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STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

July 2022



There are moments when Dontez Williams wishes he could strap on the pads one more time.

Football runs in his blood. His older brother, Delrece, once held the WPIAL record for rushing yards in a regular season. Dontez had his own moment in the spotlight for Steel Valley in the fall of 2011, when he unexpectedly emerged as one of the top running backs in the WPIAL and ran for 1,573 yards and 24 touchdowns as a senior.

Family required the bulk of his attention after he graduated from Steel Valley in 2012, but the itch to be around the game wouldn't go away. Buckling the chinstrap again wasn't in the cards, but he found a new way to get involved. Williams began volunteering as a youth football coach, working with 7- and 8-year-old players. The last few years, he's been an assistant coach with the West Mifflin Middle School team.

Now, he's coming back to his alma mater.

Williams was hired earlier this spring to be the head coach of the Steel Valley Middle School football team. It is the first time that Steel Valley has had a middle school program in decades. Seventh and eighth graders will be eligible

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For more about the new middle school football program, [read the full story on the district web site.](#)



Steel Valley School District Community Meeting

**Wednesday, July 13 at 7 p.m.
Barrett Elementary School**

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

We're looking for parents, students (current and former),
faculty, staff, business leaders, and any other member
of the Steel Valley community to join us.

We want to know what you think already makes Steel Valley great,
but we also want to know what we can do to make it better!

Join us and please spread the word!



STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT

THE PITTSBURGH STUDY

EARLY SCHOOL-AGE COHORT | K-3rd Grade

The 3Rs



Reading.

Racial Equity.

Relationships.

A handful of Steel Valley students and administrators participated in the virtual Healthy and Thriving Schools Summit from The Pittsburgh Study on Thursday, June 23. The Pittsburgh Study utilizes data and research to bring community and academic partners together to learn about child health and address root causes of inequity.

The Healthy and Thriving Schools Summit was hosted by co-directors Dr. Liz Miller and Felicia Savage Friedman and featured several segments led by experts on various programs and topics. Dean Valerie Kinloch of the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh offered opening remarks on the importance of promoting racial equity and providing the tools and resources for children of all backgrounds to thrive academically.

Dr. Shannon Wanless, the Director of Pitt's Office of Child Development and Associate Professor in the School of Education, and Dr. Shallegra Moyer, the Executive Director of Brilliantly Blessed Community Health and

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is in place at Steel Valley's Barrett Elementary School.

For more about the Healthy and Thriving Schools Summit, [check out the story on the district web site.](#)



In December 2021, superintendent Edward Wehrer made a presentation to the Steel Valley School District Board of Directors and the community. The presentation detailed Mr. Wehrer's plan to position the district for the future by addressing the district's primary needs and by emphasizing Steel Valley's commitment to academics, health, equity and inclusion, and career readiness.

The four pillars of Steel Valley Stronger do not exist in isolation. How well someone does academically depends on their health, their support system and the opportunities they are provided. Academics, health, careers and equity are intertwined in education. These four pillars have been significant components of the Steel Valley experience in the past. The goal through Steel Valley Stronger is to turn them into strategic focal points so that they become areas of even greater strength.

For more information about Steel Valley Stronger, [please visit the new portion of our web site dedicated to the initiative](#) and check out the videos on the Academics, Careers, Equity and Inclusion, and Health pages for insight from Steel Valley administrators and staff.

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BARRETT ELEMENTARY NEWS

PARK ELEMENTARY NEWS

WELCOME STEEL VALLEY'S NEWEST STARS!

Join us on Aug. 3 for kindergarten
registration and orientation.

Wednesday, August 3
Best of the Batch Foundation
2000 West Street
Munhall, PA 15120



- * Kindergarten Registration 5-6 p.m.
- * Kindergarten Orientation Activities 6-7 p.m.
- * Meet Barrett & Park Elementary staff
- * Experience Kindergarten readiness activities
- * There will be raffles and photos,
plus gift bags for all
incoming kindergarten students

ADMIT ONE

Wednesday, Aug. 3
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The staffs at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools are hoping that all of their students and families are enjoying the summer break. Both schools are eager to welcome a new batch of kindergarten students this fall.

Families of incoming kindergarten students should make sure they keep the night of August 3 free. All incoming Steel Valley kindergarten students are invited to the Best of the Batch Foundation for orientation that night from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Families will have an opportunity to meet the kindergarten staff at their school, learn about the Sapphire online school information system, experience the curriculum, and celebrate the class of 2035! Raffles and gift bags will be available for all fully registered students. If you know someone who

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On Friday, July 1st, Barrett completed its 14 day summer school program. The focus of this year's program was to continue to tackle the learning loss from the pandemic. Forty-four students and twelve staff members participated in the program, giving students a small group learning environment. Students completing kindergarten, first grade, and second grade met at Barrett Elementary School while the third and fourth grade students attended summer school at the Best of the Batch Foundation.

The collaboration between the Batch Foundation and the school made it possible for students to attend summer school with Barrett staff from 8-11 and then join Batch Camp from 11-3. MUSA also collaborated with Barrett to provide staff to walk students from summer school to MUSA summer camp at 11:00am each day. Partnering with community summer camps made it possible for students to receive additional education time as well as have the all day care that many families need for their children.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will be making three stops at Barrett Elementary throughout the summer - Monday, July 18 and Monday, August 15. 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 Barrett. 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 one of the listed days 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

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Steel Valley has hired Mr. Ryan Brown as the new Middle School Principal. Mr. Brown spent the last ten years at the South Allegheny School District and has a background in special education. Keep an eye out for more about Mr. Brown's background and his vision for the Middle School in a story that will be on the website later this summer.

The Steel Valley Middle School Summer Reading Camp (+Math) wrapped up on July 1. The camp was for students who recently completed fifth or sixth grade. It lasted three weeks and featured a number of hands-on activities designed to be fun, engaging and educational. The theme of the camp was Everyday Heroes and a handful of guest speakers stopped by to provide some insight and inspiration. Guests included Steel Valley graduate Marissa Hoesch, who is now studying to be a nurse; Steel Valley graduate Mike Hitt, a motivational speaker and the owner of a local sound studio; and Susan Radio from UPMC's Hillman Cancer Center.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the camp possible!



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program this summer for students completing third through eighth grade. Students in the program will learn to cook delicious meals with fresh ingredients that you can grow right at home. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend with their students if desired.

Two sessions are available this summer - July 18-20 and August 15-17 - with each session limited to 10 students plus their parents/guardians. Students only need to attend one session per week, as each session will have the same content.

To fill out the sign up form and for more registration information, [check out the form on the district website.](#)

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



A group of a dozen teachers from the high school teamed up with district Diversity, Equity and Inclusion coordinator Orlando Dulin to develop the high school Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Team. The group collaborated with representatives from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to identify ideas and strategies to foster and maintain a positive school environment.

The group is really excited to get the program started and to implement some exciting changes for the 2022-23 school year.

Earlier this summer, junior Nathan Collins put the finishing touches on his Eagle Scout project. Collins, who is an honor student at Steel Center for Career and Technical Education, turned an unused space into a dog park behind Munhall Volunteer Fire Co. #1 between Martha Street and East 11th Avenue.

Collins raised funds for the project, developed a plan that included a secure double-gate system to make sure the dogs didn't escape, created signs, and built a pavilion. It was a lot of work, but it all came together thanks to Collins' dedication as well as the generosity and help from the community.

To see more from the entire building process, [check out this YouTube video that](#)

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