



SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

# **SV** Graduates: Class of 2018



#### HONOR STUDENTS

Front row, left to right: Salutatorian Olivia Jenkins, Katarina Werber, Colby Stichter, Mackenzie Homan, Donald Ballou, Madison Parker, Ellen Robinson

Second row, left to right: Fiona Murphy, Carly Mundell, Rylee Arena, Laura Henne, Emily Gunkel, Elizabeth Clement

Third row, left to right: Bryce Burtnett, G. Michael Shott, Joseph Jardine, Kara Unger, Kaitlynn Wayman, Kasey Bubel, Zachary Bevans, Valedictorian Lucas Horrell

Commencement exercises were held on June 7 at the high school stadium for the 139 members of the Schuylkill Valley High School Class of 2018. The valedictorian was Lucas P. Horrell, son of Mark and Julie Horrell, Centre Township. Olivia M. Jenkins, daughter of Darryl and Amy Jenkins, Bern Township, was the salutatorian.

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## Monday, August 27, is the first day of school!

A Message from Dr.

Mierzejewski

SV Grads continued: Senior Banquet Awards; and Welcome Mr. Crills

Future Plans for Class of 2018: Garden Debuts;

ES School PTO for 2018-19 ES and MS District Budget

Elementary School Award, Bagged Lunch Program; Meet the **Teacher Nights**  Staff

Retirements: Pride of SV Preview; Athletic Season Pass Order Form

## SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

929 Lakeshore Drive Leesport PA 19533-8631

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski Superintendent Mr. Michael T. Mitchell, Jr. High School Principal Mrs. Maggie E. Drake High School Assistant Principal Mr. Joshua Kuehner Middle School Principal Mr. Jeffrey Kerchner Assistant Middle School Principal Mr. Jeremy L. Crills Elementary School Principal Mrs. Melissa A. Rhoads Assistant Elementary School Principal Mrs. Dawn Harris Director, Special Education & Pupil Services Mrs. Melissa Kelchner Director of Teaching and Learning Mr. Michael Billman Director, Information Technology Mrs. Wendy Boarder **Business Manager** Mrs. Changming Wang Assistant Business Manager Mr. Craig A. Strunk Director, Buildings & Grounds Miss Stephanie L. Deibler Athletic Director Ms. Robin Brightbill Director of Human Resources

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. Kevin Raudenbush, President
Mr. George H. Mertz, III, Vice President
Mrs. Linda R. Lash, Secretary
Mr. Paul L. Bendigo
Mr. Robert M. Dempsey
Mrs. Nicoleen M. Kleffel
Dr. Jay R. Melvin
Mr. G. Dane Miller
Mr. Alfonso F. Rossi

#### **BOARD MEETINGS**

Committees generally meet the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Board meetings are generally held the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the high school's LeRoy K. Seip room.

#### **TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

 Administration
 610-916-0957

 High School
 610-926-1706

 Middle School
 610-926-7111

 Elementary School
 610-926-4165



# superintendent's MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year at Schuylkill Valley School District! The last school year ended with many wonderful celebrations of all of our student successes, culminating with our largest celebration at high school graduation. I spoke at graduation about how everyone can decide what their definition of success is and how they will get there. This summer, as I was revisiting two books from my shelves, I connected back to those thoughts and on what factors contribute to success.

The two books are Ellen Galinsky's "Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs" and Arthur Costa and Bena Kallick's "Learning and Leading with Habits of Mind: 16 Essential Characteristics for Success." Each book is applicable to the parenting and education work that we do. Costa and Kallick's habits of mind can be associated with Galinsky's essential skills and some, such as communicating and critical thinking, are quite familiar. Several have not had quite as much attention.

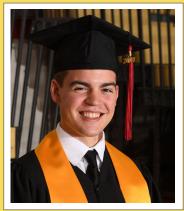
One of these areas is focus and self-control. Focus is becoming a rare commodity in the age of technology when there are constant demands on our attention. Galinsky gives some examples of this skill: stopping and thinking before you act, such as not blurting out something without

thinking it through; being able to pay attention even when there are distractions; sticking with something you are doing even after you've had an initial failure; and deferring short-term rewards for better, long-term rewards. There are several strategies for encouraging these skills in our children, but one of the best is the modeling of these behaviors by adults. For an interesting and fun video of preschool children demonstrating (or not demonstrating) this skill, search for "The Marshmallow Test" on YouTube.

Another essential skill is perspective taking. This is similar to empathy. Businesses have identified empathy as one of the most important qualities that an employee can have. Perspective taking is a complex process. It is an intellectual skill that enables us to discern how someone else thinks and feels. Why is this important, and why is it an important skill in the business world? Everyone wants to feel listened to, understood and treated with respect. These are important for any successful interactions and positive outcomes.

