Hello, summer!

Haine Elementary staff are seen here waving good-bye to students on the last day of school. And while summer is officially in full swing and seems like a time to sit back and relax, Seneca Valley already has multiple projects underway in anticipation for the 2017-18 school year. See below for some of the activities going on over the summer:

• The Seneca Valley Academy of Choice is offering summer and musician camps including photography, gaming and art camps, as well as a dance intensive, robotics camp and a Building Foundations of Algebra course. For more information visit: www.svsd.net/SVSummerCamps.

• The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is available to low-income families to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. To find a meal location near you, visit: https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program.

• Construction on Seneca School Road Bridge has officially begun. Therefore, an alternating one-lane traffic pattern will be maintained with temporary traffic signals and may cause slight delays. Please allow for extra travel time when driving to and from campus. For more local PennDOT project updates, visit http://www.twp.cranberry.pa.us/2542/PennDOT-Projects.

• Summer construction for each of our buildings has also started. It will be a busy summer for the Buildings and Grounds Department with some projects that include HVAC installation at CVE and Rowan, masonry repairs at CVE, repairing and replacing the tennis courts on the secondary campus and repairing the roof in various locations at Haine Elementary, Evans City Elementary and Seneca Valley Middle School.

First Day Reminder!

2017-18 First Day of School
Tuesday, September 5
More dates can be found on our homepage at www.svsd.net.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

2017-18 Final Budget

The 2017-18 Seneca Valley Final Budget was adopted by the Seneca Valley School Board on June 12, 2017. Please click here to view the final budget document.

Fourth nine weeks Honor Rolls

The 2016-17 fourth nine weeks Honor Rolls for grades 7-12 can now be viewed at www.svsd.net/HonorRoll.
Seneca Valley said farewell to staff members at a retirement luncheon held on June 6. A combined total of approximately 460 years of service to Seneca Valley, these 18 individuals represent the teaching, administrative, secretarial and cafeteria staff, and will be missed by many.

**SV bids fond farewell**

The 2016-17 Seneca Valley retirees are:

- Sydney Bookbinder, Seneca Valley Senior High School, 35 years of service
- Monica Dorsch, Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School, 33.70 years of service
- Lynn Dobrick, Rowan Elementary School, 24.25 years of service
- Susan Ennis, Seneca Valley Middle School, 35 years of service
- Sue Harmon, Seneca Valley Senior High School, 21 years of service
- Susan Kastner, Seneca Valley Senior High School, 7 years of service
- Deborah Kennedy, Seneca Valley Senior High School, 34.50 years of service
- Norma Magerko, Seneca Valley District Administration Center, 25 years of service
- Peter Moskos, Evans City Elementary School, 11 years of service
- Raymond Peaco, Seneca Valley Senior High School, 33 years of service
- Janet Popa, Seneca Valley District Administration Center, 26.75 years of service
- Diane Repp, Rowan Elementary School, 30.50 years of service
- Gail Simpson, Seneca Valley Senior High School, 36 years of service
- Joyce Sterba, Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School, 23.50 years of service
- Hillis Tinglum, Seneca Valley Senior High School, 4 years of service
- George Trew, Seneca Valley Middle School, 25 years of service
- Judith Williams, Rowan Elementary School, 22 years of service
- Robin Wuchina, Seneca Valley Senior High School, 32 years of service

*continued on page 3*
SV bids fond farewell continued

I recently saw an old friend and former Seneca Valley teacher while shopping. He asked how I felt about my final days before retirement. My tears were more numerous than my words. His response was, “It's OK to cry. I cried, too, on my way out the door. Just enjoy every day.” I made it my mission to truly enjoy every day. The joy experienced during my remaining days at Rowan Elementary School comes directly from interactions with fellow staff members, my “Rowan Family.” They have been MY family for 25 years, since the days of Principal Jerry Fouse. My Rowan Family, past and present, is one who shares kindness, love and respect. These special traits, along with hard work and commitment to our students, have allowed Rowan to be a great place to learn and work. Carry on, Family. Remember the past and embrace the future.

Robin Wuchina, Seneca Valley Senior High School English Teacher

“Seneca Valley has been my other home for the past 32 years and leaving here is bittersweet. There are so many people with whom I have shared many life experiences through laughter and tears, and I have made dear friends with both faculty and students. Teaching requires a lot of giving of one's self, and it is the most rewarding job however, exhausting! Even though I have seen many changes in education from mimeographs and chalkboards to flash drives and Smartboards, children still have the same needs. We can change the jargon about education and use new tools, but it comes down to loving kids and loving your subject. It has been an amazing career, but it's time for new experiences and challenges. Good luck to all the new teachers starting their journey in Seneca Valley School District.”

Lynn Dobrick, Rowan Elementary School Nurse

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Judi Williams, Rowan Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher

“My teaching career began in Ohio when I was 22 years old. My journey through education took me across two states, six school districts, and 11 schools. When I secured a position with the Seneca Valley Schools I found my home. It has been my pleasure working the last 24 years of my 38-year career in the amazing Seneca Valley School District. I am passing the torch to exceptional teachers with a passion for teaching that will continue to spread like hot coals ready to kindle and light new learning fires. I have been so honored to call them colleagues. The District is in good hands. I am grateful to have found a wonderful place of employment, my home, Seneca Valley Schools.”

Gail Simpson, Seneca Valley Senior High School Family and Consumer Science Teacher

“As a young teacher right out of college, I really didn’t know much about Southwest Butler which was the name of the district at that time. My only familiar landmark around Seneca Valley School was Baldinger’s Food from All Nations which had been there since 1933. What I did learn was that the average class size at the time was about 350 students per class, there were a lot of local farms, the intersection of Route 19 and 228 were known as Criders Corner, students got in trouble from their parents for calling their friends only a mile down the road because it was a toll call and that new teachers got to ride a bus around the perimeter of the school district known as the “two hour tour”. As a new hire, I realized that my career would be set in motion hopefully for many years to come. I feel that teaching is much more complex than those outside the education system can imagine. Hours are spent in designing and adapting learning activities to help students at various learning curves, not to mention grading assignments. As I better knew my students, I was able to lend a helping hand and encouragement needed for success. Coaching track, making costumes for plays, ski club sponsor, Raiderthon chaperone and FCCLA sponsor were more ways I was able to connect with students. Just as technology is continually changing so did my courses and teaching. I was certainly proud to successfully complete Harvard and Magill University online courses that helped the Family and Consumer Science department create two new STEM classes. As I have always told my students, I am still learning and do so each day. As my students left on the last day, it really hit me that I would not be seeing their familiar faces next year and I was a bit choked up. This District is where I started as a new teacher, grew as a teacher and now retire as a teacher. I am leaving for summer vacation and I think only when it is time for the next new school year to begin that I will truly understand what it will mean to retire and make a new chapter in my life. Now, over three decades later I thank you for the great opportunity to be a part of a growing and an innovative district and may you continue to flourish and develop for years to come.”
Sue Harmon, Seneca Valley Senior High School Family and Consumer Science and Preschool Teacher

