



# The Irish Highlighter

Volume 12: Issue 2

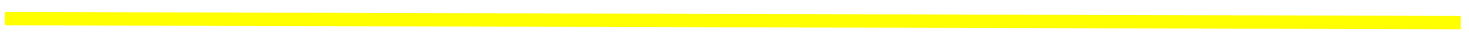
## Seneca High School

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### COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2022

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# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Board of Education Corner

It might sound cliché, but the 2021-22 school year has been one of great excitement. The district administrative team worked hard to return Seneca High School students back to a “normal” educational program. 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 was elevated to an entirely different level, as I watched the commitment of our staff and students to our school year norms and traditions.

Seneca High School fought hard to return to normal, being the first community in the LaSalle County area to return to normal mitigations in February. Superintendent Dan Stecken spoke in our wonderful traditional graduation ceremony about adversity and character. He said to the Class of 2022, “You’ve triumphed in education here at Seneca High School, Class of 2022, in the face of difficult circumstances. Adversity doesn’t build character; rather, it reveals it.” Our students and staff have risen to overcome adversity these past few years, revealing their character.

This school year also presented challenges for our Board of Education. We held many Board of Education meetings with the goal of continuing the district’s vision of the Seneca Way and serving our students, staff, and community with Irish Pride. 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 our goals without these committed and dedicated professionals.

Looking ahead to the 2022-23 school year, the Board of Education is excited about the direction of our young administrative team. Our Superintendent, Mr. Dan Stecken, Our Principal, Mr. Mike Coughlin, and our Dean of Students, Mr. Mark Giertz, have led this year with great enthusiasm and passion for Seneca High School. Our school is experiencing a changing of the guard in a few key arenas. I wish Mr. Steve Haines, Activities Director, Mr. Kent Weber, Agriculture Instructor, and Mr. Barry Buchanan, Maintenance Director, all the best in their retirement, and I want to thank them for their service to the Seneca High School Community. As our retirees ride off into the sunset, we welcome some new faces into these positions. The SHS Board of Education is excited to work with Mr. Ted O’Boyle as new district Activities Director, Mr. Mitch Miller and Ms. Cally Diss, Agriculture Instructors, and Mr. Jim Harsted, our new Maintenance Director.

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 for a healthy and happy summer break, and we are looking forward to a great 2022-2023 school year.

Ron Frye

Board of Education 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 IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

From the Desk of Principal, Mr. Mike Coughlin



It's my pleasure to be able to provide a recap of the Graduation ceremony for the Class of 2022. The ceremony was held in the Seneca High School Gymnasium on Sunday, May 15th. First, I want to thank the Class of 2022 for their dedication and daily habits that provided so much leadership over the past twelve months. Now, for the graduation ceremony recap!

Mr. Stecken, the SHS Superintendent, began the ceremony asking everyone to join him for the Pledge of Allegiance. During his speech, Mr. Stecken reminded the graduates of exactly how far they have come over the past four years. He shared a favorite quote hanging on a wall in a children's home formerly run by Mother Teresa. *"Give the best you have and you [may] get kicked in the teeth, [but] give the world the best you've got anyway."* Lastly, Mr. Stecken spoke about the bright future with many opportunities and possibilities for all the graduates. Of course, he thanked them for their contributions and wished them the best.

Mr. Stecken then introduced our student speakers, all of whom had earned this opportunity because of their distinction of Summa Cum Laude. Brady Danek was the first student speaker. Brady is the son of Brian and Heather Danek. Brady will be attending University of Missouri in the fall and majoring in Industrial Engineering. Brady challenged his classmates to find their inner superhero in everything they do in the future. He reminded the graduates that, "With great opportunity comes great responsibility."

The second student speaker was Elizabeth Davis. Elizabeth is the daughter of Dana Watson and Floyd Davis. Elizabeth will attend Illinois Wesleyan University in the fall, majoring in Biology. Elizabeth shared with her classmates that she "admired their class for the ability to be there for each other, despite the circumstances that could have separated us." Elizabeth went on to say, "Being a student at SHS has shown me how grateful I am to be part of a community that cares about their students and the students care about each other."

The last student speaker was Emma Smith. Emma is the daughter of Luri Maier-Lorntz and Dave Smith. Emma will be attending Illinois State University in the fall, majoring in Animal Science. Emma reminded her classmates of all the wonderful things they learned in kindergarten that are relevant to everyone, regardless of age. She ended by encouraging her classmates to take advantage of the opportunities available to them, as they never know when that opportunity will expire.

