



STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

October 2023



Transitions aren't easy. At their worst, they can be chaotic and disruptive.

For a marching band director, coming in just before the start of the season is especially challenging. So, as Ms. Malia Mueller took the conductor's baton from outgoing Steel Valley Marching Band director Mr. Michael Sisley, her priority was to make sure that there was as little disruption as possible.

"I came in with the mindset of not wanting to change a bunch of things, just because they started band camp with the previous director. I kind of wanted to keep the vision the same of what the band was going to be this year," she said.

This is the second year that the band has had seventh and eighth graders participate. The change bolstered the ranks last year and the growth has continued.

"We're still growing. Some of these kids are still young, and we got some new seventh graders as well, so I think we're still improving," drum major Atreyu Convard said.

[Check out the full story on the continued growth of the marching band on the district website.](#)



STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT



The Steel Valley School District is incredibly proud of its rich history and diversity. You'll soon be seeing a new addition to the entrances to each of our schools, as we are posting a welcome sign in multiple languages to reflect the wide range of languages our students and families speak. Please take a brief moment to view this message from Orlando Dulin, Steel Valley's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator about the importance of the new welcome signs.

ARE YOU A REGISTERED NURSE (RN)?
HAVE SOME EXTRA TIME TO MAKE \$150/DAY?



BE A STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBSTITUTE NURSE!

Please contact 412-464-3600 ext. 1500 for more information!

The Steel Valley School District is looking for substitute nurses for the 2023-24 school year. If you are an active registered nurse with some extra availability during school hours, please contact us at 412-464-3600 ext. 1500 for more information.

Steel Valley High School has two openings for cafeteria workers, with one position at 3.5 hours per day and other at 3.25 hours per day. If you are interested, please contact food services director Lisa Runco at lrunco@steelvalleysd.org or at 412-464-3600 ext. 2800.

For a full list of current openings in the district, please visit us at <https://www.steelvalleysd.org/about/employment-postings>

Barrett Elementary News

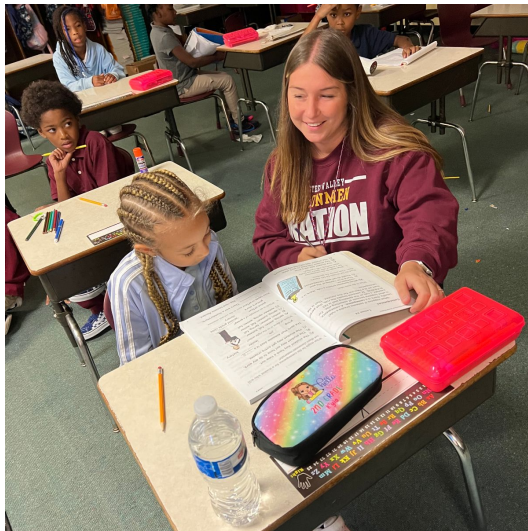


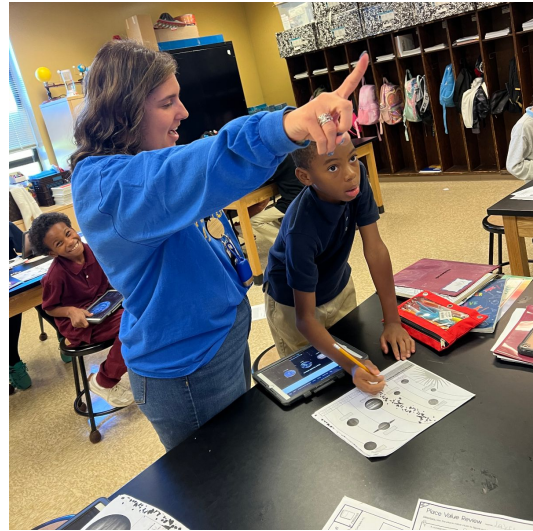
Barrett Elementary hosted its PBIS Kick-off Assembly in late September. Students had the opportunity to share what they know about the Barrett BEARS expectations in return for chances to spin the prize wheel and Plinko chips. Students are excited to earn bear paws to spend on monthly lunch treats or at the school store which will open in October. They also have the opportunity to earn daily Principal's PAW cards or Student of the Month recognition.

The PBIS program was recently recognized by the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Support Network for implementing Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 levels of support with fidelity during the 2022-23 school year. Barrett will be formally honored at the 2023 Integrated PaPBS Network and MTSS Implementers' Forum held on November 1 through November 3, 2023 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA.

