



The Irish Highlighter

Volume 11: Issue 2

Seneca High School

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021





THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

Board of Education Corner

The 2020-21 school year has certainly been interesting, to say the least. The pandemic, along with the corresponding governmental rules and regulations, proved quite challenging to overcome, but overcome them we did. The meaning of Irish Pride has been elevated to an entirely different level through the commitment of our staff and students to in-person learning and the resiliency of all, despite constantly being knocked down.

I watched as more than 93% of our students elected to learn in-person in the fall. Students and staff were eager to be back in school after the 2020 shut down. The enthusiasm, though, somewhat stagnated as summer turned to fall. It was the return of activities and athletics that brought the spring back into the step of our students. We experienced some tough moments but never closed our doors. With the return of sports and activities, we were inching closer to returning to the Seneca High School we all know and love.

Positive cases continued to challenge us, but experience taught us to stay the course. We learned to adapt our practices and traditions to comply with the requirements to offer in-person learning, activities, and athletics. We learned to stop saying “no, we can’t” and, instead, say “yes,” albeit with stipulations. Clubs, sports, a musical, Freshman Registration, Award Night, Baccalaureate, and Graduation were but a few examples of our adaptability and resolve to give our kids and their parents the best we could under the circumstances. I am proud of my fellow board members and our teachers and support staff who continued to put the best interest of our students first. Seneca High School would not have been able to accomplish any of these things without these committed and dedicated professionals.

Looking ahead to the 2021-22 school year, Seneca High School is experiencing a changing of the guard. I wish Mrs. Marcia Machetta, Mrs. Mary O’Connor, Principal Marty Voiles, and Superintendent Jim Carlson all the best in their retirement and thank them for their service to the Seneca High School Community. As our retirees ride off into the sunset, we welcome some old faces into new positions along with some new faces as well. The SHS Board of Education is excited to work with Mr. Dan Stecken as the new district superintendent and Mr. Mike Coughlin as building principal. Dan slides one office over from his business office, and Mike moves from assistant principal to principal. Additionally, we welcome our new Dean of Students, Mr. Mark Giertz, Fiscal Services Director, Mrs. Stacey Gould, and English/Spanish teacher, Ms. Eva Bruno. While the team may be a new one, the same level of commitment to the students of SHS remains.

On behalf of the entire SHS Board of Education, thank you Seneca High School Community for your continued support of our school. Our sincere best wishes on a healthy and happy summer break, and we are looking forward to a great 2021-2022 school year.

Ron Frye
SHS Board President



SHS Board of Education Members:

Ron Frye, President; Sara Olson, Vice President; Rich Hamilton, Secretary; Joe Johnson, Cory Yandell, Jason Eltrevoog, and Tiffany Biros



THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EDUCATION

From the Desk of SHS Superintendent, Dr. James Carlson

Please forgive the cliché, but time sure does fly. Nine years ago, I began my tenure as superintendent of Seneca High School District 160. Wednesday, June 30, 2021, will be my last day as an SHS administrator, as I close my career in education and head into retirement. It has been my distinct and sincere honor to have served the students, staff, and community of SHS. From the outset, I strove to apply the philosophy and strategies I learned in my dissertation study on “Trust in Schools.” I found that the highest performing schools are characterized by trusting relationships among the administration, teaching staff, students, and their parents. Demonstrating competence, benevolence, honesty, reliability, and openness are facets in promoting trust, which subsequently makes for a better, more successful student population and school. I hope that through our actions, we have earned your trust.

As I reflect on my time at SHS, I think about all the wonderful people I’ve met and with whom I worked. I’ve had the privilege of working with a tremendous Board of Education. The SHS School Board has been immensely supportive and is responsible for (1) implementing many outstanding improvements in educational opportunities for students; (2) diligent stewardship of district finances; and (3) providing a clean, well-maintained, and safe learning environment. Additionally, it has been my honor to serve with an outstanding administrative team, a devoted and highly skilled teaching staff, and a dedicated and conscientious support staff. Finally, it is truly amazing to witness Irish Pride exemplified by the students, parents, and entire SHS community. Seneca High School is indeed a very special place.

