



**Brookside Elementary School**  
**3849 Saddleire Road**  
**Binghamton, NY 13903**

**Main Office: (607) 669-4105**

Principal: Jessica Bowerman

School Nurse: Megan Allabaugh

Social Worker/DASA Coordinator: Anita Barry



**Susquehanna Valley District Offices**  
**P.O. Box 200 (1040 Conklin Rd.)**  
**Conklin, NY 13748**  
**(607) 775-0170**

Superintendent: Natalie Brubaker

Assistant Superintendent: Catherine Kacyvenski

Transportation Supervisor: TBD

Director of Athletics: Ed Swartwout

Director of Technology: Jason Luke

Director of Special Services: Vanessa Moschak

Director of Facilities: Ralph Schuldt

Business Executive: Ethan Berry

Food Services Director: Patrick Walsh/Annie Hudock

Attendance Officer: John Dancesia

Public Information/Webmaster: Jim Hull



**Francis P. Donnelly Elementary School**  
**P.O. Box 250 (1168 Conklin Road)**  
**Conklin, NY 13748**

**Main Office: (607) 775-0176 or 775-9107**

Principal: Jill Rich

School Nurse: Rebecca Flanders

Social Worker/DASA Coordinator:

Stacey Martin-Stilloe



**Richard T. Stank Middle School**  
**P.O. Box 225 (1040 Conklin Road)**  
**Conklin, NY 13748**

**Main Office: (607) 775-9129**

Principal: TBD

Assistant Principal: Ed Swartwout

School Nurse: Colleen Lynch

School Counselors:

Marissa Paulo, Krista Shoemaker

Social Worker/DASA Coordinator: Daniel Kosick



**Susquehanna Valley**  
**Central School District**

*"A Great Place to Live and Learn!"*

**Visit us on the web:**  
**[www.svsabers.org](http://www.svsabers.org)**



**Susquehanna Valley Senior High School**  
**P.O. Box 275 (1040 Conklin Road)**  
**Conklin, NY 13748**

**Main Office: (607) 775-0304 or 775-9114**

Principal: Sydelle Steward

Assistant Principal: Zach Tarnowski

School Nurse: Tammy Hoover

School Counselors:

Lauren Dowd, Mark Browning

Social Worker/DASA Coordinator:

Heather Fitzgerald

## Pupil Transportation Information

The Susquehanna Valley bus fleet transports approximately 1,400 students and travels approximately 350,000 miles each year. The transportation department employs approximately 25 staff members. In addition to four regular trips to and from each of SV's school buildings, the buses travel to other locations throughout Broome and Tioga Counties. There are also numerous athletic, educational and music trips.

The first goal in the transportation of students is safety. Aboard the buses, students are expected to be well-behaved and to conduct themselves in an orderly, respectful manner. Students who choose not to follow the rules pose a serious threat to safety. Therefore, bus riding rules and regulations are strictly enforced. ***Transportation is a privilege that can be revoked.***

The SV Board of Education has established a policy of transporting students to and from school which reduces the state mandated distance factor of two miles for elementary grade students and three miles for secondary level students. Children in the SV district are transported in accordance with the following schedule:



- Elementary students who live more than 1/2 mile from school;
- Students in grades 6-12 who live more than 3/4 mile from school;
- Students may be asked to walk these same distances to and from established bus stops.

Students who are transported to a location other than their home (babysitter's, child care center, relative's home, etc.) **must** fill out an Alternate Site Form each year.

## Motor Vehicle Regulations

All persons who drive motor vehicles to or on school property must comply with all the provisions of the



Motor Vehicle Law as well as those rules and regulations established by the Board of Education. Vehicle operators must strictly comply with the law pertaining to the passing of stopped school buses and also to the 10 miles per hour speed limit established on all district campuses.

All persons driving to the senior high school on a regular basis must register their vehicle each year. Registration forms may be obtained at the SV High School Assistant Principal's Office.

Upon arrival at school all vehicles should be locked. Students may park only in designated areas and once at school, students may not return to the vehicle without permission from the principal unless the student is leaving at the end of his or her school day.

All-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles are prohibited on school property.

## Working Papers

SV issues working papers, as required by NYS Department of Labor, to students under the age of eighteen living in the district. Please go to the SVHS Guidance Office, or the RTS Middle School Guidance Office, weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. year round to obtain the necessary forms.

Students wanting to secure working papers must:

- Pick up the Working Papers packet at the Guidance Office.
- Complete the Application and have it signed by a parent / guardian.

- Have the Physical Fitness Certification signed by your physician.
- Bring proof of age (if applicant does not attend SV) when turning in the completed forms.

Types of working papers available include:

- Newspaper Carrier Employment Certificate (ages 11-13)
- Non-Factory Employment Certificate (ages 14-15)
- Student General Employment Certificate (ages 16-17)
- Full-Time Employment Certificate (ages 16-17)

Please allow 24 hours for completion of the processing of working papers. Call the SVHS Guidance Office, 775-9115 or the RTS Middle School Guidance Office, 775-9132 for additional questions.

## SV Dollars for Scholars

The SV Dollars for Scholars Committee is always looking for new members. This committee meets regularly and runs two annual fund raising programs - primarily the annual Phone-a-Thon and the garage sale. As a result of these fund raisers and the generosity of our community, the Dollars for Scholars Foundation annually awards over \$40,000 in scholarships to our graduating students. Since its inception, the Dollars for Scholars Foundation has awarded over a quarter of a million dollars to SV graduates.