“As I watched my last preschool class leave, I recalled many memories of high school and preschool students interacting and having fun. I have had preschool children become high school students and high school students come back as preschool parents! The magic part for me has been seeing the positive effects from the relationships between the high school and preschool students. The preschool children receive love and respect from the high school students and the high school students gain a sense of accomplishment from working with the children. Both groups need that validation and it is magical that they give it to each other. I appreciate Seneca Valley’s culture that enabled this to happen and am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this program. I will miss my high school students, preschool students, and all of my preschool parents!”

Sydney Bookbinder, Seneca Valley Senior High School English Teacher

“It is truly an honor to have spent the last 35 years here at Seneca Valley. I started working in this district when I was just 20 years old, and I have had the privilege of teaching approximately 6,500 students in this wonderful community where I have raised my own daughters. As I have gotten closer and closer to retirement, I have often wondered if I had ever made a big difference in the life of a child. A few weeks ago, I got my answer. The father of a former student told me that he had waited 20 years for an opportunity to thank me for changing the course of his son’s life. I want families to know that the students are the ones who change their teachers’ lives. I have the greatest job in the world, and it is both sad and exciting to move onto a new chapter in my life.”

Deb Kennedy, Seneca Valley Senior High School English Teacher

“Over the years, Seneca Valley has provided me with many opportunities to grow as an educator and share these experiences with students. When I was first hired as a secondary English teacher, I was also responsible for producing the district-wide newspaper, advising the high school newspaper (The Seneca Scout) and advising the high school literary magazine (The Raider Review). These publications gave me the opportunity to work with students in a hands-on environment where they could gain practical experience and increase their knowledge of journalism and photography. These publications won numerous local, state and national awards. Hundreds of Seneca Valley students won individual awards for their work on these publications and several even won scholarships. Many students were inspired to follow a career in journalism, photography and art. I also had the privilege of advising the Seneca Valley International Thespian Society Troupe. I was able to plan and execute many trips to New York City for students to experience some of the best theater the world has to offer on the Broadway stage. One of my favorite memories of these trips was a back stage tour of “Wicked” where the students all met Kristen Chenoweth who originated the Broadway role of Glinda. She was so gracious and took the time to pose for a photograph with each student, and she is actually shorter than me! I have enjoyed helping to develop Senior Project from a concept to what it is today. It has been extremely rewarding working with seniors and helping them develop an idea that challenged them to leave their comfort zone and take ownership of a meaningful project. The highlight of the process was seeing the pride these seniors felt as they shared their success with their classmates and a board of judges. Through teaching Honors British Literature, I have been able to lead groups of students and parents on life changing adventures to Europe. Being able to travel through Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, France and Italy has made me a better teacher. Some of my favorite memories from these trips include visiting the birthplace and home of William Shakespeare at Stratford-upon-Avon, visiting his grave at Trinity Church and seeing his memorial in Poet’s Corner in Westminster Abbey in London. It is one thing to teach about Shakespeare in the classroom, but it is a different level of teaching to take students to these historical places. Another highlight was participating in a workshop conducted by a member of the Globe Theater Acting Company held at the Globe Theatre. I will always remember sharing with students the experience of seeing a Shakespearean play performed at the Globe Theatre in London. Looking back, my years at Seneca Valley have been filled with wonderful memories of students, colleagues and experiences.”

Sue Ennis, Seneca Valley Middle School Librarian and Media Specialist

“I was fortunate and blessed to obtain a full-time teaching job at Seneca Valley immediately after college. And now, I am proud that all of my 35 years of teaching have been served at Seneca Valley Middle School! The evolution of this school district into a dynamic educational institution throughout the years has been inspiring. I have witnessed so many changes in the classroom; I believe strongly in the middle school philosophy for young teens. I am appreciative of the wonderful opportunities to teach and to coach students – so many great memories of encouraging them to strive for excellence in the classroom as well as on the track, field, and basketball court! Seneca Valley has also offered me the chance to develop best practices for instruction and take on leadership roles within my school. Taking advantage of opportunities has been a theme during my teaching; I encourage all SV students, faculty, and their families to look for the opportunities in life, weigh your choices, and live your dreams.”
Evans City celebrated the 10th Anniversary of S.T.O.M.P. Out Cancer — a campaign to raise monies for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute for cancer research — with each Seneca Valley Elementary School, grades K-6, participating in a S.T.O.M.P walk the week of May 8-11.

Over 4,000 students and staff took turns walking around the building at different times throughout the day to help raise money and awareness for cancer. Many completed their walk carrying banners and signs, and wearing messages on their T-shirts. This year, Seneca Valley Elementary Schools raised $33,412.86. In total, $174,068.69 has gone to the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) for cancer research.

In a culminating activity to celebrate ten years of S.T.O.M.P, a free Concert in the Park was held on May 31 that featured SV student performance groups and the Skipper Johnson Band. The family event, held at Zelienople Community Park Grounds and Amphitheater, offered a variety of food vendors and was a great success! All proceeds went to the UPCI Saulle endowment.

This walk began in 2008 in memory of a Kindergarten teacher, Linda Saulle, who taught at Evans City Elementary and lost her battle with cancer in 2007. Today it honors all families touched by this disease throughout our local area. To learn more, view the video here.
Seneca Valley students in grades K-6 participated in their school’s field days in late May. Student classrooms worked as teams that emphasized sportsmanship, cooperation and social skills, all while having fun.
**Diving in**

Before students “dive” into summer vacations, they received a lesson.

The Seneca Valley School District and communities of Cranberry Township, Evans City Borough and Zelienople Borough and with the assistance of the SV Swim Club, taught each of the elementary schools students (grades 1-4) about water safety at the end of May.

