RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication **NOVEMBER 2026**

NATIONAL SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION
PUBLICATIONS AND DIGITAL MEDIA EXCELLENCE AWARD
2026
HONORABLE MENTION
NEWSLETTER

TOP THAT!

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Seneca Valley School District marked a major milestone in the construction of the Intermediate High School Academic Wing as members of the School Board joined administrators, staff, students and architectural and construction partners for a Topping Out Ceremony.

The ceremony commemorated the placement of the final major structural beam, completing the building's primary steel framework. Those in attendance signed the beam before it was lifted into place, creating a permanent memento of the people who helped bring the project to this point. The ceremony also featured inspiring remarks from district leaders and current students, who reflected on the community's growth, the vision behind the project and the excitement of what lies ahead.

"There is something special about participating in a Topping Out tradition that has connected generations of builders," said Seneca Valley Superintendent Dr. Tracy Vitale. "This ceremony gives us an opportunity to recognize the many people, from our school leaders to the designers, construction professionals and skilled tradespeople whose vision, expertise and hard work are bringing this project to life. Together, they are leaving their mark on a building that will become part of Seneca Valley's history for generations to come."

View the complete gallery at www.svsd.net/IHSToppingOut

Photo credit: Bill Paterson and SV Communications Department













TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Preparing for winter weather 5
Athletics 15
Successful Strides: Honoring Sgt. Ryan Gloyer 19
28th Annual Senior Holiday Event 25
Smart Corner 28

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 25-30	District Holiday, No School
Dec. 2	School Board Reorganization Meeting, SHS Auditorium, 5 p.m.
Dec. 21	Senior Holiday Event, Steamfitters, 12:30 p.m.
Dec. 23-Jan. 1	Winter Break, No School

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

IT'S AN HONOR!

Click here to view the 2026-27 First Nine Weeks Honor Rolls for grades 7-12.

TOP THAT! *Continued from page 1*

Photo credit: Bill Paterson and SV Communications Department



















ECMS STUDENTS HONOR VETERANS

Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) honored veterans this month by hosting their annual Veterans Recognition Breakfast. The breakfast consisted of about 55 veterans along with the students who invited them as their special guests. The ECMS Band performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" followed by special performances by the ECMS Sixth Grade Chamber Chorus and Orchestra. Taps were played by sixth grade soloist Blake Berger. Guests were greeted with cards and heartfelt messages from students and enjoyed a presentation featuring names and photos of local veterans. Additionally, a visitor at the ECMS breakfast shared the posters she received with her coworkers who are military veterans. Take a look at some pictures of the heartwarming display of Raider pride!

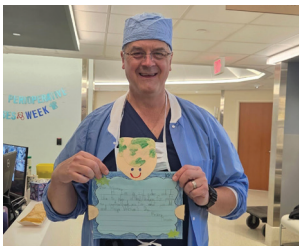
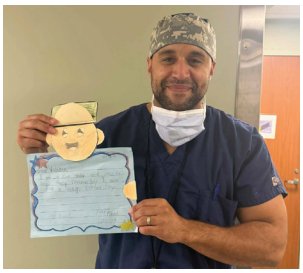
Shoutout to ECMS student artists and Ms. Angela Cardillo's second grade class from Rowan Elementary School for making the creative posters used at the breakfast and to ECMS fifth and sixth grade teachers for organizing a fantastic event!













DELAY THE DAY

Ryan Gloyer Middle School Student (RGMS) Council recently organized a "Delay the Day" fundraiser to support the GI Go Fund, an organization dedicated to helping veterans, active-duty personnel and their families with housing, employment and benefits. The fundraiser challenged students to bring in loose change with the goal of raising money while adding a little fun to the school day. The twist? Teachers were required to count the collected coins before they could begin their classes, creating an unexpected delay to the start of the school day!

Students and staff embraced the challenge. Students raised nearly $600 and RGMS staff raised an additional $215 during their "Dress Down Day" fundraiser. Together, the RGMS school community raised $805.54 for the fund!

Shoutout to RGMS Student Council for planning this successful fundraiser!



A PATRIOTIC WELCOME

Students at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School placed American Flags along the inner entry circle to honor veterans this Veterans Day.





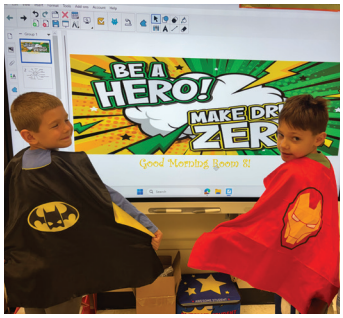




ROCKING THE RED

Last month, elementary students across the District celebrated their commitment to a drug-free lifestyle through themed dress-up days in recognition of Red Ribbon Week. This year's theme, "Make a Difference. Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free," was reinforced through lessons and activities, including pledge signings, classroom discussions and creative outfits. Theme days included getting "REaDy" for Red Ribbon Week, "Be Your Own Hero" and "Falling for Healthy Choices."













SV PREPARES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

As colder temperatures move into the region, we want to take this opportunity to share our plans for inclement weather delays and closures for the 2025-26 school year. We understand how much students look forward to the excitement of a snow day, and we want them to experience that joy when the snow is truly falling! Like last year, decisions about the type of school closure will be made in real time based on the specific weather conditions at the time. As a result, the first closure might not be a traditional snow day; it could be a remote learning day if conditions like an ice storm or extreme cold occur. However, if we opt for a traditional snow day, there are three makeup days built into the school calendar:

- Should the first snow day occur before Feb. 12, 2027, the makeup day will be Friday, Feb. 12, 2027.
- Should the second snow day happen before March 5, 2027, the makeup day will be Friday, March 5, 2027.
- Should a third snow day occur before April 16, 2027, the makeup day will be Friday, April 16, 2027.

When the District shifts to a remote learning (livestreaming) day, the schedule for **livestreaming will occur on a two-hour delay for students so that teachers and students can prepare for livestreaming instruction. Students will be expected to log on to the SV Portal and access the teacher-provided livestreaming link(s) in the Announcements section.** Students can access meetings through their calendar on Teams. Inclement Weather School/Class Announcements will be made available for student/parent viewing via the SV Portal after 9:30 a.m. on the day of the closure.

Here are the schedules for remote learning days:

K-6 Schedule on inclement weather CLOSURE days:

10:55 a.m. - 3:25 p.m. - Remote Synchronous Instruction with Students (teachers will post classroom schedules in the announcement section of the portal)

Modified A.M. Kindergarten: 10:55 a.m. - 12:43 p.m.

Modified P.M. Kindergarten: 1:37 – 3:25 p.m.

7-8 Schedule for inclement weather CLOSURE days:

10 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. Remote Synchronous Instruction with Students

Period 1 - 10 – 10:25 a.m.

Period 2 - 10:30 – 10:55 a.m.

Period 3 - 11 – 11:25 a.m.

Period 4 - 11:30 – 11:55 a.m.

LUNCH - Noon – 12:30 p.m.

Period 5 - 12:35 – 1 p.m.

Period 6 - 1:05 – 1:30 p.m.

Period 7 - 1:35 – 2 p.m.

Period 8 - 2:05 – 2:30 p.m.

9-12 Schedule for inclement weather CLOSURE days:

10:01 a.m.– 2:33 p.m. - Remote Synchronous Instruction with Students

Period 1 - 10:01 – 10:26 a.m.

Period 2 - 10:30 – 10:55 a.m.

Period 3 - 10:59 – 11:24 a.m.

Period 4 - 11:28 – 11:58 a.m.

Period 5 - 12:02 – 12:32 p.m.

Period 6 - 12:36 – 1:06 p.m.

Period 7 - 1:10 – 1:35 p.m.

Period 8 - 1:39 p.m. – 2:04 p.m.

Period 9 - 2:08 p.m. – 2:33 p.m.