All three speakers did an excellent job sharing great advice with their fellow graduates. Before Mr. Giertz announced the names of all the graduates, I had the privilege of recognizing a couple different groups of students within the Class of 2022. First, I recognized the twenty-four seniors that are members of the National Honor Society. The National Honor Society is an organization that promotes scholarship, service, character, and leadership. I then recognized the Illinois State Scholars. The Class of 2022 had eleven students earn the distinction based on criteria of grade point average and SAT exam scores. The groups of students that graduated with academic distinction, based on their earned grade point average, were also recognized. All students graduating Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude were recognized in the program and by the special honor cords that they wore in the ceremony. Lastly, we recognized four seniors who have made the commitment to serve their country in the United States Armed Forces.

As the Class of 2022 switched their tassels, senior student Bailey Johnson made her way to the podium to lead the Band. Bailey is the daughter of Brent and Bonni Johnson. During her senior year, Bailey was selected to perform with the Illinois Music Education Association District 2 Concert Band, and she has been selected to perform with the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles Youth Orchestra in Prague, Czech Republic this July. Bailey is the winner of this year's John Philip Sousa Band Award and will be attending Bradley University this fall to major in Music Education.

Thanks again to the Class of 2022 and everyone that attended or had a role in making the Graduation a special day for SHS and a wonderful group of students.

Mike Coughlin--Principal





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



Message from our Superintendent, Mr. Dan Stecken

## “The Road to Success is Always Under Construction.”

In the Fall of 2021, I wrote to our community about the district’s work with Wold Architects & Engineers on our “Competition Gymnasium Addition” project. At that time, we were completing the first of three phases, called Schematic Design. Since that time, our gym planning group, consisting of Board of Education members, community members, administration, and other key stakeholders has continued the second phase, “Design Development.” This summer we anticipate the conclusion of the second phase, preparing for the third and final pre-construction phase, “Construction Documents.”

As you may recall from that last writing, the Board of Education has been planning and saving for this needed project for several years, building its “Capital Projects” fund balance over \$6 million. Before the project begins the district anticipates having 70% of the project completely saved for in this fund and will pay the remainder from operating funds. Again, this means there will be no bonding and no increase in the property tax rate. When we first set out to begin this project, we established goals and former Superintendent, Dr. Jim Carlson, engaged the community in the Summer of 2021 with guiding principles. Our goals have not changed in our committee’s work and the entire process has been an exciting moment of IRISH PRIDE. Those previously established goals include:

### **The Guiding Principles of the Committee’s Work:**

Community pride in our end product.

Multi-use facility beyond “just a gym.”

More family friendly; eliminating early and late practices.

Tournament facility with the ability to host large venues and multi-team events.

Engage the community in a transparent fashion.

Increased community access to the West Campus.

As our work has continued, I am excited to share some of our preliminary gymnasium photos here. You will note that the group wanted the addition to blend in with the existing structure as much as possible, taking great pride in our building. Additionally, the group wanted a main “Competition Court” with auxiliary courts to maximize practice space to continue to be a family-friendly district. Finally, now that we are over a year into the planning, I am excited to share that our website features a “Gym Blog” that has early plans, pictures, and will offer ongoing progress photos and meeting notes to make the process as transparent and community engaging as possible. This project is an exciting phase in the growth of our district, one that our students, employees, and community can be extremely proud of, continuing our efforts along The Seneca Way with great IRISH PRIDE!!

