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# STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

## September 2021



## Welcome to the Steel Valley Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Steel Valley Newsletter.

The last 18 months have been a challenge. As the 2021-22 school year begins, we're still dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are grateful to have our students back in class for in-person learning.

As the year unfolds, we want to celebrate the work they do and showcase all that Steel Valley has to offer. We also want to make sure that members of the Steel Valley community are up to date on the latest news and developments in the district.

This newsletter will feature updates from each of our schools, photos and features from inside the classroom and from special events, important reminders and more.

This newsletter is interactive, so any links you see can be clicked on to take you to another web page. After this first edition, the newsletter will arrive in your inbox on the first Monday of every month. We're excited to get started and to share all that's going on in the Steel Valley School District.

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Don't be late! Check out arrival and dismissal times for all four schools [by clicking here.](#)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Steel Valley Families,

The last year-and-a-half has provided numerous lessons for all of us. We have had no choice but to adopt new educational methods, become familiar with new technologies, communicate in new ways and be mindful of our collective and individual health and safety like never before. Together, we navigated through a very difficult time.

Challenges and uncertainty remain. One thing is certain, however - we must continue to be flexible and adapt to changing circumstances in order to provide the best opportunities for our children to learn and grow. Already we have had a significant change to this year's plans. Governor Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Health issued an order on Tuesday, August 31,

that masks must be worn indoors in all K-12 schools. That order takes effect on Tuesday, September 7, and it applies to all staff, students and visitors. The Steel Valley School District will follow the order, and we ask for your cooperation and understanding.

As was the case last year, our situation may change abruptly and unexpectedly. Please keep an eye out for updates on Sapphire, on district social media and the district website, in your email and in your home mailboxes. Making greater use of text messages is a goal for us, too. When necessary, we will call you with important information.

No matter where this year takes us, we want to celebrate everything that makes Steel Valley special. One new way in which we will highlight the incredible students, teachers, and staff in our district is through this monthly newsletter.

I wish everyone a great holiday weekend and a healthy, happy and successful 2021-22 school year!

Sincerely,  
Edward Wehrer  
Superintendent  
#SteelValleyStronger

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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](#).

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**BARRETT ELEMENTARY NEWS**

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## WELCOME BACK BARRETT FAMILIES!

The staff at Barrett was so excited to see both some familiar faces and some new ones during the first few days of school! Barrett welcomed our new kindergarten class for Transition Day on Thursday, August 26. The staff put together this wonderful welcome video for all of the kindergarten students. [Check it out here.](#)

The first, second, third and fourth grade students started school on Friday, August 27. If parents have any questions about the start of school or life at Barrett, they can email principal Mr. Kevin Walsh at [kwash@steelvalleysd.org](mailto:kwash@steelvalleysd.org) or call [412-464-3600](tel:412-464-3600) [x5505](#).





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.](#)

## PARK ELEMENTARY NEWS



## WELCOME BACK PARK FAMILIES!

It was a busy first two days at Park Elementary! Kindergartners went through Transition Day on two separate days - the first group went through their first day on Thursday, August 26 and then the second group went through the process on Friday, August 27. First, second, third and fourth grade students all started on Friday.

Dr. Thomas Shaughnessy greeted all of the students as they arrived. Each Friday at 4:30 p.m. Dr. Shaughnessy gives Park students a call to remind them about what's coming up. The messages are also posted on the Park App and the Park Facebook Page every Friday afternoon.

If parents have any questions, they can email him at [tshaughnessy@steelvalleysd.org](mailto:tshaughnessy@steelvalleysd.org) and call at [412-464-3600](tel:412-464-3600) x4505.





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.](#)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS





## A BIG FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS

New Middle School principal Ms. Rebecca Bragan welcomed the fifth graders during Transition Day on Thursday, August 26. Students had a chance to meet Ms. Bragan and she talked to them about what to expect this year during a meeting in the cafeteria. Then Mr. Clay Karadus added his own special batch of instructions and information.

The sixth, seventh and eighth grade students had their first day of school on Friday, August 27. It was great to have everyone back in the building. Anyone with questions for Ms. Bragan can reach her at [rbragan@steelvalleysd.org](mailto:rbragan@steelvalleysd.org) or [412-464-3600](tel:412-464-3600) x3505.





Dress code reminder - The Steel Valley School District has reinstated its dress code for the 2021-22 school year. Dress code descriptions are in student handbooks that [are available on the district web site.](#)

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS





## READY TO GO AGAIN!

The first day of school may not be as big of a deal to high schoolers as it is to the elementary school students, but it was still exciting to have everyone back in the building. The high school welcomed ninth graders during Transition Day on Thursday, August 26. Sophomores, juniors and seniors had their first day of classes on Friday, August 27.

The high school is using an A/B schedule system this year. Any students who want to make a change to their schedule must do so by the end of the day on Friday, September 10. Those changes can be made through the guidance office.

Also, please remember that September 21st is Picture Day.

Anyone with any questions can email Mr. Strom at [jstrom@steelvalleysd.org](mailto:jstrom@steelvalleysd.org) or call at [412-464-3600](tel:412-464-3600) x2505.



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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