The PBIS program is in its 14th year of implementation at Barrett. Over 15 staff members are involved with the Tier I Core Team and the Advanced Tiers 2 and 3 team to plan and implement interventions and reward systems to promote a positive school culture. Each Barrett staff member on the team plays an important role to help the school achieve implementation with fidelity at all three tiers.

Barrett has been excited to welcome a bunch of new faces to its staff. Ms. Carly Radasci is serving as a long-term substitute in second grade, Ms. Jesse McCreery is the district's new elementary art teacher for Barrett and Park, Ms. Nina Kochanowicz is one of Barrett's learning support teachers, and Ms. Rylee Varhola is Barrett's fourth grade math and science teacher. They are just a few of the new faces at Barrett and the entire staff is happy to have them.





The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will visit Barrett Elementary on Friday, October 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration closes at 1:30 p.m. The Care Mobile is a collaboration between UPMC Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and Morgantown. It provides medical care to children with no out-of-pocket cost to families. The Care Mobile offers immunizations, physical exams, sick child visits, adolescent and young adult health care, WIC form assistance, and more.

Park Elementary News



September was full of creative opportunities for Park students. Second graders celebrated International Dot Day on September 15 by creating some impressive artwork. Mrs. Callahan's third grade English Language Arts classes painted pictures that help make them feel safe and loved. The pictures will be up in her classroom all year long for the students to look at whenever they need a boost.

Park teachers have been reviewing the various school wide rules with their students, focusing on appropriate behaviors in different areas of the building each week. This has included behavior in the cafeteria, during recess, in the

hallway, during arrival and dismissal, and more.

The first Scholastic Book Fair went well, with lots of books available for purchase, and the kids all looked great for their school pictures.

Spirit Week begins Tuesday, October 10. Students can wear pajamas as part of Tired Tuesday, dress in their class color on Wednesday (see the monthly calendar for details), participate in Look-A-Like Day and dress up like their best friend or favorite cartoon or movie character on Thursday, and wear Steel Valley maroon and gold to show their Ironmen Pride on Friday.

The fourth grade Halloween Dance is Friday, October 20 at 6 p.m. while Trunk or Treat will begin at 6 p.m. in the school parking lot on Wednesday, October 25. The annual Halloween Parade will be October 31 at 1 p.m.





Over a month into the school year, middle school students are making a lot of progress as they work on the different concepts in each of their classes. Fifth graders in Mrs. MacDonald's English Language Arts class used games like Tic-Tac-Toe, Connect Four and Squares to review concrete and abstract nouns, while Ms. Lucas' math class got hands-on in learning about coordinate planes. Students used teamwork to first label the x- and y-axis and find the origin. Later, they participated in a review activity by finding ordered pairs on the grid. If students were lucky, their ordered pair lead them to a cup to win a prize.

Twenty-five students with A's on their progress reports in Ms. Dunmire's math classes had their names entered into a random drawing to win tickets to a Pittsburgh Penguins preseason game on Saturday, Sept. 24. De'Maya Clark, John Chalfa, Tyler Burwell, Caiden Tagaloe, Jimmy Gillespie, Envy Brownfield, and Tamira Rhodes won the tickets, which were courtesy of Tickets for Kids

A reminder that students are required to follow the Safe Schools route during dismissal. Students must walk up the parking lot behind the orange cones to John Street or up the sidewalk to Main Street. Students are not permitted to walk behind the Franklin Building unless their parent or guardian has submitted a written note indicating their child lives in proximity to Franklin.

Progress reports were posted on Wednesday, September 27 and can [be viewed by logging in to Sapphire.](#)



High School News



Ten Steel Valley students visited the CNX Mentorship Academy for their career fair in September. The CNX Mentorship Academy introduces high school students to career possibilities in the energy industry, particularly in oil and gas. The students will participate in the program throughout the year and have additional opportunities to explore possible careers in the industry.

A college scholarship is available for members of the Class of 2024 through the Wilkins Elks. Applications are now available, but must be filled out online through <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/mvs.cfm>. Applicants do not need to be a member of the Elks. Just follow the instructions to fill out an application and make sure you select Wilkins Elks as the sponsoring lodge. The deadline to apply is November 13.

Picture day was originally scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 28. It has been rescheduled for Thursday, Oct. 5.

Spirit Week begins Tuesday, October 10 and it will be capped with the homecoming football game on Friday, October 13 against Burrell. The homecoming court will be introduced during halftime.

The weather cooperated for Mrs. Tracy's biology students as they made a field trip to North Park. Students kayaked and conducted water studies of North Park Lake to determine how healthy it is.



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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Our mailing address is:

Steel Valley School District
220 E. Oliver Rd. Homestead, PA 15120

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