



STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

February 2024

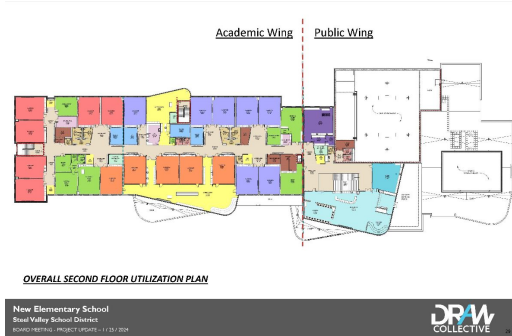
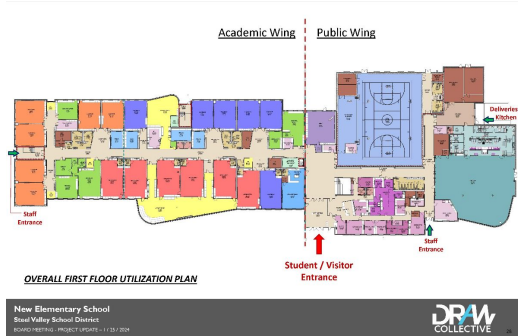
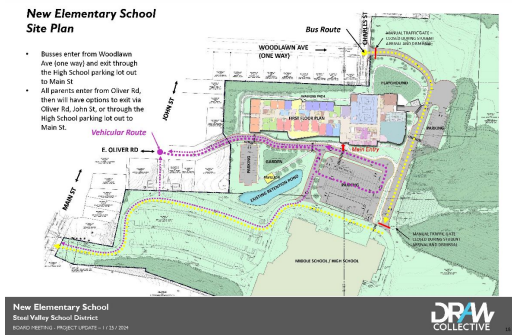
Main Entry View



The Steel Valley School District administration and school board have been working diligently with the architects from DRAW Collective on plans for a new elementary school. In June 2023, the district held an Act 34 hearing to present the initial plans for the project and solicit feedback from the community. Since then, the district has established a Community Advisory Board and worked with key stakeholders – including K-5 elementary school teachers in the district – to incorporate their feedback.

On Thursday, January 25, 2024, DRAW Collective presented an update on the current plan for the new elementary school to Steel Valley administrators, school board members, and the general public as part of the district's January legislative board meeting.

For those who were unable to attend the meeting, [the slides from DRAW Collective's presentation are available to view below along with a summary of their presentation.](#) The summary includes a timeline of the project, including what comes next.




STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT



The Ironmen fans represented on Wednesday, January 24 at the first home game of the Unified Bocce Team. Dozens of teachers and administrators, as well as fans, cheerleaders, and ASL interpreters, showed up to cheer on the athletes.

Bocce has been a PIAA-sanctioned sport for more than a decade but is new to Steel Valley. Its members are diverse, inclusive, and the best of friends. The team is led by senior Vinton Kellar, junior Abigail Fitzgerald, sophomores Shaterra Meadows, Camya Anderson, and Holden Labischak, and freshman Matthew Fulmore. Aden DeMartino, sophomore, serves as a practice partner and score keeper.

To learn more about the first season of bocce at Steel Valley, [check out the story from English teacher Jodi Geyer.](#)



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Barrett's Special Events Committee

Districtwide Fundraiser For BHM


2024 Theme:
African Americans and the Arts


T-shirt Sale
Jan. 29, 2024 - March 1, 2024
Cost \$15.00 Each

Adult Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL and 3XL

Youth Sizes: S, M, L and XL

Shirts will be personalized
Steel Valley Ironmen







BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Barrett's Special Events Committee Districtwide Fundraiser 2024

Theme: African Americans and the Arts

T-shirt Sale Order Form Jan. 29, 2024 - Feb. 16, 2024

Student's Name: _____

Homeroom: _____ School: _____

Cash Only: \$15.00 Per T-Shirt

Total Amount: _____





Adult Sizes	Quantity
Small	
Medium	
Large	
X Large	
2XL	
3XL	

Youth Sizes	Quantity
Small	
Medium	
Large	
X-Large	

The annual Barrett Elementary Black History Month Living Interactive Museum is returning on Thursday, February 22. This year's theme is

African Americans and the Arts. T-Shirts are now available to order. The shirts will be personalized "Steel Valley Ironmen" and are available in both adult and youth sizes.

[Fill out the form and return it to Ms. Bost at Barrett Elementary.](#) T-Shirts are \$15 apiece. Thanks for your support for this amazing program Ms. Bost and the Barrett Special Events Committee do for Steel Valley students every year!



Thanks to the assistance of community partners and local organizations, the Steel Valley School District has taken several steps recently to ensure it is providing a clean, healthy environment for students and staff as well as to create a positive environmental impact on the community.

Women for a Healthy Environment partnered with the district as part of its Healthy Schools Recognition Program. The program recognizes school districts that take steps toward a green and healthy learning environment. Thanks to a grant provided by WHE, the district was able to conduct tests for lead in water throughout the district and make any remediations necessary, as well as to test for radon in district buildings.

To learn more about the test results and additional programming through Tree Pittsburgh, [check out the story on the district website.](#)

Barrett Elementary News



Before the groundhog popped out of his hole to predict an early spring, Barrett kindergarten students got a sneak peak at Punxsutawney Phil's life. Students took a virtual field trip to meet Phil, learn interesting facts about him, and play a shadow game.