If you are interested in reading more about success factors for children and adults, I recommend these two books. They are research-based, but are reader-friendly. My best wishes for a wonderful and successful 2018-19 school year.

Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski Superintendent



Valedictorian Lucas P. Horrell



Salutatorian Olivia M. Jenkins

# **Senior Banquet Award Winners**

On June 4, awards were presented at the Senior Banquet to students for outstanding accomplishment and/or participation in co-curricular activities, including music, drama and athletics. Congratulations to:

Joe Jardine, Kasey Bubel, Emily Gunkel, Fiona Murphy, Colby Stichter – PIAA Academic All-Star Award

**Kasey Bubel, Nick Sager** – PIAA District III Sportsmanship Award

#### **Emily Gunkel**

- Outstanding Musician Award

#### **Colby Stichter**

- Outstanding Male Athlete

#### **Kasey Bubel**

- Outstanding Female Athlete

#### **Emily Gunkel**

- Commitment Award

# SV Graduates: Class of 2018

continued from front cover

# Summa cum laude honors (4-year GPA 4.000 or higher):

Zachary Bevans Mackenzie Homan

**Lucas Horrell** 

Olivia Jenkins Colby Stichter

# Magna cum laude honors (4-year GPA 3.750-3.999):

Emily Gunkel
Joseph Jardine
Elizabeth Clement
Fiona Murphy
Bryce Burtnett
Rylee Arena
Donald Ballou
G. Michael Shott

Madison Parker
Kasey Bubel
Laura Henne
Kaitlynn Wayman
Kara Unger
Katarina Werber
Carly Mundell
Ellen Robinson

# Cum laude (4-year GPA 3.500-3.749):

Cecily Ramirez
Carissa Trievel
Hallie Jacobs
Jacob Jerdan
Joshua Rehr
Gabrielle Spracklin
Cassandra Miller
Autumn Schell
Connor Becker
Michael Dailey
Carson Himmelberger

Brian AbreuHernandez
Colin Gwiazdowski
Madison Davidson
Kelsey Patrick
Emily Wyatt
Sarah Zockoll
Rebecca Zeiner
Ashley Spatz
Arlynne BermudezMorales

# Welcome Mr. Crills! New Elementary School Principal

The Elementary School warmly welcomes Mr. Jeremy L. Crills as its new principal. Mr. Crills was most recently the assistant principal at the middle school. He and his wife, Coleen, live in Bern Township and have three children – Colby, Carly and Carson – all in SV schools. Mr. Crills holds a bachelor's degree, a masters'



degree in Education, an Educational Leadership Certification, and is in the middle of his doctoral program at Wilkes University. Prior to his role at the middle school, Mr. Crills was employed as a teacher in the physical education departments at Governor Mifflin middle school, Lancaster/Lebanon IU 13 and the Reading School District.

He coached high school football for 18 years and coached SV youth sports for the past eight years. In his spare time, he enjoys watching his children participate in their activities, fishing, reading, attending and watching Penn State football games, and volunteering with his family at the local food pantry and Special Olympics. In his new role at the elementary school, Mr. Crills hopes to continue the great success that students and teachers have achieved the past few years. "I am here to support the teachers and encourage them to do what is best for our students to reach their highest potential. I love that we focus on educating the "whole" child in our school district and I will work to support that philosophy."