The above schedule and closure information will be made available via the homepage of the District website (www.svsd.net) anytime the District announces a school closure.



As we have learned, livestreaming can sometimes be disruptive to optimal learning in both the traditional and remote environments. Therefore, we want to ask for your assistance when students are livestreaming:

- **Learning Environment** – Students should be ready and prepared to learn. Students should be seated at a table or desk free **from distractions. The student should not be traveling in a car or livestreaming in a loud environment. Please have student supplies readily available.**
- **Laptop Cameras** - Laptop cameras must be turned on (students are permitted to blur their background for privacy).
- **Laptop Microphones** - Microphones should stay muted until the student needs to speak.
- **Recording & AI notes** – due to privacy laws, students are not permitted to record a live lesson/ session or use AI to record notes. However, some teachers may choose to do so for absentee children. If a teacher chooses to record their teaching session, student names and videos must be redacted before sharing with others.

Students unable to livestream due to childcare needs or illness will be given assistance when they return and time to make up the day's assignments.

If you have any extenuating circumstances, you may reach out to your child's individual teacher(s).

FALL FAMILY FUN

Connoquenessing Valley Elementary's (CVE) Fall Family Night was filled with pumpkin decorating, fall-themed stories, crafts and games and even a bake sale! Special thanks to CVE staff, Slippery Rock University education students for hosting games and to the PTO for hosting the book fair and bake sale.







PAINTING WITH HAINE'S BEST BUDDIES

Celebrating the fall festivities, Haine's Best Buddies chapter recently hosted a pumpkin painting event! Teacher-nominated third, fourth and fifth graders teamed up with students from Haine's Multiple Supports classrooms for a fun and heartwarming collaborative experience.

Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 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. For more information about the program, visit www.bestbuddies.org.











SWEETEST TREATS

Ehrman Crest Elementary School second and third graders enjoyed a special Halloween visit to Passavant Senior Center.

The students' bags were filled with candy and the visit was filled with laughter and smiles! The sweetest treat wasn't found in their bags - it was found in the hugs shared between generations. They were the true treat!







TRICK OR TRASH

Halloween may be over, but the empty candy wrappers are still going strong! Students in Ms. Gabriella Harding's third-grade class at Rowan Elementary School had fun collecting and counting candy wrappers while exploring the importance of recycling and reducing waste through Return Technologies' Trick or Trash recycling initiative.

Together, the class collected more than 1,000 wrappers! Rather than ending up in a landfill, the wrappers will be recycled and given new life as something useful.

The activity provided students with a fun, hands-on way to celebrate the season while discovering how small actions can make a big difference for the environment!





CONNOQUENESSING VALLEY ELEMENTARY NAMED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) has been named a 2026 Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon School by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), recognizing the school for its academic achievement, school culture and commitment to student success.

CVE is one of 12 schools across Pennsylvania selected for the 2026 recognition. The Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools for academic improvement, academic achievement, school culture and special education supports.

"Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon Schools create the conditions for student success by providing a supportive, welcoming and safe environment for all learners," said Secretary of Education Dr. Carrie Rowe according to a press release. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication these schools put into ensuring learners can grow, thrive and achieve both now and in the future."

Schools selected for the distinction demonstrated exceptional academic growth, inclusive learning environments, strong student support systems and a commitment to helping all learners succeed.

"Each of our schools has its own unique culture and connection to the community it serves, and CVE is a wonderful example of that," said Seneca Valley Superintendent Dr. Tracy Vitale. "The strong relationship between the school and the Zelienople community is evident in the pride residents take in their school and the support they provide. It is a special family connection that helps make CVE such an important part of the community."

The recognition adds to Seneca Valley's history of Blue Ribbon honors. In 2012, Ryan Gloyer Middle School was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.



"CVE is fortunate to be part of such a supportive and welcoming community," said Principal Jeremy Womer. "I am incredibly proud of our students, staff and the school community we have built together. Zelienople has a strong sense of community and pride, and that is something we see reflected in our school every day. The support and connection between CVE and the community make this a special place to learn and work."

The 2026 Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon Schools will be formally recognized during a special ceremony in December.



VOTES ARE IN!

Haine's chickens have officially been named!

This election season, Haine Elementary and Middle School students took part in a unique voting experience that had the entire school buzzing with excitement. Students were not casting ballots for candidates but had another important decision to make - choosing names for the school's beloved courtyard chickens!

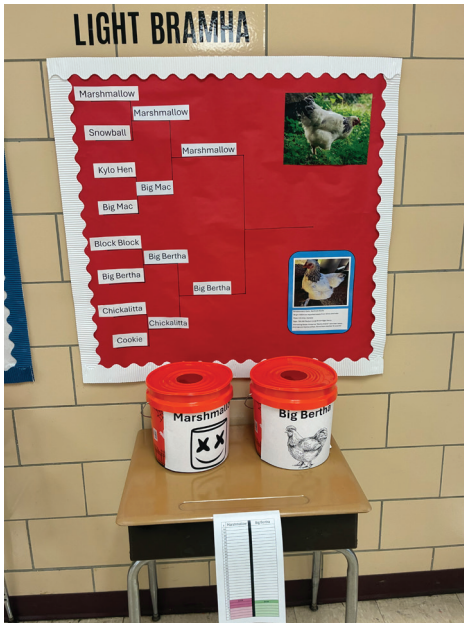
Classes brainstormed names and submitted their favorites. From that selection, the top names were chosen at each grade level creating an exciting, eight-name tournament bracket for each hen. Round by round, classrooms cast their votes and the championship matchups saw fierce competition!

For the grand finale, students participated in a schoolwide coin war, placing their donations for the names they wanted to see crowned champion. Not only did the friendly competition determine the winners, but it also raised funds to support Haine's feathered friends and growing outdoor education program. Proceeds from the coin wars will help purchase a solar-powered coop door, a rainwater collection system, chicken feed and treats and other supplies to keep the flock happy and healthy.

Congratulations to our newly named chickens, Nugget, Dolly Part-Hen and Marshmallow!

Thank you to our students, staff and families for helping make this feathered fundraiser a success!



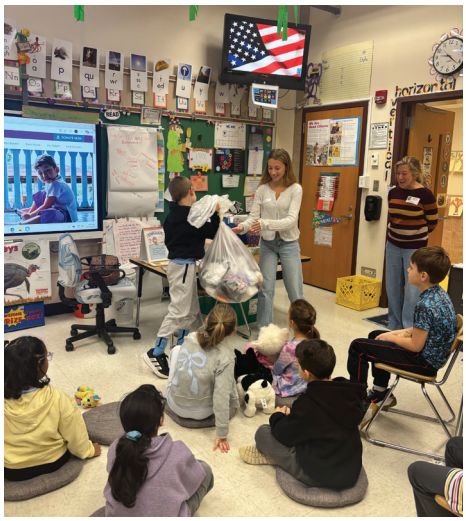




WARM FEET, WARM HEARTS

Ms. Angela Cardillo's second grade class at Rowan Elementary recently embraced the spirit of giving by hosting "Socktober," a sock drive to support those in need. Connecting the project to their English Language Arts (ELA) theme, "Making a Difference in Our Community," and kindness character traits, students came together on Nov. 13, World Kindness Day, to make a positive impact.

With help from their families, students collected socks for Socks with a Mission, a Pittsburgh-based organization dedicated to providing one of the most requested items at homeless shelters. Audrey Wetterau, founder of Socks with a Mission, is pictured visiting the class and receiving the students' donation. Students were excited to spread kindness and invite everyone to join in bringing warmth to Pittsburgh and nearby communities by visiting sockswithamission.org.





THE BUZZ FOR KINDNESS

Students and staff at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) recently created a BIG buzz around kindness!