The conclusion of the 2020-21 school year brings with it the retirement of Mrs. Marcia Machetta and Mrs. Mary O’ Connor. These two outstanding educators served SHS above and beyond the call of duty for many years. Additionally, this school year is the last full year for SHS Principal Marty Voiles. Mr. Voiles will be retiring at the end of October 2021. His experience and leadership are very much appreciated and have served SHS well. I wish all our retirees and their families the best as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

On July 1, 2021, Mr. Dan Stecken will become the next superintendent of Seneca High School and Mr. Mike Coughlin will ascend to the position of principal. Dan is a sixteen-year veteran of Seneca High School serving as teacher and coach and presently as Chief School Business Officer. Mike has served Seneca High School for the past twenty-six years, most recently as the Assistant Principal. I wish Dan and Mike the very best, and I have no doubt whatsoever that they will both be very successful at serving the needs of Seneca High School. SHS is in very good hands.

While more than thirty years ago, it seems like yesterday that I was sitting in my first teacher meeting feeling excited and nervous, and looking back, perhaps a bit naïve. Presently, I ready myself to exit the profession I was so eager to begin. Education for me was not a job but rather a vocation, and if I had to do it all over again, I’d absolutely pursue the same profession, albeit without all the mistakes I’ve made. I love being an educator and consider myself to be blessed to have made many great friends and colleagues during my career. Thank you, Seneca High School community, for the opportunity to work for you over the past nine years. You’ve given my family and me so much. God’s blessings on you and your families. I leave with many great memories that I will proudly carry with me. As the musical group, Nickelback, states in the lyrics to the song, “Photograph:”

*Every memory of looking out the back door
I had the photo album spread out on my bedroom floor
It's hard to say it, time to say it
Goodbye, goodbye.*

Gratefully yours in education,
Jim Carlson





THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



Message from our CSBO, Dan Stecken

The 2020-21 school year has been one of determination. Kudos to our entire faculty, staff, and administration for working to keep Seneca Township High School open and safe for our students. A special thank you needs to be extended to our students and parents as well; we appreciate all your efforts to work through a trying year, one that we were fortunate to complete with Irish Pride! As we look ahead to the 2021-22 school year, many changes are taking place at Seneca Township High School. We congratulate all of our retirees on their fine careers in education. Seneca Township High School will miss the contributions and impassioned educational leadership of Mrs. Machetta and Mrs. O'Connor. We will also miss the leadership of Dr. Carlson. As I transition to the position of Superintendent, I am excited to welcome my replacement, our new Director of Fiscal Services, Mrs. Stacey Gould.

Mrs. Gould comes to Seneca Township High School from the business world with an impressive accounting background. Stacey was responsible for the direction of a large corporation's accounting firm, coming highly recommended from area business professionals. Uniquely, her mother has an extensive background as a bookkeeper in a neighboring district and her husband also has an educational background, being a junior high teacher in a neighboring district. Mrs. Gould has begun her training and is eager to contribute to our thriving Seneca Township High School District Office with a perfect financial rating. Please help me welcome Mrs. Stacey Gould to Seneca Township High School.

Respectfully,

Dan Stecken
Chief School Business Officer
Seneca Township High School



SENECA HIGH SCHOOL'S NEWEST ADDITIONS

From the Desk of SHS Principal, Marty Voiles



The Last Hurrah and Congratulations!!!!

Teachers Marcia Machetta and Mary O'Connor, will be looking to begin their life after Seneca High School with their well-deserved retirement at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year.

On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, staff, and students, we wish Marcia and Mary a happy and healthy retirement. The Irish school community are grateful for your tireless commitment to the students in the Seneca school district.

Best wishes!!!



Mr. Mike Coughlin takes over Principal duties in 2021-2022

When school resumes to begin the 2021-2022 school year, it will have a different leader in the position of building principal. Longtime veteran teacher, coach, and assistant principal, Mike Coughlin, will officially begin his new position as building principal.