The Dollars for Scholars program encourages SV alumni to consider donations to our program whenever classes hold reunions. Many times, donors will make contributions in memory of loved ones or others who have had an impact on their lives. The committee has been proud and pleased to honor those who have contributed to our district and families with plaques on the Dollars for Scholars Wall across from the entrance to the SV High School cafeteria.

We encourage those interested in serving on the committee to call the SV High School main office, 775-0304.

## Interscholastic Athletic Program

Susquehanna Valley offers these Varsity sports programs: Baseball, Boys'/Girls' Basketball, Boys'/Girls' Bowling, Cheerleading, Boys'/Girls' Cross Country, Football,

Flag Football, Boys' Golf, Indoor Track, Boys'/Girls' Soccer, Softball, Boys'/Girls' Swimming and Diving, Boys'/Girls' Tennis, Boys'/Girls' Track and Field, Volleyball, and Wrestling. Junior



Varsity teams are offered for Baseball, Boys'/Girls' Basketball, Football, Boys'/Girls' Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball. Modified teams are offered for Baseball, Boys'/Girls' Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Boys'/Girls' Soccer, Softball, Boys'/Girls' Swimming and Diving, Boys'/Girls' Tennis, Boys'/Girls' Track and Field, Volleyball, and Wrestling.

### To participate in SV interscholastic sports:

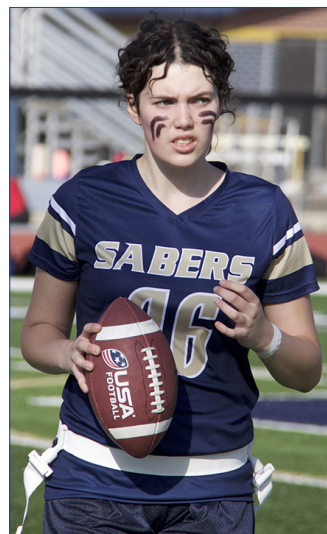
- Candidate must be a bona fide student of the Susquehanna Valley Central School District.
- Students must return the following items to the nurse at RTS Middle School or SV High School:
  1. Athletic Care/Parental Consent Emergency Medical Form filled out and signed.
  2. Interval Health History For Sports Participation filled out and signed.



3. Athletic Health History Form filled out and signed.
4. Parent/Athlete Pledge Form

*All forms can be downloaded from the Athletics page on the district website - [www.svsabers.org](http://www.svsabers.org).*

- Students must pass a physical examination given by the school physician, school nurse practitioner, or private physician. If a parent chooses to take a child to a private physician, the Health Appraisal Form can be downloaded from the Athletics page on the school website [www.svsabers.org](http://www.svsabers.org). Return the completed form to the middle school or high school nurse.
- Students may not practice with any school athletic team until the above-mentioned items are completed and signed by the school physician.
- Students must maintain academic eligibility and be enrolled in physical education to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- Students must abide by all rules and regulations in the Parent/Student Athletic Handbook.



## Clubs and Organizations

SV High School and RTS Middle School offer a variety of clubs and organizations to enhance the learning process. Most of these groups meet once a week during an activity period. Some of the clubs and organizations are: Drama Club, Honor Society (by selection), Mock Trial Team, Odyssey of the Mind, Intramurals, Peer

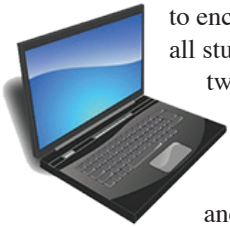


Leadership, Ski Club, French Club, Spanish Club, Student Council, Yearbook, Spirit Club, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Mathways to the Stars, Liberty Partnership, Book Club, Games Club, and E-Sports.

The clubs and organizations change on a yearly basis depending on the interests of the students and faculty. Detailed information is available in the schools.

## Library Media Centers

Students attending the Susquehanna Valley School District have the advantage of accessible and inviting Library Media Centers (LMC) in every school. The emphasis of the LMC is to create an environment conducive to locating, evaluating and using information in all its forms and to encourage reading for pleasure for all students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.



At the elementary level, students come to the LMC once a cycle with their classes and are welcome to come in on an individual basis if they wish to borrow or return materials. Our elementary libraries are staffed by experienced Senior Library Clerks. In the secondary schools, the LMC is open all day for individual students as well as for curriculum related research projects involving entire classes. The high school and middle school libraries are managed by NYS certified School Librarians.

The habit of lifelong learning and a love of reading have always been promoted by our libraries and continues in this age of new technologies. The book and eBook collections are continuously updated based on student interests, reading levels and curriculum needs.



Our school librarians ensure that our students are taught the current information literacy, research and evaluation skills that will help them to succeed in college and careers. LMC computers give students access to a variety of databases, which provide accurate and up-to-date information. Remote access to the databases and eBook collection is available 24/7, year-round, from our school website. Ask your librarians for password information.



art for graduation.

Instrumental lessons for strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion are started in grade 4. The middle school and high school have bands, orchestras and choruses which are also an important part of the music program. Several concerts are performed yearly throughout the district.

In addition to the band, orchestra and chorus offerings, there are jazz ensembles in grades 6-12 and percussion ensemble in grades 9-12, and a high school Pep Band.

The SV School District is a member of the Broome County and New York State School Music Associations. Membership allows students to participate individually or as a unit at the All-County Elementary and Middle School festivals and at sectional, state and national events.



## Music

Students attending the Susquehanna Valley School system have the opportunity to participate in a quality music program that includes courses in music appreciation and general music.