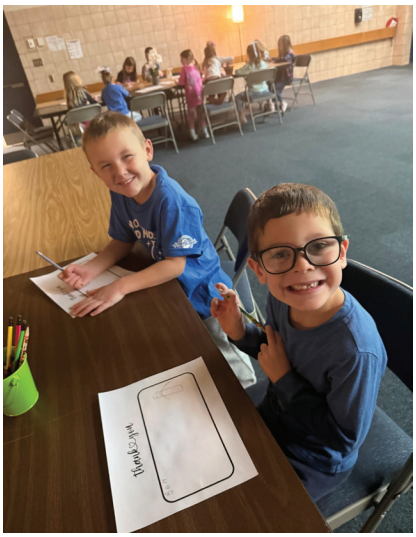
In celebration of World Kindness Day on Nov. 13, students participated in activities that encouraged them to spread kindness to others and practice kindness toward themselves. The school's LGI room was transformed into a calm room where students could craft kindness cards, create a kindness chain, color calming pictures or read kindness-themed books.

"Just like bees working together to make something sweet, we can all do our part to make our school community a kinder place," said school counselor and Seneca Valley Coordinator of Collegiate and Career Affairs Ms. Christina Karmecy. "Through these activities, students were reminded that kindness starts with how we treat ourselves and grows through how we treat others."

When we all try our best to BEE kind, the world becomes a sweeter place! Thank you, CVE staff and students, for reminding us that even small acts of kindness can make a big impact!

"There are three ways to ultimate success.
The first way is to be kind.
The second way is to be kind.
The third way is to be kind."

- Fred Rogers





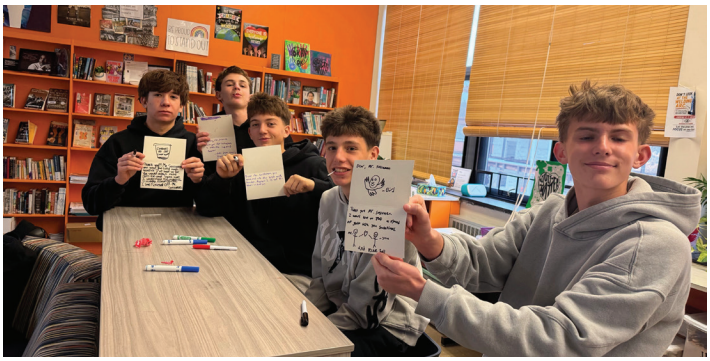




BREWING KINDNESS

World Kindness Day brought students to the Intermediate High School LIGHT Center for meaningful conversations and activities. Some students wrote thank you letters for loved ones while others decorated coffee cup sleeves that will be used at the senior high Raider Roast coffee shop!







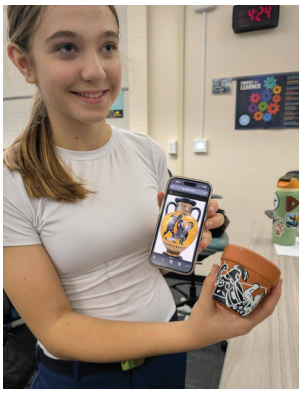
MYTHOLOGICAL MARVELS

Over 30 students attended the Junior Classical League (JCL) Latin club meeting for October. The activity of the month? Turning pumpkins into ancient pottery! Drawing inspiration from mythology, Latin students designed and painted their pumpkins in the style of ancient Roman and Greek vases.

Students examined examples of authentic ancient pottery and learned about the two most famous styles: black-figure, in which dark silhouettes are painted onto the natural orange-red clay, and red-figure, in which the background is painted black while the figures retain the color of the clay. Conveniently, a pumpkin's orange skin made the perfect stand-in for terracotta!

By the end of the meeting, the room was filled with mythological masterpieces! Much like ancient artists used pottery to tell the stories that mattered to them, our JCL members used their pumpkins to share the Roman myths they love.











LEADERS IN THE MAKING

On Oct. 22, five students from Ehrman Crest Middle School represented the school's SV3 Squad at the fourth annual PBIS Student Leadership Summit, hosted by the Midwestern Intermediate Unit IV (MIUIV).

The SV3 Squad comprises sixth grade student leaders who promote being responsible, respectful and ready (known as the SV3). Together, they play an important role in the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) programming.

Students in grades 4-6 from school districts across Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties came together for a day of collaboration, personal growth and leadership development.

The jungle-themed summit featured exciting, hands-on challenges that encouraged students to work together, think critically and step outside their comfort zones. Activities ranging from building freestanding bridges and towers to solving physical and logic-based challenges encouraged students to tackle challenges together and work toward a common goal.









"Throughout the day, students explored important leadership qualities, discovered ways to inspire their peers and strengthened their understanding of belonging," said Ehrman Crest teacher Ms. Danielle Reynolds.

Great job, SV3 Squad for representing Ehrman Crest Middle School and embracing the opportunity to grow as leaders!

GREEN THUMBS AT WORK

Dozens of students and teachers at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) rolled up their sleeves to beautify Cranberry Township during the school's fourth annual Community Tree Planting Blitz.

Together, they planted nearly 300 trees throughout the township, each one a symbol of the shared commitment to a greener future. The plantings took place in neighborhoods and along the winding tributary of Brush Creek, where a multimillion-dollar streambank restoration project is helping to combat erosion and preserve vital animal habitats.

This day of service not only transformed the community but also fostered a spirit of teamwork, mentorship and gratitude among students, school administrators and special guests. As part of the ongoing "Community Grown" initiative, the project exemplifies how RGMS empowers its students to give back to the communities that support their education, creating a legacy of service and connection.









This collaborative effort, involving Cranberry Township, FirstEnergy and the school district, highlighted the strength of community partnerships in making a positive impact. Special thanks to Mr. Mike Manipole, Cranberry Township Community Service Officer and retired Seneca Valley teacher, for connecting RGMS students with this meaningful volunteer opportunity year after year.

HOOK, LINE AND SINKER

Students in Ms. Dana Hadley's Field Biology classes took a trip to Moraine State Park last month for a culminating activity to their aquatic ecology unit. Our student biologists studied the SMART Angler Fishing program created by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission which included lessons on tying knots, fishing etiquette, safety and handling fish properly for release. Some students even caught their first fish!









By Varden Armstrong,
Performing Arts Coordinator

STRINGING TOGETHER

Last month, seventh grade Orchestra students and high school Chamber Orchestra participated in a side-by-side rehearsal. Over 80 students were involved in the rehearsal which included working together on a piece that the Seventh Grade Orchestra will perform at their Winter Concert. The Chamber Orchestra then played a "Star Wars" medley followed by an engaging question-and-answer session.

This side-by-side experience allowed our seventh graders to see what participating in a high school orchestra is like, create connections between ensembles and collaborate in the music-making process.

"This rehearsal helped me better understand how to bring out different parts of the music," said seventh grade violinist Elaina Haught. "It was fun to interact with the Chamber Orchestra and watch them play!"







PERFECT PITCH

Over October 22-24, nineteen Seneca Valley students from both the Intermediate and Senior High School traveled to Westminster College's Orr Auditorium to participate in the annual Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) District 5 Honors Chorus. This year, 96 students from schools throughout Butler, Beaver, Lawrence and Mercer Counties participated in intensive rehearsals to join for an exciting concert of high-level choral repertoire. The experience culminated with a public concert on October 24 at which students presented the slate of prepared music and received a standing ovation from a deeply appreciative audience.

Leading the ensemble was Dr. Christiana Howell, a choral conductor and professional singer at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Under her tutelage, the choir experienced a significant amount of growth over their short time together as they worked through various ensemble and technical exercises to promote vocal and choral improvement.

"I am always thrilled when the hard work finally pays off, even if it doesn't happen exactly when you want it to," said SV senior Jacob Harding. "I learned that to grow and improve means to fail along the way and come out of your comfort zone a little. I also learned that PMEA and music are not just sounds or songs or festivals, but a community and family who will bring you up to your fullest choral potential."

