



STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

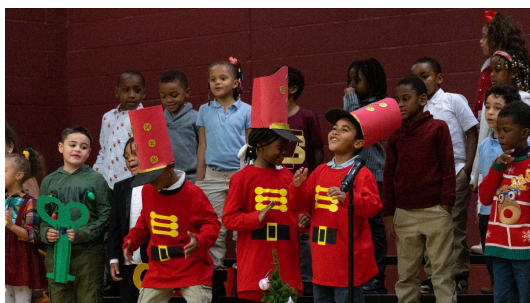
District News • Stories • Events

January 2023



It wouldn't be a holiday season without a series of stirring performances from the talented students throughout the district. From the annual holiday vocal concert by the Middle School Chorus and High School Concert Choir to the rousing instrumentals from the 5th-6th grade and 7th-12th grade Concert Bands, to the energy and joy of the elementary school concerts at Barrett and Park, each performance put visitors in the holiday spirit.

Photo galleries from each show are on the Steel Valley website. Check out the galleries from the [choral concert](#), [concert bands](#), [Barrett](#) and [Park](#) to see them all.





Steel Valley School District Community Meeting

Wednesday, January 11 at 7 p.m.
Park Elementary Gymnasium



Join us for our next monthly meeting aimed at making
the Steel Valley School District better than ever.
To make this happen, we need you!

We will be discussing ways in which our community can assist
the students of our school district and ways in which the students
of our school district can help our community.
The meeting is open to everyone in the Steel Valley community.

We love original, creative ideas that will help move
our district forward and improve upon the already great things
that our district has to offer.

Join us and please spread the word!

STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT



Michael Sullivan is no stranger to Steel Valley. The Munhall native went to Park Elementary and the former Woodlawn Middle School before graduating from Steel Valley High School in 1999. He remained in the area while running his own construction company and doing other work, but, eventually, his alma mater offered an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

[Meet the district's new Director of Facilities and Transportation.](#)



Casey Walker's experience as a student growing up in the Baldwin School District helped shape her career and impacted her journey to Steel Valley. She joined Steel Valley this school year as a district-wide counselor, with a focus on the middle school and high school. She shared more about her background and detailed some of the programs and initiatives she is implementing for students.

[Meet the district's new district-wide school counselor.](#)



Kevin Clarke spends his Friday nights as the defensive coordinator for the Steel Valley football team. But away from the field, Clarke is trying to have a wider impact. He was recently hired as the district's new community liaison as part of a partnership with The Pittsburgh Study. Clarke shared more about his background and his role as the district's community liaison.

[Get to know the district's new community liaison.](#)

Barrett Elementary News



The Homestead Police Department partnered with several local organizations to help provide a happy holiday to a number of Barrett students. One of the partnerships was with the Western Pennsylvania Police Athletic Association Stuff-a-Store program in order to provide more than 20 students with a toy for Christmas. The Homestead Police Department and Barrett Elementary also received a grant from Target for 50 students to shop with members of the Homestead Police Department for winter coats. Partnerships like these are what make the Steel Valley community so special, especially around the holidays.

On Wednesday, January 18, the Queen of Hearts will visit Barrett kindergarten classes. On January 31, students can celebrate the 100th day of school by dressing up like they are 100 years old. That evening will be a Taco Tuesday Title I Family Night with Adagio Health from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Preparations are well underway for the Barrett Elementary Black History Month Living Museum. The annual celebration of history, heritage, culture and families will be on Thursday, February 23. This year's theme is Black Resistance with the mantra, "You have the strength and courage to inspire others and change the world." High school students interested in portraying a historical figure or living person who is a source of inspiration should reach out to Ms. Kampe or Ms. Bost. Anyone with additional ideas or is willing to volunteer should reach out to Ms. Bost.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will be making a stop at Barrett Elementary School from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 23. The Care Mobile offers medical care to children throughout the Pittsburgh

area and will be available for families in the Steel Valley community with this visit to the high school. The Care Mobile can provide immunizations, routine physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses in children, adolescent and youth adult health care, referrals for specialty care, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) form assistance.

All of the services are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to families. Anyone interested in stopping by the Care Mobile should make sure they arrive by 1:30 p.m. on January 23 in order to register in time. The Care Mobile is a collaboration between UPMC Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and Morgantown. Anyone in need of more information before the visit can call 412-352-1059 or visit www.chp.edu/our-services/mobile-medical-clinic.