Students participated in an educational trip to one of the community pools for dry land water safety training. The lifeguard staff of these pools assisted members of the Physical Education Department on their presentations that included safety around bodies of water, how to get help in a water emergency situation, and weather safety around water.

**Girls on the Run!**

“Who runs the world? Girls!”

Who runs 5Ks? Rowan’s “Girls on the Run” Team!

Rowan Elementary third and fourth grade female students, as well as Seneca Valley Cross Country athletes Cassie Kirsch and Kara Ristey, ran together in the “Girls On the Run!” (GOTR) 5K Race at Hartwood Acres on May 21.

Prior to the race, the girls trained for ten weeks after school. GOTR coaches Cassie Pencek, Lauren O’Donnell, Beth Allen-Boyle and Mandy Squire, supported the team by inspiring them to recognize their inner strengths and celebrating what makes them one-of-a-kind.

The girls also participated in a community service project that provided books, coloring books and activities for Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Girls on the Run! is a non-profit program for girls in the third through eighth grade. Their mission is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.

**Beach blast**

Haine Middle School departing sixth grade students enjoyed a “Beach Blast” party sponsored by Haine PTO on May 30. This party, thrown annually, wishes students good luck as they transition into seventh grade and onto their next academic journey.
Helping the HSA

Rowan Elementary third graders recently organized several fundraising efforts, including setting up and running several games at the Rowan PTO Carnival, to help the Butler County Humane Society (BCHS). Rowan PTA President Kelly Broecker is seen here with third grade students Lexie Kriznik and Mia Grant as they presented the $150 check to Debbie Algoi of BCHS on May 25.

‘Genius Hour’ produces genius idea

Haine Middle School students thought of a genius way to give back.

Students in Stacey Harding’s sixth grade class used their “Genius Hour” project to donate $674.50 to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital last month.

The group included Alyssa Senka, Karen Malloy, Paige Hohman, and Rachel Henne, who all collected money on various hat days throughout the school year to raise funds.

“Genius Hour” is a movement that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. It provides students a choice in what they learn during a set period of time during school.

“These young ladies went above and beyond in their efforts to raise money,” said Ms. Harding. “I’m quite proud of them!”

Picnic with police

Haine Elementary students from Megan Anderson and Sharon McSwaney’s second grade classes held a “Picnic with the Police” to celebrate their hard work and dedication to our students and school district.

The two classes made a book for the officers, read a poem and all enjoyed lunch together. After the picnic, the officers interacted with students and answered questions.

Rowan Annual Senior Citizen Luncheon

Rowan fourth grade students hosted the Cranberry Township Senior Citizens Club for a luncheon and student performances on May 9. Approximately 45 guests attended this annual event, which featured a Spring Program of songs and activities.

A hop, skip, and a jump to save lives!

Evans City elementary students in grades K-6 jumped in to participate in this year’s American Heart Association Jump Rope for Heart program.

Students had several opportunities over the past few months to raise funds, collect donations, and of course jump rope! In total, students were able to bring in $5,780 and were named one of the top 20 fundraising schools in the region.

Funds collected for the American Heart Association help to support the fight against childhood obesity, heart disease and stroke through education and life-saving research.
Unveiling talent

The Seneca Valley Middle School (SVMS) Art Department hosted the 13th annual Unveiling and Artists’ Reception in the SVMS hallway on May 23.

The reception honored three students including eighth grader Jessica Brezina, and her piece entitled “Mick,” seventh grade student Erin Keppler, and her piece titled “Desert Monster,” and eighth grade student Madison McKenzie, for her piece titled “Pop-verse.”

SVMS art teachers George Williams, Stan Zimmerman and Tabatha Karman, unveiled the artwork to district employees, parents, and community members who celebrated the students’ amazing talent.

The Annual Unveiling and Artists’ Reception began in 2005 and the permanent art collection now fills the entire side of the art classroom hallway.

Speaking the same language

Thirteen Seneca Valley Latin students joined hundreds of students from across the state for a weekend all about Latin.

These students recently attended the 66th annual PA Junior Classical League State Convention at Penn State and brought home nine academic awards, three artistic awards, one athletic award, and earned second place in the Certamen (trivia game) finals.

While there, students participated in spirit competitions, academic testing, track and field events and submitted artistic projects to be judged and displayed.

“The students had a great time, worked hard, and are all looking forward to going back again next year,” exclaimed Sarah Deeds, Seneca Valley Middle School Latin Teacher.

Sole Hope

Tracing denim and cutting fabric doesn’t sound like math class.

But that is exactly what Seneca Valley Middle School (SVMS) Lions Team math classes did May 23-25 as they made shoe parts that were sent to Uganda via a non-profit called Sole Hope. Once delivered, the shoe parts were assembled by village natives for children who would otherwise go without shoes.

“This community service project was aimed at encouraging compassion for others and broadening students’ worldviews,” said Dr. Mary Ellen Williams, SVMS Math Teacher.

Sole Hope is a non-profit organization that provides preventative methods to combat diseases that enter through the feet and creates a positive physical and psychological difference in the lives of individuals in impoverished communities.
Seneca Valley students excelled in local Academic Games tournaments throughout the school year, resulting in 48 students attending the 52nd National Academic Tournament in Wheeling, West Virginia, April 28 – May 1. Several of these individuals brought back national championship titles and top place finishes.

In the competition of Propaganda, a persuasion game, seventh grade student Veronica Pimenova finished third overall in the individual competition.

Eighth grader Brenna Wrubel was on a team that earned fourth place in the competition Propaganda, and finished in sixth place in Theme, a game of a particular historical theme. In addition, she was part of a team with eighth grader Anoop Savio that placed second in Presidents, a game of historical contexts and political events of U.S. presidents.

Sophomore Victoria Beck finished fifth overall individually in Propaganda and was a part of the team that placed sixth in Propaganda along with fellow teammate and sophomore Katie Bablak.

Sophomore Jarrett Johnston was a member of a team that placed seventh in Current Events.

Brian Vogel, sophomore, was a member of the second place teams for the games Theme and Current Events, a game of political and cultural events.

Nationals give students in grades 6-12, a real world experience and an opportunity to test their knowledge against some of the brightest students in the nation. The players at Nationals received recognition and awards in the same way that sports champions are honored. A top 10 finish at Nationals is equivalent to an athlete earning All-American Status.

