



Brookside Elementary School
3849 Saddlemire Road
Binghamton, NY 13903
Main Office: (607) 775-7513
 *Principal: Jessica Bowerman
 School Nurse: Megan Pappas
 *Social Worker: Anita Barry



Richard T. Stank Middle School
P.O. Box 225 (1040 Conklin Road)
Conklin, NY 13748
Main Office: (607) 775-9129
 *Principal: Laura Karlson
 Assistant Principal: Ed Swartwout
 School Nurse: Colleen Lynch
 School Counselors:
 Marissa Paulo, Krista Shoemaker
 *Social Worker: Daniel Kosick



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: Nelissa Rupe
 Director of Athletics: Ed Swartwout
 Director of Technology: Jason Luke
 Director of Special Services: Vanessa Moschak
 Director of Facilities: Ralph Schuldt
 Business Executive: Jennifer Dattoria
 Food Services Director: Patrick Walsh/Annie Hudock
 Attendance Officer: John Dancesia
 Public Information/Webmaster: Jim Hull



Susquehanna Valley
Central School District
"A Great Place to Live and Learn!"

Visit us on the web:
www.svsabers.org



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: Stacey Martin-Stilloe



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: Heather Fitzgerald

* In each of our schools, the Principal and Social Worker also serve as DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) Coordinators.

Student 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 students and three miles for secondary students. Children in the SV district are transported per 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 or from 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



Notes:

Motor Vehicle Law as well as those rules and regulations established by the Board of Education. Vehicle operators must strictly comply with all parking regulations, laws regarding the passing of stopped school buses, and the 10-mile-per-hour speed limit established on all district campuses.

All persons driving to the senior high school regularly 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 the 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 for Employment and have it signed by a parent/guardian.

- Have the Physical Fitness Certification signed by your physician.
- Bring proof of age 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, (607) 775-9115 or the RTS Middle School Guidance Office, (607) 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 annual fundraising programs - primarily the annual Restaurant Raffle, among others. As a result of these fundraisers 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, (607) 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, 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/parents must fill out the following forms which will be located at www.arbitersports.com 30 days prior to the official start date of each season:

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.

- 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. Return the completed form to the middle school or high school nurse.
- Students may only start practice with a school athletic team once the above-mentioned items are completed and signed by the school physician.
- Students must maintain academic eligibility and be enrolled and participate in physical education to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- Students must abide by all rules and regulations in the Parent/Student Athletic Handbook which can also be found on the SV Athletics website.



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 during Saber Time. 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,

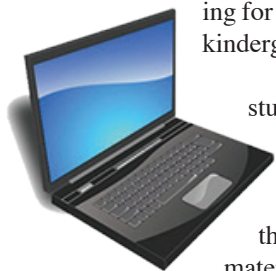


French Club, Spanish Club, Student Council, Yearbook, Spirit Club, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Mathways to the Stars, Liberty Partnership, Book Club, SV Identity, and E-Sports.

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.

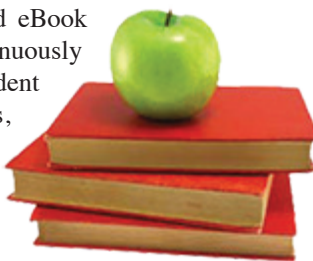
Library Media Centers

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 Library Clerks. In 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 has 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.



chorus. These classes introduce the recorder, guitar, singing, notation, and exposure to various music genres through band, orchestra, and choral literature. Additionally, students have opportunities to participate in band, chorus, and orchestra ensembles.

The High School 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 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. Junior and senior music students are eligible to apply for and join Tri-M, a music honors society.



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 sectional, state, and national events.