Park Elementary News



In the fall, first graders wrote letters to Mrs. Draganosky's friend, Lieutenant Audrey Hayward, from the United States Army. Lieutenant Hayward came to Park Elementary recently to thank the students. She talked about what it was like to be a soldier, the different jobs a person can have in the Army, and what she did when she was deployed to Kuwait. Lieutenant Hayward was deployed from August to December. When she was asked what she got for Christmas she replied, "I was happy I was able to come home to spend Christmas with my family!"

Prior to the winter break, second graders turned into engineers in order to solve two problems sent from the North Pole. The elves needed a new shelf, and Santa's sleigh broke down! The kids used the seven steps of engineering - define, ask, imagine, plan, prototype, test, and improve - to come up with solutions. They made shelves for the elves and Santa got several new parachute options instead of a sleigh.

Park is continuing its partnership with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Feedback from students and staff has been incredibly positive, and every student will have the opportunity to work closely with a visiting artist before the end of the school year. Research shows that arts integration is one of the most effective ways to help students learn and retain information, so this is a fantastic opportunity for Park students. After school intramurals are underway and will continue for each grade through the end of the month.

Middle School News



During the fall semester, Rivers of Steel came to Steel Valley to work with both middle school and high school art clubs during an in-school workshop. Students created their own scratch molds, and watched their designs come to life in the form of aluminum castings. Students observed as technicians poured molten aluminum, heated to over 1000° F, from a portable furnace brought on site. At the end of the three-hour workshop and a period of cooling, students were able to take home their aluminum castings to share with their family and friends.

There will be a Circle Talk on January 10 from 7:50 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. that will take place in the Creating Value Room with Ms. Dunmire and Mrs. Whitney from Steel Valley Wellness. All attendees must sign up prior to attending. Attendees will get breakfast and will be entered into a drawing for a \$10 gift card for attending each session. Hot beverages will also be available. The Circle Talk is an interactive workshop on meditation, stress reduction techniques, reducing stigma and discussing mental health. [To sign up, use this form.](#)

The Steel Valley Marching Band received exciting news when it was announced that the district will host the PMEA Jr. High District 1 East Honors Band Festival on Thursday, March 2, 2023, and Friday, March 3, 2023. The guest conductor will be Dr. Christopher Marra, Director of Instrumental Activities at Seton Hill University. Steel Valley Middle School students will participate in the District Band. The students selected are: Alex Wehrer, Hannah Lesser, Rhiannon McConnell, Loki Brown, Ana Wehrer, Austin Blick, Josie Strom, Jacob Wright, Andy Diep, Ashley Bulger, Sophia Wedig, Lucas Barefoot, and Peter Bos.

High School News



December was a big month for Steel Valley student-athletes who finalized their college futures. Football players Cruce Brookins and Greg Smith [signed their National Letters of Intent](#) to play Division I college football. Brookins, a defensive back, will stay close by at the University of Pittsburgh. Smith, an offensive lineman, will play at the University of Miami (Ohio).

Together, Greg and Cruce helped the Ironmen go 32-12 in their four years in high school. The last two years, Steel Valley has posted a 23-2 record, won back-to-back conference championships, and this year won the WPIAL Class 2A championship - the sixth in school history.

Two other Steel Valley student-athletes [made their commitments](#) to pursue their sports at Saint Vincent College. Kendall McConnell is a four-year starter for the Lady Ironmen softball team and will be a captain for the 2022-2023 squad. Over the past two years, Kendall led the team in hits, RBIs, and stolen bases. Nolan Hurd is a two-year starter on the Ironmen Baseball team and he will be the anchor at first base for the upcoming 2022-2023 baseball season. Nolan was a leader of the team last year in RBIs and the team is looking forward to his clutch hitting this spring.

Steel Valley SADD is in contest to receive the most pledges for NJM's Just Drive Campaign. By visiting <https://justdrive.njm.com/pledge/> you are pledging to drive safely this year and for your future. Two years in a row, Steel Valley was the school to receive the most pledges in the state.

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!



Our mailing address is:
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To submit information for the newsletter, please email: communications@steelvalleysd.org

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