

Susquehanna Valley High School

SABER NEWS

December 2024

From the Administration

As we head into the final month of 2024, I want to take a moment to celebrate our amazing students and community while looking forward to the excitement December brings!

First, let us congratulate Addison Rosenkrans on an extraordinary achievement! Addison was selected to the U.S. Women's National Amputee Soccer Team and competed in the WAFF Women's Amputee Soccer World Cup in Barranquilla, Colombia. Representing the USA on the global stage, Addison and her team went undefeated throughout the tournament, ultimately earning a silver medal. We couldn't be prouder of Addison for her hard work, determination, and ability to inspire others as she wore the red, white, and blue with pride. What an incredible accomplishment—congratulations, Addison!



Important Dates:

December 13

Interim 2 ends

December 18

Board of Education meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

HS Concert Choir caroling

December 19

HS Winter Concert @ 6:30 p.m.

December 21

First Day of Winter

December 23- January 3

Winter Recess- No School

December 24-25

All Buildings Closed

December 25

Christmas Day

Closer to home, I'd like to highlight the success of our Annual SVHS Turkey Contest, which brought out the best of our school's giving spirit. This yearly tradition raises money to support SV families during Thanksgiving, and this year's event was a huge success! A special shout out to Ms. Biancucci's class, who raised an impressive \$125 and won themselves a breakfast pizza as the top fundraising class. Thank you to all who participated and made this effort a meaningful way to help those in need.



Looking ahead, December is sure to bring plenty of cheer with our Annual Holiday Spirit Week that we are extending to two weeks this year to bring in extra spirit. Students and staff will have the opportunity to showcase their festive flair through themed dress-up days and activities. The week will culminate with our annual Snow Show, a tradition that promises laughter, joy, and a sense of community to wrap up the calendar year.

As we prepare to finish 2024 on a high note, I want to thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and school community. Together, we create an environment that celebrates achievement, fosters kindness, and encourages everyone to strive for their best. Let's carry this momentum into 2025 with excitement and pride for what we can accomplish together. Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Assistant Principal News

Dear Families,

I'd like to share a friendly reminder about the importance of arriving to school on time. Starting the day promptly not only sets a positive tone but also ensures that students are present for all essential instruction, especially those crucial first minutes of each period. First period begins right at 7:40 a.m., so please encourage your child to be mindful of their morning routine and the clock. We truly appreciate your support in helping our students develop strong habits around punctuality. Together, let's keep each day on track for success!

Thank you,
Zach Tarnowski

News from the Guidance Office

December 2024

College Applications

Seniors planning to go to college after high school should be diligently working on applications if they have not yet applied. Regular admission deadlines are early in January so students are encouraged to submit their applications BEFORE winter break. Students should give teachers and counselors at least two weeks to write letters of recommendation. It is important to communicate regularly with your counselor about where you are applying to ensure your transcript gets to the college in time.

Financial Aid

The 2025–26 FAFSA form is now available for all students and contributors! Filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA is critical in determining how to pay for college. It allows students to find out which types and how much Federal Student Aid they may qualify for. If students are applying to a New York State school they should also be filing the Tuition Assistance Program or TAP application. Students and guardians should plan to submit the FAFSA and TAP by February 1! Shaunte Middleton from Binghamton University's Education Talent Search will be available to students that need help with this process. How to Apply for Financial Aid:

FAFSA Completion Steps:

1. Create a FSA ID at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>.
2. Complete the FAFSA at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.
3. Complete the TAP application if attending a NYS school at <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/find-aid/nys-grants-scholarships/tuition-assistance-program-tap/>.
4. Complete the CSS profile, if necessary, at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>.

Please reach out to the Counseling Office to set up an appointment with Ms. Middleton if you would like help completing this process.

SAT and ACT

There is still time for college-bound seniors to take the SAT or ACT. While some schools have a test-optional policy, there are schools and programs that require SAT or ACT scores. Both exams have fall test dates!