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

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, unless they are enrolled in an ensemble or



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>

As a district SV embraces the fact that all students can and do learn in different ways while still being held to state standard expectations. When students' skills are below grade level expectations, support systems exist to help make a targeted plan for student skill growth. 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 and analyzed for growth, further assistance may be determined necessary and a written referral to the Committee on Special Education (CSE) may be



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 the child meets criteria for an educational disability classification and the services that would most appropriately serve the child's needs. There are several programming, accommodation, and modification 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 the 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 (607-775-9111). 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, as well as school attendance records, before recommending placement. Procedures enable the parents and teachers to work cooperatively toward providing a quality education for each child.

Report Cards for students in UPK through grade 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 provides parents with a clear understanding of each child's progress on a continuous basis. 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 additionally use School Tool's Parent Portal, on the district website, to access their child's grades, assignments, absences, 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, students were taught in one and two-room schoolhouses. After the 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



Notes:

students in grades Pre-K-5. Students from grades 6-8 attend the Richard T. Stank Middle School, which 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, 2016, and 2022 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.



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 safe 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) keeps a regular bedtime and establishes a morning routine.
- Do not allow electronics in children's bedrooms.
- Pack backpacks and lay out clothes 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.

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

Scheduled Instruction: Every period that a student is scheduled to attend instructional or supervised activities during a school day during the year.



Absent: The student is not present for scheduled instruction.

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

Early Departure: The student leaves before the end of the student's scheduled instruction.

Excused: Any absence, tardiness, or early departure for which the student has a valid school-approved excuse. These may be due to personal illness, medical appointments, illness or death in the 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 student has no valid school-approved excuse.

Register of Attendance: Any written or electronic record maintained to record the attendance, absence, tardiness, or early departure of a student.

For students in UPK through grade 5, a student's daily presence or absence shall be recorded once per day. For students in grades 6-12, a student'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 if 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. Progressive disciplinary consequences for unexcused tardiness 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 our 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 students who attain Youth Apprenticeship experiences 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 credits for their apprenticeship, which benefits the business for which they work. We also have a Workforce Wednesday program where we invite local employers and businesses to interact with students, providing them with valuable insights



into various career paths and the skills necessary for successful employment. This initiative not only educates students about job opportunities but can also lead to employment or internship opportunities. In looking at ways to develop additional opportunities for students, we will also have our 24-25 Leadership Cohort, which focuses on skill building, resume building, and creating a personal vision.

We also have seniors participating in the New Visions Academy. These students gain valuable experience in engineering, health care, law and government, education, and business while working for local organizations. This



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provides the opportunity to earn academic credit while preparing for rigorous advanced courses. Many of our students also work toward earning their Seal of Biliteracy and Seal of Civic Readiness, which are additional endorsements to their diploma.

Our Mission:

Educate, Prepare, Empower

Our Vision:

We strive to be leaders in providing high quality experiences, fostering personal growth, and developing positive relationships that make Susquehanna Valley a Great Place to Live and Learn.

Valley Senior High School has introduced changes to our Technology and Engineering program, with a continued focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Drawing for Design and Production (DDP) is an introductory course focused on technical drawing basics leading to design and building. Beginning with DDP, there are numerous half-year courses tailored to specific engineering interests. Students analyze issues and technologies to formulate opinions, make decisions, create solutions, and gain experience applying a variety of technological principles and concepts. For students interested in digital product design and rapid prototyping using Computer-Aided Design (CAD), we now have a 3-D Printing class. In our Fabrication class, students interested in the complex craft of building with natural resources, Compression/Tension Structures using different forces, Bridges, and Propulsion can utilize their skills, knowledge, and creativity in topics that include sustainability, ergonomics, transportation, and energy. For our Circuits class, students are



utilizing Arduino Model kits to become proficient in entry-level coding and the creation of logic-based electronic programming. Students will hone their problem-solving and creative solution-building skills. Our competitive and award-winning Robotics course is designed to present students with specific complex tasks that they develop, design, digitally program (code), and build robotic solutions for. The 2024-25 curriculum has an exciting new drone component with multimedia capabilities. Lastly, our Hydroponics course combines current technological issues, food production, and their impact on our society. Students will evaluate current food production processes and design systems that incorporate alternative farming strategies to increase food production in modern soil-less methods.

