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STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

October 2021



A ROUSING SUCCESS

Homecoming 2021 turned out to be a perfect evening at William V. Campbell Field. On a gorgeous early fall night on Friday, October 1, the Ironman routed Ligonier Valley 40-0 to stay undefeated. Senior NiJhay Burt continued his fantastic play with five touchdowns and 277 rushing yards in the win.



The homecoming court was introduced at halftime. This year's members of the court included Emaya Coleman, Chamarra Ford, Riley Furrick, Soraya Gibbs, Dacia Hruska, Grace Lemin, Alyse Phares, Kelsey Salopek, Abigail Tester and Lexie Zuger.

Riley Furrick was named your 2021 Steel Valley Homecoming Queen.





MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Steel Valley Families,

One of our priorities this year is communication. That includes our communication to you as Steel Valley faculty, staff, students and parents, to the community as a whole and to those who may have once been a part of the Steel Valley community but who now attend charter schools in the area.

We are working to establish renewed relationships with those charter school families and want to share the good things that happen in Steel Valley. We are also working on enhancing our communication to our current Steel Valley families, including information about the health and safety of our students. The well-being of our students is our utmost priority, and we are continuously evaluating safety, security and health protocols as we navigate another month of education amidst a pandemic. For some of our students, September marked their first month of in-person learning in over a year. We will help guide them through this adjustment process with the understanding that students who do not adhere to our standards will face the appropriate consequences.

To that end, we would like to invite the entire Steel Valley community to a vaccine clinic at the high school on Friday, October 8. There will be a follow-up clinic on October 29 for the second dose of the vaccine. For those who have not been vaccinated, this is an opportunity to get the vaccine. For those interested in and eligible to receive a booster shot, that will also be available courtesy of UPMC.

Students and faculty will be able to get the vaccine from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on October 8. The Steel Valley community is welcome to get the vaccine from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Sincerely,
Edward Wehrer
Superintendent
#SteelValleyStronger

Facemasks are required in all Steel Valley School District buildings as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health on August 31, 2021. The Steel Valley School District also has a board-approved health and safety plan that is available [on the district web site.](#)



Get To Know Bryan Macuga, a familiar face in Steel Valley who is in a new role as assistant superintendent. Read about Mr. Macuga by [clicking on the link here.](#)

BARRETT ELEMENTARY NEWS



BATCHPACKS A BLAST AT BARRETT

The students and staff at Barrett and Park Elementary Schools were thrilled to welcome back Steel Valley graduate Charlie Batch and his Best of the Batch Foundation on Wednesday, September 8.

Charlie and his foundation donated "Batch Packs," school supplies, teacher bags and books to the students and faculty at both elementary schools. Volunteers from MSA Safety were on hand to help distribute all of the donations.

The Steel Valley School District, Barrett Elementary and Park Elementary thank Charlie Batch, the BatchFoundation and all of the volunteers for their generosity and service to the Steel Valley community.

Students at Barrett have been learning all sorts of new skills. Fourth graders even got a chance to learn about World Music Drumming thanks to the instruction of Ms. Kerry Kleinhans.



The Steel Valley School District is hiring for several important positions! The district is in need of paraeducators and substitute teachers, as well as substitute secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians, and cafeteria workers. A full list of openings [is available on the web site.](#)



Get To Know Orlando Dulin, a Steel Valley grad who is the district's first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator. Read about Mr. Dulin by [clicking on the link here.](#)

