

**Steel Valley School District
220 East Oliver Rd.
Munhall, PA 15120**

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kim Watkins Phone: 412-464-3603
Secretary to the Superintendent

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steel Valley Middle School Holding Annual Math-A-Thon Benefiting St. Jude's

Munhall, PA – Throughout February, Steel Valley Middle School will be holding its annual Math-A-Thon for the 28th year benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. District 4th grade students will also once again be participating. To date, the event has raised over \$66,000 in donations for St. Jude's.

Districtwide, teachers will also be invited to participate in special "Jeans Days" to help raise additional funds.

By supporting event participants, you'll help raise funds for the internationally recognized center. These funds will help St. Jude's in its ongoing fight against childhood catastrophic diseases.

According to Steel Valley Math Department Chair and Event Coordinator Beth McCallister, "Interested students will sign up with their math teachers and turn in a permission form from their parents. Once the form is turned in, they'll receive their choice of a workbook or online workbook to complete the math problems and a sponsor sheet. **The goal of the program is to obtain sponsors who are willing to contribute to St. Jude for the math problems that the students complete.**"

Students collecting \$25 or more will receive a St. Jude's light-up bracelet. Those who collect \$50 or more will receive a Math-A-Thon t-shirt. And, those collecting \$100 will also have their choice of a variety of other prizes.

"Our goal in holding the Math-A-Thon is to help the children of the world who are stricken with diseases like cancer, AIDS, and sickle cell anemia. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a world leader in the fight against these diseases, and they have made great progress, but only because of the help of people like the citizens of the Steel Valley area," said McCallister. "We are asking that all citizens and businesses of our area support our students as they participate in the program. Any person or business that would like to make a donation may call the school at 412-464-3600 ext. 2904 or send a check made payable to "St. Jude Children's Research Hospital."

Donations may be sent to **Steel Valley Middle School, attention: Mrs. Beth McCallister, 3114 Main St., Munhall, PA 15120.**

According to McCallister, students who participate in the program learn to do more than just math problems, they also learn the importance of helping children who are less fortunate than them.

(MORE)

“Through the Math-A-Thon, students are able to help provide a future for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital,” she said.

Children with more than 200 forms of cancer and other catastrophic diseases find hope at St. Jude. Since its founding in 1962 by the late entertainer, Danny Thomas, the survival rate for most forms of pediatric cancer have risen dramatically. In fact, treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since it opened more than 50 years ago. St. Jude fully credits these successes in treatment to the generous support of people around the world, including the students and staff of Steel Valley.

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