The Vocal/Choral program begins in our elementary schools with general music classes. At the middle school, students take general music in 6th and 7th grades. These classes introduce the recorder, guitar,

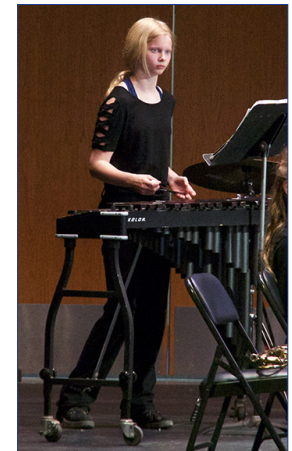
singing, notation and listening to the many different genres of music using band, orchestra and choral literature. Opportunities also exist for students to participate in band, chorus and orchestra.

The senior high offers courses that are electives. Students may choose band, orchestra, chorus, Music Theory or Piano Lab to satisfy the requirements of one unit in music or



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The music staff, administration and students are proud of their achievements in competition and in their service to school and community.



## Support Services for Our Students

We set high standards for our students and we are able to assist them in achieving these levels. Learning does not come easily to everyone and we at Susquehanna Valley take our commitment to all children seriously. A number of services are available to help students achieve their educational goals.

Classroom teachers encourage students to seek assistance during the day or after class when necessary. A student's teacher is the first step in acquiring extra help. Intervention in mathematics, reading and writing at both the elementary and secondary levels is provided through Academic Intervention Services (AIS). This is accomplished by small group instruction as well as team teaching within the regular classroom. Students who score below state reference points on the standardized test and a local measure qualify for this support.

The complaint procedures for parents on ESSA programs can be found at: <http://www.nysed.gov/essa/new-york-state-essa-funded-programs-complaint-procedures>

Students who appear to have an educational disability, either in their learning ability, physical ability or emotional ability are served through SV's special education programs. This process begins with a referral by a teacher and/or the parents to the building level intervention team. Using the Response to Intervention (RTI) model, this group of professionals will determine if there are instructional gaps and develop a targeted intervention plan to address the area of need.

After these techniques have been attempted, further assistance may be determined necessary and a written referral to the Committee on Special Education (CSE) is initiated with parental consent and support. The CSE consists of a parent, special educator, school



psychologist, general educator and an administrator. This team works with the student's parents and classroom teacher(s) to determine if there is an educational disability and what services would most appropriately serve the child's needs. There are several options within our district as well as through BOCES.

An Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Accommodation Plan is written for each student identified with a disability. Each plan includes long and short term goals for improvement of

educational skills. Annually, the CSE will review the educational program of each special education student to determine its effectiveness and plan for the following year.

Responsibility for education lies with parents, the school district, and ultimately - the student. Each person learns in a different way and at a different pace. For some this doesn't pose any difficulty, but for others special support is necessary to ensure learning. Susquehanna Valley provides that support effectively.

The Susquehanna Valley Committee on Special Education Chair is Vanessa Moschak (775-9111). Additional information can be found in the Parent's Guide to Special Education on the NYS Education website. (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/parentguide.htm>)



## Reporting/Promotion Policies

At the elementary level a comprehensive reporting system is used to keep parents informed regarding their child's achievement. A combination of this reporting system, teacher input and evaluation and assessment, and administrative review are all integral components used in assessing the needs to promote or reassign a student. In addition to academic criteria, the school looks at a student's physical, emotional and social maturity before recommending placement. Procedures enable the parents and teachers to work cooperatively toward providing a quality education for each child.

Report Cards for grades PK through five are issued three times per year. Opportunities are provided for each classroom teacher to meet with each parent at least once during the school year. Parent/teacher conference days are scheduled each school year.

At the secondary level, grades 6-12, the school staff attempts to provide parents with a clear understanding of each child's progress. Report cards are issued at ten week intervals. Students receive numerical grades, which can be weighted for class ranking purposes.

Between report card periods, interim reports are issued usually at five week intervals, and will be mailed home. Parents/Guardians of students in grades 6-12 may use PowerSchool Parent Portal on the district web site to access their child's grades and other important information. Many of our staff members will contact parents by telephone to keep them informed of their child's progress. Parents are encouraged to phone for appointments with teachers if they need information or have questions about their child's school work. Parents are also encouraged to provide their child's teachers and school offices with valid email addresses to facilitate communication.



## The Susquehanna Valley Central School District

### *A Brief History*

The consolidation of the Susquehanna Valley School District was completed in 1950. The district encompasses 57 square miles and contains approximately 15,000 residents. The district includes most of the Town of Binghamton, all of the Town of Conklin, a significant portion of the Town of Kirkwood and small sections of both the Town of Vestal and the Town of Windsor.

Prior to the consolidation of the district, pupils were taught in one and two-room school houses. After passage of the State Education Reorganization Plan, these facilities were replaced and the Susquehanna Valley Central School District was born. Brookside Elementary in the Town of Binghamton was built in 1958. That same year, Cedarhurst Elementary was constructed in the Town of Kirkwood (an addition was added in 1966). The Francis P. Donnelly Elementary School in Conklin, named for the district's first Superintendent, opened in 1964 and was completely renovated in 1991. Cedarhurst was closed as a school building in 2006.

Our two remaining elementary schools house students in grades Pre-K-5. Students from grades 6-8 attend the Richard T. Stank Middle School, opened in 1966. Susquehanna Valley High School, educating



students in grades 9-12, was originally opened in 1958. The first completely "in-house" classes of K-12 were taught during the 1961-1962 school year and the class of 1962 was the first to complete 13 years of education entirely within the district.