SAT:

<u>SAT Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline</u>
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025	February 25, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025	April 22, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025	May 27, 2025

***Please note: SV is not a testing site, so students will have to take the exam at a neighboring high school such as Binghamton HS, Vestal HS, Maine-Endwell HS or CVHS.**

ACT:

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline Late Fee Applies After This Date	Late Registration Deadline	Photo Upload and Standby Deadline
December 14, 2023	November 8	November 22	December 6
February 8, 2025	January 3	January 20	January 31
April 5, 2025	February 28	March 16	March 28
June 14, 2025	May 9	May 26	June 6
July 12, 2025*	June 6	June 20	July 4

Preparing for the SAT/ACT:

Students should familiarize themselves with the test(s) and create a study plan. Here are some tips on how to prepare for the SAT/ACT:

- Khan Academy
- This is a free, personalized, online study tool. Khan Academy has partnered with College Board to deliver a tailored guide to the SAT based on the student's PSAT results. If a student took the PSAT in October, they can link their results to Khan Academy!
- SAT Practice Tests: - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/full-length-practice-tests>

ACT Practice Tests: <https://academy.act.org/>

Please check with the schools you are interested in for the most up-to-date information. If you are still interested in taking the SAT/ACT, you must register online at www.collegeboard.org for the SAT or www.actstudent.org for the ACT. SV is not a testing site, but our students can test at local high schools in the area such as Binghamton HS, Vestal HS or Maine-Endwell HS.

Chem Free Prom

The Holidays are here! Which means our senior students begin selling tickets for our three lotto scratch off boards! These make wonderful stocking stuffers for friends and family if you are the lucky winner!!

Our first lotto board up for grabs is worth \$100 worth of scratch off tickets. Our second board is worth \$200 and finally our grand prize scratch off lotto board will be worth a whopping \$500!

Lotto board tickets can be purchased for \$10.00 per ticket or the bundle deal of 5 tickets for \$40.00! Tickets can be purchased from all of our SV Seniors or the Main Office of the High School. All ticket sales will allow us to throw an incredible post prom party for our class of 25' SV SENIORS!

All senior students will be selling tickets over Thanksgiving break and will continue until the day of drawing which will be held on Friday, December 20, 2024.

We are still looking for donated tickets from our senior families to help complete our boards. If you would like to donate scratch offs to help fill our three boards, please send them in with your senior student or please drop them off with Ms. Schuster at the High School Main office.

Our next Chem Free Post Prom meeting will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024 via zoom. Please email Ms. Schuster at eschuste@svsabers.org for the zoom link if you have not already received it.



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GUARD - X

**NEW YORK ARMY
NATIONAL GUARD**

EVENT INCLUDES:
HEAVY EQUIPMENT
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

MSG MASSO - (585)623-9211, MARLANA.MASSO.MIL@ARMY.MIL



Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy. If you are concerned about a contagious illness, call your school or health care provider.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Support your students if you notice signs of anxiety, and if needed, seek advice from your school or health provider.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.

Revised April 2018



Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

Online Threats & School Safety

Recently, there has been an increase in social media threats impacting schools in the area. It's important to be aware that threats—whether made as jokes, pranks, or more serious actions—carry significant risks and real consequences. Sharing and reposting the threat via social media platforms only spreads misinformation and creates public alarm.

Report: Don't Repost

If your child sees or hears something alarming—either online or in person—please encourage them to report it to a trusted adult, school staff, or law enforcement immediately. Early reporting can help keep our schools safe.

How You Can Help

Parents, we need your support:

- Talk to your child about the seriousness of making or sharing threats.
- Monitor social media use and encourage open communication.
- Remind them that reposting or sharing threats also carries consequences.
- Do not repost, share, or promote the threat on social media. Contact school officials or law enforcement.

Key Points to Remember:

- **Safety First:** Our top priority is the safety of all students, staff, and our community.
- **Consequences Are Serious:** Making or sharing threats can lead to criminal charges, school suspensions, or even expulsion.
- Law enforcement and school districts immediately investigate every reported threat using all available resources.
- **It's a Crime:** Any threat, whether direct, implied, or shared, is taken seriously and can result in:
 - Arrest and prosecution.
 - Permanent records affecting future opportunities.
 - Disciplinary action according to the district's Code of Conduct

Together, through awareness and communication, we can keep our schools safe.

If you have any questions, please contact your school principal or counselor.



REPORT *DON'T* REPOST

A message from
The Broome County
Sheriff's Office and
The Broome County
District Attorney

If you see a threat, either posted on social media or in person,
REPORT IT to a trusted adult, school official, school resource
officer or law enforcement immediately.