**Brian Abreu-Hernandez** RACC

Mira Acevedo RACC

**Alexander Adams** Employment

**Carlos Altamirano** Temple University

**Rylee Arena** Seton Hill University

Naomi Arnold Lycoming College Donald Ballou

Wilkes University

Mercedes Batton Kutztown University

Connor Becker

York College

Jack Bennett

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

**Haylee Berger** Reading Hospital

Patrick Berkenstock BTI/Alvernia

Arlynne Bermudez-Morales

Albright College

**Zachary Bevans** Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Courtney Blimline Alvernia University

Ashley Border

University of Beaufort SC

**Kathleen Bourette** BCTC

**Mary Brooks**Millersville University

Jackson Brown

McDaniel University

Zachary Bruchez

Brigham Young University-Idaho

**Kasey Bubel**Towson University

Bryce Burtnett
Allegheny College

Sofia Cacho RACC

**Fandely Cadena** RACC

Victoria Calleja

Harrisburg University of Science Technology

**Evan Camlin**Rochester Institute of Technology

**Ann Civil**Howard University

**Elizabeth Clement** 

University of Florida

Cassandra Cote
Kutztown University

Kaelan Cronan

Pennsylvania College of Technology

Michael Dailey Employment

Madison Davidson
Penn State University

Jason Doll

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

**Aiden Downey**Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

**Chloe Dracha**Pennsylvania College of

Health Sciences

Max Dracha

Employment

**Sarah Edris** Kutztown University

**Kayla Ehrnfeldt** York College

Jarad Einsel

Universal Technical Institute

**Christian Flammer** Kutztown University

Morgan Fox Rutgers University-

Camden

Haley George

Pennsylvania College of Technology

**Hannah Glassmire** Jefferson University

**David Goad** Penn State University

Noah Grassley Undeclared

**Logan Grauer** Lebanon Valley College

**Emily Gunkel**Temple University

Colin Gwiazdowski University of Arizona

John Hammond Undeclared

**Lauren Hart** York College

**Takoda Hartman** Employment

**Laura Henne** Undeclared

Patrick Henshaw Employment

**Tyler Hiestand**Thaddeus Stevens
College of Technology

Joshua Hill

**RACC** 

**Carson Himmelberger** Wilkes University

**Kadin Hohenadel** Kutztown University

Mackenzie Homan
Penn State University

Isaac Horne Undeclared

**Lucas Horrell**University of
Central Florida

Cole Hoster

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

**Zachary Hyneman** Employment

Hallie Jacobs

Temple University

**Joseph Jardine** University of Kentucky

Olivia Jenkins

University of Pittsburgh

Jacob Jerdan Undeclared

Lucille Johns RACC

Jaden Johnson USMC

Juliana Kalous RACC

Madison Kissling Clarion University

Gabriella Klatt

Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences

**Heather Knepp** 

Employment **Alyssa Lash** 

Alyssa Lash
Pennsylvania College of
Technology

**Casey Lennon**University of Oregon

University of Oregon **Kyle Livinghouse** 

Undeclared

**Brandon Matukonis** Employment

Cody McMinn

Temple University

Alexander Mercado Employment

**Noelia Mercado** Undeclared

**Austin Miller**Penn State University

**Cassandra Miller** Wesley College

**Dawson Mohl** Undeclared **Eduardo Montes-De-Oca** 

**Employment** 

**Carly Mundell** 

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences

Fiona Murphy

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**Aaron Nicometo** Employment

**Aiyana Noll** Employment

Nicholas O'Neill University of Central Florida

**Christopher Oxenreider** Penn State University

Madison Parker
The University of the Arts

**Kelsey Patrick**Penn State University

**Morgan Perry** Pennsylvania College of Technology

**Halee Peters**Mount Aloysius College

James Phillips
Penn State University

Kailey Rajnath York College

Cecily Ramirez Undeclared

Natalie Reeser Mansfield University

**Joshua Rehr** Penn State University

**Benjamin Reisenweaver**East Stroudsburg University

Marisa Rex Alvernia University

**Mason Riegel** Employment

**Ellen Robinson** Kuztown University

Noah Romig Employment

Jonathan Rosado

Michael Ryan

**RACC** 

Employment

**Nicholas Sager** East Stroudsburg University

**Autumn Schell** Alvernia University

Roman Searle Messiah College

Cody Seip BTI

**Hannah Seltzer**Northampton Community

College

G. Michael Shott

Penn State University

Anthony Simko

Undeclared **Ezekial Smith** 

Humboldt State University

**Nathaniel Solomon** 

Full Sail University

**Brendan Sparr** Undeclared

Ashley Spatz

Penn Foster Career School

Gabrielle Spracklin

Albright College

Alexia Stevenson Undeclared

Colby Stichter

East Stroudsburg University

Paige Strausser

Employment

Kassidy Swain

USN Matthew Taddeo

Full Sail University

Carrisa Trievel

Temple University

Kara Unger

Temple University **Kaitlynn Wayman** 

Kutztown University

Steevi Weidner

RACC

**Katarina Werber**Montgomery County
Community College

Connor Wesner

Nicholas White RACC

Colette Williams

East Stroudsburg University **Luke Williams** 

Undeclared Kyle Wolf

Employment
Richard Wolfson

RACC **Erin Wood** 

RACC **Tyler Worrell**Undeclared

Emily Wyatt Undeclared

Rebecca Zeiner

Millersville University **Damien Zimmerman** 

Employment Sarah Zockoll

West Chester University

Data recorded April 2018

# Our Students Are Growing!

The next time you're on campus, be sure to stop near the gym side of the elementary school to see the new school garden. Conceived of and designed by school volunteer and parent Mrs.