PARK ELEMENTARY NEWS



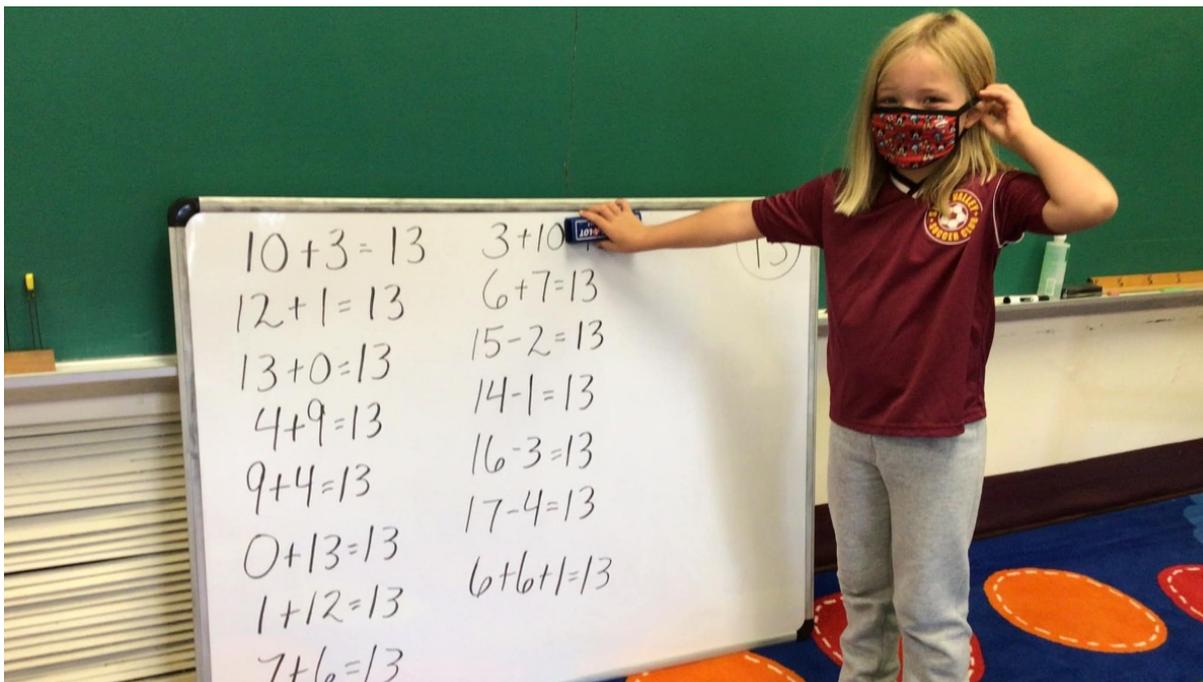
DEVELOPING AND BUILDING AT PARK

September was all about laying a foundation of learning and development at Park Elementary. Fourth graders talked with Dr. Shaughnessy and Mrs. Chalus about becoming members of the Park Principal Advisory Council. The council works on one big project per year and also focus on some smaller things to help make the school a nicer place.

Third graders learned about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the anniversary of his visit to Washington, D.C. Second graders teamed up to solve some math problems and learn about place value, as one student provides a two-digit number while their partner models it correctly with their blocks.

First graders also spent some time on their math skills this month, as Mrs. Gennari's class find different ways to use equations to create the day of the month. The 13th, for example, might be $9 + 4$ or $15 - 2$. The equations will get more complex as the students learn more throughout the year.

Finally, kindergartners spent some time developing their fine motor skills with arts and crafts projects. Learning how to use scissors and other tools helps them improve their hand strength and muscle development.



What's for lunch? We've got the answer! Check out the menus for the high school, middle school and both elementary schools on the district web site. The menus [are updated before each month.](#)



Get To Know Dr. Lisa Mumau, Steel Valley's new Director of Pupil Services. Read Dr. Mumau's story by [clicking on the link here.](#)

The Steel Valley High School Transition program would like to volunteer our services in our community. Services we can provide include: Cleaning, Assembling Boxes, Organizing, Sorting, Stocking, Food Prep, Bagging, Packing, Shredding, Filing, Building and Ground Maintenance.

We are willing to learn new skills! We are available on Friday mornings or by request. Please contact Mr. Rob Shoemaker for more information at (412) 464-3600 Ext 2211 or email at rshoemaker@steelvalleysd.org

Thank you for your consideration in expanding our education!

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



HANDS-ON LEARNING AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students in Ms. Dunmire's eighth grade Math4Life class had an educational "Game Day" in September. Students learned about budgets, banking basics and careers, then put that knowledge to the test with The Game of Life. The classic board game requires players to travel throughout life, including college, a career, marriage and even pets and children along the way.

Meanwhile, Mrs. MacDonald's fifth grade ELA class practiced sequence of events and used some different tools to locate key words. The students got moving with Scoot and then used their iPads to try a new program called Boom Cards.



Remember, there is a dress code in effect this year! It's similar to ones the district has used in the past, but if parents and students need a reminder, the dress code is available in the student handbooks for each school. All of the handbooks [are available on the district web site.](#)



Get To Know Ms. Rebecca Bragan, Steel Valley's New Middle School Principal. Read

about Ms. Bragan by clicking on [the link here.](#)

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



MAKING AN IMPACT AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

Steel Valley senior Ben Novotny was recognized at the district's school board meeting on Thursday, Sept. 23 as the Pennsylvania SADD Student of the Year. Students Against Destruction Decisions is a national organization dedicated to student safety and wellness.

Novotny earned the recognition earlier in the year, but Thursday gave the Pennsylvania SADD chapter a chance to present him with the award as well as a couple of special citations. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives recognized Novotny's hard work and dedication to the Steel Valley community through a citation presented by State Rep. Summer Lee. Novotny was also presented with SADD's President's Volunteer Service Award signed by President Joe Biden.

It was also a big month for our athletics programs. The football team is off to a 5-0 after the homecoming win over Ligonier Valley. Your Ironmen are now ranked fifth in the WPIAL in Class 2A by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. The Ironman also recently helped coach Ray Braszo get his 200th career victory. The girls soccer team is also off to a great start, as they are in first place in the section with an 8-2 overall record. The boys soccer team has been competitive in section play and the girls volleyball team picked up a big win over East Allegheny on senior night. The cross country team set some new personal bests, too, while the golf team has been enjoying its time out on the links.



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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