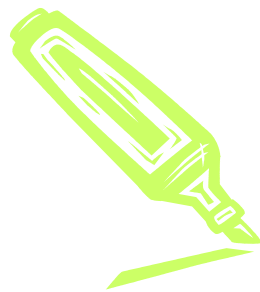


The Irish Highlighter

Volume 2 : Issue 1

SENECA HIGH SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



FIRST SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

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THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

A Word from the Board of Education President



Thank you for taking the time to read the Irish Highlighter Newsletter. We have a wonderful school district that provides its students with many learning opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom. The semester community newsletter provides an opportunity for us to focus on the many accomplishments of our students.

Our district offers a complete academic program, including fine arts and career/technical course offerings. In addition, classes offered by IVCC on our campus, Advanced Placement classes, and various classes available through our vocational program provide the opportunity for students to earn college credit while attending high school. We are very proud to furnish a wide range of course offerings that provide the opportunity for students to learn in many different settings.

Seneca Township High School also offers many co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to help students build character, promote teamwork, and expand their interests. Many of these activities promote giving back to the community. Our students participate in charity events, blood drives, community events, and complete service hours that benefit our local organizations. Teaching students to be caring, thoughtful contributors to society is part of the tradition in the Land of the Irish.

In closing, I would like to take a minute to gratefully acknowledge the invaluable contributions of my fellow Board Members. School Boards represent the voice of the community and are entrusted in making decisions that serve the best interest of our students. I would like to thank the Board of Education, administration, faculty and staff for the countless hours spent working to improve Seneca Township High School for the benefit of our children and our community.

Robert Lee, President
Seneca High Board of Education



Seneca High holds Educational Open House





Highlights from the Administration

Season's Greetings from the Superintendent's Office

The first semester has come to an end and the holiday season is upon us. Wow, did that semester go fast! Efforts to ensure we have a quality facility for generations of students to come continues. Slowly but surely the final touches are being made on the construction project. With the completion of this building endeavor essentially behind us, we are able to turn our undivided attention to why we exist, our students. The board, administration, and staff are committed to ensuring that all students succeed. Whether our students will be moving on to college, the trades, other employment, or the military, it is the mission of SHS to ensure that we are building foundations for success.

We are carefully analyzing our programs, policies, and systems. To that end, our school improvement efforts have focused on curriculum development and instructional change in relationship to the new common core state standards, the integration of technology into the curriculum, conscious planning for individual student success, and ratcheting up the rigor of our coursework just to name a few. During the second semester, we will be working in earnest to refine these improvement efforts through the construction of school board goals and a blueprint for the enhancement of our educational program.

In mid-October, we revealed elements of this education program at our educational open house. I would like to thank all of you who attended. The attendance for the event was outstanding. Our students and staff did a wonderful job demonstrating the quality programs offered here at SHS. Among other things, those who attended had an opportunity to tour the building; view exhibits, work samples, and videos; get their blood pressure taken; play with robots; receive Spanish lessons; enjoy refreshments; and participate in several raffles. If you missed our open house and would like to tour our building some time, please contact me at (815) 357-5000, and I will be happy to arrange a tour for you.

One of the spaces you will find if touring SHS is our new fitness center. If you are like me, with New Year's Day fast approaching comes the inevitable development of personal resolutions. With that in mind, I would like to invite all of you who have not had an opportunity to enjoy our fitness center to sign up for a free membership for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year. Free memberships have been available to residents of Seneca High School District since the fitness center opened. The overwhelming feedback we have received from those who have used it has been positive. For more information on how to sign up, please contact Athletic Director Steve Haines at the school.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Education and the staff at Seneca Township High School, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very blessed and safe holiday season. May you spend time relaxing with the ones you love.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Jim Carlson





Seneca High School's Principal Marty Voiles reports...

