



The Irish Highlighter

Volume 2 : Issue 2

Seneca High School

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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As you read the Irish Highlighter, please look for the references to the Board Goals throughout the newsletter. In December, 2012 the Board of Education developed eight goals centered on Student Success. A collaborative effort between the board and administration resulted in a comprehensive set of goals that will guide and align the efforts of the District towards the reason we exist, student success.

These goals have been instrumental in the implementation of several new initiatives for the 2013-14 school year. Advanced coursework, expanded curriculum, technology enhancements and additional opportunities for students to become successful are just a few examples. Our administration, faculty, staff and students have all been involved in a year long effort to ensure a smooth transition to the future 1:1 initiative and integration of a virtual classroom.

A Summer Bridge program for incoming freshman will be offered this summer along with the traditional summer school offerings. In addition, the freshman level computer class has been expanded to include additional information such as orientation to the 8 block schedule, training on the blackboard software, and proper use of social media. In an effort to increase rigor, an additional Advanced Placement (AP) class has been added. AP United States History will be offered along with the AP English class. The grades in both of these classes will be weighted.

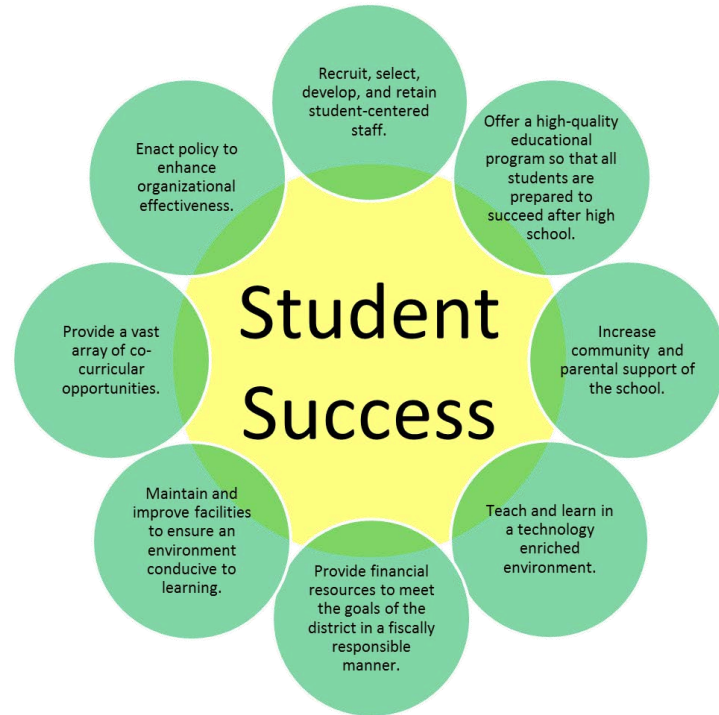
The Business Concept class will be adding a school store to provide real life experiences for our students. In addition, the students will also review the business operations of the concession stand. Recording inventory, tracking cost of goods sold, preparing financial statements are just a few of the business concepts the class will learn and apply in a real life setting.

I hope you enjoy reading the Irish Highlighter. The implementation of the Board Goals in an effort to ensure and increase student success is underway. It is an exciting time to be a student in the Land of the Irish!

Ron Frye, Board President
Seneca High School Board of Education



Seneca High School Board of Education Goals



Seneca High School Board of Education

Row 1: Secretary - Rich Hamilton; President - Ron Frye; Vice-President - Sara Olson; Row 2: Gerry Baker; Rich Applebee; Joseph Johnson; Mark Victor





A Message From the Superintendent

Hello Seneca High School Community,

To begin, I would like to thank our graduating seniors and their families for their contributions to Seneca High School and wish each of them success in their futures. Graduation is both a time of celebration and reflection. We experience joy as the students receive their diploma and prepare for the next stage in their lives and a touch of sadness in the realization that we will no longer be in their presence on a daily basis. In the end, we are content with the knowledge that our students will always remain a part of the SHS Family.



“Building Foundations for Success” is our charge. A glimpse at our new logo illustrates how our honored past has been melded with our present focus. Simply put, our hope is that when students graduate Seneca High School, they are prepared academically, emotionally, and organizationally to succeed in college, a career, or the military. Our graduates will possess a disciplined work ethic, consistently perform quality work, and readily exceed the minimal requirements and expectations of the task entrusted them. They will be committed to developing themselves to their fullest, possess a strong responsibility toward the service of others, maintain healthy attitudes, make healthy choices, and build healthy relationships with others. In short, we expect Seneca High School graduates to possess a strong foundation to become future leaders in our world.

Accordingly, the Seneca High School Board of Education has adopted eight goals committed to student success. In the pages to follow, you will see several of these goals highlighted and fleshed out. The purpose of the goals is to provide guidance to district decision-making and to focus our collective efforts on providing a well-rounded 21st century education to our students.

