



# The Irish Highlighter

Volume 6: Issue 2

## Seneca High School

---

### COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

---





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Board of Education Corner



**And they're off!** Seneca graduates recently celebrated the completion of high school. Our teachers have spent the last four years inspiring and empowering them to succeed in the world. It was a day full of emotion; cheers and tears, memories and dreams, and goodbyes and hellos. "Where has the time gone?" was heard repeatedly throughout the school on this important day for students and their families.

After researching the history and tradition of graduation, I found these facts to be interesting. *Pomp and Circumstance* first became associated with graduation ceremonies in 1905. It has spread to nearly every high school, college, and university in the U.S.

The outfit that signifies a graduate is the traditional gown. The use of the graduation gown began in the 12th century to ward off the cold. Today, it is custom in most high schools that males wear the school color, while female students wear white.

The graduation cap is sometimes called a mortarboard because of the resemblance it has to a tool used by masons to hold mortar. The caps became popular in the 14th and 15th centuries and were used to signify superiority and intelligence.



The throwing of the graduation cap in the air is a tradition that was started by the Naval Academy. The class of 1912 was commissioned from the time of graduation and received their officers' caps, thus their hats were no longer needed, leaving the graduates free to toss their caps into the air and not worry about getting them back. The tradition then caught on at other institutions throughout the country. Now the action is regarded as a symbolic gesture of the end of a chapter in a graduate's life.

The use of a tassel adorning a graduation cap only started in the last 40 to 50 years. The gesture of moving the tassel from one side of the cap to the other symbolizes the individual's movement from candidate to graduate. Prior to the ceremony, the tassel is expected to be worn on the right. During the ceremony, it is moved to the left side after students receive their diploma. This custom is practiced in educational institutions nationwide.

Graduation at Seneca High School continues on with many of the same traditions. The Board of Education wishes our graduates well and hopes their time spent at Seneca High School was memorable. *Congratulations to the Class of 2017!*

Best wishes always,



Ron Frye  
Board President



### Graduation

A celebration...

A time for looking back on lessons learned, adventures share, bright moments filled with special meaning.

A farewell...

A time for saying goodbye to old friends, to good times you've known... a time for packing away memories, treasures for tomorrow

A beginning...

A time for looking forward, a time to set new goals, to dream new dreams, to try your wings and see what lies beyond

~Author Unknown~



“What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson



A Message from SHS Superintendent, Dr. James Carlson

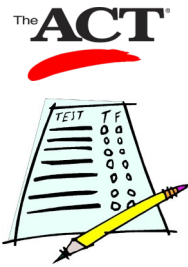
Mark Twain is purported to have popularized the saying, “there are three kinds of lies: lies, damn lies, and statistics.” In this spirit, I freely admit my disdain for how statistics are often misused; in particular, how they are used to judge the quality of a school’s educational program. At SHS, we use several indicators to judge the quality of our programs, including grades earned, participation in Honors/Advanced Placement/Dual Credit coursework, college credit earned while in high school, results of random drug testing, and participation in co-curricular activities. Numerous studies show the best predictor of success in the freshman year of college is one’s high school grade point average when one has engaged in a rigorous curriculum, surpassing the predictive power of the ACT or SAT. High stakes tests really only measure a limited type of ability, whereas grades give a more comprehensive view of students’ strengths, including effort, persistence, and grit. As Emerson stated, “What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.”

That said, we certainly want our students, as the result of participating in our educational program, to perform well on high stakes testing measures. Who wouldn’t, right? As such, we do look at how well our students perform on such tests as an “outside” indicator of the effectiveness of our curriculum.

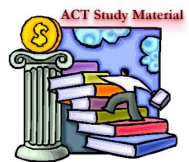
The graduating class of 2017 is a small but mighty one. Eighty-seven students graduated on May 21, 2017 and are off to the next phase in their lives. Of our graduating class, 47% report going to a two-year college, 29% plan to attend a four-year college, 2% will enroll in a technical school, and 2% intend on joining the military.

Last year, the State of Illinois did not have the funds to pay the cost of the ACT for juniors (this year’s graduating class). Seneca High School stepped up and offered to reimburse students for the cost of the test. Of the graduating class, 64 students took advantage of the offer. The results of the test were impressive and are listed in the table below by strata.