Mr. Coughlin has served as the assistant principal at Seneca High School over the last nine years. Prior to being hired as the assistant principal at SHS, Mr. Coughlin taught for 17-years in the special education department and coached several sports. Mr. Coughlin will take over for retiring principal, Marty Voiles, who has spent the last ten years as Seneca's principal.

Mr. Voiles has extreme confidence in Mr. Coughlin beginning his new position stating, "Mike will be a wonderful building principal and educational leader at Seneca High School. Over the last nine years, Mike has demonstrated an ability to establish positive and productive relationships with all stakeholders in the Seneca High School community. He is a man who leads by example demonstrating a tireless work ethic while always looking out for the best interest of students first while maintaining the highest level of integrity. Seneca High School is fortunate to have Mr. Coughlin as their leader and I know he will take great pride in moving the school forward in all facets of the job."

We wish Mr. Coughlin all the very best in his new adventure!!!

Go Irish!



THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



From the Desk of Activities Director, Steve Haines

The reality is the pandemic has touched all levels of sports and performing arts, and while most of the media coverage has focused on the impact known within the college and professional ranks, the high school impact has not received the same attention. We are talking about kids who are undergoing massive physical, social, and emotional changes. Building, cultivating, and sustaining relationships is not a guarantee in all learning environments, but in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities where kids are a part of a team, it develops communication and socialization skills, teaches proper behavior in cooperative environments, provides incentives for attending school – and the list goes on and on. It is crucial in these high school years to make sure they are getting these experiences.

These past 4 months have offered us a time that none of us have ever seen and hope to never ever see again. We may not be done with this pandemic yet, but for our kids and their participation in athletics and all extra-curricular activities, we may be in the home stretch of getting past this. During this past January, things seemed to be at their darkest, and there seemed to be no hope of having any sports, or at least until the outdoor sports in the spring. Then, as it seemed there were no answers, we were given the news that with some mitigations, athletics would begin. All extra-curricular seasons that had not had a chance to happen would now happen in each sport with new start dates and new ending dates.

In a typical year, sports would be split into 3 seasons (fall, winter, spring) over 10 months. Now, we would be playing 3 seasons (winter, spring, summer) in 5 months. Mitigation would include wearing masks with limited to no spectators, and winter and spring sports would have no chance of a postseason playoffs. Regardless, our students and coaching staff were excited to get started. The winter season, which included boys and girls basketball, competitive cheer, and competitive dance, started the last week in January and ran through the first week of March. The spring season, which included a couple of traditional fall sports including football and volleyball, ran from the first week of March to the third week of April. And lastly, the summer season, which includes baseball, softball, track & field and wrestling, runs from the first week of April to mid-June. The difference for the summer season is that those sports (excluding wrestling) will have the chance to play in an IHSA post-season. The IHSA wanted to give these sports this opportunity, as these were the sports in 2020 that had the entire season wiped out due to the pandemic.

The difficulty with this schedule fell to our multi-sport athletes. At Seneca HS, we are so proud of the fact that most of our athletes do compete on multiple teams. But, within this new structure, there are very few breaks, and there is some substantial overlapping of seasons. We told our athletes, as this began, that most school years, the sports seasons are a bit on an endurance race, but this year proved to be more of a sprint. We are so proud of our Irish Athletes for what they have overcome and for what they have accomplished in these shortened seasons.



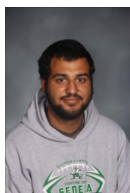
THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



From the Desk of Assistant Principal, Mike Coughlin

It only seems like a month ago when I had the opportunity to greet students as they gladly came back to in-person school in August. Where has the time gone? We have had a tremendous year at Seneca High School! Our early expectations of providing in person instruction have been exceeded in every aspect. Our original hope of making it to Columbus Day quickly turned into Christmas break, and now planning a graduation ceremony. I want to thank all the faculty, staff, students and parents for their endurance and persistence during the school year.

I specifically want to mention the Class of 2021 and their leadership, which started immediately in August. All the graduates made some significant sacrifices over the past fourteen months and proven that they are ready for any challenge that lies ahead. I asked some of our graduates what they will remember the most about dealing with Covid during their Senior year?