RE-POSTING and ***SHARING*** a threat on social media is not a notification.
It causes further panic, misinformation and in some cases,
makes the sharer an accessory to the crime of making a threat.

IMPORTANT:

**Making a threat against a school generates significant
law enforcement and school resources to investigate.**

Every threat is fully investigated with all available resources.

**Making threats against a school may result in criminal charges
and disciplinary action by the school.**

To report a threat, contact your local school,
school resource officer, local police department
or the Broome County Sheriff's Office at 607-778-1191.



The Top Ten Reasons To Give Your Teen A Book

1. Books are easy to wrap.
2. You can do all of your shopping in one place because there is "right" book for everyone on your list.
3. You can personalize a book with your own heartfelt message.
4. Books last for years and years.
5. Giving a book shows that you care.
6. Reading books can make your teen a nicer person.*
7. Reading books can help your teen get better grades.*
8. Books don't need batteries or power cords
9. Reading books helps your teen to relax.*
10. Reading a book is fun!





Please feel free to email me if you are looking for title suggestions for your teen.
Ms. Westgate, High School Librarian, pwestgat@svsabers.org

[*What READING Does to Your BRAIN](#)

SEAL OF BILITERACY


Please contact Mrs. Wright, World Language Department Chair, if you would like more information about earning the

NYS Seal of Biliteracy:
jwright@svsabers.org.

GRADUATE with the SEAL OF BILITERACY

The New York State SEAL OF BILITERACY recognizes students who have studied and attained a high proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.



PreK-2 3-5 6-8 9-12

**More languages mean better career and college opportunities:
Earn the Seal of Biliteracy!**

For information, please contact:
NYSED Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages OBELW@nysed.gov or
The Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network in your area:
<http://www.b12.nysed.gov/bilingual/biliteracy/belnet.html>

Saber Stage Productions Presents
Susquehanna Valley High School

1040 Conklin Road, Conklin, NY



HADESTOWN

TEEN EDITION

is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Corp. www.concordtheatricals.com

February 21, 22 7:00 pm

February 23 2:00 pm

All Tickets \$10.00



saberstageproductions.ludus.com

Book, Music & Lyrics by Anaïs Mitchell

Art © by SpotCo



National Honor Society

December 2024

Induction Ceremony

- Congratulations to our newly inducted members!
- Thank you to Dr. Kacyvenski for being our guest speaker!

Meetings

- Our next meeting is December 17 in The HS Chorus Room at 2:30 p.m. We will not only celebrate the first few months of school but we will be making holiday cards to spread cheer at local nursing homes! All members should plan on attending!

NHS Dues

- NHS dues are mandated by the organization.
- They are \$20 per year for all current and new members.
- Seniors - pay by January 1, 2025 and you will receive your cord for free. Otherwise it will cost you \$13.50 to purchase.
- Cash or checks payable to SV NHS.
- Bring dues to Mrs. Perkins ASAP!

Community Service Hours

- Students in NHS are required to complete 20 hours of community service per year by June. Current members should have 10 completed by January 2025.
- New members must have 10 hours completed by May 2025.
- There is a digital copy of the form in the Google Classroom and plenty of hard copies outside of Mrs. Perkins' room.
- There will be posts in the GC for updated service hour opportunities.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns anytime! I am looking forward to a productive year!

Jenn Perkins : jperkins@svsabers.org



- **Prom Committee**

- **We held our first Prom Committee meeting on Thursday, 11/7. If you are interested in joining, please join our Remind for future meeting dates. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 4th. At this meeting, we will vote on our prom theme.**

- **Class Dues**

- **If you have not paid any class dues as of yet, they are now \$55**
- **This will go up to \$60 in January if left unpaid**
- ***Class dues are paid by every student and help to cover senior event costs.***

Your Class Advisors,
Dan Simonds & Elizabeth Strnatka
dsimonds@svsabers.org & estrnatk@svsabers.org



JUNIORS

Class of 2026

Communication

- **NEW**—we will be using **ParentSquare** this year for communication. Please have the app downloaded on your phone.