**ACT Scores of the Class of 2017 Stratified**



ACT Score Earned	Percent of Seneca High School Students
19 or Above	78%
22 or Above	58%
25 or Above	30%
28 or Above	19%
30 or Above	11%



The bright, talented, and caring young men and women of the Class of 2017 will be missed. They most certainly raised the bar for future classes. We thank them for their impact on SHS and wish them the very best in their respective futures.

Finally, just as we say goodbye to our students, we also bid farewell to our retiring staff, Ms. Barb Beck, Mrs. Mandi Beck, Mrs. Kathy Czech, and Mrs. Nancy Peterson. Each of these outstanding women has served the needs of our students for many years in her own unique way and each of them will be sincerely missed.





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



SHS Senior Class of 2017

## CLASS OF 2017 PROFILE



### PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS CONTINUING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

78%

### SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID RECEIVED

Amount earned toward post-secondary education for freshman year

\$392,880

Amount earned toward post-secondary education for all four years

\$1,372,320



### Board of Education

Ronald Frye, President  
Sara Olson, Vice President  
Rich Hamilton, Secretary

Joseph Johnson  
Mark Victor  
Cory Yandell  
Jason Eltrevoog

### Administration

Dr. Jim Carlson, Superintendent  
Marty Voiles, Principal  
Mike Coughlin, Assistant Principal  
Steve Haines, Activities Director



### Class of 2017 SHS Valedictorians

Seated Left to Right: Torie Knibbs, Anna Doloski, Jamie Goslin  
Standing : Carina Collet, Sean Baker



### Class of 2017 SHS Salutatorians

Cora Wilkinson, Emily Woods, Madison Carr





“Young people need models, not critics.” ~ John Wooden



Semester Highlights from SHS Principal, Marty Voiles

**Seneca High School Anticipates a Decline in Student Enrollment:**

Projected student enrollment numbers over the next ten years at Seneca Township High School indicate student enrollment will continue on a downward trend. After investigating enrollment numbers at local feeder schools during the 2015-2016 school year, the high school administration anticipates a steady decline based on information shared from its local feeder districts.

Over the last several years, Seneca High School’s enrollment numbers have stayed fairly consistent, registering in the range of 440 – 460 students. If you view the information below, data shows that enrollment numbers begin a steady decline through the 2023-2024 school year.

Projected Ten Year Seneca High School enrollment numbers as of March 2016:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>9<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>10<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>11<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>12<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Total Enrollment</u>
2015-2016	111	119	88	127	445
2016-2017	103	111	119	88	421
2017-2018	112	103	111	119	445
2018-2019	91	112	103	111	417
2019-2020	102	91	112	103	408
2020-2021	78	102	91	112	383
2021-2022	101	78	102	91	372
2022-2023	86	101	78	102	367
2023-2024	77	86	101	78	342
2024-2025	89	77	86	101	353

When school districts experience a drastic decline in enrollment, new and important challenges are presented to all stakeholders in our school community. The SHS Board of Education, administration, and staff have already begun conversations addressing these circumstances and are attempting to determine and plan how these numbers may impact programs. It is always our goal to maintain academic and extra-curricular integrity while attempting to offer the highest quality education for all SHS students.

If you have any questions related to the information within this information, feel free to contact the administration at Seneca High School at 815-357-5000.

**A Special Recognition:**

On behalf of our team here at Seneca High, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Superintendent Jim Carlson** on being named the *2017 Superintendent of Distinction* by his peers in the Starved Rock Region of the Illinois Association of Administrators. The award appropriately reflects the endless hours Dr. Carlson has spent these last five years, working to improve our school district as a whole, as well as improving the educational opportunities of our students. You can read more about Superintendent Carlson’s award by following this link on [MyWebtimes.com](http://MyWebtimes.com)





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



## DECEMBER 2016



Most Improved Student of the Month – Brianna Grant  
 Role Model of the Month – Nicholas Bartkus  
 Rookie of the Month – Emma Elias  
 Student of the Month – Carina Collet