In closing, I would like to re-offer our graduates advice by quoting three of our outstanding 2013 graduates. Justin Walsh urges us to push on despite any setbacks that may befall us. He states “... in life, you can never go back... You can only go forward or nowhere at all.” Hannah Mehochko reminds us that we don’t accomplish our dreams alone. She recognizes that “even though sometimes it’s hard to admit, we wouldn’t be here today without the love and guidance our parents give us. To all our parents today, thank you.” Finally, Peyton Schrag advises us to remember what truly is important. Peyton declares “... in the end, what really matters is the amount of work you put in to helping other people in their lives. Ten years from now, no one will care who the valedictorians of the class were. They won’t care who was the best student, the best athlete, or homecoming queen. The people that you influence for the better, however, will always remember your contribution in their lives. So, take the time to be involved with others and lead them by both your words and your actions. And do so with a happy heart so that you can enjoy the time that you have here on earth.”

Good luck 2013 graduates, we wish you the best!

Jim Carlson





- Maintain high-quality infrastructure, hardware, and software
- Enhance the skills/knowledge of staff to teach, work, and learn in a digital environment
- Students need to be able to use technology to analyze, learn, and explore
- Utilize technology in a safe and responsible manner

End of Year Highlights from Principal Marty Voiles...

On May 19, 2013, 97 senior students participated in the graduation ceremony of the Seneca High Class of 2013. Salutatorian Hannah Mohochko welcomed all in attendance, and Valedictorian's Peyton Schrag and Justin Walsh each shared speeches summarizing their classmate's four years at SHS.

Board of Education President Mr. Ron Frye and Superintendent Jim Carlson distributed diplomas to all seniors on a hot and muggy afternoon. An estimated 70 percent of graduates from the class of 2013 will continue on with their education at community colleges, universities, or trade schools throughout the Country.

On behalf of the Board of Education, the Administration, and the Faculty and Staff, we wish the Class of 2013 the very best in all of their future endeavors!



Professional Development

Submitted by **Helen Kinkin**, Director of Technology

Current Professional Development: With a major emphasis over the past couple of years focusing on technology, the staff at SHS have been dedicated to staying up-to-date with learning new technology skills. Tech Training is conducted during Wednesday afternoon faculty meetings and teacher in-service days. In addition, one-on-one training by the technology staff is offered as needed. Recent professional development opportunities have been designed to promote collaboration, both in modeling and implementation, of the use of technology in the classroom.

Future Professional Development Opportunities: Providing professional development opportunities for the faculty and staff is essential. Technology is a constantly changing area, and we need to make adjustments in our teaching styles to keep up with our students. To meet these needs, the technology department will continue an emphasis on training. Peer collaboration using a how-to video library in Blackboard Learn will be created by our teachers and staff showcasing different techniques and tools, as well as demonstrating how to implement them in class. This not only helps the teachers set up their classes in similar manners, but it allows teachers to experience what we want them to emulate in their own classrooms.



Thank You and Farewell



Nurse Kerri Johnson, and teacher, Kathy Cooke will be leaving SHS at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year.

Ms. Johnson has served as our school nurse and instructor of our nursing program for 8 years. Mrs. Johnson will be moving on to Morris Hospital taking on a challenging position in the ICU unit. Kerri recently graduated with high honors from Lewis University Nursing School in Romeoville, IL.



Mrs. Cooke will be venturing into retirement after spending 34 years in education and 32 of those years at SHS. Mrs. Cooke has been an instrumental leader in our Special Education Department, not to mention all the extra-curricular work she has devoted for Seneca High School students to compete in the Special Olympics.

The staff and administration wish of both these ladies the very best in the next phase of their lives. Although we will find someone to succeed them, their presence here can never be replaced.

Provide financial resources to meet the goals of the district in a fiscally responsible manner.

- Target spending to goals / Adopt a balanced budget
- Maintain fund balances equal to one year operating costs
- Prepare a levy that balances the needs of the district with the needs of the taxpayer
- Provide stewardship of district resources in a manner that builds trust with stakeholders

First Annual SHS Citizenship Award announced



Assistant Principal Mike Coughlin was pleased to announce the name of the first ever recipient of the *Seneca High School Citizen of the Year Award*, Zack Hintze.

This annual award is sponsored by Bill Bernardoni at County Financial, who donated a new iPad computer, as well as the name plaque that will be placed within the school. The award can be given to any person: student, certificated or non-certificated staff member, or board member who demonstrates by their speech and their actions that they are exemplary American citizens. Recipients of this award reflect the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

The selection committee had a difficult time selecting just one individual – that is a good thing! However, they were able to make a choice. The recipient of the SHS Citizen of the year award is considered by district personnel to be a wonderful choice.