“How we were all able to come together to work for the same goal of being able to attend school every-day. Everyone did a great job!” -Mahmoud Abushanab.

“One thing that I will always remember from this year will be playing my senior year of football in April. Throughout the entire year, we as football players, heard so many different time frames that we were going to get to play, but I’m glad we got to play in the spring and let Coach O’Boyle go out with a bang.”

-Spencer DeGraaf.



“Being so scared that we wouldn’t have anything. I was so happy that everyone came together and we were allowed to have sports and activities, even though they looked a lot different.” -Julia Kramer.

I think what I will remember most about Covid during my senior year will be how much more I learned to cherish the small moments of high school. When Covid first began I was excited for a longer summer, but what I did not realize was how much we were missing out on, the small activities that we had seen classes before us participate in but suddenly were no longer allowed, it was the weirdest time not only for me but for the entire world. I will remember missing out on the sports activities that make the best memories of high school, the Irish games, Homecoming, and Prom. Even though our senior year was nothing I would've ever expected to end my high school career, I will always remember how my senior class united and learned to cherish the small things we were given and every moment/memory we had together in the end.” -Ella Robson.



“What I will remember the most about dealing with Covid during my Senior year is the ability to stay in school without interruptions, like online learning or quarantine. I have been very fortunate to be able to stay learning in school and finish my Senior year off strong!” -Joslin Wise.

Of course, I want to thank Mrs. Marcia Machetta, Mrs. Mary O’Connor, Dr. Carlson and Mr. Voiles for their friendship, professionalism and true commitment to SHS. I hope that they enjoy their retirements! Best wishes! You will be missed!

The faculty and staff have risen to the challenge. I have said it in the past, what makes SHS such a special place is the wonderful staff that routinely goes above and beyond for the benefit of others. This was obviously evident again this school year.

I’m hoping that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer! Can’t wait to see all the students return on Wednesday, August 18th!

Mike Coughlin
Assistant Principal



THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



From the Desk of School Psychologist, Jill Rockrohr

In the fall of 2012, I was excited and nervous to start what was then a part-time position as school psychologist at Seneca High School. Before the first day of school, Dr. Carlson called me to ask a series of what have become his trademark “getting to know new staff” questions - What is your pet peeve? If you were an animal, which would you be? And, most important, who has better hair, Dr. Carlson or Mr. Voiles? It was a perfect introduction to Dr. Carlson’s sense of humor and approachability as a leader.

As he will not let anyone forget, Dr. Jim Carlson is a proud alum of Northern Illinois University. He may be NIU’s most decorated alum, having earned his Bachelor’s, Master’s, Specialist, and Doctorate degrees as a Huskie. Dr. Carlson began his career in education in 1988 as a social studies teacher and boys basketball coach at Serena Junior High School. In 1990, he transitioned to Earlville High School, where he served for nine years as social studies teacher, junior varsity basketball coach, then varsity basketball coach. Dr. Carlson transitioned to school administration in 1999, when he became Principal of Earlville Elementary School. In 2004, Dr. Carlson served as Wallace Grade School Principal for one year before moving on to his first role as Superintendent of both Wallace and Rutland Grade Schools. In 2007, Dr. Carlson became the Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools for the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education for four years, then served as Regional Superintendent of Schools for one year. He then transitioned in 2012 to the final phase of his impressive career, as Superintendent of Seneca Township High School District #160.

During his career at Seneca High School, Dr. Carlson has led the district through many positive transitions and changes. Together with the Board of Education, administration, and School Improvement Team, Dr. Carlson spearheaded the creation of The Seneca Way. This comprehensive vision for the district outlines our mission, core values, and goals, as well as provides models for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. It is truly the cornerstone of our district and will be utilized to guide district improvement initiatives for years to come. Dr. Carlson has been instrumental in the creation and rapid expansion of the Dual Credit Program. Through this program, students have an opportunity to earn college credit through courses taught by Seneca High School teachers. Students have earned as many as 30 credit hours, translating to two semesters of college coursework, before they have even graduated high school. With the administrative team, Dr. Carlson created Student Success Time, with all students provided with an opportunity to receive extra support through Academic Centers. Following many recent retirements, Dr. Carlson had a hand in the hiring of our new crop of passionate and skilled teachers and staff. And, during these very challenging times, no one deserves more credit than Dr. Carlson for our ability to sustain in-person learning throughout the school year.