Presently, the district accommodates approximately 1,800 students and staff. Capital projects approved by voters in 1998, 2008, 2013 and 2016 have enabled significant improvements and modernization of our facilities, including the district's first-ever swimming pool, a synthetic turf multi-purpose stadium field, additional classrooms, a new state-of-the-art high school library/media center, technology upgrades, updates to electrical, heating and ventilation



systems, roof replacements, access control and monitoring upgrades, a new buildings and grounds maintenance facility and concessions stand, a new bus storage facility at Brookside, improved handicapped accessibility, district-wide window replacements, upgrades to the original

house lighting system in the high school auditorium, replacement of student lockers and much more. Our most recent project involves extensive elementary classroom renovations, significant security upgrades and considerable site reconfigurations.

## District Staff Information

Approximately one hundred thirty teachers serve the district at the elementary and secondary levels. Additionally, professional support services are provided by psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, school counselors, social workers, school nurses, library media specialists and library clerks. Additional persons are funded under the provisions of federal programs such as the Educational Consolidation Improvement Act and special legislation for the handicapped. Teacher aides are also utilized as needs arise.

The support staff consists of custodial workers, secretaries, cafeteria workers, business office personnel, bus drivers, mechanics, aides and specially assigned individuals.

The goal of all personnel is to provide students with the best possible education in surroundings that are pleasant and conducive to learning.



## Attendance

We realize that some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, it can cause them to fall behind academically. Absences can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month. Research shows that:

- Children chronically absent in Kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of third grade.
- By sixth grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk of dropping out of school.
- By ninth grade, good attendance can better predict graduation rates than eighth grade test scores.

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and feel discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child (even teenage children) keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Do not allow electronics in children's bedrooms.
- Pack backpacks and lay out clothes and the night before.
- Do not allow children to take "mental health days" as a reason for staying home.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Established policy provides strict definitions regarding your child's school attendance:

**Scheduled Instruction:** Every period that a pupil is scheduled to attend instructional or supervised activities



Notes:

during the course of a school day during the year.

**Absent:** The pupil is not present for scheduled instruction.

**Tardy:** The pupil arrives after the scheduled instruction is designated to begin.

**Early Departure:** The pupil leaves prior to the end of the pupil's scheduled instruction.

**Excused:** Any absence, tardiness or early departure for which the pupil has a valid school-approved excuse. These may be due to personal illness, medical appointments, illness or death in family, religious observance, impassable roads due to inclement weather, quarantine, required court appearance, approved college visits, military obligations, approved cooperative work programs or school-approved music lessons.

**Unexcused:** Any absence, tardiness or early departure for which the pupil has no valid school-approved excuse.

**Register of Attendance:** Any written or electronic record maintained for the purpose of recording the attendance, absence, tardiness or early departure of a pupil.

For pupils in UPK through grade 5, a pupil's daily presence or absence shall be recorded once per day. For pupils in grades 6-12, a pupil's presence or absence will be recorded in each period of scheduled instruction. Late arrivals and early departures will also be recorded.

Attendance will *not* be used as a measure of student learning. Course credit is recommended based on student performance related to learning outcomes.

## Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

**A written excuse is required for EACH absence/tardy/early dismissal from school within 48 hours of return to school.** Parents/guardians are encouraged to **contact the Health Office in the building in which the student attends** in the event that their child is absent. This excuse must include a statement of the date(s) and reason(s) for the child's absence or tardiness. **A written excuse - in and of itself - does not define excused or unexcused.**



## Incentives/Sanctions/ Notification of Parents

The district will communicate with parents/guardians regarding student attendance and tardiness. The district and each school building will develop incentives for exemplary attendance. Progressive disciplinary consequences for unexcused tardiness or absence will be imposed. Parents will be notified of these consequences. The district's Student Attendance Officer will collaborate with the administration to investigate attendance concerns and counseling will be made available to students with chronic attendance problems.

Summaries of the district's attendance policy are distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year. Each teacher will receive copies of the policy annually. Copies of the entire policy will be made available to community members upon request.

## SV High School Curriculum

Susquehanna Valley High School strives to develop a curriculum designed to prepare students for college and career readiness. We are working to develop out students' problem-solving and teamwork skills necessary for success in life. Whether students elect to enter the workforce or to pursue further education upon graduation, we are continually developing a curriculum that is designed to meet individual and community needs.

Susquehanna Valley is developing stronger school-to-career connections by integrating work experiences into our curriculum. Each year we have a number of students who attain Youth Apprenticeship experiences

### SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

*"To foster education through a cohesive environment of mutual respect, positive self-esteem, and responsible citizenship."*

attending classes for half the day and reporting to the worksite for the remainder of the school day. Not only do these students earn money for their work, but they also earn four credits for their apprenticeship and one credit for a senior project, which benefits the business for which they work.

We also have seniors participating in the New Visions Academy. These students gain valuable experience in engineering, health care, law and government, and business while working for local organizations. This provided the opportunity to earn academic credit while preparing for rigorous Advanced Placement courses.

Susquehanna Valley Senior High School has introduced changes to our high



school Technology and Engineering program. With a continued focus upon the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs, we implemented many new programs. The Foundations of Technology course is offered to 10th and 11th graders, and students explore and experiment with a variety of technological areas in a project-based environment. Topics include Engineering Design, Manufacturing, Construction Energy and



Power, and Information and Communications. Our 10th and 11th graders also have the opportunity to take the Technological Design course, which emphasizes current technological issues and their impact on our society. Students analyze issues and technologies to formulate opinions, make decisions, create solutions, and gain experience with a variety of technological principles and concepts. Topics include sustainability, ergonomics, transportation, and energy.