On Monday, November 27, 2012, Seneca High School received word that nine students from the Class of 2013 were selected as Illinois State Scholars for the 2012-2013 school year. Listed below are the names of those award recipients and the college or university they plan to attend after high school graduation.

<u>Student</u>	<u>College/University</u>
Nicole Pihl	DePaul University
Trenton Nugent	University of Illinois or University of Wisconsin
Molly Novotney	Joliet Community College or Beloit College
Peyton Schrag	Lake Forest College or University of Chicago
Hannah Mehochko	University of Illinois or Illinois Wesleyan University
Loren Fisk	Joliet Community College
Cassie Clemmons	Northern Illinois University
Justin Walsh	Northwestern University or Yale University
Madisen Warning	University of Illinois



Standardized test scores and performance-based academic data reported by our high school are key factors in the formula used to determine if students are eligible.

Information used by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to be considered for State Scholar eligibility:

1. Students must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
2. Be a resident of Illinois and attend an approved high school
3. Take the ACT, SAT, or Prairie State Achievement Exam between September 1 and June 30 (by the end of the third semester before high school graduation)
4. Perform in the top one-half of your high school class at the end of the third semester prior to graduation, and/or score in the 95th percentile on the ACT, SAT, or Prairie State Achievement Exam

On behalf of the Board of Education, Administration and staff of Seneca High School, I would like to congratulate this year's recipients.

Go Irish!!

Technology Update

Last winter, two groups of teachers and staff from Seneca High School made trips to University High School in Normal, Illinois. The purpose of these trips was to give our staff the opportunity to collaborate with U-High so that we may have the opportunity to get face to face feedback from both staff and students on their one-to-one laptop experience. Each respective group from U-High had suggestions for us to consider, "look-outs" for things to stay away from, and overall recommendations to make our transition to a one-to-one device more efficient.

In addition to learning about their technology rollout, I am very encouraged to report that SHS and U-High have developed a collaborative professional relationship. Some of the continued discussions we are having with them is information on best teaching practices, integration of technology into each school's curriculum, discussing what high-quality instruction looks like and how that instruction impacts student learning, implementation of the Common Core State Standards, various types of curriculum adjustments to prepare our students for the 21st century, and increasing rigor within each classroom, to name a few.

One of the most exciting outcomes stemming from the collaboration with U-High is the implementation of Blackboard. Blackboard is an electronic communication tool that has many important educational benefits. Through Blackboard, our staff will have the opportunity to extend daily instruction outside of the traditional four walls of the classroom. Blackboard allows teachers to improve communication with students, conduct discussion boards and blogs, and post video and audio pieces to increase student understanding of a particular lesson. Students who are absent could have access to notes over lessons that were presented earlier in the same school day. Blackboard also gives students an opportunity to organize an individual daily activity calendar, which is beneficial to all students. Blackboard has many other features that we will continue exploring and learning about.

Finally, because of the immediate success both schools are seeing with the continued partnership, five members of the U-High staff will be re-visiting Seneca High School in late January to learn about some of the programs and procedures we have in place for our students. I am extremely encouraged by the work our staff has produced with the U-High collaboration. If you would like to learn more about Blackboard, please go to the following website for additional information :

www.blackboard.com



Highlights of Student Achievements & Leadership

2012 DAR GOOD CITIZEN AWARD



Peyton Schrag was recently honored with the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award for Seneca High School. He is the son of Leanne and Russ Schrag of Marseilles.

The Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award honors an outstanding senior who

exhibits the qualities of dependability, leadership, service, and patriotism. The selection was voted on by the faculty and staff.

Peyton will now compete in an essay contest with the opportunity to advance through state and national levels of judging. The DAR Good Citizens program and scholarship contest is sponsored by the Illini Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

I-8 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Assistant Principal, Mike Coughlin announced that “Seneca High School was very proud to have these students represent us at the Interstate Eight Leadership Conference.” The conference took place on October 22, 2012 at the Morris Country Club. The students had a great day, which was highlighted by meeting other students from I-8 conference schools. The keynote speaker for the day was a youth motivational speaker, Ryan “Superman” Moran. His message to the students that day focused on the importance of having a positive attitude in your everyday life. He encouraged students to be accepting of others and to never stop trying new things. Mr. Coughlin said, “I know that the Seneca High students were fully engaged throughout the day.”