What many, including myself, will remember most about Dr. Carlson has little to do with accomplishments and accolades, however. Through his nine years serving as our district leader, Dr. Carlson has fostered an educational culture based on respect, empathy, transparency, and trust for all members of the district. I will remember him as a firm but fair leader with wisdom and experience that he was more than willing to share. I will miss his humor and his expansive collection of ties. Along with the administrative team, I wish Dr. Carlson a healthy and rich retirement full of new memories with his beautiful family and many Huskie football games.

Jill Rockrohr
School Psychologist
Director of Special Services





SAFETY AND SECURITY

Message from SRO, Ken Sangston

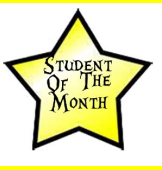


Dangers of Vaping Program

In March of 2020, I created a program to present to students at Seneca, Milton Pope, and MVK grade schools on peer pressure and the dangers of vaping. This program has been idle since last year due to the abrupt shut down we all encountered. We were able to present it this school year in March and April. I took a group of senior students to speak with the incoming freshman coming to Seneca High School next year. They presented to over 100 incoming Freshman. One of the topics that they spoke about was peer pressure. They shared their experiences while in high school and encouraged the students to make their own decisions, become their own person, stay involved in activities, and to think through things before choosing a decision. They spoke about thinking with your “Thinking Brain, not your “Feeling Brain.” These seniors gave them some tools on peer resistance. I learned a lot from our seniors and was rather impressed with their presentation. Morris Hospital and Healthcare Centers participated in the presentation, educating on the dangers of vaping. Our partnership with the Morris Hospital will continue with future programs to provide education and resources to students on health-related education. Providing a safe and secure campus for the students and staff is the most important role as a School Resource Officer. But, in addition, it is equally important to provide outreach to students, to give them the tools to resist, provide an educational element to incoming and current students, and to form relationships. A special thank you to this group of students who participated, Mallory Sobkowich, Haley Einhaus, Ryan McCauley, Luke Sangston, Rick Milliman, Spencer DeGraff, Cole Underhill, and Danielle Wilson of Morris Hospital.

This year brought about many changes and challenges to students and staff at Seneca High School. I appreciate the hard work the administrative team put in to see we stayed in session the entire year. The students responded tremendously to the changes. **Go Irish !!**





THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

Students of the Month Award Winners

December Students of the Month

Peyton Enerson—Rookie
 Ava Terry—Student of the Month
 Addie Olson—Role Model
 Lexi Heemstra—Most Improved



DECEMBER 2020

January Students of the Month

Julia Kramer—Student of the Month
 Garrett Winsor—Role Model
 Rachel Milliman—Most Improved
 Kate Biros—Rookie



JANUARY 2021

February Students of the Month

Jenna Goslin—Student of the Month
 Gabrielle Maxwell—Rookie
 Fidel Valenciano—Role Model
 Richard Milliman—Most Improved



FEBRUARY 2021





THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



Students of the Month Award Winners

March Students of the Month

- Emelia Traina—Student of the Month
- Marie Cheshareck—Role Model
- Brooke Roseland—Most Improved
- Jolena Odum—Rookie



MARCH 2021



Aubrey Cruz
Student of the Month



Ethan Brockman
Role Model



Dominic Salazar
Most Improved



William Milton
Rookie

APRIL 2021



Justine Ursua
Student of the Month



Chase Hauch
Role Model



Trey Hauch
Role Model



Cole Underhill
Most Improved



Madison Bricco
Rookie



MAY 2021

THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

FFA / CIA / Environmental Class Events:



Seneca High School Completes Another "30 MPH"

In a year of needed flexibility and adaptability, The Seneca FFA had to do just that as they organized another year of their 30 MPH trash pick-up program for Seneca High School. Spread over two days, over 300 students and several teachers from SHS picked up 32 miles of highway garbage, two miles of the Illinois and Michigan canal and tow path, cleared the ravines around two cemeteries and removed trash from the perimeter of the school grounds.