Dan Stecken  
Superintendent

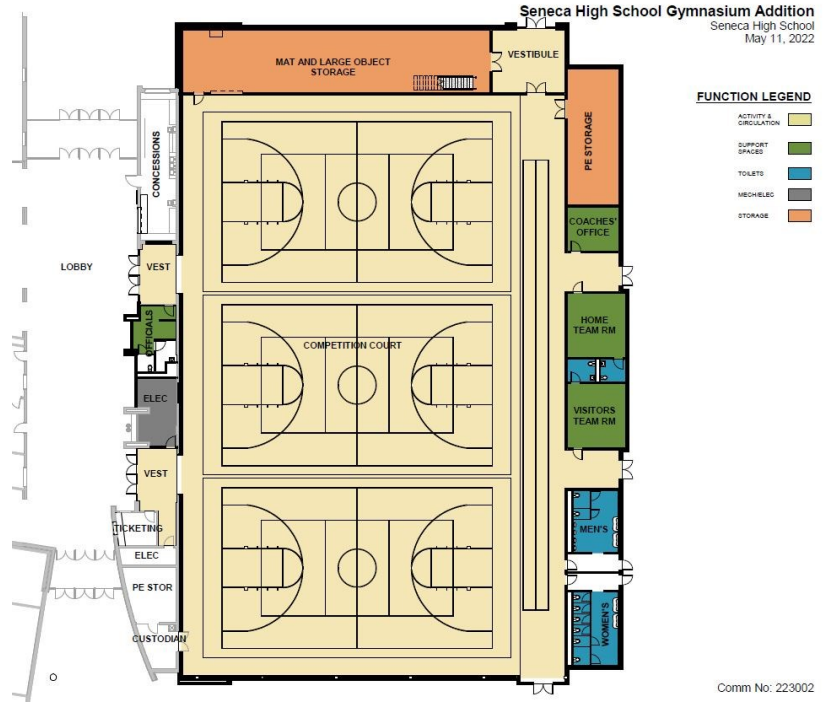


# New addition—Gym pictures

Seneca High School Gymnasium Addition  
Seneca High School  
May 11, 2022

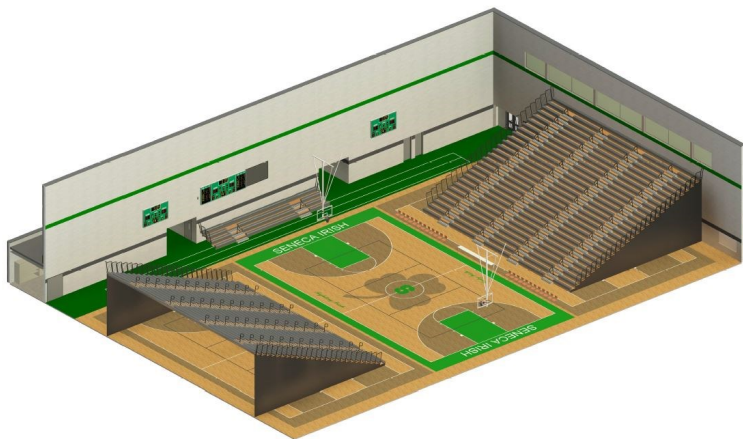


Seneca High School Gymnasium Addition  
Seneca High School  
May 11, 2022



Comm No: 223002

Seneca High School Gymnasium Addition  
Seneca High School  
May 11, 2022



Seneca High School Gymnasium Addition  
Seneca High School  
May 11, 2022





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

From the Desks of Fiscal Services Director, Stacey Gould, SRO Ken Sangston



On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Seneca High School had its first ever job and career fair in the school gymnasium. The event was a huge success with over 35 companies here to share career information with our students. Some companies were even issuing applications and offering jobs on the spot.

Although some may believe that high school career fairs are irrelevant due to many students heading to college instead of the workforce, that couldn't be farther from the truth. Not only are students allowed to network and engage with businesses in the local community, but they also have the opportunity to explore different careers and receive advice from employers about their field or industry. Students have the opportunity to ask questions, discover a new career path, or even just make a connection that could eventually turn into an internship, apprenticeship, or another entry-level job in the future.

In a world full of technology, social media, and less and less in-person interaction, opportunities such as career fairs are becoming a critical component in preparing our students for life after high school. While receiving a lot of great feedback about our students, there was also some concern that many lacked interpersonal skills, such as good eye contact and the ability to think and respond on their feet. It's feedback like this that will serve as a baseline for more relevant curriculum and instruction choices in English and CTE classes, to prepare our students for events like this. We hope this event will continue to grow and be successful year after year, attracting more local businesses and providing even more opportunities for our students.

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This year marks my 30<sup>th</sup> year as a police officer and my fourth year as a school resource officer. An SRO is a sworn law enforcement officer in the State of Illinois, a member of the local police department who is assigned to a local school district to promote and provide a safe and secure campus. It is much different being an SRO at Seneca High School than it is in a large school district or a school in a large city. In fact, the least performed duty while at the school is that of policing. Yes, I have referred kids to juvenile probation on some extreme cases, and I have issued citations, either traffic or city ordinance on occasions to kids, but it is a rarity. In addition to having an armed police officer on campus at all times, there are many policy and safety procedures that are in place during a school day. There is a controlled and limited access to the campus on a daily basis. The controlled access includes a check in procedure of all visitors entering the campus for a meeting or business. This procedure cross checks the sex offender database and wanted persons lists before admittance to a business. Hall monitors check doors throughout the day to assure the building remains in a secure state. The faculty and staff are trained in A.L.I.C.E. (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) and attend a refresher course every two years for a reminder about how to respond to a violent critical incident. There are systems in place that allow all staff to report a violent incident by pushing a button on their smartphones, which will automatically call 911 and place the building on lockdown in seconds. There are many more systems including infrastructure, electronic, training, or policies that are in place. Seneca High School has made safety and security a priority and has spared no expense, always looking for ways to improve and stay current. It has always been my goal that, when your kids are dropped off at school, you have assurance that I will do everything possible to keep them safe.

Have a great summer, Go Irish !!