Engineering Design is a course for 11th and 12th graders. This course covers topics like Principles of Design, Resources, the Design Process, and Project

Management. Students participate in a long-term project, which uses their skills, knowledge, and creativity to develop, model and produce a product that will satisfy consumers' needs. We have also added a Robotics course, designed to help prepare students for future college and career needs. Additionally, courses have been added in other areas which include Self Management, Videography, Forensics, and Statistics in the World Around Us.

Susquehanna Valley also offers a series of rigorous challenges designed to prepare students for the country's best postsecondary institutions. Our students may currently take Advanced Placement courses in Physics, Chemistry, Government and Politics, American History, Global History, English, and Calculus. Students may also take college-level English, French, Spanish, Drawing and Painting, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Physical Education, Music Theory and BIT 185 courses through SUNY-Broome and Tompkins Cortland Community Colleges at no cost. We also added new courses in Programming and Coding, Psychology and Sociology, and Entrepreneurship, while always looking to add others in the future. Thanks to the rigor of our program, we have recent graduates attending such prestigious colleges as Brown, Dartmouth, Cornell and George Washington University.



A major emphasis of our high school is developing a safe, student centered learning environment. Our guidance staff, teachers and administration strive to develop an atmosphere of mutual respect, positive self-esteem and responsible citizenship. We encourage our students to participate in clubs and activities while contributing to the community welfare. With this goal in mind, we offer a variety of programs to develop skills and habits necessary to cultivate a well educated and contributing student body.





## Richard T. Stank Middle School Curriculum

Susquehanna Valley's Richard T. Stank Middle School is organized as a grade 6-8 building serving a population of over 340 students. The school offers a quality program of instructional and co-curricular activities designed to meet the unique physical, emotional, social and intellectual needs of the adolescent.



The middle school programs serve as a “bridge” between elementary school and high school, helping



our students develop skills for their continued success academically and beyond. Students at Richard T. Stank



Notes:

Middle School are organized into interdisciplinary teams at each grade level.

At the sixth grade level, the interdisciplinary team teachers teach ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. At the seventh and eighth grade levels, the interdisciplinary team teachers provide instruction in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Dependent upon grade level, students also receive instruction in Art, Music, Health, Family and Consumer Science, Technology and World Languages.

All students participate in Physical Education classes. Interdisciplinary teaming at the middle school allows our teachers to organize instruction in a more meaningful fashion, helping in the transition to ninth grade and high school course work.

As required by the Board of Regents' Action Plan, opportunities exist for selected students to be recommended for an accelerated program in Math and/or Science. During their sixth grade year, students will select one language to study in seventh and eighth grade.

## RICHARD T. STANK MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

*“We the members of Susquehanna Valley’s RTS Middle School believe that all students can learn. It is our desire to provide an equitable and quality education to all students. In our belief that learning is a life-long goal, we will nurture the desire to learn. We will build self-esteem and provide skills so that all students can fulfill this goal and function in an ever-changing technological society.”*



By successfully completing French or Spanish in seventh and eighth grades, and passing the local final assessment, students earn a high school credit of World Language.

At the beginning of each school year, all students and parents are provided with information regarding middle school programs. You are encouraged to review this information at the beginning of the school year and contact the appropriate office at RTS Middle School if you have any questions.



## Elementary Curriculum

Brookside and Francis P. Donnelly Elementary Schools provide a quality education for students in grades Pre-K through 5. The goal of our elementary schools is to provide a sound foundation of academic and social skills to prepare students for their middle and high school years. An outstanding array of professionals provide instruction in literacy, numeracy, science, social studies, technology, physical education, library, art and music.

An ambitious testing and reporting program enables parents to be continually informed regarding student progress during the elementary years. The elementary schools also provide numerous activities both during and after school hours.

Parents are encouraged to join and support the PTA in each school.

## Is My Child Ready for School?

Susquehanna Valley will register children for Kindergarten who will be five (5) years of age prior to December 1 of the current school year. A school screening helps to determine cognitive, social, emotional and physical readiness. Susquehanna Valley uses the Gesell Developmental Observation as a screening tool.

The Gesell Screening is a direct observation tool to measure children's physical/neurological growth, language skills, personal-social maturity, and overall adaptive behavior. The Gesell evaluates behavioral responses of children according to age-related norms. Gesell Developmental Age helps educators and parents to know where a child is in relation to typical growth patterns. The Gesell assists the school in ensuring the most appropriate placement for your child, as a Beginning Kindergarten or Kindergarten classroom.

Susquehanna Valley offers Universal Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten.

### Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)

Susquehanna Valley implemented our first full day UPK program in the 2017-18 school year. To be enrolled in UPK, students must be four years of age.

There are two classrooms; one each at Brookside and F. P. Donnelly, with one teacher and one aide in each classroom. Transportation will follow the current elemen-



Notes:

tary bus run schedules. Both classrooms will have a maximum capacity of eighteen (18) students.

### Kindergarten

The main academic focus of Kindergarten is to prepare your child with the many skills that are needed to become successful in first grade. These skills will include the subject areas of Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.



## Preparing your child for school

- Encourage play with other children the same age
- Assign small jobs around the house
- Ask him/her to identify colors, shapes and letters
- Help him/her to count and sort objects while touching them
- Read to him/her every day
- Listen to his/her stories and ask questions
- Help him/her to develop large motor skills by climbing, running, skipping, kicking, throwing and catching.
- Assist in small motor development by providing opportunities for coloring, cutting, drawing and using Play-Doh, typing and buttoning.
- Talk about the school day and routines for getting on and off the bus

## Child Nutrition



The Susquehanna Valley CSD recognizes the correlation between good nutrition and the ability to learn,

and provides a nutritional food service program based on the USDA Dietary Guideline for all students.