A first-time participant, Isabella Carnino added, "I enjoyed watching everyone come together in a short amount of time to create something both beautiful and meaningful. My favorite part of the rehearsals was getting to know and interact with new individuals that share a similar love for music."

Senior Morgan Clay echoed that sentiment, "For me, the best part of Honors Chorus has been seeing my own and others' musical skills improve in such a short amount of time."



In addition to the overall experience, nine Seneca Valley students received an automatic placement in the PMEA D5 All-District Chorus on the basis of their Honors Chorus audition score. Those students are represented below with an asterisk "*"by their name. Great work!

Congratulations to the following participating students from SV: Ava Beaudoin*, Hannah Callender*, Isabella Carnino, Bernardo Casimiro Vilas Boas*, Morgan Clay, Brayden Coleman, Anna DeVyver*, Jake Harding, Zeke Hardy, Quintin Hixon*, Lincoln Hugus, Rileigh Karns*, Chloe Robertson, Urijah Salih-Fitzgerald, Morgan Stanton, Kate Takac, Gavan Traugh* and Layne Vandenburgh*. Thank you all for representing the SV Choral Department and the broader SV community with your talent and effort!

SV ORCHESTRA STUDENTS EARN REGIONAL RECOGNITION

Last month, 20 Seneca Valley Orchestra students in grades 7-9 attended the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 String Fest at Blackhawk High School. Orchestra students from across Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties learned five pieces during the school day and performed them that same evening with guest conductor Dr. Melinda Crawford-Perttu, a professor and Orchestra director at Westminster College. It was a wonderful day of collaboration and hard work!



Student participants:

Eddie Ryu (9th, cello)
Emily Browne (9th, cello)
Joy Shibata (9th, violin)
Robin Schanz (9th, cello)
Kimani Whetstone (9th, violin)
Emma Riehl (9th, viola)
Phoebe Komlos (8th, cello)
Lilly Carey (8th, violin)
Madeleine Hancher (8th, violin)
Chase McKenzie (8th, violin)
Emery Priddy (8th, violin)
Japas Duggal (8th, viola)
Anastasia Puchkarev (8th, violin)
Maia Traugh (8th, viola)
Lilliana Tamanini (8th, violin)
Elijah Lee (7th, bass)
Bethany Eiler (7th, violin)
Caroline Hershberger (7th, violin)
Cecelia Nedzel, 7th, violin)
Ariella Busser (7th, violin)

SV JAZZ ENSEMBLE I HOLDS VOCAL COMPETITION FOR WINTER CONCERT

Seneca Valley Jazz Ensemble I recently sponsored a vocal competition to select three student vocalists to perform with the ensemble at its upcoming winter concert.

The competition began with a preliminary video audition round featuring 26 vocalists. From those submissions, 15 finalists were selected to perform live before a panel of judges. Contestants sang along with the original recordings with the vocals removed and were evaluated on pitch, style, time and stage presence.

"This idea came about after seeing a local college do a similar process for their Jazz Ensemble," said Mr. Varden Armstrong, Director of Jazz Ensemble I. "I knew that our band could do this, and I knew SV had talented singers!"

The selected vocalists will join the ensemble on three holiday classics, "Merry Christmas Baby," "Jingle Bell Rock," and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." The winners will rehearse with the band prior to the performance, gaining valuable real-world experience performing alongside a live jazz ensemble. The opportunity is equally beneficial for the instrumentalists, who gain experience accompanying vocalists in a concert setting.

Congratulations to winning contestants:

- "Merry Christmas Baby" – Gavan Traugh (Grade 10)
- "Jingle Bell Rock" – Morgan Stanton (Grade 12)
- "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" – Quintin Hixon (Grade 11)



Community members are encouraged to attend this exciting performance and support these talented student musicians.

Seneca Valley 7-12 Jazz Ensembles Winter Concert
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2026, 7 p.m.
SHS Auditorium






SENECA VALLEY
Performing Arts
Winter 2026
17 November
RGMS BAND
7 PM - IHS Auditorium
19 November
9-12 BAND
7 PM - IHS Auditorium
3 December
RGMS ORCHESTRA
7 PM - IHS Auditorium
8 December
IHS CHOIR
7 PM - IHS Auditorium
9 December
7-12 JAZZ CONCERT
7 PM - SHS Auditorium
10 December
SHS CHOIR
7 PM - IHS Auditorium
11 December
SVAOC DANCE
6:30 PM - IHS Auditorium
15 December
RGMS CHOIR
7 PM - IHS Auditorium
16 December
SHOW CHOIR
7 PM - SHS Auditorium
17 December
9-12 ORCHESTRA
7 PM - IHS Auditorium
21 December
SR. CITIZEN LUNCHEON
See SVSD website for details
All concerts are FREE and open to the public
Winter 2026

By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

THE MAGIC OF NOVEMBER

Any fall athlete or coach will tell you that competing in November is a sign of a special season – one that has carried over into the WPIAL and PIAA playoffs. Our Raider Boys Soccer team kicked off a magical run on Friday, Nov. 6, at the Riverhounds F.N.B. Stadium, pursuing their first WPIAL title since 2021. Following a heartbreaking defeat to Fox Chapel at last year's WPIAL final, this team, and particularly this senior class, has had a singular focus of returning to the Riverhounds Stadium to finish the job. And the boys did just that, defeating section nemesis North Allegheny (NA) 1-0. It took 43 seconds for the Raiders to score the game-winning goal when Zach White finished off a Jacob Prex corner kick to put the Raiders up 1-0, less than a minute into the championship. The game would go back and forth, and the Raider defense was up to the task of thwarting any NA attack and keeping the Tigers off the scoreboard the entire game. It was the program's fourth WPIAL title and earned Seneca Valley the opportunity to enter the PIAA bracket as the top seed out of District VII and the opportunity to host a first-round game.

Hosting Conestoga Valley (CV) out of PIAA District III, the Raiders were on the board early and often, taking a 3-0 lead into halftime. But, as the playoff season can prove, anything can happen, and CV came out aggressive in the second half and closed the Raiders' lead to 3-2 with 25 minutes to play. Customary to the season, the Raider defense held strong and SV advanced with a 3-2 win. Next up was the very team that knocked SV out of the 2025 PIAA semifinals – defending state champions Abington. Again, the Raiders came out quickly and put Abington on their heels with a Max Gochis goal 1:36 into the first half. Abington would tie the game 1-1 with 30 minutes left in the first half and the score would remain 1-1 through regulation. With 30 seconds left in overtime SV took a quick restart and Zach White's golden goal with 11.3 seconds left completed the revenge and SV was off to face West Chester Henderson in











the semifinal round. As expected, this tightly contested match was decided when Zach White, once again, finished a Chase Lively throw-in, propelling SV to the state finals held right here in Station Square. The magical run found its way to the Riverhounds Stadium against the ninth-ranked team in the nation – the undefeated Conestoga Pioneers. For those in attendance on Saturday morning, you were privileged to an outstanding game of soccer between two well-coached and very talented teams. Conestoga got on the board first, four minutes into the game, and their 1-0 lead would hold until Jacob Prex converted a free kick to tie the game 1-1 with 35 minutes left to play. The outcome would be decided in the final nine minutes when the Pioneers capitalized in the box to take home a 2-1 win and the state title. Both teams received well-earned applause for their outstanding play, competitive heart and sportsmanship. At the conclusion of the game, the mutual respect of the players did not go unnoticed.