## JANUARY 2017



Role Model of the Month – Cora Wilkinson  
 Most Improved Student of the Month – Kobe Maier  
 Rookie of the Month – Steven Bartkus  
 Student of the Month – Abigail Huffman

## FEBRUARY 2017



Student of the Month: Emily Woods  
 Role Model of the Month: Emily Misener  
 Most Improved: Lauren Juarez  
 Rookie of the Month: Jacob Brown



## MARCH 2017



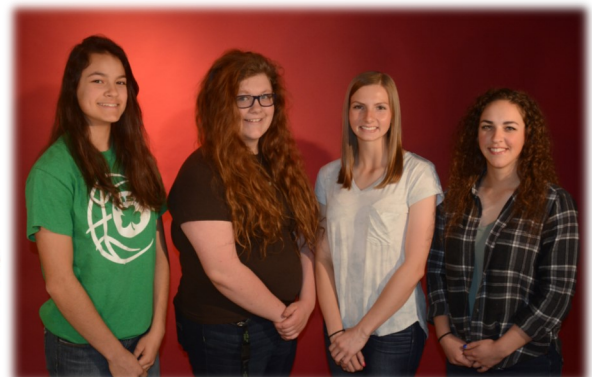
Co-Role Model of the Month - Eva Bruno  
 Most Improved Student of the Month - Nathaniel Warren  
 Student of the Month - Torie Knibbs  
 Co-Role Model of the Month - Hannah Krause  
 Rookie of the Month - Hannah Daggett

## APRIL 2017



Rookie - Thomas Cahill  
 Most Improved: Auston Jashari  
 Role Model - Austin Cockream  
 Student of the Month - Sarah Virgo

## MAY 2017



Rookie - Mara Bruno  
 Most Improved - Samantha Dillow  
 Student of the Month - Rachel Sangston  
 Role Model - Samantha Tondini

“Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.” - Albert Schweitzer



From the Desk of Assistant Principal, Mike Coughlin



We here at Seneca High School have a lot to be thankful for each year. No, I am not going to turn this into a Thanksgiving dinner, but I do want to acknowledge some of the great people and special events during the 16 – 17 school year. All you will have to do is thumb through these pages to see that the list of great accomplishments here at SHS is a long one. Each student, teacher, staff, parent and family member has his or her own memorable moments throughout the school year. Here are some of my SHS highlights that I will consider as special memories.

- ◆ SHS Special Olympics being awarded a 1,000 dollar check from the Jason Clearwater Memorial Golf Outing. Special thanks to those that organize that event each year!!
- ◆ Playing golf with McKenna Coffey, Taylor Vroman, and Krista Eikleberry at Seneca Oaks and getting 2nd place at the LaSalle-Peru Scramble. We had fun and clearly dominated Coach Yegge and the other girls team from Seneca. Also in Golf, witnessing Dylan Leasure knocking it in from about 40 yards...making hole number one look easy at Nettle Creek.
- ◆ Most certainly, spending time with my family and friends at my oldest daughter’s wedding on a beautiful day in October!!
- ◆ Hosting an informational night at SHS auditorium on the widespread havoc that heroin use has on LaSalle and other counties in our area. We have to work to keep our students safe and the communities drug free!! Of course, the Cubs were playing Game #2 that night.
- ◆ Attending the boys’ basketball game at the United Center. Although we came up on the short end of the scoreboard, it was a great opportunity for our players to be involved in such an event. I’m confident it was a highlight for all the players too.
- ◆ Sitting at the score table for the final seconds of the varsity basketball game vs. Coal City and seeing Erik Bendt hit that buzzer shot! The crowd went crazy—pretty cool moment for all of the fans and the boys basketball team!
- ◆ Presenting plaques to recognize the efforts of Sean Baker and Ashley Hatz at the IPA John Ourth student recognition breakfast at Streator High School.
- ◆ Having the privilege of eating lunch with some special students at SHS on a monthly basis. In fact, I think this is a highlight for a lot of staff members.
- ◆ Attending the FFA banquet and Senior Awards Night in the Spring. We have a lot of talented seniors who will be missed in a lot of classrooms next year. I had the honor, again this year, to announce names at the 2017 SHS Graduation Ceremony. That moment is always a “Love What You Do” moment for me.
- ◆ Be able to recognize the hard work of the 2017 Excellence in Education award winners at the annual banquet hosted in early May. Congratulations to Nadine Maierhofer, Jenna Maierhofer and Luke Windham. Also a heartfelt THANK YOU to Barb and Mandy Beck. You will certainly be missed at SHS for years to come. It’s really hard to believe that time goes by that fast!