Bethany Kehs-Rossi and Discovery/STEM teacher Mrs. Mary Kate Raytek, the raised gardens will provide hands-on experience to supplement curriculum in grades K–4. By planting and growing sunflowers, pumpkins, wildflowers and vegetables, students will be responsible for the care and maintenance of the garden while gaining valuable lessons in nutrition, life cycles, environmental awareness, cooperation, math, measurement, science, social studies and communities.

The garden will serve as an outdoor classroom as well as to promote nutrition, health and more. According to Mrs. Kehs-Rossi, school gardens not only promote healthy lifestyles, but also have been shown to improve children's behavior and academic performance in school.

The gardens were laid out and filled with soil near the end of the school year by Mrs. Kehs-Rossi, her children and members of the Koller family, all SV students. Community sponsors,



including **Geissler's Tree Farm** and **Baker Heirloom Seeds**, generously contributed to the project with donations of soil and seeds. The intention is to begin the 2018-2019 school year by engaging students in classroom activities around planning, observation and planting in order to experience all aspects of a garden's life cycle. With a team comprised of administrators, classroom teachers, faculty representatives from special education, art, the library, guidance counseling, the nurse's office, custodial staff and volunteers focused on helping our students to appreciate nature and growth, there should be a bountiful harvest of learning opportunities. As students grow, so will the garden. "We want our students to establish strong roots within our community, cultivate their minds by engaging in problem-solving, and grow into capable and exceptional individuals," Mrs. Kehs-Rossi said. "A school garden is a great platform on which to begin that journey."

## **New SVMSPTO**

A hearty welcome to the new SV Middle School PTO, which has been organized to support and enhance the educational experiences of the middle school's students. All middle school parents and guardians are welcome to join the MSPTO. Meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school.

One of the MSPTO's first events will be a Music Festival featuring local performers and bands, including students, starting at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 15, at the middle school. There will be food for purchase and a raffle with fabulous prizes, in-cluding a \$500 gift certificate to Spark Dental/ Orthodontics, an American Girl doll, a Ring video doorbell and a piece of furni-ture from The Mint Leaf. Free admission, donations accepted.

If you are interested in performing during the Music Festival, please contact SVMSPTO president **Heather Hueske** at **heatherhueskesvmspto@gmail.com**, or treasurer **Sara Stanley** at **sarastanleysvmspto@gmail.com**.

Other upcoming MSPTO events include SV Pop Socket and spirit wear sales and a "What A Crock" (pre-made crock pot meals) fund raiser. Please find the MSPTO on Facebook at Schuylkill Valley Middle School PTO.



## **SVESPTO**

The Elementary School PTO continues to assist parents and teachers in providing meaningful support for their students and school. Last year, among many other donations, the ESPTO helped the elementary school purchase brand new cafeteria tables, which was a significant contribution. In addition, the fundraisers for the ESPTO pay for new library books, field trip expenses, grandparents' day and special events. Thank you to all who participate in the ESPTO fund raisers!

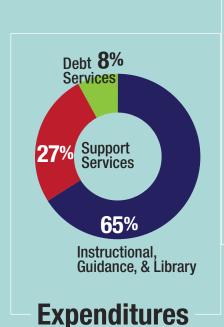
**August 17** – Free Family Movie Night 8:00 p.m., school campus

August 27 - No Cook Night at Andali's

**September 11** – First ES PTO Meeting of the School Year, 6:30 p.m. ES Cafe

**September 29** – Harlem Wizard Event in the SVHS gym





# State 24% 1% Sources Federal + Other Revenues 75% Local

Sources

The budget for 2018-2019 has total expenditures of \$38,960,878, which is an increase of \$959,786 or 2.53% over 2017-2018 expenditures.

# 2018-2019 District Budget

In June, the Schuylkill Valley Board of Directors approved a budget of \$38,960,878, without increasing taxes. This is the fourth year out of the past five that the Board has avoided raising taxes. Business Manager Mrs. Wendy Boarder said that certain positive developments contributed to an increase in revenue. The district's property tax rolls increased approximately \$8.6 million and the district's tax collection rate increased to 96%, adding about \$348,000 in new tax revenues.

In addition, real estate tax interim bills are projected to increase approximately \$13 million due to new and additional industrial development within the district, adding new tax revenues of about \$350,000.

The approved budget did not cut any jobs and filled all four retiring teacher positions, in addition to providing for the hiring of the Director of Teaching and Learning, a speech therapist, part-time game manager, and an elementary teacher to maintain smaller class sizes.

As a result of the distribution of state gaming funds through Act 1 of 2006, school property taxes were reduced by \$154.79 this year for all property owners who qualified as homesteads and/or farmsteads. The annual tax bill for a property assessed at \$100,000 remains at 27.07 mills, or \$2,707.