Zach is a person who consistently demonstrates exemplary behavior in many aspects of life. Always honest, our recipient would never think of deceiving or cheating anyone. To know our winner is to witness courage, character, and citizenship on a daily basis where an immeasurable courage to overcome challenges far exceeds what most at Seneca High School have to endure. Zach can be found telling jokes, greeting everyone encountered, looking out for his friends, and generally helping out. He treats others with respect, uses good manners; for example, he is often seen opening doors and letting ladies go in first, and he is also considerate of the feelings of others. He is very grateful for anything others do for him; and he has said over and over how much he appreciates what we do for him at SHS.

One faculty member remarked, “I have known Zach Hintz since he was a young boy. He is a good citizen and has always exemplified the qualities of politeness, respect for others, and compassion for everyone. He is pleasant to everyone he encounters. He cares for his school and his community. As a testimony to his desire to serve his community, he has worked the bake sale tent at the Mazon Haunted House for several years to raise money for Special Olympics. He will be sorely missed next school year.”

Another staff member observed that, “Zach offered his time to D.J. for a benefit recently. We have a local Mazon man that was diagnosed with cancer. Being the caring person that he is... he donated his D.J. services at the benefit. He is always thinking about others and their needs before his own.”

A third staff member stated, “Through all his years at SHS, Zach has been involved in many activities and has done so with honor and integrity. He has led his Special Olympics Team with pride and has participated in FFA activities with gusto. As far as I know, he is the only SHS FFA member ever to serve as an auctioneer at our Toy Show.”

Congratulations Zach!





- Provide a clean, safe, and secure learning and co-curricular environment.
- Maintain grounds in an aesthetically pleasing and physically safe manner
- Encourage all stakeholders to take ownership in the maintenance of the building and grounds

Student of the Month

DECEMBER 2012



Role Model: Maddison Steep **Student of the Month:** Molly Novotney **Rookie:** Lyle Marshall & Matthew Grushkin **Most Improved:** David Fessler

JANUARY 2013



Rookie: Julia Petterson **Most Improved:** Jacob Theissen **Student of the Month:** Hannah Mehochko **Role Model:** Corinne Armbrust

FEBRUARY 2013



Most Improved: Faustino Alcaraz **Student of the Month:** Jana Berryman **Rookie:** Claudia Paulson & Lexi Bogren **Role Model:** Joshua Rohder

MARCH 2013



Rookie: Zach Rivett **Most Improved:** Alyssa Noak **Role Model:** Aspen Stuedemann **Student of the Month:** Madisen Warning

APRIL 2013



Role Model: Erica Grossi **Rookie:** Abigail Seul **Most Improved:** Brandon Webb **Student of the Month:** Lindsey Ramirez

MAY 2013



Role Model: Cortney **Student of the Month:** Chelsie McCormick **Rookie:** Kaylyn Groth **Most Improved:** Mark Cozzi

Offer a high-quality educational program so that all students are prepared to succeed after high school.

- Maximize individual student potential
- Develop appropriate knowledge, skills, attitudes, habits, and dispositions
- Prepare for college, careers, the military, or the trades
- Provide a rigorous and relevant educational program which promotes lifelong learning

SHS STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



Rookie of the Year

Colleen Kinsella

Most Improved of the Year

Sieara Harders

Role Model of the Year

Loren Fisk and Nicholas Kirkton

Student of the Year

Peyton Schrag

SHS SUPPORTS SPECIAL AWARENESS DAYS

Alyson Poyner Day !

On January 24, 2013 Seneca High students and staff were asked to wear the color purple to show support and awareness of a rare birth defect called Moebius Syndrome. Moebius syndrome is a rare neurological condition that primarily affects the muscles that control facial expression and eye movement. The signs and symptoms of this condition are present from birth.



Autism Awareness

On April 3rd SHS staff and students showed support for the nation wide event by purchasing Autism T-shirts and by wearing the color blue on several schools days this Spring. Did you know ...

- Autism now affects 1 in 88 children and 1 in 54 boys
- Autism prevalence figures are growing
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average
- Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism



For more information on Moebius Syndrome or Autism visit:

<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/moebius-syndrome>

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/autism/>



- According to current federal and state rules, regulations, and laws
- Supportive of staff and student success, safety, and growth opportunities
- Promoting positive community participation and inspiring confidence
- Clear, concise, fair, and practical / Consistent enforcement



Some of you may have noticed a new “Irish” logo gracing the pages of this latest Community Newsletter. Superintendent, Dr. James Carlson initiated the idea of involving our schools’ students and staff to assist in creating the new shamrock logo. Dr. Carlson envisioned combining school “mottos” from past administrations with a new one to create a unified theme.