From left to right: Daniel Armstrong, 9th grade; Jacey Lamboley, 11th grade; Rebecca Doloski, 10th grade; Chance Gonnam, 11th grade; Kaylyn Groth, 9th grade; Jonah Lamboley, 11th grade; Brandon Viken, 10th grade; Nicole Pihl, 12th grade.



The third week of October found over 40 Seneca FFA members, advisors, parents and guests invading Indianapolis for the **2012 National FFA Convention and Expo**.

Recognitions for The Seneca FFA included being named a **National 2-Star chapter** and The Seneca FFA Alumni being named a Silver Emblem Chapter. Individually, Nick Briscoe was named the national winner in the Ag Services Proficiency Award and Austin Granby was the national runner-up in Agricultural Sales, winning a trip to Costa Rica.

HOBY LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Kassidy Maierhofer, a Seneca High School sophomore, was selected to represent Seneca Township High School at the 2013 HOBY Leadership Seminar.



The Leadership Seminar is designed for high school sophomores to recognize their leadership talents and apply them in becoming effective, ethical leaders in their home, schools, work-place, and community.

The students will participate in hands-on leadership activities and meet state leaders in such areas as business, government, education, media, and the non-profit sector.

Each September, every accredited public, private, and charter high school in the country is invited to select and register outstanding sophomores as representatives to their local state seminar. Currently, nearly 9,000 sophomores, representing as many high schools nationwide, attend HOBY Leadership Seminars annually.

Kassidy is the daughter of Nadine and Les Maierhofer of Seneca. All Seneca High School sophomore students were invited to pick up applications and submit essays for the opportunity to attend this seminar. Congratulations to Kassidy on her accomplishment.

Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.

Warren G. Bennis



Focus on Student of the Month



AUGUST 2012

Most Improved
Kimberly Bartkus

Role Model
Loren Fisk

Student of the Month
Peyton Schrag

Rookie
Emma Bedeker

above average academic status

Helps others



SEPTEMBER 2012

Rookie
Abigail Klicker

Student of the Month
Justin Walsh

Most Improved
Cody Russell

Role Model
Alexandra Autry

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OCTOBER 2012

Most Improved
Sieara Harders

Student of the Month
Nicole Pihl

Role Model
Nick Kirkton

Rookie
Colleen Kinsella

desire to improve



NOVEMBER 2012

Role Model
Jonah Lamboley

Most Improved
Logan Pifer

Rookie
Arik Applebee

Student of the Month
Samantha Stuedemann

enthusiastic

active in community

extra-curricular activities



Highlights of Star Students

FCCLA was recently highlighted in local newspaper...

These young ladies are part of the Seneca Township High School FCCLA Chapter. FCCLA is a club offered to all schools. It stands for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. Above, from left to right, are the officers. Taylor Schmitz – President, Olivia Taylor – Student Council, Mallory Misener – Student Council, Erin Hovious – Historian, April Hovious – Treasurer, Madi Payne - Secretary, and Savannah Evans - Vice President.



Taylor Schmitz and Savannah Evans said that their motto and goal for this year was to give back. In a heartbeat Savannah came up with the brilliant idea to collect items for care packages to send to deployed service men and women. She set it in her heart to give back to the people who give the most. She said, “As corny as it sounds, I’ve always wanted to make and send a care package. I just never knew how to go about it. When we said we were going to give back, I thought it was the perfect way!” They got a list of items they could collect, attached the list on paper bags, and put one in each homeroom. Taylor and Savannah said they wanted to make it fun and competitive, so they decided that the homeroom with the most items collected would win a pizza party. They hoped the reward would encourage people to participate in the donation event. Evans said, “At first, it looked like no one was bringing stuff in. But on the day of bag collection we ended up with **over 1,700 items.**” Coming from a school of about 500 kids, that’s a hefty collection. In October, the FCCLA members sold pink Seneca Irish hoodies and donated over **\$800.00** to Breast Cancer Research. Seneca High School FCCLA Advisor, Erica Read said; “I am so proud of all that our chapter has done so far this school year. My students have so many great ideas and are so excited about helping in any way possible. SHS is full of students that care about others and that is another reason why I love being part of this school and community.”