# SENECA HIGH SCHOOL—A RECAP OF OUR SCHOOL YEAR

From the Desk of SHS Dean of Students, Mark Giertz



The 2021-2022 school year has made it to the final days and we all can look back and say, “what a whirlwind it has been.” We have seen such a resilient student and staff body push through circumstances that were tough on everyone, yet we saw so many accomplishments take place. For the first time in over 2 years, we were able to have Freshman Orientation return by walking the hallways on the first couple of days laughing, asking questions, and making new friends, as they had the building to themselves to get lost in. Although we couldn’t see their smiles just yet, having our new incoming students in the building meant we were one step closer to our goal.

Our Freshman ‘kick-off’ days were just the beginning of things to get back to normal around here. As all grade levels made it back into the building, the positive vibes began to climb around all aspects of Seneca High School. Indoor sporting events came back to a regular feel, as our fans began to fill the bleachers again and the student section picked up right where they left off two years ago, by packing their seats on a nightly basis. Students began to get into their daily routines, have class and club meetings, sit back at their regular lunch tables, and be in a “normal” class with their friends right there to join in great conversations.

We saw our Homecoming and Prom dances venture out into the transportation building, student assemblies and motivational speakers come back in full force, pep rallies, food trucks, warm pretzels, and lemon shake ups that all students and staff seemed to enjoy. No matter what curveball was thrown at our Seneca HS community, we pushed through this together. I have been so impressed with how our students handled small challenges that were constantly thrown at them this year. To the ever changing guidelines, down to the athletes who had to play their indoor sport with a mask on, our students showed an unbelievable ability to adapt and persevere.

The second semester then brought to us our first ever career day at Seneca High School. We had an unbelievable turn out from over 30 small businesses, military, and college representatives offering advice, displaying job opportunities, and career paths available for our student body to look forward to as their educational careers begin to take shape. The student body did a fantastic job participating, and we look forward to continuing this event in the future.

In conclusion, I want to thank our dedicated staff, teachers, administrative assistants, students, and parents for bringing this year to normalcy in the best possible way. What we have all accomplished this year shows the true resilience that this community has and will continue to have for future generations. I look forward to seeing continued success and progress from each of our students over the summer break and anticipate a great start to the 2022-2023 school year here at SHS.

Sincerely,

Mark Giertz  
Dean of Students





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



From the Desk of Activities Director, Steve Haines

## Memories of 22 Years in the Land of Irish

It has my pleasure to have served the communities of Seneca, Mazon, Verona, Kinsman, all other surrounding areas, the board of education, faculty, staff, coaches and most importantly, the students that have attended Seneca High School. I have never used the term “work” when identifying with what I do for a living. Being the athletic director at Seneca High School has been an awesome ride with extreme highs and crushing lows. As we try to instill the importance of participating in extra-curricular activities, such as sports, to the students at Seneca High School, will offer you the opportunities for success and failure, which is the same in life. Everyone likes success, but success will not come without much hard work, sweat, and even sometimes tears. But even with the hard work, sweat, and tears, success is not guaranteed, failure is a possibility and many cases, more than likely. We also teach in extra-curricular activities that teamwork is the fastest way to success. Trying to do everything yourself is most often met with failure, rather than leaning on a teammate for help or a coach for guidance, these are qualities that these student-athletes will take into their lives after high school and will help them have success in work, family, friends, and fun.

My best memories of the Land of the Irish would be so extensive that this newsletter could not hold all of them, but here are a few of my favorites:

State Championship (2006) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (2005) in Boys Basketball. These two years were a special time at Seneca High School. The gym was full every night to watch these boys play, and I related it to when the Bulls made their runs in the 90s. Every game was a must see! This was most evident when these team reached the State Final in Peoria. Carver Arena was a sea of green and yellow. Each year, we sold out our section of the stadium, and we still had more fans sitting in other team sections just to get into the arena to watch.

Firetruck parades for state champion track & field athletes have been awesome. Our track & field facilities are second to none, and our program has matched that level of performance. Nothing has been more exciting than to see an individual (or group) of our athletes come back from the state finals as the best in the state. Alyssa Applebee was the first in my tenure in pole vault, followed by Tommy Lovett in the 110 hurdles. Then the remarkable feat accomplished by Christopher Collett in 2018-19 school year, where he won all three legs of what track coaches call the “distance triple crown.” In the fall of 2018, he was the Class 1A state champion in Cross Country and in the spring of 2019, he was a state champion at the IHSA Track finals in the 3200 M run and the 1600M run. And then, just within the last month, the 4 x 400M relay team of Emma Smith, Anna Bruno, Clara Bruno and Evelyn O'Connor brought home gold at the state track meet.

Football playoff games, FFA State Chapters, TSA titles, sectional finals in softball, volleyball, boys’ basketball, and girls’ basketball are all events that I will remember. The athletes and coaches had everything to do with those successes and all I tried to do was give them the resources they needed and stay out of the way. I will put the roster of coaches we’ve had here at Seneca in the last 22 years up against any school. They have all been knowledgeable, great leaders, great educators, but they have been even better people.