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, American History, Global History, English, and Calculus. Students may also take college-level courses in English, Mathematics, Art, Physical Education, History, Language and Music through SUNY-Broome and Tompkins Cortland Community Colleges at no cost. We have recently added new courses in Programming and Coding, Theater, and Entrepreneurship, while we always are looking to add others in the future.

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 our community's welfare. With this goal in mind, we offer a variety of programs to develop the 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 approximately 325 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



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. Depending 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 coursework.

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. By 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



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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 UPK through grade 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.

Early Childhood Education

Susquehanna Valley will register children for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) who will be four (4) years of age prior to December 1 of the current school year and will register children for Kindergarten who will be five (5) years of age prior to December 1 of the current school year. If the number of registrants for UPK exceeds the number of allotted spaces, a lottery will be held to admit children into UPK spots.

At both the UPK and Kindergarten levels, a screening tool helps to determine cognitive, social, emotional and physical readiness of each student. Susquehanna Valley uses the Brigance screening tool for all incoming UPK students and the Gessell Screening tool for all incoming kindergarten students. Each is a direct observation tool used to measure children's physical/neurological growth, language skills, personal-social maturity, and overall adaptive behavior. They evaluate the behavioral responses of children according to age-related norms. The determined Developmental Age helps educators and parents to know where a child is in relation to typical growth patterns.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)

Susquehanna Valley implemented our first full day UPK program in the 2017-18 school year. There are four UPK classrooms; two at Brookside and two at F. P. Donnelly;



each classroom is staffed with one teacher and one teacher aide. Both classrooms will have a maximum capacity of eighteen (18) students. Transportation will follow the current elementary bus run schedules.

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.

For the 2024-2025 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 2024-2025, 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 2024-2025 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 2024-25!



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.

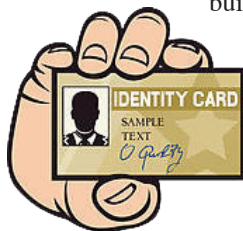
The district requests that parents and students not call schools and the district offices during emergencies.

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 with your child. If you are to pick up your child, report first to the Main Office of the school.

Conduct and Discipline

The district believes that each student can reasonably be expected to be responsible for his/her 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 website: www.svsabers.org.

Information about 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.

2024-25 School Year New York State Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance¹

NOTES:

All children must be age-appropriately immunized to attend school in New York State. The number of doses depends on the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Intervals between doses of vaccine must be in accordance with the “[ACIP-Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#).” Doses received before the minimum age or intervals are not valid and do not count toward the number of doses listed below. See footnotes for specific information for each vaccine. Children who are enrolling in grade-less classes must meet the immunization requirements of the grades for which they are age equivalent.

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) ²	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) ³	Not applicable		1 dose	
Polio vaccine (IPV/OPV) ⁴	3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older		
Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) ⁵	1 dose	2 doses		
Hepatitis B vaccine ⁶	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 ⁷	1 dose	2 doses		
Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) ⁸	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) ⁹	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV) ¹⁰	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable		

*** 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>

Medication Administration in the School Setting

Any medication administered by the school nurse must be accompanied by an approved district medication form signed by both parent/guardian and provider. 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. Medications are stored in the Health office unless the provider deems the student capable of self carry/self administration. This **MUST** be indicated on the medication order form. No medication will be dispensed without proper forms and/or labeling. The school nurse cannot administer any over the counter medication without physician's 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 grassroots support, along with the efforts of the professional staff, has contributed strength and quality to the district's programs.



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 **(607) 775-0170**.

Public Information

The District utilizes a part-time Public Information Coordinator, through Broome-Tioga BOCES. The Public Information Coordinator is responsible for creating content for the District website - 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 **(607) 775-7599**.