SHS Art teacher, Chris Decker explains how the logo design came about:

“Dr. Carlson approached me and asked if my students and I would be willing to create a logo for the school that would incorporate three school mottos. Two of them are from past Administrators: “Each student shall learn” and “Together everyone achieves more.” Dr. Carlson added the third theme which is “Building foundations for success.” Of course, we jumped on the opportunity! Therefore, my 1B Art III/IV class and I began the brainstorming process.

I had each student (Emily Alaimo, Austin Applebee, Ariel Brozovich, Alexandra Burba, Clayton Cole, Callie Foster, David Frye, Danielle Hauch, Riley Jones, Jade Kryzak, Bo Taylor, Brad Wyss, Nicole Craig, Jessica Elliot, Savannah Evans, Tyler Locke, Jacob Metille, Destiny Mitchell, Kylie Russel, Kenzie St. George, and Rachel Wilkey) create 3 different black and white sketches of a logo that incorporated these themes into them. It was a difficult task to create a logo with so much text in it. However, the kids had some great ideas. From there, Dr. Carlson and other staff members narrowed all these black and white sketches down to their favorite 5. These favorite 5 were created by Jessica Elliot, Kylie Russell, Tyler Locke, Clayton Cole, and Kenzi St. George. From there, each student in my class created different color versions of these 5 logos so that there would be a variety of color choices for each of the five designs. We submitted these drawings back to Dr. Carlson.

At this point the first semester came to an end and a few of the students from my 1B class graduated early since they were seniors. Dr. Carlson conferred with his colleagues on which design they liked best, and they decided that Kylie Russell’s original design was the best design for the logo. Dr. Carlson notified me as to which color version they liked the best. Kyle Russell graduated early with a few other students so, from there, I used the computer program Adobe Illustrator to create a digital (finalized) version of the logo in color and submitted it back to Dr. Carlson.”

Superintendent Carlson was please with overall outcome of the project. “Mr. Decker and his class did a wonderful job developing the logo. The choice to settle in on just one idea was very difficult. SHS has some very talented students. I appreciate the enthusiastic support we received for this project and as a result of the efforts of our students, we now have a great logo supporting the school’s missions, past and present. Thank you Mr. Decker, thank you to his 1B Art Students, and THANK YOU Kylie Russell!”

A “NOTE” FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR, PHIL HARDIN

A year of music!



What a busy year for the SHS Band members! We were involved in 5 major concerts, 8 pep band performances, Homecoming fun, Northwestern Marching Band festival, Recital Night, the Spring musical, a trip to Six flags, IMEA district festival, I8 band fest, I8 Choral fest, Peoria, Graduation, Memorial Day concert, and finally Summer band camp. After all of the dust settles, I am proud say that the music will continue to play on!! Congrats to All State participant Jessica Elliott for her successes as well. Special thanks to the staff, parents, and students for all the hard work everyone has put in this year. Dedication and personal devotion to music is somewhat hard to explain, but this year was a great example of selfless work and time. We all look forward to another great year for the road ahead in 2014-2015.



Recruit, select, develop, and retain student-centered staff.

- Seek out, expect, develop, and promote honest, highly-competent, caring, reliable, self-motivated, flexible, and collaborative staff
- Staff regularly engage in organizational citizenship behaviors (go above and beyond their duties)

Former SHS Grad - US Naval Officer Honored

Former Seneca High Graduate, **Michael L. Modesitt**, was recently named by the United States Navy as *Sailor of the Year* aboard the USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43). Michael, who now resides in Suffolk, Virginia, with his wife Karin and one year old daughter, Cassidy, graduated from Seneca High in 2001. Shortly there after, he enlisted in the Great Lakes Naval Academy where he has made a career serving in the Armed Forces as a naval officer.

Michael has served five tours in the Middle East thus far. During his 12 years in the Navy, he has had many opportunities to visit different parts of the world. He has been deployed to various parts of Spain, Egypt, Somalia, Italy, and Ireland, to name a few.

Michael's sister, Nina Alvizo, visited him in New York City for Fleet Week, where family members are given personal tours of the Naval ships. Michael invited his parents for a Steel Beach Picnic when he was on duty aboard the USS Mahan. His mother, Marion, recalls that "After the picnic the Chief warned everyone to move away from the rear of the deck...next thing I knew the ship was thrust into reverse and the decks were cleared of food debris by a rush of sea water. It was really something neat to see!"

While Michael is home for a short visit he will take time to swap military stories with the many family members who have also served in the Armed Forces. On Michael's paternal side, his grandfather, father, older brother, and some great uncles and cousins have all served in the Navy. From his maternal side of the family, his grandfather served in the Air Force, an uncle in the Navy, and an aunt in the Army.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael L. Modesitt, was honored, along with other area veterans, on the Saturday before Memorial Day with a procession through town...ending with a formal ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial wall. SHS Administration and Staff wish a continued successful career for Michael and are PROUD of his accomplishments!



