a judge and chaperone throughout the competition.







WORK OF ART

Seneca Valley High School students recently demonstrated that their creativity is truly an art form. At the Butler Art Center's regional high school art exhibition, several Seneca Valley students showcased their exceptional talent, with eight students earning awards for their outstanding pieces.

Juniors Sara Breeger won first place for her submission titled "Smith and Evans" and Elizabeth Semenenko won with her submission, "Untitled." Seniors Charlotte Acosta won second place with "Humanity Overshadowed by Remarkably Superior Being" and Owen Johnson won third place with "Freeing Imagination into Dimension." Senior Carly Byrom won third place in ceramics with "Floor Dragon" and senior Madeline Zimmer, junior Julia Miller and



Eliana Gorog received an Honorable Mention Award.

Additional Seneca Valley artists had work on display including Seniors Sophia Aprile, Morgan Blough, Paige DeStasio, Bella Gianfrancesco, Kylee Punturerri, Audrey Wolfe, Alyssa Ho; juniors Katie Bookwalter, Christie Comstock, Emily Birsa Laurel Della Toffaloa and sophomores Ella Altieri, Maddie Connors, Megan Gates and Megan Hollerman.



"I am always so proud of the work that our students create and their dedication and commitment to our SV visual arts classes," said Mr. Jason Woolslare, Seneca Valley Senior High School Art Teacher.

WINDOWS OF (CREATIVE) OPPORTUNITY

Students in Mr. Jason Woolslare's Senior Career Art classes had the opportunity to showcase their artistic talents by painting window murals for a community art project at Dairy Queen Grill & Chill in Cranberry Township.

The community project allowed students to gain valuable hands-on experience painting on a large scale in public spaces while learning how to blend client goals with their own artistic style and integrity. Throughout the process, students also discussed career paths in commercial art, advertising, public art and murals.

Each student was assigned a window to design and paint, creating a summery

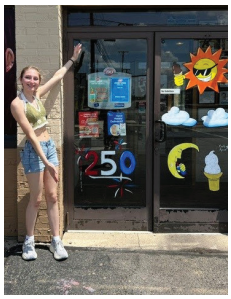


mural that reflected their unique concept, creative style and painting techniques.

"The feedback that we received from community members that visited while we were working was amazing," said Mr. Woolslare. "Students had a great day, creating, sharing ideas and team building. It was a great experience for our students to showcase their skills while serving the community they live in."













SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY

Selected fifth and sixth grade PURPOSE students at Haine Middle School (HMS) recently presented a rain barrel education class at Cranberry Township's Municipal Center. These students represented HMS well and because of their hard work, there will be 20 additional houses in Cranberry Township conserving rainwater!



STEP RIGHT UP!

Ehrman Crest Elementary students stepped into the spectacular of a fun carnival-themed celebration with their friends at Luther Court last month. Residents welcomed students with bright smiles and even a few clown costumes. Together, they all enjoyed games like bowling, diving ducks, horse racing, fast fishing and more. Each activity brought excitement and laughter to all. It was a heartwarming day of celebration and connection between generations.











ROBOTS, ACTIVATE

Fifth and sixth grade students at Haine and Ehrman Crest Middle Schools explored coding, engineering, and problem-solving while building and programming LEGO® Education SPIKE™ robots during the after-school Robotics Club. Through hands-on challenges and teamwork, students were able to develop creativity, critical thinking, and STEM skills in a fun and engaging environment.











TROUT AND ABOUT

Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) students in the PURPOSE program recently took part in a Trout Release Day at the Little Connoquenessing Creek behind Ryan Gloyer Middle School. Over 70 students and family members gathered to release one of the 90-plus fish that had been raised throughout the year in Ms. Lisa O'Brien's classroom. The event provided a hands-on opportunity for students to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences in ecology, conservation and environmental stewardship.

Students, siblings, staff and family members enjoyed gaining a deeper appreciation for local ecosystems while having outdoor family fun!















HOOKED ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

A recent community service project provided seventh graders from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) the opportunity to work with the PA Fish and Boat Commission and build 40 fish habitats for Lake Arthur at Moraine State Park.

In 2019, RGMS science teacher, Mr. Matt Durst, reached out to Mike Shaffer, Environmental Education Specialist at Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks, to ask him about possible service projects that his seventh graders could participate in at the park. Mr. Shaffer had the idea of connecting the students with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to build the fish habitats that would be placed in Lake Arthur.

RGMS teachers on the school's Bobcat Team worked together to make this service project happen again this year.

The students and teachers were both excited to collaborate with the PA Fish and Boat Commission to continue working on the fish habitats.





The structures built by students will begin to grow algae, which will provide protection and food sources to attract and support the growth of larger game fish to the waters of Lake Arthur.







By Varden Armstrong,
Performing Arts Coordinator

CEREMONIAL SEND-OFF

Seneca Valley Thespians Troupe #2094 recently held its seventh annual "Tony Awards" themed induction ceremony and senior send-off. The International Thespians Society (ITS) is an Honor Society, recognizing achievements in the Theater Arts. ITS was founded in 1929 and has inducted over 2.5 million members since its inception. It provides students with a credible and distinguished theater experience, celebrating achievements in both performance and production. The SV chapter began in 1989 and has continued to maintain its status and membership ever since.