Mr. Voiles, SHS Principal added; “Mrs. Read and members of the FCCLA organization should be very proud of the contributions gathered during their “Care Package” initiative. As Savannah Evans stated earlier in this article, it is very heartwarming knowing our students and staff understand and value the dedication our troops make on a daily basis. I am proud of our FCCLA Advisor, members of this organization, and our staff and student body for contributing in such a gracious manner. Congratulations to Seneca High School and please remember those men and women who defend our country each and every day.” This FCCLA chapter really is giving back.



SHS Senior Hannah Mehochko

Hannah, daughter of Julie and Dan Mehochko - Mazon, IL, was selected to perform in the 2012 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City this past Fall. Hannah was one of 700 varsity cheerleaders from high schools around the country to participate in the opening AND closing ceremonies of the famous holiday parade.



2012 Teen Read Week

To celebrate National Teen Read Week (October 15—20), the SHS Media Center held a scavenger hunt and M&M candy estimation contest for the students to participate in. Approximately 32 students participated in the event and prizes were awarded to these contest winners:

- Freshman, Zachary Rivett
- Freshman, Shelby Germain
- Sophomore, Taylor Franks
- Junior, Erin Tezak



He who is fixed to a star does not change his mind.
Leonardo da Vinci





SHERLOCK'S FIRST ADVENTURE: A TWO-ACT COMEDY-MYSTERY BY CRAIG SODARO

WAS PERFORMED BY SHS PLAY CAST MEMEBERS

ON NOVEMBER 7TH, 9TH & 10TH 2012

On Wednesday, November 7th, Senior Citizens in the community were invited to attend the annual SHS Fall Play and Dinner that began with a complete hot turkey meal and ended with a mystery solved! The great room of Butterworth Academy, circa 1885, was recreated by the Seneca High Fall Play cast and stage crew of "Sherlock's First Adventure". Young Sherlock Holmes, a student at Butterworth Academy, was aided by his sidekick John Watson, and other students at the Academy in solving the case of the disappearing students. Besides the Senior Citizen Dinner, the cast and crew performed the play for sixth through eighth graders from local grade schools, as well as public performances on Friday and Saturday evenings.



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Working on this play was challenging, satisfying, and fun. This group of kids, while dedicated, was very involved, so most rehearsals took place well into the evening. Even then, several students missed rehearsals due to games, work, youth group, and lessons, leaving them to take on more responsibility for preparing for the play outside rehearsal time. I am happy for the kids that, in spite of their busyness, they were able to create such a successful show.

The work that the kids do in these shows makes all my work well worth it. As with all the curricular and extracurricular opportunities our students have at SHS, participating in theatrical productions is something that will stay with them for the rest of their lives and benefit their futures.

Sincerely,
Nichole Payne

SPECIAL THANKS...

To my husband, Josh Payne, for building another impressive and beautiful set.

To Mandi Beck for taking pictures for the program and for the school yearbook.

To Barb Beck for coordinating the film crew.

To Glenda Edwards, for making all the school uniform costumes and tweaking and fixing costumes throughout the show's run.



A VERY SPECIAL THANKS...

To the cast and crew for your hard work and dedication to this show.

WITH THANKS TO THESE BUSINESSES

To Marie Koepke at Curious Goods, Gifts and Costumes for your amazing work on the period costumes.