"We were able to make the Seneca area more beautiful on two beautiful spring days," said Owen Quigley, 30 MPH Co-Chairperson. "It was great to see so many of our friends volunteer and get involved. Some went three or four times."

Brother and Co-Chair, Noah Quigley commented, "We notice a decrease in garbage every year, so our message is getting out there, but we still have a long way to go to get people to take better care of our environment."

In lieu of the traditional t-shirt, the FFA provided safety vests to all participants. The vests were made possible from grants from Exelon and CF Industries.

The Seneca FFA would like to thank those entities that provided security: the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Seneca Fire Department, and the Seneca Police Department.

A group of 30 MPH participants from Seneca High School found a sign that expresses their sentiments after picking up trash for over two days.

Just a few things our Conservation In Action Club and Environmental Problems class did this year.

RECYCLED ART COMPETITION

Seneca High School's Conservation In Action club and Environmental Problems class is sponsoring a recycled plastic art competition for the grade school students of SGS, MVK, and Milton Pope. A small prize will be given to all competitors. Grand prizes will be awarded for the following categories.

- Overall Favorite (\$25 gift card for gaming system or Amazon)
- Most Creative Use of Recycled Materials (\$25 gift card to Subway)
- Overall Favorite for each school and grade sections: SGS K-4, SGS 5-8, MVK K-4, MVK 5-8, MP K-4, MP 5-8. (\$20 gift card to variety of locations)

Requirements:

- The art must be made mainly out of plastic recyclable materials. (Glue, tape and paint will be allowed).
- The art must be cleaned out. please rinse all containers being used.
- The art must try to mimic something in nature (like the animals shown below).
- A short summary of why reducing plastic waste is important to the environment should be included. K-4 students should include a short 5 sentence summary, while grades 5-8 should include a 10 sentence summary.
- Please provide your name, grade, and school on a note card when the art is submitted.
- Recycled art will be collected from the grade school on April 22nd (Earth Day) by a representative of Seneca High School, please have all submissions in to your grade level teacher or science teacher by that date.
- Judging will be done by SHS Conservation in Action Members

Questions contact Terry Maxwell at Seneca High School
tmaxwell@senecahs.org



C.I.A Conservation in Action

Clothing Drive!

Donations will be
taken:
April 17th and 18th
1-4 p.m.
Seneca High School
Main Doors



Questions?

Hanna Beland
2022020@senecahs.org

Follow us on Instagram!
@senecacia



THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

MILITARY ENLISTED GRADUATES FROM SHS

This year, four Class of 2021 Seneca High School graduates are making the honorable commitment to serve in the United States Armed Services.



Marie Elizabeth Cheshareck already began her training for the ILLINOIS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD last summer at the historic Fort Jackson in South Carolina. She will continue her Advanced Individual Training (ATI) as a 12N-Horizontal Construction Engineer this coming July. Motivation for her enlistment comes partly from knowing that a college education will be in her future and partly from having a lifelong desire to serve. Marie says, "It is something that I have always wanted to do ever since I was little. It is an honorable thing to be a part of." Marie's grandfathers were in the Army, along with other family members who have served in the US Military, and they have all surely inspired her to continue the tradition. Currently holding a Private First Class rank, Cheshareck plans on making the military her career while attending college and eventually becoming a commissioned officer. Marie is the daughter of Bob and Kathy Cheshareck of Seneca.



Isaac James Marques will be fulfilling his contract with the US MARINE CORPS and will begin the rigorous 13-week boot camp this July at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California. Isaac is eager to start his military journey and plans to make his service in the Marines a career. In stating his motivation for joining one of the toughest branches of the military, Isaac says, "It was always a dream of mine to become a Marine. It's just part of my personal moral code, and it's something that I have believed in for a long time." His great-grandfather and step-grandfather served in the Army and Marine Corps respectively. After graduating from Marine boot camp, Isaac will begin his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training as a Combat Engineer at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Isaac is the son of Luke Marques of Kinsman and Sarah Buddach of Ottawa.