## 2023-2024 Breakfast/Lunch Prices

For the 2023-2024 school year, all school meals, breakfast and lunch, will be **FREE TO ALL STUDENTS**. SV is implementing a meal certification option available to schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for 2023-2024, which means all students at Brookside and F.P. Donnelly Elementary, Richard T. Stank Middle School and Susquehanna Valley High School are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge each day of the 2023-2024 school year. For parents, no further action is required. There's no fee, nor is there a need to fill out and submit an application. We are so pleased to be able to offer this to our Sabers families in 2023-24!

	<u>Full Price</u>	<u>Reduced</u>
<b>Breakfast</b>		
• Elementary Schools	NO COST	NO COST
• SV High School	NO COST	NO COST
• RTS Middle School	NO COST	NO COST
<b>Lunch</b>		
• Elementary Schools	NO COST	NO COST
• Middle/High Schools	NO COST	NO COST

## School Year

Section 3604 of the New York State Education Law states that "...the board of education for the preceding school year shall show that the public schools were actually in session in the district...for not less than one hundred eighty (180) days."

## Emergency Closings

When it is necessary to close the district schools because of an emergency such as very poor weather or building problems, notification efforts begin promptly. Official announcements are furnished to local media as early as possible.

Announcements will also be made directly to parents, students and staff using an emergency telephone-based notification system. When schools are closed because of poor weather or for other reasons, they may also be closed for any other uses that might have been planned for that day such as athletic contests, drama or music productions. Reports of these closings or cancellations will be given to the media as far in advance as possible.

The district requests that parents and students not tie up phone lines at the schools and the district offices during emergencies.

The Susquehanna Valley Central School District app is now available for all devices. The app enables parents, students, faculty and staff to stay connected and informed about what's happening at Susquehanna Valley. Administrators can easily promote unified messaging through cross platform communications to the app, via push notifications. The Susquehanna Valley Central School District app is free and provides parents with quick access to everything school-related including calendars, directions to events, important documents, cafeteria menus, and more. Visit our website to get the app.



## Visitor Procedures

Visitors are welcome in the Susquehanna Valley School District. Each of our school buildings is equipped with an access control system. Every visitor to our buildings must have a photo ID to pick up students and or gain entrance into the building beyond the security vestibule. Visitors are asked to follow these procedures:



**When visiting a school:** Go to the Main Office entrance of the school, push the button on the access control system, identify yourself, sign in and obtain a pass.

Please obtain permission if you expect to visit a specific area of the building.

**When requesting early dismissal:** Send a written request in with your child. If you are to pick up your child, report first to the Main Office of the school.

## Conduct and Discipline

It is the district's belief that each student can reasonably be expected to be responsible for his/her own behavior. The school administration assists each student in this program of personal responsibility with rules of conduct (focusing on safety and respect for the rights and property of others) that are consistently applied in classrooms and throughout each school. Students who cannot accept this responsibility and

violate school rules may be penalized and may require additional supervision.

All of our schools provide information detailing rules of conduct through assemblies and written materials, such as student handbooks. Copies may be obtained by contacting the schools' main offices.

In compliance with New York Education Law's *Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)*, effective July 1, 2012, the Board has adopted an updated School District Code of Conduct and Discipline and revisions to the following policies:

**#3420** - Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the School District;

**#7310** - School Conduct and Discipline;

**#7315** - Computer Usage and Internet Safety; and

**#7552** - Bullying: Peer Abuse in the Schools

The Board has also approved the appointment of our school social workers as Dignity Act Coordinators in each school building.

Board policy, including the complete District Code of Conduct, can be found on the district's web site: [www.svsabers.org](http://www.svsabers.org).

Information pertaining to DASA and the Code of Conduct will be distributed to parents at the start of school.

## Emergency Contact Procedures

In the event of an accident, first aid is administered immediately and every effort is made to contact the family. If the family cannot be reached, the family physician is called. If the family physician is unavailable the district will make whatever arrangements are necessary to care for the injured student.

The success of this procedure depends upon *accurate and up to date information*. If you have not filled out an **Emergency Information Card**, or if there has been a recent change in a home or business phone number or a change in family physician, please notify the appropriate school.

## Immunization Requirements for 2023-2024 School Year

Vaccines	Pre-Kindergarten (Day Care, Head Start, Nursery or Pre-K)	Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5	Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11	Grade 12
Diphtheria and Tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/Tdap/Td) <sup>2</sup>	4 doses	5 doses or 4 doses if the 4th dose was received at 4 years or older or 3 doses if 7 years or older and the series was started at 1 year or older		3 doses
Tetanus and Diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine adolescent booster (Tdap) <sup>3</sup>		Not applicable		1 dose
Polio vaccine (IPV/OPV) <sup>4</sup>	3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older		
Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) <sup>5</sup>	1 dose	2 doses		
Hepatitis B vaccine <sup>6</sup>	3 doses	3 doses or 2 doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) for children who received the doses at least 4 months apart between the ages of 11 through 15 years		
Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine <sup>7</sup>	1 dose	2 doses		
Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) <sup>8</sup>		Not applicable	Grades 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11: 1 dose	2 doses or 1 dose if the dose was received at 16 years or older
Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (Hib) <sup>9</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV) <sup>10</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		

## Medication Administration in the School Setting

Any medication administered by the school nurse must be accompanied by a written release from both the physician and parent/guardian. Additionally, all medication must be brought to school by a parent or guardian. Prescription medications must be in the container dispensed from the pharmacy with the proper label. Over-the-counter medications must be in the original unopened container labeled with the student's name. Medications should not be transported daily to and from school. It is recommended that parents ask the pharmacist for two containers: one to remain at home and one at school. All medications are to be stored in the nurse's office. Students are prohibited from carrying or storing any kind of medications on school grounds. No medication will be dispensed without proper forms and/or labeling. The school nurse cannot administer any over the counter medication without physician order and parental permission. **Medication Forms may be obtained from the School Health Office or the district web site.**



## Getting Involved

Parents and other residents have always played a significant and responsible part in the educational programs at Susquehanna Valley. This participation has been through membership in the PTA, participation on special purpose citizens committees sanctioned by the district, by being elected to serve on the Board of Education and in numerous other ways.