To Stacey Olson at Lola's, to Traci Tessone at Whimsy, and to Vintage: Yesterday's Memories, Today's Treasure, all located in Morris, for the loaning of set furniture.



Highlights for the Community



25th Annual

Farm Toy Show (Auction)

&

Antique Tractor Show

Sunday, March 24, 2013

9:00 am — 2:00 pm

Auction at 2:00 pm

Seneca Township High School

Seneca, Illinois

For more information contact:

Kent Weber at 815-357-5024

kweber@senecahs.org



Music Department News

Congratulations to Jana Berryman (Band) and Jessica Elliott (Orchestra) for acceptance into the District 2 Band and Orchestra Festival for Illinois Music Educator Association this past October.

Another congratulations to Jessica Elliott for passing the IMEA audition into the All-State Festival in Peoria Illinois this January.

After a wonderful football season plus a visit to Northwestern University's "Band Day" and two great concerts (Pops and Holiday concert) this Fall, we look forward to our Pep Band season. This past Fall we also discovered that the new music room does work well as a performance venue. Our Fall Pops concert was performed in our new music room with tables and chairs. We look forward to a great **Spring musical "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown."**

Hope to see you there!
Phil Harden, Director
Music Department



Pet Project Fundraiser Held

On behalf of the Boy's Basketball team, Coach Kelsey Adams would like to thank everyone who helped out with, or was able to contribute to, the Pet Project fundraiser. "While some charities have many layers of bureaucracy and disperse funds amongst many sub-sects, we were able to raise **over \$800** that will go directly to helping provide food and shelter for animals in need of a home right now. It was great to see the whole school come together...which would not have been possible without the help of everyone here. Several students who are not even on the basketball team were eager to help out. We even had one student, who works a part-time job, donate forty dollars of her own money."

Special thanks to:

The Cheerleaders and Coaches

The (very generous) Custodial Staff

The Kitchen Staff

FCCLA

Even if you were unable to donate at the recent fundraiser, perhaps you will consider adopting your next pet from a no-kill animal shelter like Pet Project in Marseilles. There are over a million pets in shelters all across America waiting for adoption to good homes.

More information about Pet Project and pets available for adoption can be found by going online:

<http://petprojectinc.org/resources>



My Name is
Boomer and I'm
available for
adoption at
Pet Project!

Life is like a camera. Just **focus** on what's important and capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don't work out, just take another shot.

Unknown



Seneca High student Hope Jackson spent two weeks this past summer traveling to San Lucas, Guatemala on a mission trip with the Fox River Lutheran Youth Group. From July 31 to August 13, 2012, the Youth Group, led by Youth Pastor Nick Marcoux, spent their waking hours doing whatever they could for the children and families who lived in the villages of San Lucas and Zapote. The main **focus** was to build housing and cooking stoves, but the group also took time to entertain the families with acting skits, singing, and game playing.

During the first week, Hope and the other volunteers went to six different schools in San Lucas to teach the children there with gospel lessons, a few friendly English phrases, and played outdoor games. The most popular prize for the game playing turned out to be soccer balls. Hope said, "These children were so grateful to receive the soccer balls that many of them became tearful when they were awarded with one." Becoming a professional soccer player someday may be their only way out of a poverty stricken life. The boys and girls were eager to share the balls with the other children who did not receive them, making Hope think of how unselfish the children who had so little really were.



The second week into her trip, Hope and her group traveled over rough terrain to a remote village called Zapote, where they built four homes and six stoves and then painted an entire church. Since Hope was one of the most fluent Spanish speaking volunteers there, many of the other volunteers were coming to her for help in translation so that communication between the Guatemalans and the helpers could occur.

Nearly every day, downpours of rain flooded the land, occasionally making work more difficult. Hope recalls: "One day when the rain was threatening to halt progress, the youth group prayed for it to hold off until we could complete the building of a home... and it worked! Our prayers were answered: just as we handed the keys to the family during the house dedication, the rain came pouring out of the sky."