Membership is earned by accumulating Thespian points which are awarded for participation in performances, technical theater work and community service. Once inducted, Thespians continue to earn points towards stars, honor bars and awards certificates at their senior send-off. A star is earned at 10 points, Honor Thespian is reached at 60 points, National Honor Thespian is earned at 120 points and International Thespian is awarded at 180 points.

This year, the troupe inducted 19 new members including freshmen Ava Beaudoin, Cayden Carothers, Ainsley Faber, Eli Hardy, Adeline Lippert, Gavan Traugh, and Bronston Wendereusz; sophomores Harlow Bowers, Grace Crosson, Megan Gates, Zeke Hardy, Quintin Hixon, Leah Malley, Trent Meiers, Kayla Mosslander, Gianna Pauletich, and Mayleigh Wesniewski; and juniors Sophia Furman and Dom Hoffmaster.

The Troupe celebrated 31 graduates this year. Many students won honor stars, with Honor Bars going to Nathan Capizzi,



Aydan Danlyo, Cassidy Harvey, Allie Horton, Jacob Maietta, Dimitri Matusiak, Lucy Meyer, Jillian Snyder and Miranda Vrabely. Morgan Roithner was also recognized for earning an International Honor Bar!

Also recognized by their peers were Nathan Capizzi and Dimitri Matusiak, voted among the troupe as Best Actors, Aydan Danylo as Best Actress, Mia Grant as Best Technical Support and Morgan Roithner as Best Thespian.

"This year, I was the Thespians Club President, and I am extremely grateful to have experienced that responsibility!" said Miss Roithner. "I had the opportunity to plan club events every month where we go to theater workshops, see performances, play theater games, and have fun! One of my favorite club activities is our yearly trip to the Benedum, and this year we viewed 'The Great Gatsby.' I have had a blast planning and attending all our club events and meeting an amazing group of people through this club!"

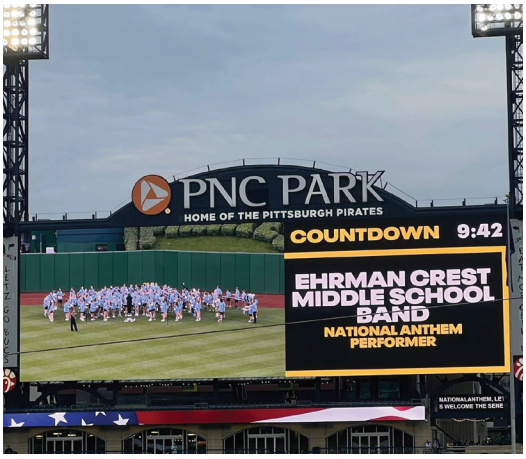
'TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME'

Over 130 fifth and sixth grade band members from Ehrman Crest Middle School had the honor of performing the National Anthem at the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game on May 27. Spectators at PNC Park saw the talented young band play with pride and precision before the Pirates faced off against the Chicago Cubs. The band, under the direction of Ms. Tracy Glass and assisted by Ryan Gloyer Middle School music teacher Mr. Kurt McNaught along with Slippery Rock University student teacher Ms. Rachel Kroner, set a patriotic tone for the evening's game.









SV THEATER: AN UNFORGETTABLE YEAR IN REVIEW

What a spectacular year it has been for the Seneca Valley Theater program! From beloved Broadway classics to high-energy rock 'n' roll and fast-paced comedy, our students have poured their hearts into every performance.

Before diving into the highlights of our season, let's take a look at the incredible community effort that made this year possible:

- Four diverse shows including a Broadway classic and uproarious play
- 256 students involved and an estimated 9,000 audience members across four productions
- Over 100 parent volunteers

At the core of the SV Theater philosophy is a commitment to watching our students grow. This year, we challenged them to stretch their artistic boundaries across vastly different genres. In doing so, we watched them truly find their spotlight. SV 2026 graduate Lucy Meyer credits the theater program for further developing her leadership skills.

"To the naked eye, Seneca Valley Theater is a program that puts on multiple shows a year for students and members of the community to attend," Miss Meyer said. "However, to the students it means much more. The program not only lets students display and utilize their talent but also creates a place for students to be themselves. SV theater has helped me expand my social circle, build self-confidence and, above all, strengthen my leadership skills." Lucy helped with each of the four productions this year.

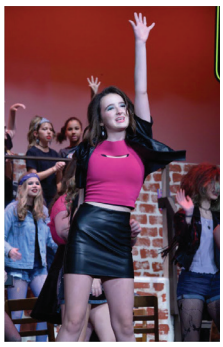




"Singin' in the Rain" (RGMS, Fall): Our seventh and eighth graders kicked off the year by stepping back into the "Golden Age" of Hollywood. This iconic classic introduced our younger performers to complex choreography. Behind the scenes, the production also served as a training ground for high schoolers, who stepped up as mentors through our Student Producer and Technical Team tracks, honing invaluable leadership skills.