Kindergarten students also celebrated the 100th day of school through a series of activities. They dressed like they were 100 years old, made necklaces with 100 fruit loops, took 100 steps, exercised and counted to 100, and more. They also celebrated with a glow party and took part in other creative activities to showcase that they were officially 100 days smarter.

February will be full of exciting events and educational opportunities. The kindergarten students will take a field trip to the Children's Museum on February 8. The attendance challenge ends on February 15 with a Blizzard Bash Ice Cream Party to celebrate on February 16.

The annual Barrett Black History Month Living Museum will take place on Thursday, February 22 beginning at 12:30 p.m. This celebration is always highly anticipated and serves as an amazing hands-on learning experience for students and community members alike. Kindergarten through third grade students will have their own assemblies with artists from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust on February 8 and February 9, while fourth graders will take a trip to the Byham Theater to see "Song of the North."



Park Elementary News



Retired chemist Rick Garstka regularly visits fourth grade science classes to conduct investigations on blood sample analysis, chemistry reactions, magnetism, and more. But on his most recent trip to Park, Rick and school resource officer Sergeant Tichon showcased a different kind of rock. They played their electric and acoustic guitars to showcase how each produces their unique sounds.

Third graders celebrated the 100th Day of School in their English Language Arts class with a range of activities that truly impressed Mrs. Callahan. The students conducted a 100 second breathing exercise, read 100 books in 80 minutes, and then wrote creative stories about their lives when they turn 100.

Mrs. Ambrozic and Mrs. Ruffing's classes had a Zoom call with Punxsutawney Phil and the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. They learned Phil's full name and lots of other interesting facts before his big day. First graders, meanwhile, have been learning about balance and motion in preparation for their science unit that will be supported by visiting arts from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. They

used counterweights to balance a crayfish on their finger and on a popsicle stick.

The SWPBS School Store will be available the week of February 5, while the Scholastic Book Fair will take place from February 12 through February 16. The Special Person Dance will take place on February 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the high school.



Middle School News



Have you ever wondered what your teachers were like when they were your age? How did they choose the subjects they teach? Do they really like math that much, or did they really want to teach drama only to lose a secret, underground battle? The Steel Valley Middle School Drama Club tried to answer some of those nagging questions in its performance of "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Your Teachers (But Were Afraid To Ask)." The one-act ensemble comedy features an exploration of what really makes teachers tick.

Over the course of three nights from January 11 through January 13, the cast performed a series of vignettes highlighting the confusing and amusing lives of teachers. Students Emma Downey, Effie Seidling, Avery Bragg and Damon Floyd embark on a journey to get their questions answered. Trailed by naturalist Logan Noblet, the answers they discover are surprising and hilarious. The cast also includes Alexandria Wehrer, Andy Diep, Skylar Fitzgerald, Kylie Kern, Georgie Fitzpatrick, Noah Hughes, Peter Bos, Janine Clark, Josie Strom, Vivian Rusnak, Ashley Bulger, ZaKiyya Berts, Sage Dasta, Aliayah Burns, Sofia Grzyb, Christina Howard and Hailey Rager in a wide range of roles, including teachers, parents and other strange characters.

The Middle School PTO Pittsburgh Pierogi Truck Fundraiser is ongoing until February 15, when the order form and payment is due. Orders will be delivered on March 6.

Student government will be selling candy grams during morning arrival on Tuesday, February 6 through Thursday, February 8. For \$1, the candy gram includes a gourmet lollipop and a message.

In recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, members of the Middle School Student Government passed out gift bags to the Steel Valley School District Board of Directors during the January school board meeting. Ms. Erin Noblet, teacher and sponsor of the Middle School Student Government, shared a few words about the challenge of taking on the important role of being a school board member. Ashley Bulger, 8th grader and daughter of school board president Mr. Jim Bulger, also shared a word of thanks to all of the board members, but especially her father.

Being a school board member requires a special blend of passion, dedication, and commitment in order to make the best decisions possible for our district. It requires an investment of countless hours, all unpaid, to help ensure Steel Valley students, staff, and families have all they need to thrive.





The High School Student Council recently organized field trips to the Dragon's Den in Homestead, where students from all ability levels had the opportunity to work together on team building activities, ropes challenge courses, rock climbing, and zip lining. Other activities include chess, air hockey, foosball, Connect Four, and ax throwing. Check out photos from the visits by the [freshmen](#), the [sophomores](#), the [juniors](#), and the [seniors](#).

The seniors also had the opportunity to make some memories in the snow despite some strange winter weather on January 25. Even with unseasonably warm temperatures, the seniors enjoyed their day of snow tubing at Boyce Park. The tubing park opened for private snow tubing for the seniors which meant they had the opportunity to use the slopes repeatedly without any waiting in line. Some seniors never took a break, while others went inside the lodge to warm up, socialize with each other, and have some snacks.

The Steel Valley Transition Program recently prepared waffle dogs inspired by the many cultures they have been studying in their history classroom. They enjoyed this sweet, salty, savory, delicacy which included chives, cheese, sauerkraut, and syrup. The students enjoyed their creations and were excited to try so many flavors in one dish.

Steel Valley will host an indoor guard, percussion dance, and twirler competition on February 10 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. The competition will feature over a dozen indoor guard units.

The winter sports season is rapidly coming to a close, with seniors on the varsity bowling, boys basketball, girls basketball, and swimming teams competing in their final home contests. Congratulations to all of the student-athletes on an excellent winter sports season.





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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