Even though I have all of these great moments, my fondest memories are of watching my children participate in the Land of the Irish. Those are proud moments, from them singing the National Anthem at games to Kayla’s volleyball team losing in the sectional final. When you spend as much time watching and rooting on other young people here at Seneca, it was special for myself and my wife to be SHS parents.

All we tried to do every day at Seneca HS for the past 22 years is give our athletes, coaches, parents, community members, officials, opponents, and guests – the best possible experience they could have when they step foot into Seneca HS. I wanted (and still want) everyone that comes to Seneca HS to enjoy their time here, whether that was how we announce names, a good meal, names on foul boards, or greeting football team buses at front of school when they arrive. I want them to leave, saying – man, that school is a class act. They may have money to have all those bells and whistles, but I was treated with respect and class. We embodied two things (I think well) over the years – we made Seneca HS the “Land of the Irish.” Our students get involved! Our staff gets involved! The other is our “IRISH PRIDE.” This is not just 2 words...I lived it, our coaches embrace it, and our students are taught to respect it.

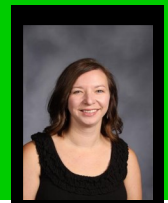
And as my days as athletic director are numbered...I just want to wish everyone at Seneca HS – Thank you and GOOD LUCK!







# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



From the Desk of School Psychologist, Jill Rockrohr

At Seneca High School, we are committed to the district mission and values outlined in our guiding document, the Seneca Way. We have identified nine core values through the Seneca Way that are the focus of our work here at SHS: progressiveness, collaboration, support, accountability, respect, trust, goal-focused, persistence, and safety. In 2019, the administrative team came together to develop three core competencies based on the Seneca Way to be the focus of our instruction. These core competencies, named the three C's, are communication, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Based on teacher feedback, the administrative team worked together this year to develop professional development for staff aligned with the Seneca Way, with a focus on both our core values as well as the three C's. Led by instructional leader Mr. Coughlin, our team designed professional development opportunities for teachers that not only highlighted the Seneca Way but also modeled instructional practices and incorporated a little energy and fun.

Our leadership team identified several learning targets for the Seneca Way days. First, we needed a common understanding and foundation of the Seneca Way; this is not a plan to keep in a binder on a shelf, but is instead meant to be a roadmap to guide our goals as teachers and district leaders. Second, we hoped to provide teachers with the opportunity to learn from their peers both within and outside of their departments. Finally and most importantly, our goal was for staff to reflect on their own practices and identify both their strengths and areas in which they can make progress to strengthen their students' communication, critical thinking, and collaboration skills.

Thanks to Mr. Coughlin's preparation and planning with the support of the SHS administrative team, successful Seneca Way days were held in September, February, and April this school year. Through this experience, our teachers came together as a school community to share their expertise and learn from each other. Staff engaged in both small group and whole group discussions about written and oral communication, what collaboration looks like and why it is important, and how to incorporate rigor and depth of knowledge into our classroom discussions and activities. Following each in-service day, teachers shared instructional artifacts that highlighted their use of the 3 C's in their classrooms. Overall, this year's professional development was engaging, meaningful, and directly aligned with district goals. It is the plan of the SHS administrative team to continue this work through the next several years.

School Psychologist  
Director of Special Services





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Scholastic Bowl Club Info / Senior Send-off

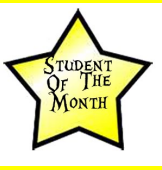


The Seneca High School Scholastic Bowl Team was ready to return to a regular schedule this season and did their best to maximize the opportunity. Both the Varsity and JV teams welcomed new members this year and there was an awesome team effort to improve and achieve success. The JV team was led by captains Carter Thomas, Kate Biros, and Brianna Brown and ended with a record of 11-8 for the season. The JV team was very successful in our conference; finishing with a record of 8-3 in conference play. Carter Thomas and Ben Biros led the JV team in the number of toss up questions answered correctly during the season while Ben Biros managed to have the highest percentage of correct toss ups when compared to toss ups attempted.

The Varsity team also had a great season with captains Brady Danek and Case Biros leading the team to an overall record of 24-14 with a record of 16-2 in conference play. Varsity Scholastic Bowl finished second place in the Tri-County Conference Tournament, losing only one match to the first place Roanoke-Benson team. The team was proud of a few accomplishments that day beyond just taking second place. Both Chris Poyner and Case Biros were named as "All Conference" players and Seneca outscored every other team in every round except the one we lost. The Varsity team was also excited to make it to the championship match at regionals where they tried hard but succumbed to a very strong Westmont team. Chris Poyner, Peyton Weber, and Case Biros led the team in total toss ups correct during the season while Colin Collet answered the highest percentage of correct toss up questions.