Academic Games Leagues of America (AGLOA) is dedicated to developing “Thinking Kids” of character, excellence, and integrity. These games challenge students to use higher order thinking skills in the subjects of Language Arts, English, History and Mathematics. Academic Games provides motivation to achieve a goal; to demonstrate determination, creativity and perseverance to overcome challenges; and to understand that hard work and commitment leads to a greater chance of success.

Game on
Wonderful minds in West Virginia
Seneca Valley 2017 Graduate Katie Hickmann and senior Nora Gavaghan have been selected as 2017 Alcoa Scholars and will spend two weeks this summer exploring the natural world in United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) world heritage sites.

The two were chosen from a very competitive applicant pool from Alcoa communities around the globe. Selected candidates were chosen due to a demonstrated passion for the environment, experience in giving back to their community, and a desire to learn more about themselves and the world in a team setting.

“I am extremely excited and humbled to be a part of this Alcoa Scholars Program,” said Miss Hickmann. “It is a great opportunity to meet new people, explore a National Park, and help the environment while learning about it.”

Miss Hickmann will be going on the Shenandoah exploration July 17-29, where she will spend a portion of their time backpacking along the ridge of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Miss Gavaghan will spend time Aug. 6-19 backpacking in Yosemite High Country, exploring terrain and conducting scientific research projects.

“I am honored to receive this opportunity and extremely excited to connect with an international group of environmentally-minded students,” stated Miss Gavaghan.

Scholars will present their research at the conclusion of the program, and return home inspired and empowered to make a difference in their home communities.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced more than 3,200 winners of National Merit Scholarships financed by U.S. colleges and universities, including Seneca Valley’s very own, Danielle Matz. Miss Matz, a recent 2017 graduate and salutatorian, has been offered a National Merit Michigan State University Scholarship.

Officials of each sponsor college selected their scholarship winners from among the Finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program who plan to attend their institution. These awards provide between $500 and $2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship.

This year, 182 higher education institutions are underwriting Merit Scholarship awards through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Sponsor colleges and universities include 103 private and 79 public institutions located in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

Seneca Valley student scholarship winners were recognized at the 2017 Cranberry Township Noon Rotary Club’s Scholarship Awards Banquet on May 11, at the Scholl Conference Center, Passavant Senior Living Community.

Eight individuals, who are now members of the Seneca Valley Class of 2017, were recognized for their academic, extracurricular and volunteer efforts. Surrounded by members of the club, scholarship recipients are (front row, from left): Jacob Gressang, Rachel Hensler, Hollen Davinsizer, Lina DiTullio, Allison Veverka, Urvi Gupta, Megan Stocklas and Kyle Cindrich.

Mr. Cindrich was also recognized as Cranberry Rotary’s 2017 Student of the Year.

Some teenagers can’t wait for Saturday mornings to sleep in or hang out all day; however, the same cannot be said for the 22 Seneca Valley juniors who were recently recognized for their participation in the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute (WSHI).

WSHI, now in its 60th year of operation, consists of 12 Saturday-morning lectures from October through March, on selected topics in science and engineering. The program provides a forum for talented high school juniors to gain exposure to the latest advances in science, technology and engineering.

Students are able to network, gain insight into careers and interact with students from other schools.

The following Seneca Valley juniors were recognized for participating in at least seven of the lectures or six lectures and the optional field trip to Penn State Radiation Science and Engineering Center’s Breazeale Nuclear Reactor:

Erika Bender, Casey Colbert, Alex DeDionsio, Sarah Ditmore, Alex Dixon, Elizabeth Fronk, Alexander Garcia, Sierra Koerbel, Kyler Lin, Ashley Linton, Abby Lizewski, Samantha Mill, Thalia Munoz-Malave, Lindsey Ocheltree, Luke Peffer, Jacob Pfeiffer, Shannon Pfeiffer, Tanner Sherry, Sarah Sweeney, Alina Taylor, Taylor Teitelbaum and Joanna Valentas.

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The Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) Performing Arts dance program performed their spring dance show “Shadows into Light” on May 19-20. After the performance, Ashleigh McClelland Cuteri, Concordia of Cranberry activities and volunteer coordinator shared the following sentiment:

“I just wanted to say thank you for the wonderful show that the Seneca Valley Dance Show put on Saturday night. I brought 12 residents from Concordia of Cranberry and they had the most wonderful time. The boosters did a wonderful job of having the auditorium ready for us with seats that were available for wheelchairs and all the residents were instantly caught up in the moment of the beautiful dancers. At intermission, they thanked us for being there over the loud speakers and at the end of the show, they presented the residents with flowers to bring home with them. I believe almost every dancer came and thanked us for coming. One of my residents commented about how she felt a little like royalty with how we had been treated. It makes me so happy to know that my alma mater is so wonderful to the seniors in our area and I cannot thank you enough for all that you do.”

Seneca Valley fourth and fifth graders are seen here at the first “Singing Saturday” sponsored by the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus on April 8. Students prepared music in advance with their SV teachers and spent the day rehearsing with the larger group. That afternoon they performed a concert for their families at Moon Area Middle School.

Seneca Valley Elementary General/Vocal teachers are Erin Syipien, Joseph Ohodnicki, Louise Ewing, Susan Dinger and Wendy Carson.

A full day of singing, competing and Broadway mock-auditions were just some of the things Seneca Valley 2016-17 sophomore Reagan Curry experienced at the Classical Singer Competition and Convention in Chicago, Illinois May 25-28.

Miss Curry qualified for this event based on her performance at the Classical Singer Competition at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia this past April.

In her second round of competition, Miss Curry sang two songs for the Musical Theatre High School Division along with 75 other singers from all across the U.S. Eighty-five university and college representatives were also in attendance providing feedback to singers.

Miss Curry will now be heading to Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory Summer Institute to study vocal performance and musical theatre July 6-15. This is a 10-day intensive program for high school students who will work side-by-side with Conservatory of Music faculty and current Conservatory students.

Listen to Miss Curry singing during her time at the convention here.

The Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) Performing Arts dance program performed their spring dance show “Shadows into Light” on May 19-20. After the performance, Ashleigh McClelland Cuteri, Concordia of Cranberry activities and volunteer coordinator shared the following sentiment:
Final notes from 2016-17

Lacrosse Players Named All-American
Congratulations to 2017 graduates Karina Latsko and Daniel Rupert named High School All-Americans by USA Lacrosse. Miss Latsko is the first girls’ lacrosse player to receive such honors and she will continue her academic and athletic career at Butler University. Mr. Rupert, who recorded his 100th goal earlier this season, will continue his academic and athletic career at Seton Hall University.

Seneca Valley Honored For Positivity
Congratulations to the Seneca Valley School District and its athletic program for being honored by the Pittsburgh Positive Athlete program as the Most Positive School in the WPIAL for 2016-17. Representing the District at the annual event, sponsored by Hines Ward, were coaches Karen Martini and Ray Peaco and 2017 graduate Zach Ramfos, a scholarship winner on the evening. Mr. Ramfos, along with Emma Lizewski (track & field honoree) were recipients of scholarships awarded based on their nominations for most positive athletes in their respective sports. The entire Seneca Valley community shares the district honor for its commitment to create a positive sporting atmosphere throughout the year.

College Recruiting Presentation – Mark your calendars!
Athletic Director, Heather Lewis, and Coordinator of Collegiate and Career Affairs, Jasmine Berena, will be presenting a seminar on Monday, Aug. 28 at 6 p.m. in the senior high auditorium. This event is open to any district parent and/or student interested in playing sports collegiately. Presentation topics will include understanding and maneuvering the recruiting process, NCAA rules, initial eligibility and core course requirements, and the roles of coaches, parents and student-athletes. A question and answer session will be included.

Preparing for 2017-18 – Physical, drug and concussion test dates
The athletic department has announced its summer physical, drug testing and ImPACT concussion testing dates for 2017-18. See schedule below.

REMINDEERS for 2017-18:

- ALL paperwork must be received in the athletic office no later than Thursday, Aug. 3, by 3 p.m. Coaches will not accept paperwork at the first day of tryouts.
- There are three dates for receiving a physical on campus – see schedule below.
- The PIAA mandates the CIPPE form as the only permissible form for doctor’s signature.
- All required paperwork for athletic participation in 2017-18 is now available on the SV Portal.
- All student-athletes must be registered in the SV Portal under “Sports Registration” before competing. Registration is now open.
- Complete information is now available on the District’s Athletics website under “Participation and TRYOUT information.”
- Concussion ImPACT testing only needs to be done every other year.

Physicals, Drug Testing and ImPACT Baseline Concussion Testing Dates – Senior High School

- Wednesday, July 26 from 3 - 7 p.m. – Physicals, drug testing & ImPACT baseline concussion testing offered this session
- Thursday, July 27 from 8 a.m. - Noon - Physicals, drug testing & ImPACT baseline concussion testing offered this session
- Thursday, July 27 from 1 - 3 p.m. - Drug testing & ImPACT baseline concussion testing offered – NO physicals this session
- Wednesday, Aug. 2 from 3 - 7 p.m. – Drug testing & ImPACT baseline concussion testing offered – NO physicals this session
- Thursday, Aug. 3 from 8 a.m. - Noon – Physicals, drug testing & ImPACT baseline concussion testing offered this session
- Thursday, Aug. 3 from 1 - 3 p.m. – Drug testing & ImPACT baseline concussion testing offered – NO physicals this session
Seneca Valley Foundation's

Gift of Hope

Golf Classic

Join Us!
August 10, 2017
Cranberry Highlands Golf Course
Cranberry Township, PA

To learn more or register visit: www.svsd.net/GolfClassic.

Photo credit: Bill Paterson
SV policy change to shine light on quality
Class rank no longer reported

In June, members of the Seneca Valley School Board unanimously approved a policy change that will remove the reporting of class rank.

Beginning in 2017-18, class rank for freshmen through seniors will be kept internally but will no longer be disclosed to students or the public.

Seneca Valley will establish a valedictorian and salutatorian after the third nine week grading period for graduation ceremony purposes, and honor rolls based on QPA will also still be calculated. Otherwise, students will not be able to request a class rank from the counseling office.

While the change may seem quite different than what has been the norm, moving to a system without class rank is something many schools in the area have already moved to, including Fox Chapel Area, Hampton Township, Mt. Lebanon, North Allegheny and Upper St. Clair, just to name a few.

“We want students to focus on learning and the academic challenges that are taking place within the courses they take,” said Dr. Matt McKinley, assistant superintendent for 7-12 Instruction. “Removing class rank we believe will help take some of the pressure off of those students who tend to become more focused on the rankings.”

Also beginning with the Class of 2018, the valedictorian and salutatorian will need to be enrolled in the Seneca Valley School District for a minimum of three out of the four high school years. Additionally, a chosen career cluster will no longer be printed on transcripts. According to Dr. McKinley, students will still be expected to choose a career cluster during course registration as it helps establish a focal point in their interest of study. However, by eliminating the printed transcript career declaration, Dr. McKinley believes students will be encouraged to “try a more varied number of subjects so they can determine which direction they would like to go.”

New language, new opportunities

New for the 2017-18 school year, a world languages Spanish class will be added for students in grades 1-4. This Spanish class will be part of a one-day per week rotation of specials classes.

The curriculum writing process for this class is being supported by Dr. Heather Henry of the University of Pittsburgh. This curriculum will utilize concepts from other subject areas to support, enrich and connect student learning.

“Learning a language at an early age has tremendous benefits for children,” said Dr. Sean McCarty, assistant superintendent for K-6 Instruction. “We look forward to the growth of this program and strengthening of our world language program K-12.”

Important dates

A Special Board Meeting will be held on Monday, July 17 in the senior high school LGI room at 5:30 p.m. Regularly scheduled School Board Meetings for August will be held on Monday, Aug. 7 (Work Session) and Monday, Aug. 14 (Regular Session) in the intermediate high school auditorium at 7 p.m.

In addition, interviews of architects for the Evans City Building are scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 16 and Thursday, Aug. 17 in the senior high school LGI room at 6 p.m.
Seneca Valley 1983 Graduate Ramie Liddle was featured in our April Alumni Raider Pride Issue as a co-author of “Driving Miss Norma: One Family’s Journey of Saying “Yes” to Living.” With the release of her book on May 2, Ms. Liddle is currently on a multi-state RV book tour and will be stopping here, at the Strand Theater in Zelienople, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11. Show your #SVRaiderPride and be sure to stop by for a book signing!