Emily Marie Hess has enlisted in the ILLINOS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD and will follow in the footsteps of her father, who currently serves in the Army National Guard, and of three of her grandfathers, who are all veterans of the Army. Emily will be starting her 10-week basic combat training in May just after her graduation from SHS. By attending Drill one weekend a month, she has already acquired a Private First Class (E3) rank. When asked what inspired her to join the armed forces, she stated, "My dad is a sergeant in the Army National Guard, and when I was 16, I went as a guest to Drill, and I ended up absolutely loving it. So a year later, when I turned 17, I decided to enlist." After completing basic training at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, PFC Hess will begin her Advanced Individual Training as a 13 Bravo-Cannon Crewmember. Emily is the daughter of Chris Hess of Aurora and Angie Warwick of Seneca.



David Fernandez Munson graduated from SHS in December of 2020 and has already passed the difficult Crucible portion of US Marine Corps basic training. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training is in Aviation Navigation & Traffic Controls and takes place in Pensacola, Florida. David plans on making a career of being a US Marine. David is the son of Amber Green of Marseilles and stepson to Raymond Green of Trenton, Georgia.



On behalf of everyone here at SHS, we would like to take this opportunity to thank each of these students for their dedication, commitment, and willingness to serve and protect our Nation. **Let's all show them some IRISH PRIDE!!!**



The **Seneca High School Media Center** would like to announce the names of seven students who voluntarily participated in and completed the requirements for the State of Illinois **READ FOR A LIFETIME** program. Senior Ethan Boin was presented with the *Read for a Lifetime Certificate of Excellence Award* for participating in the program for all four years of high school. Six other students, Miranda Araujo, Kaitlyn Rangel, Ashlin Jackson, Alexis Sprinkel, Stephanie Bernhard, and Jolena Odum all received Certificates of Accomplishment from the state as well. The SHS Media Center issued bonus gift cards to those students who read more than the state requirement. Read for a Lifetime is a statewide reading incentive program for high school students. This initiative promotes the enjoyment of reading by encouraging students to read both classic and contemporary literature and rewards them for their efforts. By participating in the program, students develop a love of books and reading that will last a lifetime.



Families can find their nearest summer meals site by calling (800) 359-2163, texting "FoodIL" to 877-877, or visiting <http://summerfeedingillinois.org/>

Summer Meals feeding sites in Illinois are now listed on the interactive map at <http://summerfeedingillinois.org/>. This map will be updated once a week. We will also continue to update the "2018 Summer Open Sites" Excel document at <https://www.isbe.net/sfsp>. The link to the list is also available on our [Seamless Summer Option page](#).

Nutrition Division, Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777
Phone: (800) 545-7892 or (217) 782-2491
cnp@isbe.net, www.isbe.net/nutrition



THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

Illinois State Scholars/Excellence in Education



Illinois State Scholars 2020

Seneca High School is proud to announce 10 Illinois State Scholars for the 2020-2021 school year. This year's recipients are:



Pictured from left to right:

Jenna Goslin, Riley Johnson, Amber Vroman, Carson Collet, Daniel Widman, Fidel Valenciano, Levi Maierhofer, Paige Baker, Addison Olson, and Ava Terry

Criteria for this prestigious award is as follows:

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) obtains academic data from the high school for students at the end of their sixth semester electronically.

The State Scholar formula calculation uses a combination of the test scores, unweighted GPA, rank, and class size. These students are selected based on SAT Test score and class rank.

The Board of Education, administration, and staff of Seneca High School are very proud of these students and congratulate them on receiving this award of distinction!



2020 Excellence in Education Award Recipients:

Mr. Earl Welsh, Mrs. Jill Rockrohr, and SRO, Mr. Ken Sangston

2020-2021—Seneca High School Retirees:

Mrs. Mary O'Connor (33 years); Mrs. Marcia Machetta (38 years); and Dr. Jim Carlson (30 years)





THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
SENECA TWP HIGH SCHOOL
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Seneca Township High School
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Seneca, IL 61360