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# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Students of the Month Award Winners

### November Students of the Month

- Clara Bruno—Rookie
- Elizabeth Davis—Student of the Month
- Madilyn Bertrang—Most Improved
- Evalynn Berg—Role Model



**NOVEMBER 2021**

### December Students of the Month

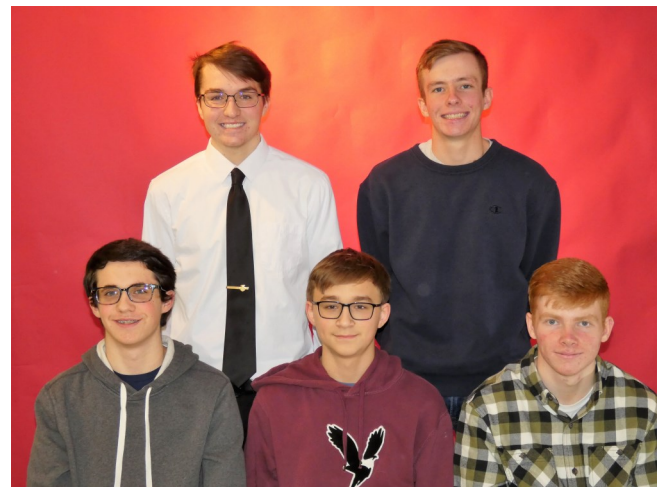
- Hanna Beland—Student of the Month
- Madeline Klicker—Role Model
- Evelyn O'Connor—Rookie
- Marissa Aguilar—Most Improved



**DECEMBER 2021**

### January Students of the Month

- Ryan Starwalt—Most Improved
- Payton McDonald—Rookie
- Noah Quigley—Role Model
- Case Biros—Student of the Month
- Owen Quigley—Role Model



**JANUARY 2022**





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



## Students of the Month Award Winners

### February Students of the Month

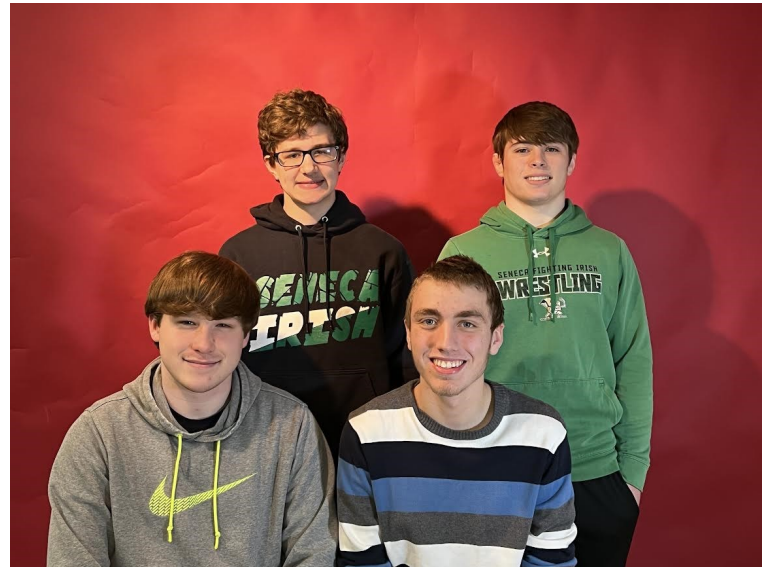
- Harleigh Varland—Role Model
- Joseph Hamilton—Most Improved
- Haley Einhaus—Role Model
- Hailey Culbertson—Rookie
- Audrey Jenkins—Student of the Month



**FEBRUARY 2022**

### March Students of the Month

- Tyler Sproull—Most Improved
- Peyton Weber—Student of the Month
- Thomas Milton—Rookie
- Owen Feiner—Role Model



**MARCH 2022**



### April Students of the Month

- Hailey Kennedy—Role Model
- Staci Sherdon—Most Improved
- Laura Yegge—Student of the Month
- Casey Klicker—Rookie



**APRIL 2022**



# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Students of the Month/And More...

### May Students of the Month

Addison Eltrevoog—Role Model  
Sydnie Trager—Student of the Month  
Tynan Justice—Rookie  
Brianna Johnson—Most Improved

MAY 2022



### John Ourth Award

The Starved Rock Region Illinois Principals Association has recognized a Seneca High School student for the John Ourth Award. The student who has been honored and given a plaque is Miranda Araujo.

The students who are honored possess the same traits that made John Ourth an outstanding leader and role model for others. Students are recommended by their school based on character, citizenship, leadership skills and scholarship, as well as possessing the potential to make a difference in the world.