As I reflect on this postseason run, I extend my gratitude to the following: First off, THANK YOU, #SVRaiderNation, for showing up and supporting this team. From the elementary school signs to the student section 40 yards long to the packed stands of F.N.B. Stadium, the community pride and spirit was in full force. Secondly, to our coaches – George Williams, Jay Roman, Scott Stewart, Mason Baldwin and Austin Myers – THANK YOU for your leadership, tactical brilliance and commitment to the core values of scholastic sport. And finally, saying THANK YOU to the players does not seem like enough. As a team, you had the courage to set a lofty goal of playing at F.N.B. Stadium on two occasions, you played with the confidence of a championship team, and you showed the connectivity of a team on and off the field is the key to trophy-worthy performances. For the Class of 2027, you have left your legacy over four years as an exceptionally talented group of soccer players and an even better group of young men. Your leadership was instrumental in the magic of November, and that is the lesson I hope you carry with you for decades to come. Now, go be great in your next adventure and know you have mentored your younger teammates to rise in 2027 and carry the standard of Raider Boys Soccer - Excellence and Humility. ■

FALL SPORT POSTSEASON RECAPS

Cross-Country

As reported in our October issue, Raider Cross-Country teams were preparing for the WPIAL championships held at White Oak Park on Oct. 29. In the boys race, Seneca Valley finished in sixth place as a team and senior Ian Wahl was the Raider's top runner, finishing in 16:31.8 and at 21st place overall, earning a trip to the PIAA State Championships! Teammate Chase LaPaglia was close behind at 16:43.7, placing 32nd overall. Rounding out the team's top five scorers were Jackson McClune (41st, 16:57.0), Cameron Cramer (48th, 17:07.1) and Chris Kaczmarek (85th, 17:42.1.) At the PIAA State Championships, Wahl ran a 16:29 (65th overall) in his final cross-country race wearing the SV. We congratulate Ian on an outstanding senior season as a state qualifier! For the girls, SV finished 10th overall and were led by senior Paige D'Amico (35th, 19:56.5), Everly Harrell (55th, 20:39.4), Sally McLean (61st, 20:50.2), Elyse Cilik (90th, 21:29.9) and Graci Gordon (101st, 21:46.9). We congratulate both teams on another successful season. We wish our graduating seniors all the best in their future endeavors!

Ice Hockey



It is not easy being a two-time defending Penguins Cup and PIHL state champion and this year's Raider Ice Hockey Team is getting the best from their opponents each night. Eight games into the regular season, the team is tied for third place with a record of 4-1-1-2 for a total of 16 points. There is plenty of hockey to be played with 12 remaining regular season games followed up with the PIHL playoffs. Keep getting better each day, SV – the rewards will follow down the road.

Girls Soccer



Entering the WPIAL playoffs, the fifth-seeded Raider Girls Soccer team hosted Gateway in WPIAL first-round action and came away a 6-0 winner. Goal scorers on this Saturday afternoon were Sophia Lawryk (2), Izzy Yuhouse (2), Anna Iaquinta and Mylie Libby. Up next was a tightly contested match-up with fourth-seeded Fox Chapel on their home field. As is the case with any sport, injury reared its ugly head, and All Big-56 goalkeeper Sydney Postler was unavailable. Despite this adversity, junior Lexie Koliscak stepped in admirably and the Raiders showed the grit common in a Mark Perry coached team. Addison Cravotta knotted the game 1-1 in the first half, but the Foxes pulled ahead to claim a 3-1 victory. Some may look at the result as a disappointment but the tenacity of this team all season long is something each player should be very proud of. A final record of 12-3-3 is an outstanding season, girls! Congratulations and all the best to the graduating class of 2027 – amazingly talented on the field and outstanding leaders off the pitch.

Girls Volleyball



Following a regular season which saw Seneca Valley finish 11-5 overall, Raider Girls Volleyball found itself seeded third in the WPIAL 6A Championships and squared off at home versus the sixth-seeded Spartans of Hempfield. As has been customary all season long, the Raiders swept another non-section opponent, 3-0, and found themselves squaring off against Pine-Richland in the semifinals – a team that handed our girls two of their five regular-season losses. As was the case all season, the scores were close in all games played but the Rams were just too much to handle and SV fell 3-1, failing to advance to the championship match. The ramification of the loss, based on the new restructuring of PIAA volleyball moving to six classes, meant an end to the season as only one 6A WPIAL team advanced to the state bracket. We congratulate this squad on another outstanding and highly successful season. We thank our seniors for significant contributions to the program over four years and we wish nothing but the best following graduation.

ADDITIONAL FALL SPORT HONORS

Additional Honors – Boys Soccer

PSCA All-State – Jacob Prex

WPSCA All-WPIAL – Owen Ali, Jacob Prex, Zach White

WPSCA All-Section – Owen Ali, Connor Mackrell, Fynn O'Donnell, Jacob Prex, Zach White

WPSCA All-Section Honorable Mention – Chase Lively

WPSCA Section Player of the Year – Jacob Prex

WPSCA Section Coach of the Year – George Williams

Additional Honors – Girls Soccer

WPHSGSCA All-WPIAL – Joslyn Grillo, Anna Iaquinta, Sydney Postler, Lexi Smith

WPHSGSCA All-Section – Dani DeFanti, Joslyn Grillo, Anna Iaquinta, Sydney Postler, Lexi Smith, Izzy Yuhouse

Additional Honors – Girls Volleyball

WPIAL GVCA All-WPIAL – Kennedy Hummert (1st Team), Cami Mueller (1st Team), Addison Corbett (2nd Team), Sheridan Gallagher (2nd Team)

WPIAL GVCA All-Section – Kennedy Hummert (1st Team), Cami Mueller (1st Team), Addison Corbett (2nd Team), Sheridan Gallagher (2nd Team), Mackenzie Kohler (3rd Team), Payton Fisher (3rd Team), Lila Skarbek (3rd Team), Molly Thompson (3rd Team)

SENECA VALLEY ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, OCTOBER 2026

Sponsored by Crunch Fitness – Fusing Fitness with Entertainment in a #NoJudgment Environment

Cranberry Location Opening Soon.



The Crunch Fitness Female Athlete of the Month for October was senior girls soccer player Sydney Postler. A goalkeeper, Sydney had a stellar year between the posts, contributing to a stingy Raider defense that gave up 10 goals on the season and 6 goals when she was in net. In 17 games played, she totaled 10 shutouts and .352 goals against average. Sydney's efforts were recognized by area coaches as she was named First Team All-Section and First Team All-WPIAL. We recognized Sydney as the October Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Sydney!



The Crunch Fitness Male Athlete of the Month for October was boys cross-country runner Ian Wahl. A senior, Ian paced the Raiders on the trails, finishing within the top three of all Seneca Valley runners in each race. At the prestigious HOKA Showcase, Ian placed 116th out of 422 runners. He helped the Raider's win the Grove City Invitational with a seventh-place finish and then went on to finish in 11th place at the section championships. His running form carried into the postseason where he finished 21st out of 225 runners at the 2026 WPIAL 3A Cross-Country Championships, to qualify for states. Ian left his best for last, running a season best time of 16:29 to finish 65th out of 239 runners at the PIAA Championships. For an impressive season, we recognized Ian as the October Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Ian!

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

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

Cranberry Psychological Center
Cranberry Psychological Center
"Don't play games with your family's emotional health.
www.cranberrypsychcenter.com

Crunch Fitness – Athlete of the Month Sponsor
"Fusing Fitness with Entertainment in a #NoJudgment Environment"

Cranberry Location opening soon.
www.crunch.com

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED IN SPRING SPORTS

The Big 56 Conference recently announced its fall sport honorees in football, boys and girls soccer and girls volleyball and the Raiders were well represented. The following Seneca Valley student-athletes were recognized by the Big 56 Conference for their excellence on the field and court.