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

The Excellence in Education 2012 – 2013 Seneca High School award winners were honored the evening of May 23, 2013 at Celebrations 150 Hall in Utica, IL. Each year the Regional Office of Education of LaSalle County sponsors/hosts the event. Recipients of this award are chosen by their co-workers using a ballot listing of eligible staff members. Seneca High School winners were Mr. Bryan Erickson (Career Tech Ed/Drafting), Mr. Eric Vroman (Science) and Mrs. Brenda Westmoreland (Special Education aide). Seneca High School Administration were proud to have the award winners and their spouses at the banquet to recognize their achievements.



Eric Vroman, Brenda Westmoreland, Kathy Cooke (Retiree), and Bryan Erickson were all honored recently at a breakfast given by faculty & staff.



National Honor Society Members—Senior Class of 2013

Provide a vast array of co-curricular opportunities.

Co-curriculum —meaning any activities that fall outside the academic degree. We have invested resources to offer a comprehensive range of co-curricular activities, be it sports, societies, part-time work, entrepreneurial schemes or volunteering. We encourage students to recognize the value of these activities as part of their development – in other words co-curricular, not extra-curricular.



SENECA HIGH AUTO CLUB RACES PAST THE FINISH LINE...

After nearly eight years in the making, SHS Auto Teacher, Ron Jensen, made the announcement that one of the Auto Club's bigger projects of building a quarter-mile Drag strip race car is complete. The car has already been on the track and the students who assisted in the project are excited to see it in action. Mr. Jensen commented that the project could have never taken off without the help of many generous donations to the Auto Club:



“The car was started when the family of one of my former students donated a major group of parts to convert a stock mustang into a 460 Big-Block powered, wide tire drag car. Unfortunately, I lost the name of the family that started it all. If anyone knows who they are, please contact me.”

“Now that we had all of these donated drag car parts, we had to find the car's body. We searched for a rust free 'fox body' mustang and found it when a former student (Justin Both, 2006 Graduate) decided he did not have time to finish a mustang project he had already started. A big THANKS goes out to Justin!”

“Our Auto Club went to work and removed all of the rear suspension and floor boards to accommodate the replacement frame rails and narrowed rear end. The frame rails were temporarily welded by our students. The car was then taken to Grundy Area Vocational Center where their two state finalist welders completed the welding process on the rear frame.”

“Word spread about the SHS Auto Club project so donations started coming in from all over. The Big-Block engine was donated by Barnette Engines out of Chesapeake, Virginia. The carburetor was donated by Quick Fuel Technology of Bowling Green Kentucky. The transmission was built with help from TSI Transmission in Addison Illinois, and the custom drive shaft was built by Chicago Drive Line in ALSIP, Illinois. Custom four-wheel disc brakes were installed with the help of Strange Engineering in Morton Grove, Illinois. The ten point N.H.R.A.-Certified Roll cage was donated by Alston Race Cars in Antioch, Illinois. And finally, the Irish inspired paint job was courtesy of Big Jim's Restoration in Marseilles. All of the construction and welding was performed by students.”

Some of the SHS students, who have been formally trained, are currently racing Auto Club built cars at Byron, Cordova, and US Route 66 Drag strips in Illinois.

Come on out to the track race fans and cheer on the Irish racing team!



Increase
community and
parental support of
the school.

- **Develop Partnerships for Success**
- **Provide meaningful opportunities to participate in the SHS learning community**
- **Provide open, honest, and consistent communication to all stakeholders**

SENECA FIGHTING IRISH INDUCTED INTO IBCA HALL OF FAME...

With pride in their hearts and support from their families and fans, nine members of the 2006 State Champion Basketball team were able to attend a ceremony at Illinois State University where they were honorably inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. On Saturday, April 27, 2013, Assistant Coaches Jeff Stenzel, Nate Nollen, and Shane Trager, along with team members Garrett & Griffan Callahan, Robert Rexroade, Marty Hetelle, Nathan Hogue, and Steven Pearson accepted the award on behalf of the entire team. Unfortunately, Head Coach Doug Evans could not attend the induction ceremonies as his son, who was part of the 2006 Championship team, was also graduating from Florida Southern College on the same day!