"Rock of Ages" (Grades 9–12, Fall): We introduced students to the high-octane world of 1980s classic rock. While our junior and senior performers did a phenomenal job welcoming and guiding our incoming ninth graders to the high school theater space, our off-stage student leaders continued to shine in their mentorship roles.







"Frozen" (Grades 9–12, March): This spring, we reached a major milestone by staging the beloved Disney modern classic. This production gave our students a rare and thrilling opportunity: a regional high school premiere. Because "Frozen" was newly released to high school licensing this school year, our cast and crew got to experience the unmatched excitement of bringing a fresh, highly anticipated production to our Intermediate High School stage.

"Noses Off" (Grades 9–12, May): We closed out our performance season with the hilarious farce, "Noses Off." This fast-paced, comical play challenged our actors with the intricate mechanics of performing a "play within a play." Success relied entirely on comedic timing and physical comedy—a challenge our students met beautifully, earning roaring laughter from the audience.





Theater is the ultimate collaborative art, and we pride ourselves on building a strong, inclusive community. This year, SV Theater partnered closely with several academic departments including SVTV, SV Graphic Arts, and the SVTV Animation classes to enrich set designs, promotional materials and multimedia elements. These cross-curricular partnerships not only elevated the quality of our shows but also expanded the program's reach across the entire school district.

In the world of high school theater, time is the most precious gift you can give. We are very grateful for the guidance of Ms. Bobi-Jean Alexander who retired this year and to Bruce Smith who passed away this spring. These two individuals showed our students what commitment looks like and that passions are worth putting in the effort for, and they created heartfelt memories with them. Thank you.

As the program looks back on a year of incredible growth, creativity and connection, they are already hard at work planning for the 2026–2027 season. We cannot wait to welcome you back to the theater and entertain you once again!

By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

SV ATHLETICS

Baseball

Raider 2026 Varsity Baseball came to a close in the opening round of the WPIAL playoffs, as the team fell to Canon-Mac. The Big Macs' bats erupted in the contest and Raider pitchers were unable to cool them off. We will not let this difficult loss overshadow another good season for Raider Baseball. We congratulate this team on making another appearance in the WPIAL playoffs and wish good luck to our departing seniors. Thank you for all of your contributions to the program!

Softball

Following a first-round bye, the second-seeded Raiders faced off against Pine-Richland in the WPIAL 6A semifinals and came away with a 13-2 win. Senior Abby Kalkowski picked up the win, striking out 10 Rams in the game. Offensively, the entire team contributed to the run rule. The win set up the Raiders to face off against Hempfield for the WPIAL 6A title and sole spot in the PIAA bracket – a matchup that has occurred in three of the last four WPIAL championship games. In the end, the Spartan offense was too strong to contain, and the 2026 Raider Softball varsity team came home with the WPIAL runner-up trophy. We thank the Class of '26 and wish each of them all the best!



Track & Field

The Raiders were fortunate to bring home a number of medals from the PIAA 3A State Championship meet. Despite Mother Nature's attempt to challenge the athletes, all of our representatives competed with tremendous tenacity and represented SV well! Here are the results from the 2026 PIAA 3A Track & Field Championships:





- Wheelchair Shot Put: Mitchell Everly (16' 1.5" - **State Champion**)
- Wheelchair Discus: Mitchell Everly (45' 3" - **State Champion**)
- Wheelchair 400m: Mitchell Everly (1:36.01 - **2nd place medalist**)
- Wheelchair 100m: Mitchell Everly (23.03 - **3rd place medalist**)
- Girls Javelin: Addie Weaver (141-9 - **3rd place medalist**); Audrey Wolfe (134-9 - **6th place medalist**)
- Girls High Jump: Jordan Monteleone (5' 5" - **3rd place medalist**)
- Girls 4 x 100 Relay: Aubrey Popp, Kate Skeen, Addison Bokash & Izzy Yuhouse (50.27, 24th place)
- Girls Long Jump: Kate Skeen (17-5,12th place)
- Boys Javelin: Andrew Mejia (160-9, 20th place); Reese Fatur (156-6, 21st place)
- Boys Triple Jump: Dakari Payne (45-5, 10th place); Eddie Strong (42-7.5, 27th place)

Boys Volleyball

As noted in the May issue, Seneca Valley earned the No. 3 seed in the WPIAL 3A championship bracket and following their first-round bye and quarterfinal win over Penn Trafford, the team squared off against Butler in the WPIAL semifinals. The back-and-forth affair saw the Raiders take the first two sets (25-22, 25-23) and the Golden Tornado winning sets three and four (25-20, 25-18), setting up a decisive fifth set for the right to face off against North Allegheny in the WPIAL finals. As has been customary all season, the fifth set brought closely contested competition with SV falling on the wrong side of the score. Up next was the WPIAL consolation match to determine who would be the third team out of the WPIAL to enter the PIAA bracket. On this night, our Raiders rose to the occasion and took the match from Baldwin in four sets (25-20, 25-21, 20-25, 25-12). In PIAA first-round action, the Raiders were on the road at State College. Despite playing some wonderful volleyball, the team fell 3-1 in a tightly contested match. With the loss, the 2026 Raider boys season ended, and we thank our graduating seniors for all they have given to the program. We wish all of them well as they embark on life's next adventure.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, MAY 2026