FOOTBALL

1st Team	*2nd Team*
Julian Hunt, DB	Rory O'Shea, WR
	Ryland Kelly, OT

BOYS SOCCER

1st Team	*2nd Team*	*Coach of the Year*
Chase Lively, Def	Owen Ali, Mid	George Williams
Fynn O'Donnell, Def	Kyle DeMaster, GK	
Jacob Prex, Mid	Connor Mackrell, Mid	
Zach White, Mid	Luke West, Def	

GIRLS SOCCER

1st Team	*2nd Team*
Joslyn Grillo, Def	Addison Cravotta, Def
Sydney Postler, GK	Leah D'Amico, Mid
Lexi Smith, Mid	

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

1st Team	*2nd Team*
Kennedy Hummert, Lib	Addison Corbett, OH
Cami Mueller, OH	Payton Fisher, RS
Sheridan Gallagher, Set	
Mackenzie Kohler, Lib	

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2027

Raider student-athletes have recently made their college commitment official, officially signing to attend their college of choice. We congratulate our seniors for achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. You are 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
Julia Valasek	Softball	Stonehill College	Political Science/Business

SV SOCCER ALUMNI NAMED ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to Brynn Houser, SV Class of 2026, on being named Thiel College Student-Athlete of the Week for her contributions as a soccer player and as a campus leader. Brynn has had a historic collegiate season at Thiel, ranking among the program's best in shutouts, wins and goals-against average (GAA). Congratulations, Brynn!



SUCCESSFUL STRIDES: HONORING SGT. RYAN GLOYER

Photos courtesy of
Chris Leisie and GCXC Race Timing

Over 500 people joined together for the fourth annual SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial 5K Run/Walk to honor the life and legacy of fallen hometown hero, Sgt. 1st Class Ryan A. Gloyer (SV '00) who courageously made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Presented by Westinghouse and hosted by the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF), this year's event welcomed hundreds of participants, families and community members and paid tribute to Sgt. Gloyer's work ethic and resilience.

The record-setting proceeds from the race will support continued educational initiatives at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), that reflect Ryan's commitment to fitness, inclusiveness, perseverance and kindness, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire others.

On Nov. 2, RGMS seventh and eighth graders gathered for their annual assembly to learn firsthand about the student and soldier for which their building was named.

During the assembly, Ryan's father, brother and a retired Green Beret from the 10th Special Forces Group shared stories highlighting Ryan's perseverance, selflessness, pursuit of excellence, aspirations to become a teacher, and the lasting impact he had on those around him.

Many thanks to the SVF for a successful and inspirational event! Congratulations to SV senior Chase LaPaglia on his first-place finish!

We, again, wish to extend our sincere thanks to all participants, sponsors, donors and the entire SV community for their support.

Visit **SFC Ryan Gloyer Memorial Run** to view a gallery of images.

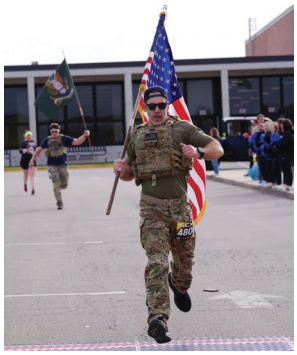










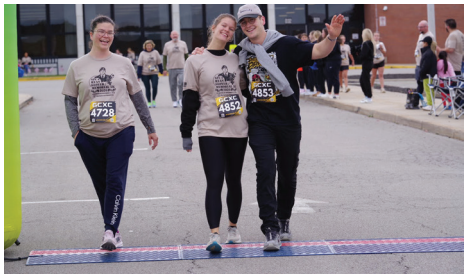














FALCONS SWOOP TO THE FARM

Ryan Gloyer Middle School students on the Falcon Team recently traded the classroom for the farm! Led by Seneca Valley Outdoor Education teachers Mr. KC Cahall and Mr. Zeke Stroup, 115 students spent the day at Powell Farm exploring, learning and enjoying the great outdoors.

Students rotated through a variety of stations, including a nature hike focused on cover cropping, wildlife habitat and erosion. They also learned about the history and current operations of Powell Farm, explored ongoing research, discovered the importance of honeybees and wetlands, and wrapped up the morning with yard games.

The fun continued with s'mores, archery tag and pumpkin picking, with some students taking home pumpkins weighing more than 65 pounds!

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











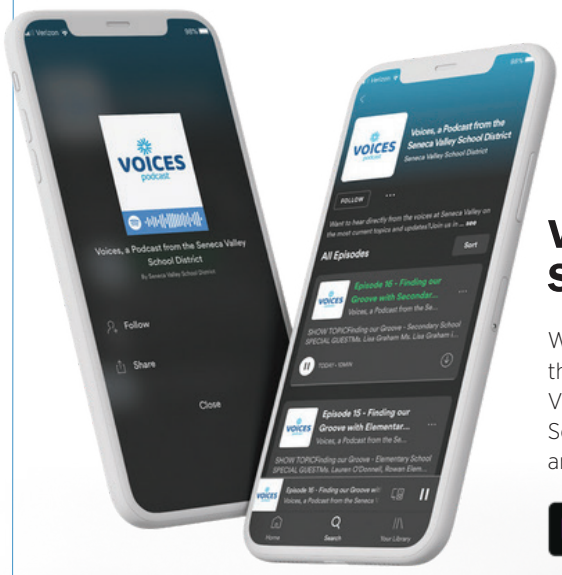




VOICES

A podcast from the Seneca Valley School District

Check out our latest podcast featuring Ms. Quincy Gildea, SV Director of Advancement & Strategic Partnerships, as she discuss the mission of the Seneca Valley Foundation, how it supports student programming and ways to get involved. Listen to our podcast here.



Voices, a Podcast from the Seneca Valley School District

Want to hear directly from the voices at Seneca Valley on the most current topics and updates? Join us in listening to Voices, a podcast brought to you by the Seneca Valley School District. This podcast interviews guests who share an inside look at what is happening at SV.

Listen on Apple Podcasts | Listen on Spotify | Listen on Google Podcasts

STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION

Annual Support Campaign 2026

The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) is excited to launch its Annual Support Campaign and hopes to have your support as we wrap up our thirteenth year of enhancing the educational experience at Seneca Valley School District. We are proud to have invested over $65,000 in the 2025-26 school year and are eager to do more. We know that strong futures are built on solid foundations and we ask that you help us get to our year-end giving goal of $50,000 to STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION at SV. Donations can be made through our Zeffy page or by mailing a check payable to the Seneca Valley Foundation to the district's central office. The SVF is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



SV ALL-STAR

For November, we are pleased to announce Ms. Lisa Ridenour, an administrative assistant at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), as the newest member of the SV All-Star Club.

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.

When you visit Ryan Gloyer Middle School, chances are Ms. Ridenour will be one of the first people you encounter. As a welcoming face of the building, she greets students each morning, welcomes families and helps everyone feel at home. In addition to managing the school's attendance for approximately 1,200 students, Ms. Ridenour also plays an important role in maintaining a safe and secure building through her work at the school's main entrance.

However, her contributions to RGMS extend well beyond her daily responsibilities. She volunteers her time to photograph school events, manages the middle school yearbook and coordinates school picture day. She also gives up evenings to support student



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

activities, including Pajama Rama, and is always willing to lend a hand wherever she is needed.

"Lisa is quite literally the face of our building, but what makes her so special is everything she does beyond her job description," said Dr. Trisha Butschle, Principal at Ryan Gloyer Middle School. "She is someone who always steps up, often without being asked. Whether she is photographing school events, supporting student activities or helping strengthen our relationships with families, Lisa gives so much of herself to our school community."

Ms. Ridenour's connection to Seneca Valley runs deep. All of her children attended the District, and she has built lasting relationships with families throughout the community. She previously served as president of the RGMS PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization), serving in that role even after her own children moved on to high school. Today, she remains actively involved through her support of the Gloyer Allies parent and family group.

Her commitment to students also extends beyond the school day. Ms. Ridenour coaches both girls volleyball and softball, helping young athletes develop confidence, character, resilience and teamwork. Whether working with students in the office, supporting families or coaching on the field and court, she consistently finds ways to make a positive difference.