As you see, we do have a lot of people who love what they do on a daily basis. I easily could have shared another dozen moments that I am thankful that I was able to witness, or in some small way be involved in, at Seneca High School. I certainly “love what I do,” and I truly do have a lot to be thankful for this year!

***Congratulations*** are in order to those who were named the 2016-17

**Students of the Year**



**Student of the Year: Sean Baker**



**Role Model of the Year: Cole Westmoreland**



**Most Improved Students: Ashton Harty & Mason Dooley**



**Rookie of the Year: Monica Groth**





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



From the Land of the Irish - Athletic Director, Steve Haines



It has been an exciting year in the Land of the Irish that has culminated with a great finish to the school year. In the past two weeks, the Irish Track Team won both the boys and the girls Interstate 8 Conference titles, with twenty-four individuals receiving All-Conference honors. Also, the Irish Track Team won both the boys and the girls IHSA Class 1A Sectional titles, with twenty-six individuals qualifying for the IHSA State Finals. Lastly, the Lady Irish Softball team won their 5<sup>th</sup> IHSA Regional title in school history. At the time of this article they are preparing to play in the Sectional at Home during the last week of school.

As the school year comes to a close, it is time to remember what a few of our great coaches have done for the Land of the Irish. First, as he hangs up his coaching cap to spend more time with his family, we would like to thank Chris Decker for coaching in the baseball program for over ten years. Also, we would like to thank Erica Weinreich for her four years as Head Coach of the Irish Cheerleading squad; her leadership and guidance for our cheerleaders will be sorely missed. Furthermore, we would like to wish well to Head Track Coach Kim Foster as she steps down from coaching Track to spend more quality time with her children. Her leadership, expertise, and knowledge have led to nine Interstate Conference Titles and nine IHSA Sectional titles. Coach Foster will continue to lead our Cross Country teams in the Fall. Finally, Lady Irish Basketball Coach Barb Beck is retiring at the end of this school year. Coach Beck will be missed by all whom have come in contact with her. Her players, her assisting coaching staff, and rival team colleagues all have agreed that she represents what is good in high school athletics. Coach Beck has made it her purpose to instill that goodness into her players. After twenty-three years at Seneca High and fourteen years as Head Coach of the Lady Irish, Coach Beck retires with 247 wins, 4 Interstate 8 Conference titles, and 3 Regional titles. In the end, it is the development of the young ladies who have played for her that she should be the most proud of.

Looking ahead to the 2017-18 school year, it seems that it will be a remarkable year before it has even begun. Next school year will be the final year that Seneca will be a participant in the Interstate 8 Conference. It will be a huge year of transition leading into a whole new set of experiences in the years that will follow. Also, we remind parents to make sure to get the athletic physicals for the students before practices begin and be sure to go to the athletic website to register students for their clubs, activities, and athletics.

Have a great summer!



Register your student for all sports and extra-curricular activities on the 8 to 18 website by following this link:  
<http://il.8to18.com/seneca>



2017 Irish Pride Award Winners:  
Rachel Sangston & Hunter Simon



2017 Anna Gay Female Athlete Award: Cora Wilkinson  
2017 Gerald M Hoben Male Athlete Award: Sean Baker



“When you take risks, you learn that there will be times when you succeed and there will be times when you fail, and both are equally important.” ~ Ellen DeGeneres



Words of wisdom from our school psychologist, Jill Rockrohr



I recently read a parenting article in which the author stated that her father asked her the same daily question when she was a child: “What did you fail at today?” We talk often about the skills that make individuals successful in life, but rarely do we mention the role that failure plays in future success. Of course we know that failure is a part of life – and not a very fun one at that. But it is how we view failure that determines how it will shape our future outcomes.