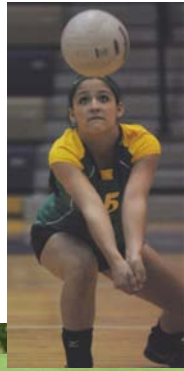
During her trip, Hope found that she really didn't miss all of the modern conveniences of home because she became so engrossed with her missionary work there. She did not use a cell phone or have access to the variety of electronics that we have in the U.S. Hope says of her Guatemala experience: "It makes you feel humbled to see what little these families have compared to the abundance of things we have here in the U.S. After returning home, it took me a while to be able to use hot water without feeling guilty because the people there do not have that luxury."

Hope wants to go back to Guatemala someday to do even more work with the people who were so grateful for what her youth group did for them. She knows that her future career will **focus** on giving back and helping others who need it the most. Hope is the daughter of Van and Kris Jackson of Stavanger, IL. Hope's mom Kris was also part of the mission group and enjoyed spending this special time with her daughter.





Highlights of Irish Athletes



2012 FALL SPORTS I-8 CONFERENCE ALL-ACADEMIC MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Jaquelyn Newberry	Golf	4.00
Caroline Collet	Cross Country	4.00
Jacey Lamboley	Cross Country	4.00
Rachel Towne	Cross Country	4.00
Lucas Altobella	Cross Country	4.00
Carter Gallick	Cross Country	4.00
Mackenzie Granby	Volleyball	4.00
Kayla Haines	Volleyball	4.00
Anna Baker	Volleyball	4.00
Maggie Thomas	Volleyball	4.00
Peyton Schrag	Football	4.00
Justin Walsh	Football	4.00
Brenden Tisler	Golf	3.97
Hannah Mehochko	Cheerleading	3.96
Ben Barnett	Cross Country	3.94
Nicole Pihl	Volleyball	3.92
Molly Novotney	Cross Country	3.90
Terah Coughlin	Cross Country	3.88
Emilie Logan	Cheerleading	3.88
Samantha Stuedemann	Volleyball	3.86
Chelsie McCormick	Volleyball	3.85
Rylee Anderson	Volleyball	3.73
Madisen Warning	Cheerleading	3.71
Erin Hovious	Volleyball	3.69
Ryan Schuetz	Football	3.69
Daniel Niswonger	Golf	3.66
Trevin Seul	Football	3.63
Cameron Ward	Football	3.63
Mallory Misener	Volleyball	3.61
Nick Kirkton	Football	3.61
Cassie Clemmons	Cheerleading	3.54
Maddie Steep	Cheerleading	3.54
Chance Gonnam	Football	3.52
Brent Bergeson	Football	3.51
Bo Taylor	Football	3.50

2012 FALL SPORTS I-8 CONFERENCE ALL-CONFERENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Year</u>
Lexi Bogren	Cross Country	Freshmen
Ross McCormick	Cross Country	Freshmen
Shailee Bauer	Cross Country	Sophomore
James Bowen	Cross Country	Sophomore
Bo Taylor	Football	Junior
Brad Wyss	Football	Junior
Austin Applebee	Football	Junior
Savannah Bauldauf	Cross Country	Junior
Caroline Collet	Cross Country	Junior
Peyton Schrag	Football	Senior
Nick Kirkton	Football	Senior
Logan Pifer	Football	Senior
Jimmy David	Football	Senior
Grant Shenberg	Football	Senior
Nicole Pihl	Volleyball	Senior
Aspen Stuedemann	Volleyball	Senior
Michael Osborne	Golf	Senior
Josh Rohder	Golf	Senior



Always focus on how far you've come,
rather than how far you have left to go.

Unknown





THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SENECA TWP HIGH SCHOOL

WWW.SENECAHS.ORG

THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

Seneca Township High School

307 East Scott Street

Seneca, IL 61360