"Lisa has an incredible way of knowing what others need, whether it's an extra set of hands, a listening ear or even a piece of chocolate at just the right moment," Dr. Butschle added. "She is a wonderful teammate who brings laughter, kindness and a genuine willingness to help our office each day. We are incredibly fortunate to have her as part of the RGMS family."

Ms. Ridenour's dedication, generosity and genuine care for students, colleagues and families embody the spirit of the SV All-Star Club. Her many contributions to Ryan Gloyer Middle School and the greater Seneca Valley community make her a deserving recipient of this month's recognition.

'I LED THE PLEDGE'

For the eighth year, elementary students from Seneca Valley's K-6 schools are appearing at school board meetings, leading the members of the School Board and public in saying "The Pledge of Allegiance."

For the Nov. 2 work session meeting, we were joined by Ehrman Crest Elementary fourth grader Thiago Do Couto Rivera. Nominated by school principals Dr. Bridget Miller and Ms. Tesin Amoscato, Thiago enjoys science, art and playing soccer. He aspires to be an engineer when he grows up.



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

The Nov. 9 regular session meeting featured Haine Elementary first grader Aaira Sheikh. A bright and avid learner, Aaira's favorite subjects in school are math and physical education. When she grows up, Aaira wants to be a firefighter so she can help people.



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

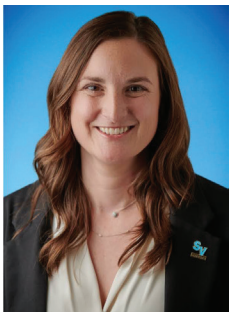
SV ADMINISTRATOR NAMED FELLOW IN NATIONAL PROGRAM

Seneca Valley Director of Student Services, Dr. Cassandra Doggrell, has been selected as a fellow in the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) SEL Fellows Academy.

The CASEL SEL Fellows Academy is a 10-month national leadership program that brings together education leaders from across the country to strengthen their expertise in social and emotional learning (SEL). Through professional development and collaboration, fellows deepen their knowledge, share best practices and advance the implementation of SEL in schools and communities.

"Social and emotional learning plays an important role in supporting the whole child and creating school environments where all students can thrive," Dr. Doggrell said. "I am excited for the opportunity to learn alongside other educational leaders and bring new ideas and perspectives back to Seneca Valley."

As Seneca Valley's Director of Student Services, Dr. Doggrell oversees special education, gifted education, school counseling and health services. She began her career at Seneca Valley in 2010 as an Autism and Emotional Support teacher at Rowan Elementary School and has since served in several administrative roles, including principal of Haine Middle School and assistant principal at Evans City and Haine Middle Schools.



Dr. Doggrell earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as master's degrees in educational administration from Duquesne University and special education from Waynesburg University.

ON SITE

A group of SV seniors interested in engineering, construction and project management was hosted by Massaro Construction Corporation for a tour of the Intermediate High School construction site. Students heard from Mr. Ryan Cole, Senior Construction Project Manager, about the ins and outs of the project and how different careers come together to make the project a reality!











CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Students in Mr. Nicholas Palermo's AP U.S. Government and Politics class welcomed government affairs counselor Ms. Tracy Lawless who provided valuable insights into career opportunities in public policy and politics.

With more than 30 years in the industry, Ms. Lawless shared her experiences working with lawmakers to shape public policy at the federal, state and local levels. Thank you, Mr. Palermo and Ms. Lawless, for bringing classroom learning to life, connecting students with real-world applications to their studies and inspiring them to explore career opportunities!





HAPPENINGS AT SV'S LIGHT CENTER

The Seneca Valley Intermediate High School LIGHT Center was buzzing last month with engaging activities and meaningful moments.

Over the week of Oct. 26-30, students honored the victims of the shooting that took place at the Tree of Life Synagogue by creating a butterfly mural. A heartfelt gesture of remembrance, the mural features colorful butterflies with messages of hope and support.

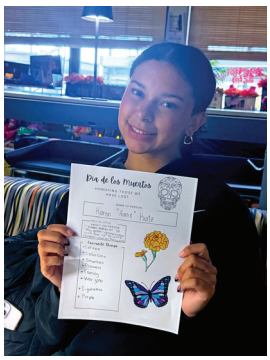
Students also learned about Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and created vibrant Ofrendas that were proudly displayed during a visit from Spanish classes. An Ofrenda is an altar, traditional to Mexico, that honors and celebrates the memories of departed loved ones.

Ending the week on a high note, senior LIGHT ambassador Leah Boston led students in some Halloween fun. Students learned the history of many Halloween traditions and fun facts and enjoyed dressing in their favorite costumes.





















PREPPING FOR POLLINATORS

Biology Club students recently took their studies outdoors with help from Mr. Ryan Harr of the Butler County Conservation District. Mr. Harr shared insights into careers in environmental science and government agencies before helping students prepare a space behind Ryan Gloyer Middle School for a pollinator garden that will be planted this spring.

The team also got the area ready for winter by cleaning the bluebird boxes and investigating what other species may have made them home!





28th Annual Seneca Valley

Senior Holiday Event

Monday, Dec. 21

12:30–3 p.m.

(Doors open at noon)

Steamfitters Event Center

232 Wise Rd,
Harmony, PA 16037

This FREE festive holiday presentation is open to senior citizens living in the Seneca Valley School community. Performances from the Seneca Valley Jazz band, Madrigal Singers and Chamber Orchestra will take place in the event center.

The National Honor Society will assist serving a buffet-style holiday meal following the performances.

Extra assistance will be provided by members of the SV JROTC.

RSVPs are required by Dec. 11. For more information or to RSVP, attendees are asked to please call 724-452-6040, ext. 0

Heather Efaw, SV '00, is a specialist in health and nutrition and a U.S. Air Force Veteran. She is a valued participant in the annual Seneca Valley Veteran Recognition Event. 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.

A: I serve as the Health and Nutrition Specialist for Early Learning Connections, supporting children and families across Armstrong, Butler and Indiana Counties. In this role, I promote health and wellness initiatives, provide nutrition education and ensure compliance with health and nutrition standards across our early childhood programs.

Early Learning Connections is a private, non-profit organization and academic school dedicated to enriching the lives of children and families since 1973. Our mission is: *"To provide a variety of high-quality early learning programs that foster a safe and positive culture through kindness and respect to meet the comprehensive needs of families."*

Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of parents and community leaders, Early Learning Connections is committed to delivering high-quality early childhood education and family support services throughout the region.

As the grantee agency for the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in Butler, Armstrong and Indiana Counties, Early Learning Connections also administers Pre-K Counts, the Infant Toddler Contracted Slots Program, and serves as the Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) Region 3. Through these programs, the organization provides comprehensive educational, health, nutrition and family support services designed to promote school readiness and strengthen families and communities.

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

A: Family is one of my greatest blessings. I am married and grateful to share



my life with my husband and my two wonderful stepchildren.

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

A: I am a proud United States Air Force veteran. While military service taught me discipline, resilience and confidence, I still maintain a healthy respect—and slight fear—of heights.

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

A: Growing up and attending Seneca Valley wasn't always easy. The school's size and social dynamics could sometimes make it challenging to find your place. Fortunately, I was surrounded by caring teachers who invested in me, loyal friends who supported me and a community that encouraged me to keep moving forward. Because of their influence, I learned to focus on what truly mattered and gained the confidence to pursue any dream I set my mind to. Looking back, those experiences helped me grow and become the person I am today.

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

A: While not every experience is perfect, there are many opportunities if you're willing to learn how to navigate the challenges and take advantage of the resources available to you.



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

A: Coach Wayne Roccia and Coach Robert Harsh, along with Dr. McDonald, Ms. Slaven, Mrs. Scoble, Mrs. Paul and Mr. Russo.

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: Trying to jump-start our night crawlers in tenth-grade biology with Dr. McDonald and my 11th-grade Nutrition Education Class.