Fundraisers

- Thank you to those who supported the holiday wreath and poinsettias fundraiser!
- Orders will be arriving **Wednesday, December 4.**
- **Parents and students MUST** plan a way to pick orders up and take them home to be distributed to buyers that **same day!**

Class Dues

- Class dues of **\$10 for junior year** are due now! These help pay for all senior activities.
- **If you have not paid for your freshman and/or sophomore year dues**, you will also be responsible for paying these (\$15 late due fees).
- **Checks** should be made out to **SV Class of 2026.**

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Alyson Herman or Hailie Balachick.

Your Class Advisors,
Alyson Herman and Hailie Balachick
aherman@svsabers.org & hbalachi@svsabers.org



Sophomores

Class of 2027

Please sign up for Parentsquare. This is the best way to get information out and can be accessed in various ways. We will no longer be using Remind. Students, there is a Student Square for you and our Google Classroom.

Thank you all for the help with the Save Around Book fundraiser! We had another good turnout and are taking a break from fundraising until the new year. Check back after winter break for information on what is next! Happy New Year class of 2027!

Lastly, please remember class dues. The payment schedule is posted below. As always, do not hesitate to reach out if you are unsure about the dues that are owed. We are happy to help. **The cheapest option is to pay for all 4 years at once, and it will cost \$45 until the end of this month! After the new year, the price goes up \$5.**

All checks should be made out to "SV Class of 2027."

Year	September-December	Paid For All 4 Years	January-June	Paid For All 4 Years
Sophomore	\$25	\$45	\$30	\$50
Junior	\$40	\$50	\$45	\$55
Senior	\$55	\$55	\$60	\$60

Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you for your endless support!

Your class advisors,

Mackenzie Barker and Jennifer Potter
mbarker@svsabers.org & jpotter@svsabers.org



High School Music News December 2024

December Concert Reminder

The High School Concert will take place on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

- Students should arrive in concert dress (black shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black shoes) by 5:45 p.m.
- Auditorium doors will open for 6:15 p.m. (concert warm-ups take place until this time. Please do not enter the auditorium until the doors open at 6:15p.m.)
- This is a mandatory performance for all students in Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Jazz, and Percussion Ensemble.

Honors Acceptances

Congratulations to our students accepted to Area All-State this year.

High School Area All-State Orchestra

Geneieve Brown

High School Area All-State Band

Julie LaMantia

Xander Remza

Andrew Waite

Hartwick College Honors Band

John Dieppa

Are you considering purchasing a musical instrument?

If you are considering purchasing a musical instrument AT ANY LEVEL of your student's musical education, please take a moment to assure a great **investment** for your musical future.

A quality instrument:

- Is made by a company with a long-standing history of quality. Examples of band instruments include, but are not limited to, Yamaha, Conn-Selmer, Bach, Geimenhardt, Fox-Renard, and Buffet. For orchestra, examples include Shen and Eastman. Even certain models from these manufacturers and from certain dates may have known concerns.
- Comes with a warranty. Read the fine print on websites VERY carefully, as many sites include no warranty.
- Is made of materials that meet industry standards. Be particularly aware of lacquer quality.
- Many quality used instruments are available, even at the local level. As students progress and upgrade to intermediate and professional level horns, they will often sell their excellent student models at a great discount! Local stores and private music teachers should be your FIRST stop to find these instruments. If you see one online, check with your teacher FIRST before making an offer.

Be careful of off-brand/colored instruments. Our district's experience shows:

- Repair costs are significantly higher. Repair parts can be difficult to obtain. Many times, the cost of making the instrument playable is more than the purchase price.
- Instruments are often unable to be tuned, increasing frustration for students and making them inappropriate for use in band and orchestra.
- Colored lacquers often chip quickly. Be aware of the current issues in regards to lead paint on imported products.
- Questionable materials may be in the metal. The metal is often weak and bends easily – even being damaged as musicians put the instrument together.
- These instruments are often found in store and warehouse catalogs, or on non-music store websites.

Always consult with your student's music teacher about what instrument will best fit their needs, and where to find the instrument. Teachers will also offer their professional guidance regarding instruments that you are considering.

Remember – you get the quality you pay for!