About the book:
In “Driving Miss Norma: One Family’s Journey Saying “Yes” to Living” (HarperOne; Hardcover; May 2, 2017), Norma’s son Tim Bauerschmidt and daughter-in-law Ramie Liddle document their remarkable year-long, cross-country trip in a motor home. Along with their 73-pound Standard Poodle, Ringo, they share some of the adventures, love, and life lessons they learned from their time on the road together. After Miss Norma was told that she had uterine cancer, she was advised to undergo surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. But instead of confining herself to a hospital bed for what could be her last stay, Norma rose to her full height of five feet and told the doctor, “I’m ninety years old. I’m hitting the road.”

As this once timid woman says “yes” to living in the face of death, she tries regional foods for the first time, mounts up for a horseback ride, and even reaches for the clouds in a hot air balloon. With each passing mile (and one educational visit to a cannabis dispensary), Miss Norma’s health improves and conversations that had once been taboo begin to unfold. Norma, Tim, and Ramie bond in ways they never had before, and their definitions of home, family, and friendship expand. Stop by stop, state by state, they meet countless people from all walks of life—strangers who become fast friends and who welcome them with kindness and open hearts. To see more, watch this clip from CBS News. Be sure to join the more than 500,000 followers on her Facebook page!

Seneca Valley 2016 Graduate Josh Vargo sent a letter that mentioned how influential and inspirational the Technology Department at Seneca Valley has been to his life and career path. Read an excerpt from his letter below:

"Without the Technology Department and the help from its kind teachers I would not be attending college. The experience and patience from all of the teachers in the Technology Department gave me the confidence to pursue an Engineering degree. I have already been accepted into Pennsylvania State University and Geneva College’s Engineering programs. Currently, I am attending Butler County Community College (BC3) working toward both the “Engineering Technology with CADD” and the “Electronics Technology” associate degrees.

The Industrial Technology club that participates in the Bots IQ competition was especially helpful in adding to my skill set. I was the President of the Industrial Technology club during the 2016 school year. During that year I gained irreplaceable leadership experience that I will use during the rest of my life. In addition to the experience, I was rewarded a scholarship from the Gene Haas Foundation, a sponsor within the Bots IQ competition, to help pay for furthering my education.

My interest in technology led me to attend Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School (Vo-Tech) for Machine Technology. After attending Vo-Tech I got a job immediately after graduation at the machine shop at Gatan Inc. located in Cranberry Twp. I am currently working part-time as a machine shop assistant until I finish school at BC3. Gatan Inc. has already offered to hire me as a full-time machinist and has offered to assist with paying for college.

In addition, the knowledge and experience from the Technology Department gave me the confidence that I could fulfill my dream of starting my own business. I am excited to say that I legally started my own company this year, V92 Industries LLC. Currently the company performs landscaping, home improvements, and power equipment repair. However, I plan to further the company once I have saved some money, earned enough experience from my current job at Gatan Inc., and have completed my college degrees. The plan is to sell custom off-road vehicles through V92 Industries.

The dream of starting my company would not have been possible without the positive encouragement and excellent teaching from the teachers in the Technology Department.

A special thanks to those teachers I worked most closely with: Mr. Joe Logsdon, Mr. Joe Ehrenberger, Mr. Stephen Wolfe, Mr. Bruce Clark, Mr. John Citro, and Mr. Dean Walker.

Technology is a cornerstone for this country’s growth so please continue to support the Technology Department into the future. It has positively affected my life as I am sure it has for many other students.”
Tiffani Humble, a 2010 Seneca Valley graduate, was recently awarded the Fulbright U.S. Student Program fellowship as an English Teaching Assistant. We asked her to catch us up on what she is doing today and how Seneca Valley influenced her life and career.

Q: Catch us up. Tell us what you’re doing today.
A: I just graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. I was awarded the Fulbright U.S. Student Program fellowship that covers all expenses and I will be an English Teaching Assistant which begins in September. The Fulbright Program, under the U.S. Department of State, is the government’s “flagship international exchange program,” according to the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” Its fellows — chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential — have the opportunity to “study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.” Since third grade at Evans City Elementary School, I have had a passion for language. In third grade, we went to the library and I found some language books sitting by themselves and I was highly interested and I kept renting them out. They were Spanish, French, and German. In seventh grade (Seneca Valley Middle School) they started language learning programs for the first time where we learned a new language every quarter of the year. I was so excited about that since I loved languages and ended up taking five years of French and four years of Spanish. For my senior project, I wrote a paper on the benefits of being bilingual and my project was teaching a four-year-old so how to speak basic French (which she still knows today). Fast forwarding, I self studied, Arabic, Japanese, and have taken up to Spanish IV and Arabic IV at the University of Pittsburgh. I also studied sign-language at Butler County Community College. Arabic is my strongest language because I use it everyday and it came very naturally to me. So I am excited to be teaching in Jordan in September. I studied Sociology and Global Studies at the University of Pittsburgh so I could learn about conflicts in the world and how issues came to be. So my languages and my studies go hand-in-hand. But I absolutely love languages and different cultures and the Fulbright will give me a start on helping people in the Middle East. I did an internship at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh and at Duane Morris Government Strategies. I plan to do further education whether it be law or a master’s degree. And I enjoy working with other cultures and using other languages because it provides me with a way to get to know other people on a different level.

Q: Please share with us some information about your family.
A: I have amazing grandparents (Gene and Annette Scheidemantle) who have helped me tremendously my whole life and they deserve a lot of credit. I have two great sisters (Staci and Ashley Humble) which Staci also goes to the University of Pittsburgh. My mother and father also graduated from Seneca Valley (Heidi and Kevin Humble) so other than my grandparents, we all graduated from Seneca.

Q: How did Seneca Valley help you become the person you are today, both personally and professionally?
A: I met great friends and had great classes like the language courses. I took the Senior Project very seriously because it was college level work. So I feel I was challenged with that and at the time we had to have everything completed in one year.