Susquehanna Valley CSD 2023-24 Distinguished Service Award



*Long-serving Susquehanna Valley CSD Board of Education President **Robert Strick** acknowledges the warm applause from the Class of 2024 Commencement audience as he receives the 2023-2024 Susquehanna Valley CSD Distinguished Service Award.*





2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Approved by the Board of Education 2/21/24

Priority of Make-up Days
February 14
May 23
April 25

SCHOOL DAYS	
180	Students
4	Conference
2	Rating Days
186	Total

SEPTEMBER 2024 (18) + 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 2024 (22)						
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 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

DECEMBER 2024 (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	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY 2025 (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	31	

FEBRUARY 2025 (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	

MARCH 2025 (20) +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	25	26	27	28	29

APRIL 2025 (16)						
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 2025 (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

JUNE 2025 (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	30					

LEGEND

	Conference Days 9/3, 9/4, 10/11, 3/14
	Schools Closed
	Regents Exams
	Early Release Day 10/10 & 6/16 11:30 MS/HS, 12:30 Elem.
	Parent Conferences Elementary ½ Days – 12/6, 12/13
	Two Hour Delays (Teacher Professional Development) 11/12, 1/30, 4/7
	June 26 & 27 Regent Rating Day

School not in session:

Labor Day – 9/2/24
Columbus Day – 10/14/24
Veterans Day – 11/11/24
Thanksgiving Break – 11/27–11/29/24
Winter Recess – 12/23/24 – 1/3/25
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – 1/20/25
Asian Lunar New Year – 1/29/25
President's Day – 2/14 – 2/17/25
Spring Recess – 4/18 – 4/25/25
Memorial Day – 5/23 – 5/26/25
Juneteenth – 6/19/25



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.



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



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

2023-2024 a year of SABER PRIDE

2023-2024 was a memorable school year for so many reasons. Here are a few!

★ The Sabers Food Center at F.P. Donnelly Elementary has expanded enormously, thanks to the hard work and dedication of its director **Mrs. Stacey Stilloe**, and the generosity of our community. On May 15, we got a heartwarming look at just how generous our community is, in the inaugural “Kick it for Cans” event, pitting 5th Grade students from Brookside and FPD against each other in a friendly kickball competition. Thanks to our amazing sponsors, the event raised more than \$7,300! The Sabers Food Center stocks non-perishable food items, 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. Stilloe at (607) 775-9149.

★ One of SV's own had the year of a lifetime in the SkillsUSA Program. **Angel Mead** was named Region 2 Advisor of the Year, New York State Advisor of the Year *and* National Advisor of the Year! This is the first time these awards have been given to an advisor from Broome-Tioga BOCES. Angel Mead is synonymous with SkillsUSA. She was involved as a Susquehanna Valley High School student, both in a leadership role and as a delegate. After graduating from SV and BOCES in 1982, Angel became a BOCES teacher. She was a Skills judge first, then became an advisor at BOCES in 1992. She's been guiding students in SkillsUSA ever since. Congratulations, Angel!

★ SV High's **Nicholas Gates** got a crash course in NYS government, thanks to the League of Women Voters. In May, the organization selected Nicholas for its Students Inside Albany program, which brings students from all over New York to the state capital for some first-hand government education. Nicholas joined his peers in a series of interactive lectures on topics such as the state budget process, the role of lobbyists in the legislative process, citizen rights to access government information, the role of media in politics, and the move to reform state government. Students toured the Capitol and joined their Senators and Assembly member for an afternoon session on the Chamber floors. At SV, Nicholas attended the Broome-Tioga BOCES New Visions Law

and Government Academy and spent more than 120 hours of job shadowing with Ferrara Fiorenza PC, Binghamton Mayor's Office, and others. He will soon begin his post-Sabers life at SUNY-Albany, where he will study Public Policy and Pre-Law.

☆ RTS Middle school students **Adam Crocker** and **Aiden McLean** participated in the 4th Annual Broome-Tioga BOCES App Challenge. They had to create an app that informs others about environmental issues, pollution challenges, and/or climate change. They also had to create a commercial about the app and present their findings to a panel of judges, earning a TOP-5 spot in the competition.