Head Coach Evans, now retired, was recently contacted and asked to comment on his thoughts of this prestigious award: "To be inducted into the IBCA Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor for the 2005-2006 players, coaches, school, and community. The pride I have in this team is overwhelming because not only am I proud of their basketball accomplishments (35-0 record, 1st Place in Sate Tournament), I am most proud of how these young men carried themselves OFF the court. They represented their communities with the highest level of class and dignity. This group of young men brought people of all ages together and provided a sense of community spirit that will never be matched again. The 2005-2006 team left a legacy---memories that will be re-visited and recaptured at class reunions, family gatherings, and school sporting events for many, many years to come. These players and coaches will forever have a place in my heart." Sincerely, Coach Doug Evans

Assistant Coach, Jeff Stenzel, who was present at the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, reflects on the inspiring way the 2006 State-bound team bus was sent off on their quest for victory: "The 2006 basketball team has received many accolades, but few remember how it brought together three small communities. I remember going to Milton Pope, Mazon, and Seneca grade schools before we left for Peoria. The schools had let their student's line up outside the buildings while the players from the 2006 team ran from one end to the other touching and shaking the hands of every student. The kids had made banners and posters and we could see the "Irish Pride" in their eyes. Once we got to Peoria the bleachers were sea of green and gold flowing with support from our fans."

"When we won and made our victory trip back, we again went through each of those towns. We received a police escort and hundreds of people lined the streets just to wave and show their joy in the accomplishment of those young men who had represented their community and school. Say what you want about sports, but I saw firsthand how a group of 15 young men brought together three small communities and made everyone proud to be part of an amazing accomplishment! All of you were truly a part of what we accomplished and I know each team member felt your support and pride in what they did that year!"

Thanks again, Jeff Stenzel.





2012-13 READ FOR A LIFETIME AWARD WINNERS

The eight students pictured below have all participated in and have completed the State of Illinois' Read for a Lifetime Program. RFL is a teen focused reading incentive program that encourages high school students to be a part of a year-long reading event. Each finalist is issued a certificate of completion from Jesse White, Illinois State Secretary & State Librarian for reading a minimum of four books from a master list of 25 selections.

The SHS Media Center has been offering students the opportunity to participate in the RFL program since August of 2005. This year, a special recognition certificate was awarded by the State Librarian to Senior student Alyson Poyner. Alyson is the first SHS participant to complete the program all four years of high school. Way to go Alyson!

To learn more about the program or to take a peek at upcoming titles from the 2013-2014 RFL Listings visit:

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/public/rfl.html>



Front row: Alyson Poyner (4 year participant), Jacquelyn Newberry, and Kristen Tendall Back row: Kevin Neverouski and Caroline Collett



Libby Treadway and Katie Dally



Brittani Dahlman

The 2012 and 2013 Lady Irish softball teams have continued the great success and traditions by winning championships and fundraising for those in need. In the spring of 2012 the Lady Irish went on to win a regional championship, while also advancing to the Sweet 16 round. Finishing with a 27-11 record, the 2012 Irish also continued a great tradition of fundraising for the St. Jude Midwest Affiliate Clinic. St. Jude's is a not-for-profit organization that benefits children and families in serious medical need. With a strong group of girls interested in education and the health care fields, the 2012 Lady Irish raised \$4200 and were featured in a local healthcare journal for their efforts.

This season, the 2013 Lady Irish continued their traditions winning their first Interstate Eight conference championship since 1998 and completing a 24-7 record. They also fundraised for St. Jude's again. Because of the notoriety gained by their efforts, Manteno and Iroquois West also joined the cause, with this year fundraising just shy of \$5000. It is an honor and pleasure to work with such fine student-athletes who compete on the diamond, but also appreciate their opportunities and interest in those less fortunate. Great work ladies! Coach Stecken





STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Local Banks Donate Prizes to Reality Store Event

Every year, Seneca High School hosts an event called the Reality Store. All sophomore students participate in the Reality Store to learn about the costs of living. Students get a fictitious “paycheck” and a fake bank account with a set amount of money. Using the allotted budget, the students have the chance to spend one month’s salary on the necessities of life including: housing, utilities, transportation, insurance, groceries, entertainment, clothing, etc. After the event, school Guidance Counselors, Kirk Houchin and Chris Jackson, gather with the students and quiz them about what they may have learned from their simulated “reality check” about future life skills. Seneca High School would like to acknowledge that the event is made possible with assistance from SHS Teachers and Staff, **Mazon State Bank** and **First Midwest Bank of Seneca**. As well as sending representatives to work at the Reality Store, the two banks brought prizes to be given away through a random drawing. Mazon State Bank winners were Matthew Fleishman of Verona and Sage Friese of Marseilles, and the First Midwest Bank of Seneca’s winner was Dayton Coyle of Marseilles.



Matthew Fleishman and Sage Friese claimed their prize from Mazon State Bank



First Midwest Savings Bank of Seneca’s winner was Dayton Coyle





ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

SHS 2013 TRASH DYNASTY

AS SI WOULD SAY "PICK UP YOUR TRASH, JACK!"