### 2021 DAR Good Citizen Award Recipient

Miranda Araujo was recently honored with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award for Seneca High School. She is the daughter of Miriam Garibay and Martin Garcia of Marseilles IL.

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.

Miranda currently serves as the Chairman of the FFA Leadership Team, the Pollinator Plot Manager and group leader for Conservation in Action, and the Spanish Club Vice President. She is in National Honors Society, FFA, Conservation in Action, Teens Resisting Unhealthy Social Temptations, State Academic Challenge Competition (ACES), Scholastic Bowl, Math Team, Speech Team, Young Philanthropy, Cross Country, Art Club, Drama Club, Spanish Club, Student Ambassadors, plays, and musicals.

Being the recipient of the DAR Good Citizen Award, Miranda will complete an essay that will have 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.



# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Special Award Winners

### Congratulations to All Seneca High School Award Winners



Trevor Till Memorial Scholarship:  
Audrey Jenkins, Elizabeth Davis, and  
Peyton Weber



Compeer Financial: Peyton Weber



Port District: Jessica Daggett, Logan  
Bland, Madeline Klicker, Noah Quigley



Larry Novotney Memorial Scholarship:  
Emma Smith & Peyton Weber



Grace Nadine Taylor Award:  
Evalynn Berg



Seneca Grade School Education Foundation:  
Harleigh Varland, Madeline Klicker, Owen  
Quigley, Brianne Johnson, Noah Quigley



Joliet Junior College Foundation:  
Peyton Weber



Illinois Scottish Rite Masonic Healthcare:  
Haley Einhaus and Madison Mino



SHS Citizen of the Year—Country  
Companies: Brady Danek



Jenan Jobst Memorial Scholarship:  
Madeline Klicker



SHS Future Teacher: Bailey Johnson



Kendall-Grundy Farm Bureau Foundation:  
Case Biros, Harleigh Varland, Emma Smith  
Tyler Sulzberger, and Peyton Weber



Daughters of American Revolution:  
Miranda Araujo



Evan Vint Scholarship: Jessica Daggett



Cruise Night: Case Biros, Miranda Araujo,  
Hailey Kennedy, and Tyler Sulzberger



Commended Student Award:  
Peyton Weber



Matt Rivett Scholarship: Rylee Stenzel,  
Noah Quigley, Owen Quigley  
Not pictured: Noah Cade



CIA Science Award—Miranda Araujo



Spanish IV Awards: Miranda Araujo, Laura  
Yegge, Hannah Beland, and Brady Danek



Read For A Lifetime Award:  
Miranda Araujo





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Special Award Winners



Mazon American Legion/Frank Sereno  
Award: Case Biros



Mazon American Legion/Kenny Benson  
Award: Jessica Daggett



Mazon American Legion/Willma Gehrke  
& Mary Mitchell Award: Carly Greve &  
Bailey Johnson



Mazon American Legion/Jim Sterba  
Award: Madeline Klicker



Mazon American Legion/John R Ely  
Award: Zoe Hougas



Seneca American Legion Kasal Post 457:  
Zoe Hougas



Buck Bogren Skilled Labor Scholarship:  
Patrick Griffin



Delta Theta Tau: Miranda Araujo,  
Hailey Kennedy, Emma Smith, Peyton  
Weber, and Given Siegel



William & Lois Steep Scholarship:  
Laura Yegge



Grundy County Marine Corps League  
Scholarship: Emma Smith



What Would Trevor Till Do:  
Brady Danek & Calvin Maierhofer



Wayne Schmanske Scholarship:  
Emma Smith



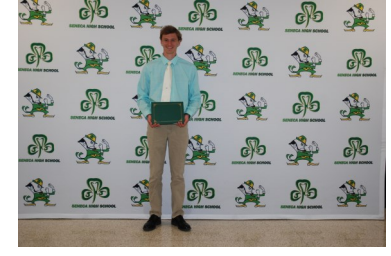
Seneca American Legion Americanism  
Award: Jessica Daggett



Seneca American Legion Auxiliary:  
Hailey Einhaus



MVK Student Council: Case Biros,  
Elizabeth Davis, and Emma Smith



Exelon Scholarship: Brady Danek



Pfeifer-Madison Memorial Award:  
Case Biros and Emma



American Legion Kasal Post 457  
Distinguished Achievement Award:  
Madeline Klicker



Seneca American Legion Kasal Post 457  
Zoe Hougas



Sons of the American Revolution  
Jaden Casey



# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Special Award Winners



2022 Theater Awards  
 Back Stage / On Stage Award: Miranda Araujo & Hailey Kennedy  
 Rookie of the Year: Brady Danek  
 Senior Theater Award: Peyton Weber, Audrey Jenkins, Hanna Beland