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Your local professional portrait photographer captivating imagery



The *Captivating Imagery* Female Athlete of the Month for May was senior thrower Addie Weaver. Addie had a stellar end to the track and field season as a javelin thrower. She qualified for the 2026 Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic League (WPIAL) Individual Championships and battled the elements to finish in second place with a throw of 132' 8". She moved onto the 2026 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Individual Championships and earned a bronze medal with a personal best throw of 141' 9," the second-best javelin throw in Seneca Valley track and field history. For a month of outstanding performances, we recognized Addie as the May Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Addie!



The *Captivating Imagery* Male Athlete of the Month for May was track and field freshman Mitchell Everly. Mitchell blazed through the record books in his first year competing as a wheelchair athlete. His times and distances qualified him for the 2026 WPIAL Track and Field Individual Championships where he earned two golds (shotput and discus), one silver (400 Meter) and one bronze (100 Meter). Mitchell qualified for the PIAA Track and Field Individual Championships in all four events and came home a state champion in the shotput and discus and won silver and bronze medals in the 400 and 100 meters, respectively. Mitchell holds the Seneca Valley freshman records in wheelchair shotput (16' 1.5"), discus (45' 3"), 100 meter (21.98) and 400 meters (1:28.49). For an impressive month, we recognized Mitchell as the May Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Mitchell!

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

- **Tuesday, July 7,** from 3-7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, July 8,** from 8 a.m. - Noon and 1-3 p.m.
  - 60 physicals from 8 a.m.-Noon; 30 physicals from 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.
  - 60 physicals from 8 a.m.-Noon

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
Alaina Cairns	Cheer	Penn State University	Communications
Olivia Donato	Cheer	Penn State University	Psychology & Biobehavioral Health
Eva Michaels	Cheer	Duquesne University	Health Science/Physician Assistant

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

STUDENTS SHARE STEM STUDIES

Students from the Seneca Valley Center for Biotechnology, a teacher-led initiative that empowers and equips students to develop university-level scientific research skills using the latest technology, presented projects, led tours and showcased their workspace during the Center for Biotechnology's annual Open House held May 21, in the Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Library.

In total, 18 student projects were displayed and presented to attendees, including parents and family members, alumni, community members, teachers, administrators and staff. Topics ranged from the effect of apple cider vinegar on biofilm growth to Hellbender primer comparison using qPCR.

Many students involved in the lab conduct research during their free time without receiving grades or course credit. Students also complete a full year of training before developing and conducting their own research studies.

"Our students are able to get hands-on experience with these techniques and equipment that, in many cases, they would not have the opportunity to do so until late in their college career," said Biology teacher and Center for Biotechnology advisor Tom Lavelle. "We are incredibly proud of the work they have done."

During the tours, students demonstrated equipment and technology used throughout the program, including the autoclave, ultraviolet spectrophotometer, fluorimeter, PCR laminar flow hoods, shaking incubator and fluorescent microscope. Students also highlighted the new Geneious software, which played a pivotal role in many student projects this year.

Attendees also participated in several hands-on activities, including micropipette use, microcentrifuge operation, vacuum filtration of creek water for eDNA analysis and stereoscopic viewing of bacteria to detect mutations.

Seneca Valley alumni Alexis Helsel and Gavin Blazer, both students at University of Pittsburgh, returned as special guest speakers during the open house and spoke about how the Biotechnology Lab and guidance from teachers Tom Lavelle and Brian Carson contributed to their success both at Seneca Valley and in college.

Also speaking was Seneca Valley Deputy Superintendent for Secondary Education, Dr. Sean McCarty.

"These students who work and learn at the Center for Biotechnology take time outside of their schooling to pursue a passion," Dr. McCarty said. "That's what true learning is about. That's the future of where public education needs to go."

Throughout the year, students utilized the Center for Biotechnology to conduct the following experiments:

Metabarcoding a Marine Ecosystem

Effect of Apple Cider Vinegar on Biofilm Growth

Designing and Testing North American River Otter Primers

Using Geneious to Advance Salamander Metabarcoding

Pollinator NGS Metabarcoding

Constructing a Mitochondrial Reference Genome

Using Geneious to Advance Invasive Carp eDNA Detection

Hellbender Primer Comparison using qPCR

Plasmid Stability and E. coli

Bacterial Growth on Orthopedic Materials

Genetic Analysis of Commercial Tuna

Creation of Wide-Reaching Mammalian eDNA Primers

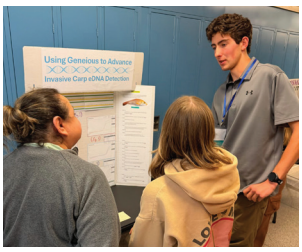
UV Effects on DNA

GMOs in Common Snack Foods

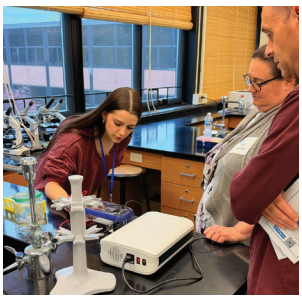
Bacteria on Orchestral Instruments

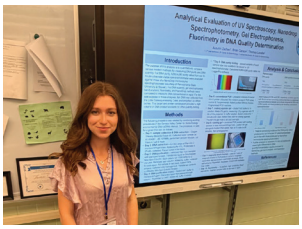
Analytical Evaluation of UV Spectroscopy, Nanodrop Spectrophotometry, Gel Electrophoresis, Fluorimetry in DNA Quality Determination