For more information about the SVSD budget, please visit the Administration/Business Office page of our website: www.schuylkillvalley.org.



# Our Dedicated Elementary School Faculty and Staff

On June 8, faculty and staff from the elementary school proudly dedicated a new sign acknowledging the school's International Literacy Award for Outstanding Language Arts Program. Principal Mrs. Melissa Kelchner thanked everyone, from the teachers to the custodial staff, for contributing to the excellence that achieved this important recognition.

# **After-School Bagged Lunch Program for Middle and High School Students**

The Food Services department recognizes that many middle and high school students staying after school for activities, practices and games don't bring additional food to fortify themselves before these events. Beginning on Tuesday, September 6, interested students may pre-purchase after-school bagged lunches (\$3.50) or snack bags (\$2.00) during lunch periods at both cafeterias. Students will fill out a paper order form and present it to the cafeteria cashier. The cost for these bagged lunches will be charged to each individual student's cafeteria account. Students on free and reduced lunch will have little to no cost for this program. At the conclusion of the school day, the high school and middle school cafeterias will be open for ten minutes following dismissal for students to pick up their bagged lunches. The purpose of this program is to ensure that students have food available after school and to make it safer and

easier for the students to get healthy food before practice or games. We hope it will also cut down on high school students having to walk or drive off-campus for food. As an added bonus, we hope it helps parents by eliminating the need to pack a snack in the morning for after-school activities.

#### BAGGED LUNCH - \$3.50

(Choice of one in each category)

Sandwich: Peanut Butter & Jelly
Uncrustable, Grilled Chicken Wrap,
Italian Hoagie

Fruit: Apple, Banana, Applesauce Cup, Fruit Juice

Bag of Chips Cookie Bottled Water

#### **SNACK BAG - \$2.00**

(Choice of one in each category)

Protein Snack: Cheese Stick, Yogurt

Fruit: Apple, Banana, Applesauce

Cup, Fruit Juice

Grains: Granola, Granola Bar

# **Meet the Teacher Nights**

## **High School**

Wednesday, September 12 6:30 p.m.

### **Middle School**

**Grade 5 Only** Wednesday, August 22, 7–8:30 p.m.

#### Grades 6, 7 & 8

Thursday, August 30, 7–8:30 p.m.

#### Middle School Locker Orientation for 5th Graders

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Last names from Adams to Grosselfinger Tuesday, August 14

Last names from Gulley to Perry Wednesday, August 15

Last names from Pinder to Wysocki **Thursday, August 16** 

## Elementary School

Kindergarten Bus Ride Night

Monday, August 20 6:00 p.m.

**Grades 1 – 4 Meet the Teacher Night**Wednesday,
August 22, 6:00–7:00 p.m.





schuylkill valley SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Athletic Season Pass Order Form

The 2018-2019 Athletic Season Pass Order Form is now available online. Please access it on the home page under the "News" section of the SV website: www.schuylkillvalley.org

# **Pride of SV Preview**

We are proud to announce the inductees for the 6th annual Pride of Schuylkill Valley Awards, to be presented at a luncheon on Saturday, October 20, 2018:

Mr. Robert M. Dempsey
Mrs. Crystal Cammauf-Young
Dr. Charles Frankhouser
Mr. Douglas Madenford
Mrs. Courtnie (Geissler) Nein
Ms. Linda Roshong

Mr. Rocco "Rocky" Santilli

# congratulations on your

Our best wishes to the following faculty and staff, who retired this year. Thank you for your dedication to the Schuylkill Valley School District. For everything you have given, we are truly grateful.

**Mr. Joe Ambrose**, Middle School Business Education Teacher, 33 years

Mr. Ronald W. Andrew
High School Physics Teacher,
31 years

Mrs. Lorena M. Bickel Elementary School Nurse, 13 years

Mrs. Jane E. Curry Middle School Special Education Paraprofessional, 22 years

Mr. Rick Heckrote
High School Guidance
Counselor, 34 years

Mr. Brian F. Lacey
Director of Special Education
and Pupil Services, 32 years

**Mr. Duane E. Maurer**High School Business
Education Teacher, 37 years

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Reading, PA

Permit No. 208

Mrs. Cathy M. Miller
Fourth Grade Teacher, 32 years

Mrs. C. Susan O'Regan
Athletic Department Secretary,
14 years

Mrs. Brenda F. Ramich
High School Food Services
Worker, 31 years

Mrs. Dawn E. Reiter Middle School Language Arts Teacher, 30 years

Mrs. Debra A. Steffey Middle School Food Services Supervisor, 18 years