Q: What do you think makes Seneca Valley such a special place to learn and grow?
A: Seneca Valley is a great place to learn and grow because its classes are challenging but diverse. It is a large school district that is compiled of many people from around the area so you are introduced to different types of people which was great. The teachers were always kind and they made the classes fun because it was obvious they were passionate about what they taught and as a former language instructor at Butler County Community College (BC3) I know it makes a huge difference for a learning environment. If a teacher can show enthusiasm, than the students will have a better time being enthusiastic about what they are learning.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher/coach/SV staff member?
A: Mr. Jeff Fraser, who was a Spanish teacher at the time. I loved his class because he was really inspirational about languages and traveling. I remember one day he showed us a video of a guy who traveled around the world. To see that was amazing. And I remember Mr. Fraser said, whatever it takes to travel, do it. He told us all the different ways we could travel. Two summers ago I went back packing through Europe by myself and it was incredible. I always had what he said in the back of my mind. Another influential teacher was Mrs. Megan Bonistalli who taught pottery. She was a wonderful woman and had the best personality.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Seneca Valley?
A: My favorite memory was walking into my first language course. That might be nerdy, but it’s a huge part of my life and without it I may not be where I am today. To only know stuff in books for so long and then to actually be in a setting like that with someone who can speak the language was phenomenal. Actually for the Fulbright I was required to write two essays. One was a personal statement and I talked about the third grade library findings, the completed grade language courses, and my senior project, so, Seneca Valley greatly influenced me.

Q: If you had one message for teachers or staff, what would it be?
A: As a former student and a former language instructor at BC3, a tutor for the Greater Pittsburgh literacy council, and a Fulbright awardee for an English Teaching Assistant position, my message is be aware of how you can influence those around you. As a teacher or a peer, you are in a position that can greatly affect those you teach or those around you. Be an inspiration because people will remember and reflect back on it.

Q: Is there anything else you’d like to share about your time at Seneca Valley or your time since Seneca Valley?
Seven years later after graduation, I can’t believe what all has changed. I’m proud to have been a Seneca Valley student because without this school, I would not be a Fulbright awardee today, which was reflected in my essays for the award.
Q: Please share with us some information about your family.
A: I live with my mom and dad, a black cat, and a small dog with a big personality. I am an only child and have always been close to my parents. My mom, Carla Baldwin, retired several years ago, which has been a blessing because she has the time to provide the care I need. My dad, Tom May, works out of town on weekdays, but when he comes home any time I m in the hospital or having surgery is incredibly supportive. I could not have accomplished my BSN without their support and now, I couldn’t go through this whole process without them by my side. My extended family and friends have also been unbelievably helpful and present when I need them the most. It has been a beautiful thing to see everyone in the family, neighborhood and community, come together to help my parents and me through this struggle. They say it takes a village, and my village is amazing.

Q: What might (someone) be surprised to know about you?
A: My mom was a school psychologist who retired from North Allegheny, but worked at Seneca Valley through my elementary and middle school years. Because of that, I knew the psychologists, secretaries, and others well. I went to a lot of the parties hosted by that group, so I grew up as a young kid partying with the school’s psychologists! I was also their go-to guinea pig for testing. Anytime a new IQ test or version of standardized testing came out, they called me in and took turns practicing the administration of the new tests. I actually thought it was pretty fun and I can guarantee I’ve taken more IQ tests than anyone else.

Q: How did Seneca Valley help you become the person you are today, both personally and professionally?
A: When I was in high school, I had no idea what I wanted to be when I “grew up.” My idea of a college major changed nearly every week for a while. The problem was many professions sounded good to me on paper, but when I got a better feel for the field, I was no longer as interested. It was very much a process of trial and error for me to figure out what I wanted to be. The classes and clubs SV offered actually really helped me with that process. I thought I might want to be a lawyer, so I took a law class the first semester of my senior year and I also took CHS Argument. While I enjoyed both of those classes, they helped me realize that the lifestyle of a lawyer wouldn’t be for me. Eventually, I found the Medical Careers Club run by the senior high nurse, Ms. Schultz. We went on a field trip to Passavant Hospital and got to job shadow an area of the hospital for a day. That really opened my eyes to the idea of nursing, even though I was already a senior in high school. That field trip lit a spark in me that day, that only continued to grow into a burning fire, because I had found my passion.

Q: What do you think makes Seneca Valley such a special place to learn and grow?
A: Seneca Valley is special because of the people. There are so many wonderful individuals who helped to take my learning experience to the next level. By making some of the special connections I did with some of the teachers over my 13 years in the district, my education was a positive and unique experience. SV is made up of a group of individuals who all make a difference every single day. I am proud to be a Seneca grad and I am grateful to have had so many role models and inspiring educators on my journey.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher/coach/SV staff member?
A: I cannot simply name one favorite member of the SV staff. Seneca Valley was my village for a long time and a village is made up of many individuals. Among those, there certainly are some great ones that stood out for me. There are actually a few of the people who impacted my life: Mr. Vince Burgess (4th grade, Rowan), Ms. Lynne Ranayhossaini (middle school, gifted support), Ms. Bookbinder (7th grade, English), Mrs. Mitnick (7th grade, Civics), Mrs. Julie Glenz (9/10th grade, Spanish), Mrs. McClocklin (9th grade, cooking), Mrs. Kate Dankosky (10th grade, World History), Ms. Andrea Coates (11th grade, Spanish), Dr. Alison Schuster (11/12th grade, Argument, Debate Club) Mr. Dean Walker (11th grade, Physics).

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Seneca Valley?
A: During the Spring of my senior year, I went to prom with a close friend that I had met all the way back in kindergarten when we both had Mrs. Jana Greco at Rowan. Mrs. Greco was so excited that she invited me and my date to visit her afternoon class on the way to our prom festivities. He and I got to see our kindergarten teacher after 12 years and the little kids looked at us like we were royalty. It was such an amazing experience and I’m sure not that many people get to have an opportunity like that! My second favorite memory was in the senior high nurse’s office. I had a few minor health issues in high school and required medication in the middle of the day and sometimes took a snack before lunch. Because of that, I ended up becoming well acquainted with the school nurse, Mrs. Schultz. She was the one who invited me to join the Medical Careers Club that she ran. In the fall, she discovered that Pop Tarts started making a speciality flavor-- pumpkin pie. We both loved fall flavors and she was so excited to tell me about these new pop tarts, that she brought in a toaster and a box of them to share with me for my midday snack. It was so cool to have a Jana meaningful connection with multiple people at Seneca, whether they were teachers, staff members, nurses, psychologists, janitors, or fellow students.