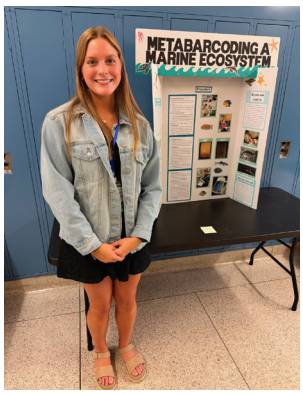


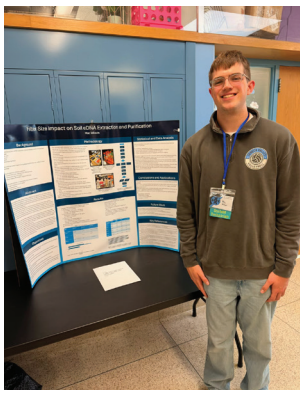


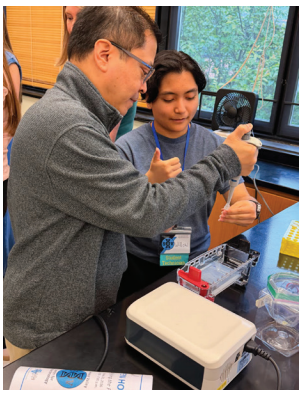












SENECA VALLEY FOUNDATION'S GIFT OF HOPE GOLF CLASSIC

The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) Gift of Hope Golf Classic presented by Massaro Corporation will take place on Thursday, Aug. 6, at Cranberry Highlands Golf Course. Each year, some of our region's most dedicated business, community and education leaders come together for a shared purpose: investing in the future of Seneca Valley students. This event is a vital part of our fundraising efforts and we invite you to help make an education impact.

To learn how you can support, sponsor and donate, visit Seneca Valley Foundation's Gift of Hope Golf Classic, Presented by Massaro Corporation.





TURTLES, SNAKES AND FROGS, OH MY!



Through Seneca Valley Foundation funding, students at the Intermediate High School welcomed wildlife naturalist Ms. April Claus to their biology classes. Ms. Claus led a hands-on program focused on native species and the local ecosystem. She also brought along several reptile and amphibian ambassadors, highlighting their important roles in biodiversity.





Students enjoyed observing and interacting with the animals while learning about careers in biology, ecology, natural resource management and other environmental fields.

"I loved learning about animals we often think of as pests," one student said. "It's so cool that venomous animals that could be deadly can be so helpful to us."

Another student added, "I liked how interactive we were with the animals and teacher. I think I want to do this as a job."

Ms. Claus established these "Interactive Environmental Programs" as a way to introduce native reptile and amphibian species to Pennsylvanians. The experience provided students with a firsthand look at the rich biodiversity found in local environments and helped deepen their understanding of ecological relationships.

"Students had the rare opportunity to observe hard-to-find vertebrates, including salamanders, turtles, snakes and frogs. Many students had no previous knowledge that these species are found locally," said Intermediate High School biology teacher Mr. Thomas Lavelle. "The program offered an invaluable experience for students to identify local fauna and explore topics such as mutualism, indicator species, predator-prey relationships and environmental awareness."

Thank you, Ms. Claus, for sharing your expertise and passion for wildlife with our students!



SENECA VALLEY APPOINTS MS. QUINCY GILDEA AS DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Seneca Valley School District is proud to announce the appointment of Ms. Quincy Gildea as the District's Director of Advancement & Strategic Partnerships.

Ms. Gildea will assume the district-level leadership position following a successful tenure in several educational and administrative roles across Seneca Valley. Most recently, she served as Assistant Principal at the Seneca Valley Intermediate High School (IHS). She originally joined the District as a second grade teacher at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) before being named Acting Assistant Principal there in March 2022.

Throughout her tenure with Seneca Valley, Ms. Gildea has demonstrated a strong commitment to student success, educational leadership and community engagement. As Assistant Principal at the IHS, she played an integral role in fostering a positive school culture and supporting staff and students while leading initiatives designed to enhance the educational experience in the building.

“I am incredibly grateful for my time serving the students, families, and staff of the Intermediate High School,” Ms. Gildea said. “I am excited to begin this next chapter and serve Seneca Valley in a broader capacity. I look forward to strengthening partnerships, advancing college and career readiness efforts and helping create new opportunities that positively impact students and families across our district."