Senior Photos and Grad Ads for the Yearbook

Please be advised of the following important dates regarding your child's senior year deadlines for Yearbook submissions:

Senior Portraits

Schedule your **senior portrait** to ensure proper delivery to the school. Senior portraits are **due Friday, December 6**. Failure to meet this deadline may result in an absence of a senior portrait. Picture days were September 19-20 at the high school. If you were unable to schedule a senior portrait, or attend these days, November 6, (our retake day) is an opportunity to get a senior photo. Seniors need to get their photo taken on these dates to receive an ID card. No costumes or props will be allowed for photos.

Portrait Requirements

Senior Portraits must be submitted electronically (CD, email jpeg, USB). The digital image must be a resolution of 300 dpi and the color mode must be RGB. The image should be sized to a 5x7 image to ensure proper clarity. The yearbook is an all-color book so please plan accordingly when choosing a photo for the yearbook. To maintain a consistent look, only head and shoulders will be in the yearbook photo. No costumes or props will be allowed for photos. Photos submitted should be in color and with a simple background. The SVHS yearbook reserves the right to refuse a photo not meeting specifications.

Senior portraits are due Friday, December 6.

All electronic submissions are to be sent to Mr. Dana Zietz at dzietz@svsabers.org. If submitting in person, please see Mr. Zietz in room 22 in the High School. Any picture received after the due dates listed are not guaranteed to be in the yearbook. It is the student's responsibility to check with their studio to see if the studio has submitted the senior portrait to Susquehanna Valley. Portraits from Sean Murphy Studios will automatically be sent to the school.

For the 2024-2025 school year, our yearbook photo contract is with Sean Murphy Studios. They offer free yearbook sessions in their Binghamton studio for all Susquehanna Valley seniors. Sean Murphy Studios also offers full senior sessions which include the sitting and a selection of prints or digital images starting at only \$100. Many of their senior portrait collections include multi-location sessions with custom photoshop graphics, personal smartphone apps, and some even include 50 free prints! For more information, please visit: <https://www.seanmurphystudios.com/svsabers> or call 607-203-9043.

We encourage your child to schedule an appointment with Sean Murphy Studios **because it helps defray the cost of the yearbook.**



SVHS approved alternate professional photographers:

Jim Pavlik

Pavlik Photo and Design
970 Conklin Road
607-779-2220

Email is: jim@jimpavlikphotography.com
fb: Pavlik Photo and Design
website: Pavlik Photo and Design.com

Karen Bixby

Karen Bixby Photography
126 Abbey Road, Windsor, NY
607.765.3759

Email: Kbixby@karenbixbyphotography.com
Link: <https://karenbixbyphotography.com/sessioninfo>

Upstate Images

1245 Vestal Pkwy E, Vestal, NY 13850
855-773-3321
upstate-images.com

Grad Ads

Grad Ads are the perfect way to commemorate achievements and celebrate milestones. In addition, revenues from Grad Ads help our school create a better yearbook. This is optional, has an additional cost, and must be created online at Jostens.com. To purchase your ad online, please go to Jostens.com and follow the instructions on the website. Jostens is responsible for our school's yearbook ad sales. Please do not contact or send materials to the school. Our school reserves the right to edit ads per our guidelines. Please make sure all submitted materials are appropriate for school publication.

Please get Grad Ads done as soon as possible!

Grad Ads are due February 9, 2025.

Yearbooks can be purchased through Jostens.com

December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Word of the Month: KINDNESS	2 Day 2	3 Day 3	4 Day 4	5 Day 5	6 Day 6	7
8 Spirit Week!! 12/9 - 12/13	9 Day 1	10 Day 2	11 Day 3 Mathletes to JCHS	12 Day 4	13 Interim 2 ends Day 5	14
15 Spirit Week!! 12/16 - 12/20	16 Grades due @ 8:00a.m. Day 6	17 Day 1	18 Day 2 Board of Education meeting @ 6:00 p.m. HS Concert Choir Caroling	19 Day 3 HS Winter Concert @ 6:30 p.m.	20 Day 4 Saber Snow Show	21 1st day of Winter
22 	23	24	25	26	27	28
WINTER RECESS 12/23 - 1/3 - NO SCHOOL ALL BULIDINGS CLOSED 12/24 - 12/25						
29	30	31				
WINTER RECESS NO SCHOOL						