



STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

August 2023



The massive taxidermized elk is impossible to miss.

The patriotic décor and artistic photographs of oil and gas wells also stand out. Eventually, though, the eye drifts elsewhere in John Sabo's office. In a corner behind his desk, a bookshelf holds more personal mementos. There are large, colorful family photos of his family, assorted sports plaques and trophies, the requisite Terrible Towel, and more.

One photo stands out. A portion of the frame rests on the Terrible Towel, so it's only natural for a wandering eye to be drawn to the bright yellow cloth. The photo is of Sabo, in his Steel Valley football uniform, delivering a crushing tackle to a West Mifflin opponent.

It's a striking photo, and it serves as a callback to Sabo's Steel Valley roots, where he fostered an appreciation for a strong work ethic, perseverance, leadership and the power of mentorships.

"I coach now and a lot of things that I picked up during those years, I still use to this day," Sabo said. "I'd say football is a big part of who I am."

Now the Vice President of Business Development for Deep Well Services, Sabo is taking what he learned to help connect recent Steel Valley graduates with career opportunities in the oil and gas industry.

[Read more about what Sabo is doing to create a pipeline of opportunities for Steel Valley students.](#)

STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT



Millions of peaches, peaches for me. Millions of peaches, peaches for free.

OK, so it's not quite a million, and the peaches aren't for just one person, but it was still a bountiful harvest. Christine Schott and a few helpers harvested peaches from the trees in the Steel Valley Grows Garden on Friday, August 11. The harvest capped another summer of the Cooking in the Garden program, as Ms. Schott once again led several sessions throughout the summer. Each summer session in the garden educates elementary and middle school students on gardening basics and teaches them a few delicious recipes they can make with their harvested fruits, vegetables and herbs. The peach harvest is a sweet and tasty way to cap the summer and get ready for the start of the new school year.



Police officers and school resource officers from around the state gathered inside the high school library during the week of August 7 for training through NASRO.

Steel Valley School District Chief of Police Darrel Parker and high school SRO Dan Boehme, who is also a Munhall police officer, welcomed their fellow officers for the 40-hour course. Upon completion of the course, the officers will have national certification as school resource officers.

[For more about the training, check out the story and photos on the district website.](#)



Mark your calendars - Funder Under the Bridge 2023 has a date.

The sixth edition of the annual Steel Valley School District fundraiser and community event is penciled in for Sunday, October 15. As usual, the event will run from 12 to 4 p.m. underneath the Homestead Grays Bridge at the Waterfront.

Funder Under the Bridge began in 2017 and has raised over \$28,000 for Steel Valley School District activities, extracurricular programs and clubs over the last five events. The event will once again feature booths for the clubs and extracurricular programs, student performances, the Steel Valley marching band and cheerleaders, concessions, raffle baskets, and the always highly anticipated pie in the face.

Planning is ongoing. Anyone interested in volunteering their time, making a donation, or helping in any capacity should reach out to William McLaughlin at wmclaughlin@steelvalleysd.org.

Barrett Elementary News



The to-do list for any educator seems almost endless in August. Preparing for the start of the school year is a hectic, exhausting practice. It's even more crazed when you're joining a new school district in a new role – the computer system is different, the hallways are a labyrinth, and there is a never-ending stream of information to digest.

Kimberly Winters' to-do list is long, but it can't match her excitement to be the new principal at Barrett Elementary.

"It's absolutely a learning process," she said with a smile. "I'm coming from 19 years of doing something one way and pretty much not having any of those comforts here in the sense of different systems, policies, and procedures. So, it is a learning curve, but I'm very excited for it. I'm anxious and I can't wait to get started."

[Read more about Mrs. Winters in the story on our website.](#)

There will be an opportunity to meet Mrs. Winters during Barrett's Meet the Principal Night on Thursday, August 17. The event begins at 5 p.m. with kindergarten orientation, followed by an opportunity for families and students of all grades to hear from Mrs. Winters at 6 p.m.

Kindergarten students will have a transition day on Thursday, August 24. All Barrett students will have their first day of school on Friday, August 25.

Park Elementary News



Everyone at Park Elementary is excited for the start of a new school year. Families of kindergarten students and new students are invited to attend Park's Meet the Principal Night on Thursday, August 17 at 5:30 p.m. in Park's gymnasium. Students are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet with Dr. Tom Shaughnessy and the entire Park staff. The event is for kindergarten and new students only.

Kindergarten students will have a transition day on Thursday, August 24. All Park students will have their first day of school on Friday, August 25.

Make sure you're signed up for Sapphire to keep track of your student's academic progress. You can also contact Dr. Shaughnessy or Counselor Chalus if you have questions before school starts.

The Park Elementary PTO will again be offering discounted Cash Bash tickets during the Main Street Market Night on August 24. Tickets are 2 for \$50, and you can snag a reserved table of eight for \$200. Park's Cash Bash will be held Saturday, September 30.

Middle School News



Students and their families can meet with high school principal Mr. John Strom on Wednesday, August 16 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. This is a prime opportunity to have questions answered before the new school year and get information on any updated policies and procedures. It is especially helpful for new students and for incoming freshmen.

To help with the transition from middle school to high school, all freshmen will have go through transition day on Thursday, August 24. All high school students will report for their first day on Friday, August 25.

The Steel Valley Marching Band made an appearance at Kennywood in early August, unofficially kicking off the start of clubs, activities and sports at Steel Valley for the 2023-24 school year. The band once again appears to have strong numbers and includes students in grades 7 through 12.

Middle school, junior varsity and varsity sports are preparing for the start of the fall sports seasons. Students in 7th and 8th grade can participate in middle school football, girls volleyball, soccer, cross country, swimming and cheerleading. High school students can participate in football, boys and girls soccer, cross country, golf, girls volleyball and cheerleading. Most sports begin their regular season schedules on Friday, August 25. The football team will begin its defense of the WPIAL Class 2A title with a home game against Sto-Rox on Friday, Sept. 1.

Stay up to date with what's happening on our social media accounts! The district has a Twitter account and Instagram account, as well as individual Facebook pages for each of our four schools. Click the respective icons at the bottom of the newsletter to make sure you're following us!



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