What is this award called:  
 Jett Swift Hailey Kennedy, Emma Smith, Jessica Daggett, Evalynn Berg, and Madison Maier



Stats Award: Taylor Draves & Eli Hill



4 Year Individual State Qualifier for Math Team:  
 Peyton Weber



Senior Math Award: Case Biros & Miranda Araujo



National School Choral Award: Elizabeth Davis



Music John Philip Sousa Award: Bailey Johnson



FFA Alumni Scholarship: Given Siegel



Judd Nagle Award: Emma Smith & Brady Danek



Anna Gay Outstanding Female Athlete: Emma Smith  
 Gerald Hoben Outstanding Male Athlete: Noah Quigley



Male Irish Pride Scholarship: Brady Danek  
 Female Irish Pride Scholarship: Faith Deering



Role Model of the Year: Miranda Araujo  
 Rookie of the Year: Clara Bruno  
 Student of the Year: Emma Smith  
 Most Improved: Falon Terry, not pictured







# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER



## Award Winners / School News



Illinois State Scholars: Front Row: Case Biros, Brady Danek, Peyton Weber, Laura Yegge, Back Row: Miranda Araujo, Sydnie Trager, Hanna Beland, Elizabeth Davis, Audrey Jenkins, Madison Mino, and Emma Smith



SHS Staff Scholarship: Front Row: Peyton Weber, Brady Danek, Carter Eillis, Case Biros Back Row: Miranda Araujo, Harleigh Varland, Hailey Kennedy, Laura, Yegge, Elizabeth Davis, Bailey Johnson, Sydnie Trager, and Faith Deering

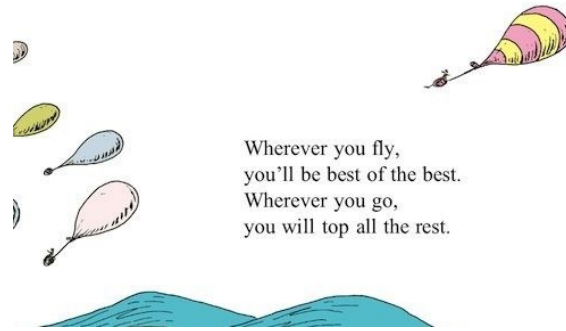


12 Sport Award: Owen Quigley, Allison Arwood, Elizabeth Davis, Zoe Hougas, Carly Greve, Emma Smith, Noah Quigley



Seneca High School senior Emma Smith was chosen for the LaSalle County Board Student Excellence Award for February.

**We truly wish all of our graduates the best of luck in all their future endeavors!**



Wherever you fly,  
you'll be best of the best.  
Wherever you go,  
you will top all the rest.



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](mailto:cnp@isbe.net), [www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition)

# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Fall/Spring Pretzel Days /Awesome Crew Members at the School



In the fall, Faculty and Staff enjoyed hot pretzels prepared by the Administration



Then in the spring the entire student body enjoyed hot pretzels and lemonade shakeups prepared by the Administration



Housekeeping: John Koval, Jeff Szafranski, Dawn Szafranski, Yvonne Coss, Kathy Phelan, Cory McGeorge, Gary Culbreth



Maintenance: Bob Laycoax, Barry Buchanan, Joe Kern, Luke Sangston



We appreciate ALL the work our Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Cafeteria Crews do!!!



Cafeteria: Amber Fessler , Andrea Smith, Gina Izzarelli, Colleen Blair  
Back Row: Beth Miller, Cafeteria Director; Not pictured: Kolya Cato





# THE IRISH HIGHLIGHTER

## Illinois State Scholars/Excellence in Education

### Illinois State Scholars 2022

Seneca High School is proud to announce 11 Illinois State Scholars for the 2021-2022 school year. This year's recipients are:

#### Pictured from left to right:

From Left to Right

Front Row: Madison Mino, Audrey Jenkins, Laura Yegge, Sydnie Trager, Elizabeth Davis

Back Row: Brady Danek, Case Biros, Peyton Weber, Miranda Araujo, Hanna Beland, Emma Smith



#### 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!



### 2021—2022 Seneca High School Retirees:

Mr. Kent Weber (33 years)

Mr. Steve Haines (22 years)

Not pictured:

Maintenance Director, Mr. Barry Buchanan (10 years)

### 2021—2022 Excellence in Education Award Recipients:

Mr. Levi Derber and Mr. Blake Slutz

Not pictured:

Maintenance, Mr. Robert Laycoax

Also in the picture from Left to Right

2nd from left, State Superintendent, Carmen Ayala

4th from left, Jennifer Ferguson, Assistant Regional Superintendent

1st from the right, ROE Superintendent, Mr. Chris Dvorak





**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