Too often we interpret failure as a negative outcome, something only to be avoided, which reinforces the narrow mindset that our skills are fixed. When success and failure are linked to intelligence and innate ability, children will avoid any opportunity to fail. If failure is always viewed as a sign of unintelligence or lack of effort, children learn not to take risks. However, if we interpret failure as an opportunity to learn, our children develop resilience. They consider their skills to be malleable, and they learn that with each setback, there is an opportunity for problem-solving and growth. And I believe that beyond just failure in itself, the empathy and assistance that parents provide in times of challenge and adversity serve to bolster resiliency.



As our seniors graduate this year and make their way out into the world, I want them to remember that while failure is inevitable, it’s what you do after a setback that truly counts. I would encourage them to ask themselves not only, “What did I fail at today?” but perhaps more importantly, “What will I learn from it?”

*Congratulations, Class of 2017!*

## A Fond Farewell to Teacher and Coach, Barb Beck...



Ms. Barb Beck was inspired to be a teacher and coach by her high school science teacher and softball coach, Mr. Gary Erikson. Before working at SHS as a physical education teacher, she spent ten years at Leland working with K-12 students. Ms. Beck has contributed twenty-three years at Seneca High School, twenty-two of which she has coached some level of basketball. She has been a coach for the volleyball teams all twenty-three years, and she has nine years of experience coaching SHS softball. When thinking of her retirement, she is excited to finally be able to go on a vacation without running into a bunch of kids who are also on Spring Break! Ms. Beck will also keep up with her video hobbies and will enjoy watching sports from the other side. If needed, she would like to substitute teach here at SHS. When asked what a favorite memory of her years here might be, she said that she has too many great memories of Seneca High School to pick a favorite. She did say, however, that she will remember all of the personalities she was lucky to cross paths with long after the moments have faded.



Congratulations on your well deserved retirement Barb! Seneca High wishes you the very best!



Article submitted by SHS Senior, Emily Woods.





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Staff Retirees



After 23 years, Mandi Beck is ending her chapter at Seneca High School and beginning a new one with retirement. She began her career at SHS in 1994 in the cafeteria, where she worked alongside students in the Special Education Department. Inspired by the opportunity to work with students, she applied for an opening as a teacher's aide in the Special Education Department in 1995. Shortly thereafter, she started assisting students with Special Olympics, which she described as some of the most memorable moments she has had at SHS. Being able to share that experience with her students and watching them grow from freshman to senior year gives her goosebumps every time. Mandi has also served as a school photographer for SHS events for many years.

Outside of school, Mandi displays her love of art through her crafts, paintings, and photography, which are her main hobbies. After retiring, she plans to continue with her crafting projects and hopes to travel the country with her husband. One of her most anticipated activities will be to help care for her four grandchildren, along with a new grandbaby due in September. Even though her days of working at Seneca High School are ending, that is not going to stop her from volunteering at the school, especially with the team of Special Olympics students. She loves being a part of the students' lives and plans on coming back to help as much as she can!




Article submitted By: SHS Junior, Sara Cahill



Mrs. Kathy Czech has been working at Seneca High for a total of 21 years. Her most recent position is that of Assistant to the Cafeteria Manager. Kathy has also worked in the Housekeeping Department and has served as an Assistant Cheer coach as well. When asked what she found most rewarding while working here at SHS, Kathy replied, "Getting to know my co-workers and the students here. I have had a lot of fun times here during all of the special events." After retiring, Kathy will stay busy with reading and planting, both indoors and out. She looks forward to spending more time with her seven grandchildren, traveling, and reading more books! Best wishes for a relaxing retirement Kathy!



Mrs. Nancy Peterson has decided to hang-up her apron and retire her position as cafeteria cook here at SHS. Nancy was hired as a cafeteria sub in 2003, then became a dishwasher in 2005, and finally a cook in 2010. Being a cook at SHS is not an easy job, although, it does have its bonuses. Nancy says that she, "find[s] it rewarding to create close bonds with those you work with everyday and also getting to know the students a little better too. I remember getting some students who hardly ever smiled to smile back and even laugh a bit when they came through the food lines!" After her retirement from Seneca High, Nancy will be found outdoors gardening or inside sewing when in the mood. She hopes to be able to do some volunteering, spend more quality time with her husband, Phil, and play more with her one-year-old grandson. Good luck Nancy! 