This grass roots support, along with the efforts of the professional staff, has contributed strength and quality to the district's programs.



\* **IMPORTANT:** Per Public Health Law 2164, Section 66-1-4, there is a 14-day grace period from the start of school to obtain required immunizations. The student may attend school during the 14-day grace period. After the 14 day grace period, the student may NOT attend school until acceptable proof of immunization is received. Questions may be directed to your school nurse. **There are a number of very important footnotes pertaining to the dose amounts listed on this table that space constraints do not allow us to print here. For further information and clarification, please go to: <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf>**

## Board of Education

The Susquehanna Valley Board of Education establishes policies and adopts regulations for the conduct of the public schools. Its seven members, who serve without pay, are elected by the qualified voters of the district.

Responsibility for administering Board of Education policies is vested in the Superintendent of Schools.

## Board Meetings

SV Board of Education meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. District residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Residents may speak at the Board meeting by



Notes:

being recognized by the Board President at the appropriate times during the meeting. Speakers are asked to state their name and address for the official record.

Board meetings are ordinarily held in the Board Room, south wing of SV High School, Conklin Road, Conklin. Dates and locations of special meetings of the Board - if scheduled - will be announced during the school year.

## Office Hours



All administrative offices within the district are open between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. when school is in session. On some holidays and in the summer, administrative office hours are 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Administrative phone numbers are listed on the inside back cover of this calendar. If a desired phone number is not listed, please contact the switchboard at **775-0170**.

## Public Information

The District utilizes a part-time Public Information Coordinator, shared with the Deposit CSD through Broome-Tioga BOCES. The Public Information Coordinator is responsible for creating content for the District website - [www.svsabers.org](http://www.svsabers.org) - and its Facebook page. The Public Information Coordinator is also responsible for furnishing news and information to local media and creating a variety of district publications including this calendar.

The Public Information Coordinator also communicates with district residents through an emergency notification system in the event of school closings and cancellations and other circumstances as warranted.

At the beginning of the school year, parents/guardians will receive a **publicity release form** for each student. **Please sign and return the form ONLY if you do NOT give permission for your child(ren) to be photographed or for their image to be used on the district website or published in local media.**

The Public Information Coordinator may be reached during regular business hours at **775-7599**.

## Susquehanna Valley CSD 2022-23 Distinguished Service Award



*The recipient of the 2022-2023 Susquehanna Valley CSD Distinguished Service Award*  
**Beth Bieber**, takes to the podium at the Brookside Elementary School 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony to bid farewell after a 36-year teaching career at SV.



## 2023-2024 SV BOARD OF EDUCATION

**MARY HASKELL, PRESIDENT**

*TERM ENDS 2026*

**SUZANNE VIMISLIK, VICE-PRESIDENT**

*TERM ENDS 2025*

**JACK BELL**

*TERM ENDS 2024*

**JOHANNA BURKHARDT**

*TERM ENDS 2025*

**KELLY HOWE**

*TERM ENDS 2026*

**MARK LEIGHTON**

*TERM ENDS 2024*

**RYAN REMZA**

*TERM ENDS 2025*



# 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Approved by the Board of Education 2/15/23

Total Possible Days of Attendance:  
Students 186

Priority of Make-up Days  
February 16  
May 24  
April 25

SCHOOL DAYS	
182	Student
3	Conference
1	Rating Day
186	Total

SEPTEMBER 2023 (17) + 2						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023 (21)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023 (18)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2023 (15)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY 2024 (20)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2024 (19)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH 2024 (18) +1						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

LEGEND	
	Conference Days 9/5, 9/6, 3/14
	Schools Closed
	Regents Exams
	Early Release Day 10/5 (Bus Drill 15 Min. Early)
	Parent Conferences Elementary- 1/2 Days - 12/1, 12/8
	Two Hour Delays (Teacher Professional Development) 9.26, 11/13, 2/1, 4/11
	June 26 Regent Rating Day

APRIL 2024 (17)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY 2024 (21)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE 2024 (17)						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29

**School not in session:**

- Labor Day - 9/4/23
- Columbus Day - 10/9/23
- Veterans Day - 11/10/23
- Thanksgiving Break - 11/22-11/24/23
- Winter Recess - 12/22/23 - 1/2/24
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - 1/15/24
- President's Day - 2/16 - 2/19/24
- Spring Recess - 3/29 - 4/5/24
- Memorial Day - 5/24 - 5/27/24
- Juneteenth - 6/19/24



**At Susquehanna Valley, we offer:**

- Full PAID training and CDL certification
- A competitive wage
- Full time drivers qualify for health insurance
- Great work hours
- A positive, supporting environment

## Come Drive With Us!

Susquehanna Valley CSD is hiring school bus drivers and monitors. We have an URGENT need to fill positions within our Transportation Department, and have mounted an expansive ongoing recruitment campaign to attract qualified drivers to our team!

If you have ever thought about driving a school bus, there has never been a better time to look into it. Driving a school bus for Susquehanna Valley is an excellent way to earn money while making an immeasurable difference each day in the lives of young people. As the saying goes: "A solid education begins with safe transportation!"