The chilly March weather didn't stop the annual 30 MPH road-side garbage pick up by SHS students, staff, and volunteers. The event is organized by the SHS AG Dept and Sponsored by: **CF INDUSTRIES & EXCELON LASALLE STATION.**



2013 River's Project

On May 10th the Advanced Chemistry and Environmental Science classes braved a cold, cloudy, damp day to complete the chemical and biological tests on water taken from the Fox River. For the past 15 years the Science Department has been taking students to various locations on the Fox to monitor water quality. Retired Chemistry teacher Moira Marshall started this endeavor in 1997, and it has continued ever since with this year's trip being led by Mrs. Ogden and Mr. Vroman. With April's heavy rains and flooding, the teachers were afraid the tests would give a skewed poor quality reading but were surprised to find that; overall, the water quality is considered good. This testing day allows the students to put into practice the analytical and practical skills they learn in the classroom. It also gives them an opportunity to consider possible career options. New this year to the testing was the use of computer-based data-collection technology in the form of Vernier sensors such as pH, dissolved oxygen, flow-rate and temperature probes. This new technology was partially funded by a grant from **CF Industries** applied for and written by Mrs. Ogden. The Science Department would like to thank CF Industries for their continued support of this program.



THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



SHS VOLUNTEERS



2012-13 HOSA BLOOD DRIVE



St. Baldrick's 2013





Seneca High School Honors Program



On Tuesday, May 14th 2013 at 7:00 PM, Seneca High School conducted their annual Spring Honors Program honoring those students who have gone above and beyond during their time at Seneca High School. Additionally, many of these students received scholarships from local organizations as well as receiving honors from the colleges or trades they will be attending next fall. Below is a list of awards and award winners.

This year's senior class earned over \$292,000 toward post-secondary education for their freshman year. The amount earned by this class for all four years of their post-secondary schooling surpasses the \$1,000,000 dollar mark.

The Administration, Faculty, and Staff of Seneca High School congratulates our seniors and the award winners listed below.

ALL SCHOOL AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Sousa Music Award

Jana Berryman

Allstate Music Award

Jessica Elliott

Arion Music Award

Erin Hovious

Seneca Grade School Foundation Scholarship

Samantha Stuedemann
Molly Novotney
Ryan Schuetz



Exelon Scholarship

Trent Nugent

Illinois National Guard Scholarship

Cameron Ward
Trevin Seul



Seneca Port District Scholarship

Molly Novotney
Shelby Savoree
Donald Rich
Chris Lee

Kasal Post 457 American Legion Scholarship Award

Kasal Post 457 American Legion Award (2)

Molly Novotney
Molly Novotney
Peyton Schrag

1st Farm Credit Scholarship

Molly Novotney

Cruise Night Automotive Scholarship

Kevin Harris

Seneca High School Citizen of the Year Award

Zach Hintze



Delta Theta Tau Scholarship



Erika Grossi
Molly Novotney
Chelsie McCormick
Peyton Schrag
Hannah Mehochko
Nick Kirkton

Mazon American Legion

Samantha Stuedemann
Jana Berryman

Mazon State Bank Scholarship

Cori Armbrust

Joliet Junior College Foundation Scholarship

Loren Fisk

LaSalle Station Diversity Council Scholarship

Nick Kirkton

MVK Student Council Scholarship

Hannah Mehochko
Justin Walsh
Jenny Hyslop



Matt Rivett Scholarship

Michael Osborne

Technology Student of the Year

John Trumble

Heartland Blood Center

Max Mann
Brandon Webb
Madisen Warning

American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship

Jessica Elliott

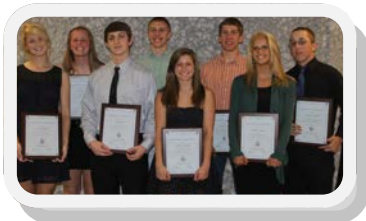
American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Award

Lindsey Ramirez

Girls/Boys State Recognition

Jacquelyn Newberry
Lukas Altobella

Illinois State Scholars



Cassie Clemmons Trent Nugent
Loren Fisk Nicole Pihl
Hannah Mehochko Petyon Schrag
Molly Novotney Justin Walsh
Madisen Warning

Prairie State Achievement Award

Alex Autry Brandon Myre
Cassie Clemmons Trent Nugent
Loren Fisk Nicole Pihl
Cortney Helms Peyton Schrag
Jonah Lambole Justin Walsh

Academic and Athletic Achievement

Corinne Armbrust – Cori is the recipient of a Presidential Scholarship at Ashford University.

Brent Bergeson – Brent has been awarded a criminal justice scholarship, an alumni legacy award, and a university grant as well as recently making a verbal commitment to play baseball for Aurora University.

Jana Berryman – Jana is a recipient of a Commitment Scholarship to Western Illinois University.

Jenna Blohm – Jenna has been awarded a Dean’s Scholarship to Aurora University.

Jimmy David – Jimmy has signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Illinois Valley Community College

Jessica Elliott – Jessica has been awarded a Trustee Scholarship to the University of St. Francis.