Looking back, both these memories planted the seeds for my future career, fostering a passion for health, wellness and serving others that ultimately led me to Health and Nutrition.

One of my most memorable experiences was when Ms. Slaven took our fifth grade class to the 911th Airlift Wing, where we had the opportunity to tour a C-130 aircraft. Coming from a military family, I was familiar with military service, but Ms. Slaven was the first woman I personally knew who was serving in the Armed Forces. When she was deployed during the final months of the school year, it left a lasting impression on me. Her dedication, leadership and service broadened my perspective and showed me that women could successfully serve their country while making a meaningful impact on the lives of others.



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

A: I believe we need to do more to encourage students to explore careers in the skilled trades. While college is an excellent path for many, it is not the only path to success. Trade and technical education provide valuable opportunities for rewarding, in-demand careers, and we should help students understand and appreciate the important role these professions play in our communities and economy.

I believe it is important to encourage young people to study history and think critically about the information they receive. In today's world, it is easy to rely solely on news headlines, social media or the opinions of others. However, history provides valuable context and lessons that help us better understand the present. Self-education, independent research and a willingness to explore multiple perspectives are essential skills that empower individuals to become informed, thoughtful citizens.

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

A: Seneca Valley has come a long way from the old stereotypes of "farmers" or "snobbish." Today, it's a large and diverse district made up of students from many different communities and backgrounds. What makes it special is that it's truly a place for everyone. Whether your interests are academics, athletics, the arts, skilled trades or something entirely unique, there are opportunities to find your people and pursue your passions.





BE SAFE SHOPPING ONLINE

Online shopping is more prevalent than ever. Make sure to do everything you can to avoid becoming a victim of cybercrime:

1. **Secure mobile devices and computers.** Keep the operating system and application software updated/patched on all of your computers and mobile devices. Also be sure to check that any antivirus/antispyware software installed is running and receiving automatic updates.
2. **Limit your online shopping to merchants you know and trust.** If you know the store, shopping their online store is very safe. If you have issues, you can always visit the brick-and-mortar store. But, if you don't know the store, be weary. Especially ads for stores that pop up on social media sites. It may be legit but take precautions. Conduct your own background check by checking with the Better Business Bureau or the Federal Trade Commission, or at online sites that review e-stores. If the store isn't reviewed or doesn't have good reviews, don't order from their website.
3. **Look for "https" when making an online purchase.** The "s" in "https" stands for "secure" and indicates that communication with the webpage is encrypted. If you submit your credit card information through a website, make sure the site is secure. Look for a padlock or key icon in the browser's status bar and "https" appears in the website's address bar before making an online purchase. Also keep your browser software up to date.
4. **Password protect your mobile device and computer.** It's one of the most important steps to secure your mobile device and computer. When you create an account with the merchant, be sure to use a strong password. Use at least eight characters, with numbers, special characters, and upper and lowercase letters.



5. **Do not respond to offers that seem too good to be true.** An online store whose prices seem too good to be true, or that promises too much at too low a price is suspicious. The online store may not have come by these items legally, or you may never receive them, or you may get a bait and switch and end up with something you didn't order.
6. **Avoid scams and fraud.** Don't ever give your financial information or personal information over email or text. If you receive an email asking for donations, contact the organization directly to verify the request.
7. **Do not use public computers or public wireless for your online shopping.** Public computers may contain malicious software that steals your credit card information when you shop online. Criminals can also intercept traffic on public wireless networks to steal credit card numbers and other confidential information.
8. **Pay by credit card, not debit card.** It's safer to shop on the internet with a credit card rather than debit card. Credit cards are protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act and may reduce your liability if your information was used improperly.
9. **Print your online transactions.** Print or save records of your online transactions, including the product description and price, the online receipt, and the emails you send and receive from the seller. Carefully review your credit card statements as soon as you receive them to confirm that all charges are legitimate. Contact your credit card company immediately if you have unauthorized charges on your account.
10. **Review privacy policies.** Review the privacy policy for the website/merchant you are visiting. Know what information the merchant is collecting about you, how it will be stored, how it will be used, and if it will be shared with others.

Information provided by **Be Safe Shopping Online - Armco Credit Union.**

- Check out the great things happening at SV's Raider Roast in this recent article: High school cafe: Behind the scenes of Seneca Valley's Raider Roast – Cranberry Eagle.
- We're proud to share that Ehrman Crest Elementary and Middle School have been selected by Remake Learning as one of 57 innovations to shape learning in the Pittsburgh region. The project, The 57: Remake Learning in Pittsburgh and Beyond, highlights inspiring ideas from across the region that are rethinking how learning happens. Congratulations to our Seneca Valley students and staff who continue to remake learning!
- Teacher Nominations - WTAE-TV launched their Teacher of the Month recognition program for the 2026-27 school year. Each month, from September through May, a teacher will be selected from the many deserving submissions that they receive. The selected teacher will receive a $1,000 credit to donorschoose.org, a crowd-sourcing page for classroom project/program funding. In addition, Pittsburgh's Action News 4 will feature that teacher and their story (and possibly a surprise school visit) during a news broadcast, as well as on social media. Nomination information can be found at WTAE Teacher of the Month 2026 - 2027.
- All students in Pennsylvania public schools, including Seneca Valley, will once again have access to free breakfast for the 2026-27 school year, regardless of family income. Encourage your student(s) to stop for a full breakfast or various grab-and-go items. If you think you might be eligible for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals, we encourage you to fill out a Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application as many programs are connected to your child[ren]'s eligibility. Please return it to the Seneca Valley Administration Office with attention to Faye Nelson. Applications can be found at www.svsd.net/FreeandReduced.
- 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!

Subscribe
TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
@SENECAVALLEYSD

- 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

care/solace

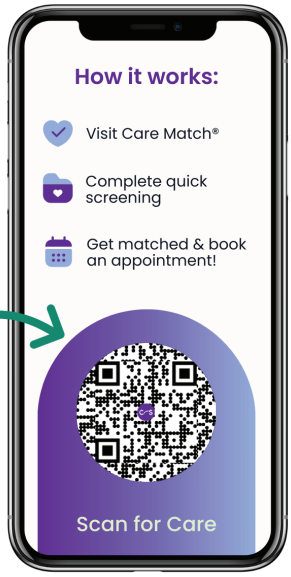
It's okay to ask for help.

Save our number! (888) 515-0595

Care Solace is a free, confidential service that connects students, staff and their families to mental health providers, substance use treatment – regardless of their circumstance.

This service is available through your school district at no cost to you.

To get started, scan the code or visit this link:
caresolace.com/seneca



If you have a life-threatening emergency, please call 911 or the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988. Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider.

urban Air ADVENTURE PARK

BLACK FRIDAY 2026

GIVE THE GIFT OF UNLIMITED ADVENTURE

URBANAIRCRANBERRY.COM

UNLIMITED PLAY WINTER PASS

BUY EARLY, PLAY MORE

BUY BY DEC 1
PLAY THRU FEB 10, 2027

PLAY ALL WINTER

HOLIDAY HANGOUT*

PARTY OF 5 AT A TABLE

PARTY OF 5 AT A TABLE
+ 5 ICEES
+ CHURRO PLATTER

SNACKS AND ICEES INCLUDED

BUY 3 GET 3

FREE TICKETS

BUY 3, GET 3
TOP-TIER TICKETS

VALID 45 DAYS

GIFT CARDS

GIFT UNLIMITED ADVENTURE BONUS UP TO $100

BUY $50 GET $10
$100 GET $25
$150 GET $50
$250 GET $100

UNLEASH THE FUN

*Not Valid with Promo Codes. Restrictions May Apply.

"Hands down, best job ever"

$200 HIRING BONUS!

// Get interviewed & hired by December 31, then stay on the team for at least 90 days to qualify! APPLY ONLINE NOW!//

Urban Air Cranberry // 351 American Way Cranberry Township, PA // (412) 218-0604