A celebration breakfast was hosted before school on May 12th by the faculty SEA and support staff to recognize the 2017 SHS retiring staff and Excellence in Education Award recipients.

### Excellence in Education Winners

Jenna Maierhofer, Luke Windham, and Nadine Maierhofer

### 2017 SHS Retirees

Kathy Czech, Mandi Beck, and Barb Beck

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt



## Student Highlights

**Congratulations to the following Seneca High Class of 2017 Seniors for being named Illinois State Scholars.**

**The Illinois Student Assistance Commission selects Illinois State Scholars based on class rank and ACT scores.**

**The Illinois State Scholar program is an honorary recognition without any monetary award.**



From Left to Right Bottom: Tori Knibbs, Emily Woods, Sean Baker, Eden Dennis, Carina Collet



From Left to Right Top: Jamie Goslin, Madison Carr, Abigail Huffman, Eva Bruno, Ashley Hatz, Anna Doloski



**The Conservation in Action (CIA) group** completed a task this weekend that has been a school year in the making. SHS Science Teacher and CIA advisor, Terry Maxwell, had this to say: “We had a large group of students come out and help with this project in order to make it possible. These students gave up a good chunk of their Saturday in the heat of the day and did some tough work that most high school kids would rather avoid. They put down over 20 tons of rock, 20 yards of mulch, and planted over 500 plants.” The plants were purchased by grants from **IDNR, Wild Ones, and CF Industries**. These plants are all native to Illinois. The purpose of the area is to create a space that is usable for our native wildlife (mainly pollinators), create an area that is a peaceful place to relax or walk around, and to open up this area to our classes and our community for the purpose of education. Mr. Maxwell couldn't be prouder of the students' efforts and time spent on the nature preservation project. The nature area is located in a previously unused area adjacent to the school's baseball diamond. Maxwell would like to acknowledge and give a special thanks to SHS Ag teachers

Kent Weber and Jeff Maierhofer and also to Maintenance Supervisor, Barry Buchanan, all of whom made huge contributions to the project. More plants and materials will continue to be added to the pollinator garden as part of the on-going conservation project.



### Student Volunteers:

#### Seniors

Grant Granby  
Tony Bernhard  
Truman Daggett  
Cora Wilkinson  
Zach Zilm  
Tom Bartkus  
Nick Bartkus  
Sean Baker  
Austin Jashari  
Dakota Gans  
Auston Cockcream  
Cole Westmoreland



#### Juniors

Caeleye McAndrew  
Taylor Vroman  
Lane Weber  
Ryan Sandness  
Jaylan Campbell



#### Sophomores

Grace Alley  
Ian Wilkinson  
Shawnee Gans  
Abby Zilm  
Keelan Rice  
Megan Neimann  
Alyssa Lorea

#### Freshman

Creighton O'Boyle  
Natalie Lawrence  
Garrett Granby  
Natalya Hatfield  
Rita Jashari  
Steve Bartkus  
Jacob Brown





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



This Is What We Do...

## Seneca High School Announces Four Girls State Participants

Seneca High School is pleased to announce that there will be four girls participating in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State this June at Eastern Illinois University. Sponsors this year include the Marseilles and Seneca American Legion Auxiliary, Seneca American Legion, and Seneca High School. American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State is a week long program dedicated to providing training for young women in city, county, and state government. Along with the educational benefits and the importance of voting and getting involved in the community, state, and nation, the goal is also to give young women confidence and knowledge to go forward in their adult lives and not be afraid to go for their dreams. Hundreds of junior students from Illinois high schools will participate at Eastern Illinois University.



**Seneca High School's Four participants are:** Standing Left to Right: Raegan Babcock, Faith Thrun  
Seated Left to Right: Taylor Vroman, Paige Hepner

## Local Banks Donate Prizes to Reality Store Event at Seneca High School

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 "paycheck" and are taught to create a budget using the fake money. The students have the chance to spend one month's salary on the necessities of life, such as: housing, utilities, transportation, insurance, groceries, entertainment, clothing, etc. Besides support from Seneca High School, the event is made possible by 1<sup>st</sup> Community Financial Bank of Mazon and the First Midwest Bank of Seneca. As well as sending representatives to work at the Reality Store, the two banks also brought prizes to be given away through a random drawing. 1<sup>st</sup> Community Financial Bank employees were Halie Siebert and Vanessa Helms. First Midwest Bank of Seneca's representatives were Jennifer Radtke and Margie Stuedemann. Seneca High would like to thank both of the financial institutions for their time and generosity to make this event possible.