Erika Grossi – Erika has received the Olivet Nazarene University Grant for Academic Excellence.

Cortney Helms –Cortney has been named as a Millikin University Merit Scholarship winner, and she has also received an athletic scholarship to play soccer at Millikin.

April and Erin Hovious – April and Erin have both been awarded an academic scholarship and grant to St. Ambrose University.

Chelsie McCormick – Chelsie was named a Presidential Scholarship Winner at the University of St. Francis.

Jacob Mettill – Jacob is the recipient of an Academic Scholarship at Olivet Nazarene University.

Destiny Mitchell – Destiny was awarded the Monmouth College Achievement Award.

Mackenzie St. George –Kenzie has been awarded the School of the Art Institute of Chicago Merit Scholarship

Aspen Stuedemann –Aspen is the recipient of a Great Lakes Scholarship and an Athletic Scholarship to play volleyball at Ferris State University.

Cameron Ward – Cameron has been awarded an Alumni Opportunity Grant and an Illinois Wesleyan Alumni Grant to attend Illinois Wesleyan University.

Mallory Wilson – Mallory is the recipient of an Evangel University Music Scholarship.

Melissa Young – Melissa will attend Northern Illinois University and has been named a Centennial Scholar as well as a Lead 2 NIU Scholarship recipient.

The Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award

Anna Baker

The Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award

Jacquelyn Newberry

The George Eastman Young Leaders Award

Maggie Thomas

The Xerox Award

Brenden Tisler

Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Conference Recognition

Kassidy Maierhofer

Herb Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Melissa Young

Eloise Walker Anderson Teacher Scholarship

April and Erin Hovious

Evan Vint Scholarship “Students who make a difference”

Justin Walsh

The Pfeifer-Madison Masonic Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Mehochko
Justin Walsh

SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award

Jonah Lamboley

Keith O. Houchin Memorial Scholarship

Madisen Warning
Nick Kirkton

Creative Writing

Donald Rich



SHS Staff Scholarship



Jana Berryman
Brittani Dahlman
Loren Fisk
Erika Grossi
April Hovious
Erin Hovious
Nick Kirkton
Molly Novotney
Kenzie St. George
Justin Walsh
Cameron Ward

Senior English Award

Jonah Lamboley

Rookie Acting Award

Matt Anderson

Senior Acting Award

Erika Grossi

Spanish IV Award

Chelsie McCormick

HOSA

Chelsie McCormick

Ottawa Hospital Foundation

Jenna Blohm
Melissa Young



Senior Math Award

Peyton Schrag
Justin Walsh

Math Team

Alex Autry
Justin Walsh
Lyle Marshall
Jacquelyn Newberry
Ben Barnett

Senior Science Department Award

Samantha Stuedemann
Peyton Schrag

WYSE

Regionals :

Engineering Graphics, Samie Stuedemann placed 1st , Nick Kirkton 2nd, following closely with a 3rd place by Cameron Ward.

In Math, Lyle Marshall placed 3rd.

Chemistry brought a 1st place by Brenden Tisler, and a tie for 3rd with Rachel Towne and Kayla Haines. Brenden Tisler also had a 2nd place in Physics.

In English, Molly Novotney, and Aspen Stuedemann both placed 3rd.

Biology, we had a 1st place by Lyle Marshall and a 3rd place by Nicole Pihl.

Sectionals :

Brenden Tisler placed 3rd in Chemistry. In Engineering Graphics, Daniel Niswonger placed 1st with a 2nd by Samie Stuedemann, and a 3rd by Nick Kirkton.

Jud Nagle Scholarship

Nick Kirkton

Senior Athlete Awards-12 Sport Award

April Hovious	Chris Lee
Erin Hovious	Madison Warning
Chelsie McCormick	Cameron Ward
Molly Novotney	

Gerald M. Hoben Award

Peyton Schrag

Anna Gay Award

Nicole Pihl

Female Varsity Effort Scholarship

Chelsie McCormick

Male Varsity Effort Scholarship

Peyton Schrag

Seneca FFA Alumni Scholarships



Brian Bergeson
 Rebecca Henry
 Nick Kirkton
 Ryan McRaven
 April Hovious
 Chris Lee
 Daniel Hamilton



Seneca FFA Awards (Presented at the Annual FFA Banquet)

Star Farmer
 Star Placement
 Star Agribusiness
 Dekalb Award
 Robert Johnson Award
 Verne Reifsteck Award
 Don Baker Agriculture Memorial Award
 Star Greenhand

Loren Fisk
 Colton Jackson
 John Progress
 Alex Autry
 Jacob Theissen
 Molly Novotney
 Loren Fisk
 Sam DeGraaf, Greg Granby, Peter Houge, Madi Payne





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THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

Seneca Township High School
307 East Scott Street
Seneca, IL 61360