At Susquehanna Valley, you'll be part of a dedicated team of transportation professionals, safely transporting approximately 1,400 students to and from school, and to other locations throughout Broome and Tioga Counties.



Call (607) 775-9153 today, or view the employment opportunities on our website: [www.svsabers.org](http://www.svsabers.org)

## 2022-2023 a year of **SABER PRIDE**

2022-2023 was a memorable school year for so many reasons. Here are a few!

★ In March of 2023 we finally launched the Sabers Food Center at F.P. Donnelly Elementary, thanks to the hard work and dedication of its director **Mrs. Stacey Stiloe**. The Sabers Food Center is supplied by CHOW and the SV community. In addition to stocking non-perishable food items, it also contains a limited supply of refrigerated food items, frozen meats, personal hygiene and dental supplies to help those in need in our community. If you, or someone you know, in the SV School District are in need of assistance from the Sabers Food Center, or you wish to make a donation, please contact Mrs. Stiloe at (607) 775-9149.

★ For fans of Sabers Track and Field, 2022-23 was the Year of Brynn! **Brynn Hogan** racked up an impressive collection of triumphs, trophies, records, championships and accomplishments in a remarkable Track and Field season. The Runner of the Year, who will attend Binghamton University in the fall, spent the season outpacing her competitors and finding herself standing in the middle of the winners' podiums, all while maintaining a humble attitude to go with her competitive determination.

★ Another Saber athlete - and his coach - garnered some recognition for excellence during the 2022-23 season. Gannett sports writers, serving the Binghamton and Elmira/Corning regions named tennis standout **Isaac Spottek** to their Elite Spring All-Star Team and Player of the Year! And his coach, **Anthony Ruffo**, was named Elite Tennis Coach of the Year!

★ When Broome-Tioga BOCES hosted the 26th Annual School-to-Careers Partnership for Excellence Recognition Event in May, an outstanding member of the SV community received special recognition. SV High School Guidance Office Manager **Patti Kucinsky** was named the 2023 School-to-Careers Outstanding Educator, and was one of the guests of honor at the recognition event. Patti was largely responsible for organizing

the series of Workforce Wednesdays sessions this year that brought SV High School students together with representatives from area businesses to explore potential careers.

★ A group of SV High School students put their skills to the test at the annual SUNY-Broome Robotics competition. **Jack Bedosky, Brody Connors, Sebastian MacNamee, Kaelin McMahon, Jaden Roche, and Acaydian Salisbury** represented SV. Topping the list of successes that day: in the *Large Swept Away* competition, Kaelin was able to get a win and pick up the heavier of the 2 balls. Acaydian, Sebastian, and Brody competed in the *Mega King of the Ring Bot* competition. While Acaydian was missing his partner, he and the group of Brody and Sebastian each got a perfect score of 20 points in the initial round of the competition. Acaydian ended up placing 4th and Brody and Sebastian finished the finals in *First Place!*

★ At Brookside Elementary School, **Mrs. Jennifer King's** first grade students became published authors. Using a national student publishing kit provided by Studenttreasures Publishing, students planned, wrote and illustrated their own class book entitled *When We Grow Up*. The best part? A classroom full of proud, smiling young authors, with a memory that will last a lifetime, plus, a full-color, deluxe hardcover book for the teacher or school library. The students' parents can also purchase copies of these unique, childhood keepsakes.

★ SV welcomed our newest School Resource Officer (SRO), **Jon Atkinson**. Born and raised in Broome County, Officer Atkinson spent just over 20 years with the Vestal Police Department before retiring in May. Five days later was his first day at Richard T. Stank Middle School. We now have a full complement of four SROs in our buildings!

★ Students in **Mrs. Alexia Miller's** 2nd grade class at Francis P. Donnelly Elementary School attended a live, virtual STEM event in May which featured Andrea J. Loney, the author of a popular book series called "Abby in Orbit." She taught students the importance of using both sides of their brains and how she brings creativity to her passion for STEM through writing books for children and

instructing computer science courses at the collegiate level. The students had the chance to submit questions for the author to answer during the presentation, and the FPD students were very excited when Ms. Loney answered **Ava Latini's** question: "What is your favorite book?" The author's answer: *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats!

★ Susquehanna Valley's own **Justin Mangan** is really cooking up a bright future for himself! There are all kinds of "arts" in education today, and Justin has found his calling in the culinary kind. Not only did Justin excel in SV High's culinary classes, he returned to **Jessica Esperon-Meneilly's** FACS classroom as a lab assistant, continued to excel in the Broome-Tioga BOCES Culinary program, and also earned the Most Valuable Person medal for his role within the winning team in that program's "Bistro Wars!"

★ SV High School Special Education teacher **Laura Retzlaff** had a very successful week in Washington DC as the high school David M. Rubenstein Master Teacher for Week 1 of the White House History Teacher Institute. She presented three separate professional development sessions, including one on the "Read Every Day, Write Every Day" model that she and fellow teacher **Jody Butts** developed. Retzlaff also participated in other professional development that was offered, including sessions from the elementary and middle school Master Teachers, White House Historical Association lectures, guest lectures, and site visits to St. John's Church on Lafayette Square, Cedar Hill - Fredrick Douglas' home in Washington DC, The Blair House - the White House residence for visiting foreign heads of state and dignitaries, the Washington Monument, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, and the White House.

★ Eighteen Varsity sports teams - nine from the Fall Sports season, three from the Winter Sports season, and ALL SIX from the Spring Sports Season - qualified to represent SV as New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Athlete Teams! To receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition, the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00.