Paige Kovall and Nathan Hawk claim their prizes from 1<sup>st</sup> Community Financial Bank.



First Midwest Savings Bank of Seneca's winners are Joey Thomas and Gillian Culbreth.

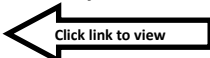


## A BUZZING FINISH FOR THE FIGHTING IRISH VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM:

From Coach Russ Witte: "I just wanted to share the video clip of the game winning shot against Coal City on Senior night. It was a great memory that they all will have for a long time. What is not shown on this clip is the student body storming the court as this shot was at the buzzer. What a great way to finish on your last home game of the regular season." February 10, 2017: Final 3 point shot made by #20 Erik Bendt, assisted by #10 Sammy Mitchell



<https://app.krossover.com/r/3ae0>





With the guidance of the musical’s director, Michael Richards, the choreographing skills of Kara Ellis, the performances of the cast and crew, along with the talents of Luke Windham and his pit musicians, the 2017 SHS performance of **Shrek** was a **SOLD-OUT hit!** It took a lot of hard work and dedication from the cast and crew to pull off such a wonderful production. With every performance filled to capacity, it would be easy to say that the show was well received and full of entertainment for all. Mr. Richards was able to creatively adapt the musical so that each of the performers was able to shine. The lead performers in the musical were: Keenan Ellis (Shrek), Matilda Edwards (Fiona), Cody Bratcher (Donkey), Mark Mehochko (Lord Farquaad), and Anna Doloski (Ogress Fiona). Natalie Arwood, Sophie Shanks, Madi Carr, Anna Roseland, and little 11 year old Ashlin Jackson added their vocal talents, providing a lot of “ear candy” to the spectators. The entire ensemble of performers, stage & lighting crew, musicians, director, assistants, managers, and sponsors all came together to make this year’s performance a huge success. Keep up the good work!

**Why Theater?**

Children involved in theatre have:

- ⇒ Improved reading comprehension
- ⇒ Increased compassion and empathy
- ⇒ Increased attendance rates in school
- ⇒ Improved public speaking skills
- ⇒ Improved personal relationships
- ⇒ Increased self-confidence

But most importantly...

Students involved in theatre are given a place to belong and create joy for themselves and others!



Superintendent Jim Carlson, and English teacher Marcia Machetta hand out the SHS cafeteria’s famous and irresistible Jello cake to our senior citizens as they finish up their meal before viewing the musical *Shrek*. This year’s dinner and show were held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, with approximately 102 seniors from the community in attendance.

A public announcement from our school cafeteria...



# SUMMER MEALS

## COMIDAS DE VERANO

**ALL CHILDREN 18 AND UNDER.**

Available to all families.

**FREE!  
GRATIS!**

**TODOS LOS NIÑOS DE 18 AÑOS Y MENOS.**

Disponible para todas las familias.



FREE HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS SUMMER MEALS are available for children (18 and under) when school is out. Find a site close to you. Call or text the numbers below.

COMIDAS DE VERANO SALUDABLES Y NUTRITIVAS GRATIS se ofrecen para niños y jóvenes menores de 18 años cuando termina la escuela. Para encontrar un lugar con comidas de verano más cercano a usted, llame o marque a los números siguientes.

**CALL/LLAME (800) 359-2163**

**TEXT FoodIL TO 877877 ENVIE ComidasIL A 877877**

**or visit SummerMealsIllinois.org**

Free Summer Meals are part of the Summer Food Service Program funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education.



@SUMMERMEALSIL  
SUMMERMEALSILLINOIS

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



**THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**  
**SENECA TWP HIGH SCHOOL**  
[WWW.SENECAHS.ORG](http://WWW.SENECAHS.ORG)

# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

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