Once she transitions into the role this summer, Ms. Gildea will lead advancement efforts for both the District and the Seneca Valley Foundation, working to expand opportunities for students, cultivate strategic partnerships and strengthen connections among schools, families, businesses, alumni and community organizations.

"Ms. Gildea has continually demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout her career at Seneca Valley," said Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale. "She has consistently led with integrity, compassion and an unwavering commitment to students. Her ability to build relationships and inspire others makes her an outstanding choice for this role."

Ms. Gildea holds a master's degree in education administration and principal

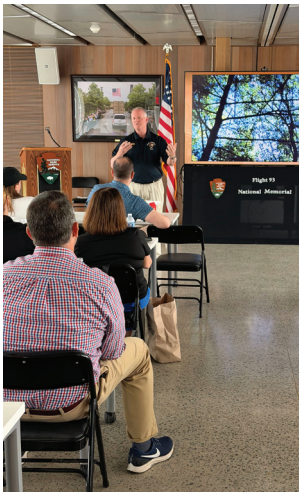


certification from PennWest California and is currently pursuing a doctorate through the University of Pittsburgh. In 2023, she received the Jean E. Winsand Emerging Woman in Education Award from the Tri-State Area School Study Council through the University of Pittsburgh.

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

On June 11, members of Seneca Valley’s Leadership Team received a special tour of the Flight 93 National Memorial led by Park Superintendent Stephen Clark. During their visit, the team, comprised of principals, assistant principals, department directors and other district leaders, learned more about the heroic actions of the crew and passengers aboard Flight 93, listened to recordings of their final phone calls and explored the investigation that followed the events of September 11, 2001. The experience was both moving and inspiring, providing powerful lessons in courage, leadership and service that team members look forward to sharing with students and staff in the coming school year.





TIME SPENT WITH BEST BUDDIES

North Boundary Park was filled with sunshine and smiles as over 250 students, staff and community members attended Seneca Valley's third annual Best Buddies Walk on Saturday, May 30! Participants celebrated inclusion and our diverse abilities all while raising funds for Best Buddies International. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to creating opportunities for friendships, employment, leadership development and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This year, special appearances were made by the Seneca Valley Bocce Teams and SV Cheerleaders.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event unforgettable!
























USING YOUR NOODLE

Seneca Valley students have officially made the splash into summer vacation.

But, before they head to the pool, elementary students participate in Water Safety Day to learn more about the importance of water safety. Ehrman Crest Elementary students recently visited the SV Aquatic Center for presentations on how to help in a water emergency, being safe around bodies of water, weather safety near water and more.

"By giving our elementary students a hands-on opportunity to practice skills and build confidence in making safe choices around water, we're empowering them with knowledge that can prevent tragedies and protect them for years to come," said Ehrman Crest Elementary Physical Education teacher Ms. Sara Coon.







FIELD DAY FUN

Seneca Valley students in grades K-6 participated in their school's field days before the end of the school year. Students worked in teams that emphasized and embraced sportsmanship, cooperation and social skills, all while having fun! Seneca Valley's SALT (Student-Athlete Leadership Team) club and the Cranberry Township Police Department made special visits to join in on the activities!

It was a great celebration of school spirit to kick off the summer.

















HAVING A BLAST

Did you know that Seneca Valley is home to the only LIGHT Center in Butler County? The LIGHT Education Initiative is an incentive-based K-12 program designed to inspire, prepare and empower the next generation of humanitarians.

Recently, SV eighth grade students involved with the LIGHT Center joined students from seven other school districts for a unique learning experience at the Carrie Blast Furnaces in Pittsburgh. Along with exploring the history of the massive iron mill, students experienced live scratch mold art demonstrations, where molten aluminum was poured into molds in front of them. They also learned about the culture and artistic expression of graffiti through hands-on activities.









The trip was sponsored and funded by the LIGHT Center, located in the IHS Library, which continues to provide students with meaningful opportunities to connect history, art and community engagement.

GLOYER GOLD AND REACHING GOALS

Recently, Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) hosted a school-wide assembly to celebrate being named a 2025–26 PA Don Eichhorn Schools: "Schools to Watch" recipient and to highlight its ongoing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative.

RGMS is one of only 12 middle schools in Pennsylvania to earn prestigious recognition for excellence in academics, student support and school culture.

During the event, student speakers reflected on how their experiences at RGMS helped shape their growth and future goals and others were recognized with Gloyer Gold Certificates. The program concluded with the eighth-grade band performing "Pillars of Gold," a commissioned piece inspired by the school's PBIS values of respect, responsibility and resilience.







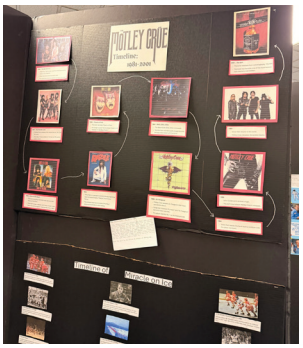
EXHIBITS AND INVESTIGATIONS COME TO LIFE

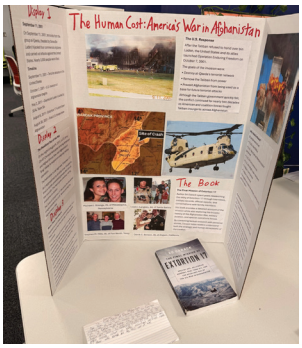
Earlier this month, 11th grade students in the Honors History: American in the Modern Era class and College in High School (CHS) Sociology and Criminal Investigations classes transformed the SV Senior High School Library into a history museum.