Q: If you had one message for teachers or staff, what would it be?
A: Dear Teachers, Congratulations on making it through another school year. Your hard work paid off, and you did it! Now, it is time to relax and also, to have fun. After becoming as ill as I am, my perspective of many things has changed. I would like to share some of the things I realized. First of all, we are all guilty of thinking we have time. We often plan our lives whether it be our one or dreams we always wished we could make happen. It is understandable to push things off during the school year when stress levels are high and papers need to be graded and lessons need to be planned. But now, it is summer and it is time to focus on yourselves and your families again. Make a “summer bucket list” of all the activities you would like to do. Include fun things to do with your group of friends or family. And also, include activities of self-care, such as a massage, a pedicure, a hike by yourself to clear your head, etc (personalize it!). Look at your calendar and schedule these days trips or experiences you want to happen. It’s nice to have something to look forward to and that way, you know it is more likely to actually happen when it is in the calendar. One thing that has really helped me that I highly recommend, is to keep a small notebook next to your bed. Either before you fall asleep at night or in the morning when you first wake up, jot down a list of five specific things you were grateful for in the last 24 hours. It helps to keep things in perspective and maintain a more positive attitude, even during a challenging time. This time is for you. I urge you to take advantage of that. Rest, have fun, and make happy memories. When the next school year rolls around, you will be fresh. You will be the best possible version of yourself and ready to make a difference in the lives of more students. Each of you has a very important job and you are appreciated. I hope you have a joyful summer and that you can live each day to the absolute fullest- each one is a gift.
Officials review 16-17 random drug testing results
District commits to continuing vital program

The results from the 2016-17 Seneca Valley School District Random Drug Testing Program indicate that the district average at .81 percent is slightly higher than last year’s results, but remains well below the national average of 2.2 percent.

“This should only embolden our efforts to be vigilant and visible in our work to help provide a successful deterrent,” said Matt Franz, director of Operations for SPORTS SAFE Testing Services, the Ohio-based drug testing service that serves as the vendor for the Seneca Valley testing program and many other schools around the Country. “Recognizing that a student needs assistance early on will strengthen our chance at affecting that behavior moving forward.”

In 2016-17, there were 16 reasonable suspicion tests and many of those were put into a follow-up program and were able to complete it without further positives. While lower percentages on positive tests is what every school district strives for, what pleases Seneca Valley officials the most is the follow-up rate. Any student who has a positive test must complete five follow-up tests. A software program allows the testing company to track this information so district officials can see if students are responding to intervention.

Of the 154 follow-up tests, there were nine repeat offenses. This puts the Seneca Valley follow-up rate at 5.8 percent where the national average is around 20 percent. “I believe this demonstrates that the majority of students in the program are responding to intervention,” said Dr. Matt McKinley, assistant superintendent for 7-12 Instruction, and the author of the SV random drug testing policy that was started 15 years ago. “Seneca Valley takes great pride in the District’s efforts to encourage and maintain an alcohol and drug-free setting in our schools.”

As such, Seneca Valley has been recognized by state and national organizations for the implementation of a grade 7-12 drug testing policy for athletics, extracurricular activities and driving to school. This policy has served as an excellent example and template for other districts across the country. Additionally, within the life of this policy, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and CBS Evening News have reached out to learn more about the program’s success.

Of course, any program’s success is largely dependent on the integrity of the test, and not only in the collection of it, but in the identification of those students who participate. The process begins at the testing company where student identification numbers only - no names - are chosen in a lottery format. Those numbers are submitted to the school administration, who matches them with the corresponding student name. Those students are immediately tested through the collection of a urine sample, which continues to be the industry standard. Each collection is sent to a certified laboratory for screening and confirmation, and each result is then verified by a medical review officer. In the case of a positive result, the first call is made to the home.

“There are consequences associated with the policy, but the purpose of the policy has never been punitive,” said Dr. Matthew McKinley, assistant superintendent. “The program has given and continues to give families the gift of early detection.”

The entire Seneca Valley Drug Testing Policy (#227.1) can be found here.

Talk to your children

As parents we always want to protect our children from harm. One way to do this is to inform them about drugs by giving them facts before they are in a risky situation.

Parents who are educated about the effects of drug use and learn the facts can give their children correct information and clear up any misconceptions. So make talking about drugs (see tips below) a part of your general health and safety conversations.

Some tips when talking to your children:

• Be absolutely clear with your kids that you don’t want them using drugs.

• Give honest answers.
  Don’t make up what you don’t know; offer to find out. If your children ask if you ever used drugs, let them know what’s important – that you don’t want them using alcohol, tobacco or drugs.

• Be a better listener.
  Ask questions and encourage questions from your child. Show your willingness to listen.

• Use television news reports, commercials and school projects to talk about drugs.
  You can use these “teachable moments” as a natural, unforced way to talk about your values and expectations.

• Don’t react in a way that will cut off further discussion.
  If your child makes statements that challenge or shock you, take a deep breath, listen and try to continue having a calm discussion.

• Role play with your child and practice ways to refuse drugs in different situations.
  Acknowledge how tough these moments can be. Together, come up with things your child can do or say with which he/she is comfortable.

Transportation update

In accordance with Pennsylvania Law Act 9 of 2014, the School Board adopted a policy that authorizes audio and/or video recording on school buses or school vehicles for disciplinary or security purposes. The audio/video recordings on school vehicles would be exempt from disclosure under the Public Right to Know Law because such recordings constitute an educational record protected from disclosure by FERPA. Principals, their designees, bus garage managers, and transportation department personnel are the only people allowed to view the recordings. Law enforcement may also view the recordings if school officials deem necessary.

Each school bus or school vehicle with audio and/or video recording devices will post a notification in clear sight so driver and passengers understand their actions and communication may be recorded. The audio and/or video recording will not be operating if the vehicle is used for other purposes not school related.

Also, a reminder to look on the SV Portal to see bus information for the 2017-18 school year. For all parents, please have students ready to board the bus five minutes prior to the designated time.

For kindergarten parents, please note that transportation is not provided mid-day. Parents are responsible for mid-day transportation. In the SV Portal, bus information for kindergarten students will show both AM and PM runs because the Transportation Department does not know if students are assigned to the AM or PM session, or if students are enrolled in the Stepping Stones program. For questions or for more information, please contact the Transportation Department at 724-452-6040, ext. 1758.
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