★ In January, Brookside Elementary hosted the Harlem Wizards Basketball Team for the “WizFit Kids Fitness Challenge” and the “SV Staff vs. the Harlem Wizards” Basketball Game. In addition to being a great fundraiser for the Brookside PTA, we had a wonderful turnout from the community. We look forward to bringing this event back again in the future.

★ RTS Middle School had its first FUN Day - a day filled with special guests and presenters sharing with our students their expertise on health and wellness. Keynote speaker Olympic powerlifter, and SV alumnus Bill Clark got the day off to a great start with an uplifting and inspiring message for our students. He also demonstrated his amazing strength by bending a horseshoe, tearing a deck of cards **and** a license plate in half with his bare hands. Students then headed off to a day filled with small group workshops and activities provided by several community organizations and businesses. Closing the day: a concert by Jared Campbell.

★ Talented young Saber musician **Trevor Osterhout** made quite an impression at the Binghamton Youth Symphony Concert. He received the prestigious Sheri Heath Memorial Award at the event, honoring his musical excellence and leadership among an orchestra featuring outstanding young musicians from the Broome County area. Joining Trevor at BYSO were fellow Sabers **Julie LaMantia** and **Ann Choi**.

★ On Wednesday, May 29, **Dr. Jill Rich**, Principal of Francis P. Donnelly Elementary School, was presented with the 2024 SAANYS (School Administrators Association of New York State) Region 9 Elementary Administrator of the Year Award. Dr. Rich was joined at the award ceremony by Superintendent of Schools **Natalie Brubaker**. This award is given annually to a SAANYS/NAESP member who has distinguished herself/himself as an elementary school principal, meeting these criteria:

- The nominee sets the pace, character, and quality of education for the children in the school.

- The nominee is a practicing principal who is committed to excellence.
- The nominee has made a commitment to parents and the community.
- The nominee has shown evidence of outstanding contributions to the community and the educational process.

★ A pair of SV High School seniors earned SUNY-Broome's Frank G. Paul Medal of Excellence in Math and Science. **Zackary Merrin** and **Syria Frank** were among top-scoring high school math and science students chosen for this recognition, which includes a medal and cash award. They were invited to a special recognition ceremony on the SUNY-Broome campus May 14, hosted by - among others - SUNY Broome President Dr. Tony D. Hawkins, and Rebecca Komorowski, daughter of Francis and Lillian Paul.

★ The SV High School Concert Band and Orchestra performed at the NYSSMA Major Organizations Festival at Owego Free Academy on May 16. Each group prepared three challenging pieces, which were judged by master educators. The ensembles were honored with a Silver award for the Concert Band, and a Gold award for the Orchestra.

★ In May, boys varsity tennis player **Isaac Spottek**, and Coach **Anthony Ruffo** headed to the Billie Jean King Tennis Center in Flushing, NY for the NYS Boys Tennis Championships - the third consecutive year that Isaac won a Section IV Class C Singles Championship, qualifying him to represent SV. The varsity softball team claimed a Section IV Class B Championship, defeating Elmira Heights 7-0 to win the title! The team, coached by **Karen Bidwell**, **Ken Bidwell**, and **Ray Haskell**, also made a great showing in the states. Saber senior **Johnny Cortese** participated in the NYS Qualifier Track and Field meet, setting a new school record in the 400m hurdles with a time of 57.46 seconds! Johnny's performance earned him a spot at the NYS Track and Field Championships at Cicero North Syracuse High School.

★ Thanks to everyone who came out for our May 21 Community Connections event. It was great to see so many members of our Sabers family gathering to browse hundreds of student art pieces, listen to songs from our high school chorus, send our good-natured teachers and administrators into the dunk tank, play games, enjoy some snacks, and circulate through the various activity stations set up throughout the high school.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