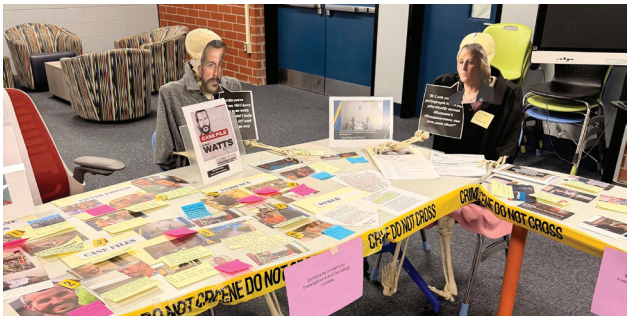
Honors History students selected a nonfiction book related to American history from the 1970s through the 2020s. After completing a critical analysis and class presentation, they researched a topic connected to their book and created a museum-style exhibit to share their findings.

Students in CHS Sociology and Criminal Investigations collaborated to examine and present two well-known criminal cases: the Chris Watts case and the Jodi Arias case. While both classes studied the facts of each case, Sociology students focused on societal perceptions and influences on public opinion, while Criminal Investigations students analyzed the forensic evidence and detectives' interview techniques used during the investigations.

Throughout the day, numerous students visited the museum exhibits and voted for their favorite display from each decade.

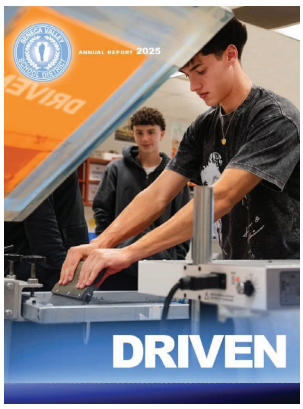






SV COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AWARDED IN PUBLICATION CONTESTS

The Seneca Valley communications department earned a combined total of 21 awards in the National School Public Relations Association's (NSPRA) 2026 Publications and Digital Media Contest and in the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association's (PenSPRA) "Excellence in Education Communications" 2025-2026 Contest.

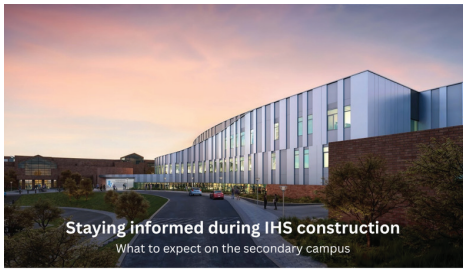














Seneca Valley earned 10 awards in NSPRA's Contest. They received four Awards of Excellence for the 2025 Annual Report, "Driven," Kindergarten Countdown flyer, news release "Seneca Valley to Welcome Holocaust Survivor" and photography "Closing One Chapter, Opening Another." Additionally, the communications department received three Awards of Merit for the 2025-26 Activities and Information Calendar, "Leaders in the Making," Senior Holiday Event social media campaign and SV "Voices" Podcast episode "Back to His Roots – Introducing Seneca Valley's New Head Varsity Coach, Don Barclay." Lastly, they received three Honorable Mentions for SV the Raider Pride E-Newsletter, SV IHS Building Project and Performing Arts Center infographic and their website "Staying Informed During IHS Construction – What to Expect on the Secondary Campus."

NSPRA's Publications and Digital Media Awards recognize outstanding education publications and marketing/informational materials (print and electronic), video/TV/radio programs, social media and websites.

In PenSPRA's Contest, the Seneca Valley communications department earned 11 awards. They received three Awards of Excellence for the 2025-26 Activities and Information Calendar, "Leaders in the Making," SV IHS Building Project and Performing Arts Center infographic and photography "Closing One Chapter, Opening Another." Additionally, the communications department received four Awards of Merit for the 2024 Annual Report, "Reaching New Heights," Raider Pride E-Newsletter, SV "Voices" Podcast episode "Back to His Roots – Introducing Seneca Valley's New Head Varsity Coach, Don Barclay" and their website "Staying Informed During IHS Construction – What to Expect on the Secondary Campus." Lastly, they received four Honorable Mentions for their Kindergarten Countdown flyer, news release "Seneca Valley to Welcome Holocaust Survivor," Senior Holiday Event social media campaign and their video, "Welcome Back, SV."

PenSPRA was chartered in 1969 and, much like NSPRA, is an organization of school public relations professionals whose goal is to improve educational communication and support student achievement through systematic, proactive and responsible public relations programs. Both organizations annually sponsor separate Excellence In Education Communications Contests. Entries are accepted in a number of categories to reflect the scope of work often undertaken by communications professionals.

The communications department coordinated and developed these award-winning publications for the Seneca Valley School District.

STARS, STRIPES AND SIGNOFFS

Oh say, can you see? Central Office staff celebrated the last day of school and waved goodbye to SV STAR Students!







SENDING A SMILE AND WAVE

Haine Elementary School staff, teachers and administrators came together for their annual "wave out," wishing students a safe and fun summer!





'I LED THE PLEDGE'

Students from Seneca Valley's K-6 schools appeared at school board meetings this year to lead the members of the School Board and public in saying "The Pledge of Allegiance." For the June 1 Work Session meeting, we were once again joined by Simon Negley, Ehrman Crest Middle School sixth grader.



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

Simon is one of five boys in his family. His favorite subject in school is math, and he plays the saxophone in the Ehrman Crest Middle School band. In fact, he auditioned and was selected for All-Star Band this year! In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer and basketball, building Legos and being involved in Trail Life USA. When he grows up, he wants to be a blacksmith. Great job, Simon!

LEAVING A LASTING IMPACT

This year, fourth grade students at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) made a meaningful contribution to their school community by helping enhance the courtyard space for all to enjoy. With the generous support of CVE families and donations from the Zelienople Rotary, the courtyard was beautifully refreshed with a new patio area, updated tables and chairs, and thoughtfully designed peace poles. Teachers also played an important role by guiding and supporting students throughout the project.





The updated courtyard now provides a welcoming space for students and staff to gather, relax and learn outdoors. More importantly, it serves as a lasting reminder of what can be accomplished through collaboration and community support. As fourth graders prepared to move on from CVE, they left behind a special legacy, one that will be enjoyed by future students for years to come.

We are incredibly grateful to the families and community partners who made this project possible. Their generosity has helped create a space that reflects CVE's close-knit community.



TIPS, BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING TICK BITES AND LYMES DISEASE

"Whether you're exploring one of Pennsylvania's 125 state parks, hiking in our 2.2 million acres of state forestlands, or relaxing in one of the more than 6,500 local parks right in your own community, it's essential to understand the risks and be prepared throughout the year," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "Taking proper steps to reduce the chances of being bitten is key, as ticks are found in both urban and rural settings — typically in shrubs, weeds, leaf litter, tall grasses, and anywhere there is foliage."

To help residents plan outdoor activities safely, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) maintains an online dashboard that shows where ticks are prevalent so people can take appropriate precautions. Pennsylvania typically ranks among the top 10 states in the country for Lyme disease cases per 100,000 residents. Last year, DOH recorded 18,747 lab-confirmed cases of Lyme disease. Most cases can be treated successfully with a short course of antibiotics, but if left untreated, Lyme disease can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system.

"Spending time in nature has many benefits to both physical and mental well-being, and I want to encourage all Pennsylvanians to have fun outdoors this summer," said DOH Secretary Dr. Debra Bogen. "However, it's important to do so safely, by taking precautions beforehand and doing tick checks after. If you are experiencing any symptoms of tickborne illness, I encourage you to contact your health care provider right away."

Ticks can be found in rural, suburban, and urban settings alike — typically in shrubs, weeds, leaf litter, and tall grasses — and can be present anywhere there is foliage. Taking proper steps to reduce the chances of being bitten is key.

"At the Department of Environmental Protection, we conduct tick surveillance and testing to help keep you informed," said DEP Secretary Jessica Shirley. "Ticks are found in every county, from Philadelphia to Erie, so a few simple steps can help ensure your time spent outdoors is safe and enjoyable."

Tips for tick bite prevention:

- Cover exposed skin and wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to spot ticks.
- Use EPA-approved insect repellent for tick prevention.
- Before heading outdoors, treat shoes, clothes, and gear with permethrin.
- After coming indoors, check yourself, children, and pets thoroughly for ticks and remove any promptly.





- Shower soon after spending time outside to help wash away ticks that may have gone unnoticed.
- Place clothes in the dryer on high heat to kill any remaining ticks.

The Shapiro Administration also reminds Pennsylvanians about the health benefits of spending time outdoors safely, including:

- Improving cardiovascular health
- Strengthening muscles and bones
- Reducing the risk of chronic diseases
- Lowering stress and improving mental health
- Increasing social connection

For more information on Lyme disease, visit DOH's Tickborne Diseases webpage.

Article provided by Pennsylvania Department of Health

- Ehrman Crest Elementary/Middle School is a learning environment unlike any other. Inspired in part by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, the school was intentionally designed to foster exploration and collaboration while providing the flexibility needed to support diverse learning experiences. **Discover how thoughtful school design can move beyond traditional classrooms to create spaces that evolve alongside the needs of students and educators, supporting meaningful learning for years to come.**

- 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

JOIN THE SENECA VALLEY TEAM!







Teacher applicants needed for 2026-27:

- **ELEMENTARY**
- **SECONDARY**
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Benefits of working at Seneca Valley:

- Competitive salaries & benefits
- Professional development & mentoring
- Commitment to supporting a diverse team
- Inclusive community and engaged students
- Dedicated to community service
- Exceptional facilities

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit **www.svsd.net/Employment**.

The Seneca Valley School District is committed to advancing equity and embracing diversity and inclusion in the workplace. EOE.