



SPIRIT OF EDUCATION

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HS Final Exam Schedule

May 30 ...Health & World Languages
 June 1Phys Ed
 June 2English and Social Studies
 June 5Science
 June 6Math

Barrett Band Students Attend Band Workshop at Seton Hill University

On Thursday, April 27, Barrett Band students traveled to Seton Hill University for a special band workshop. They received instrumental lessons in small groups and experienced a full band rehearsal with a university band professor. After an exciting morning at Seton Hill, they went to Jeannette Senior High School and heard a performance by the Jeannette High School Jazz Ensemble. After the concert, the Barrett band students performed for the Jeannette students. It was a wonderful musical day for the Barrett Band students!

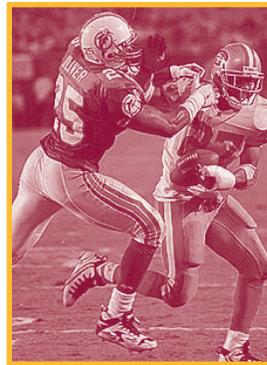
Barrett Gold Band students enjoy their "Musical Day!"



Adam Walker Guest Speaker for 2006 Commencement

On June 9 at 7 p.m., Steel Valley School District will be holding Commencement at the William V. Campbell Athletic Field featuring speaker **Adam Walker**, Class of 1986.

While in high school, Walker was an all-conference, all-state defensive back and became Steel Valley's first 1,000-yard rusher. He went on to be a starting running back for the University of Pittsburgh and set the record for the longest touchdown in the university's history (89 yards). He finished his career there as the 8th leading rusher in Pitt's history averaging 5.9 yards per carry. Walker received his bachelor's degree in business administration with



a concentration in economics when he left Pitt in 1990.

After college, he played in the NFL as a running back for the Philadelphia Eagles (1990 & 1996) and the San Francisco 49ers (1991-95). During that time his accomplishments included:

- Four-time member of the NFC West Championship Teams
- Member of the 1994 San Francisco 49ers Super Bowl XXIX Championship Team
- Served as special teams captain 1994, 1995 (49ers) and 1996 (Eagles)
- 1994 post-season MVP (special teams)
- Nominated for the Ed Block Award for Courage in 1995

Now, Walker is a successful entrepreneur running an Atlanta-based real estate settlement company that he founded – Homestead Settlement Solutions.

Barrett Elementary Students Highlight "Steel Valley Community Breakfast" on April 20

The Steel Valley School District was the highlight of a "Community Breakfast" on Thursday, April 20, 8:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Library of Homestead.

Superintendent **Dr. Alex Warren** provided an overview of the District's accomplishments and children from **Barrett Elementary School's Gold Band and Chorus** performed.

The performance included vocal and instrumental pieces "When the Saints Go Marching In," "Ngiele, Ngiele," a medley of traditional folk songs from Africa's Congo region and much more.

Event proceeds benefited the Mon Valley Education Consortium's Great Idea Grant Fund for Steel Valley School District. To date, Steel Valley has received 125 Great Idea Grants.



Jbordan Stoutmire and Jaylen Scott playing the saxophone.

Emily Casamento playing the flute.



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7th Grade Students Win Literature Contest

District 7th grade students **Chris Cerda, Sara Fallon and Alaina Bott** won the Munhall Women's Club Annual Literature & Art Contest. **Jason Phouthavong** received Honorable Mention. *Congratulations!*

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"Steel Valley Community Breakfast"



Lakijai Bynum and Taneil Daviston playing flute.

Barrett Gold Band & Chorus Director Sharon Kampe.



Steel Valley School District Board Members, administrators and teachers enjoyed the Community Breakfast.



Members of the Steel Valley School District Student Learning Team.



Joshua Rouse, Jeremy Hawkins and Courtney Wallace on percussion.

Band & Chorus students performing.



District Utilizes \$100,000 Grant for Emergency Preparation

Because of a \$100,000 grant from the federal government, Steel Valley School District is much better prepared for an emergency situation.

Now, every District classroom is equipped with a crisis box containing food, water, paper supplies, and first aid supplies. Staff members have also been provided with a Crisis Folder containing a flip chart for guidelines to handle crisis situations and cards for evacuation situations. Additionally, NEXTEL phones were purchased for all administrators, secretaries, maintenance crews, and Crisis Core Team members to increase the availability of staff during crisis situations. And, a District Crisis Team completed a School Emergency Management Plan for distribution in May.

"The major focus of these grant funds was to prepare our staff, students, and the community to handle emergency situations safely and calmly," said **Alyson Fisher**, elementary guidance counselor.

Meetings with local police, fire, medical officials, community organizations, government representatives, parents, students and District employees were held to coordinate plans.

Members of the Crisis Team attended the Incident Command Training and Multi-Hazard Safe Schools training presented by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). Plans have also been made to increase the number of trained staff for participation in the Student Assistance Program (SAP) at the May 2006 training.

Specific building projects have been requested and are expected to be completed before the 2006/2007 school year including:

- Updates to the Barrett Elementary School fire and security system.
- Completion of the Park Elementary School camera and security system.
- Additional walk-through metal detectors were purchased for the Middle School and High School.
- Additional walkie talkies and batteries have been purchased for all buildings.
- The communications company also plans to program a District-wide channel to increase communication between school buildings.
- Lock boxes have been placed on the outside of all school buildings at the request of the local fire departments allowing them quicker access to the buildings and access to building maps.

Crisis Core Team members would like to thank the Steel Valley staff and community members for their support over the past several years and a special note of thanks to those who were part of the planning phase.

"This grant has allowed us to complete many of the projects that were started several years ago, but were unable to be funded at that time," said Fisher. "We will continue to research and train staff members on school safety information from both PEMA and FEMA. The rapport that has been established with the local emergency management agencies is crucial to making sure that Steel Valley Students are managed safely during any crisis situation."

If you have any questions regarding the Steel Valley Crisis Team, please contact **Dr. William Kinavey**, assistant superintendent at 412-464-3619.

Written Any Books Lately?

The students in **Miss Shipley's** class at Barrett Elementary School have been learning about the Native Americans. They read about and discussed ten different tribes. Using their knowledge and other resources, the students created pop-up books.

Each group was given a tribe to research. After the data was collected, the students wrote a story. The stories included the tribe's lifestyle, culture, beliefs, and ways in which they obtained food. With the use of the Library Media Center and the guidance of **Mrs. Szczypinski**, the students were able to type their stories in Microsoft Word, using different typing features. The students used their artistic abilities to design pictures to accompany their stories. The completed pop-up books were read to each First Grade classroom. *Please visit the Barrett Library Media Center to see the wonderful pop-up books that were created.*

Students' Artwork to be Displayed May 11 - 14

Park and Barrett Elementary School students will have their artwork displayed May 11 - 14 at "artspace303 Gallery" on 8th Ave. in Homestead - a venue where local artists display their art. *We're proud of our young artists!*

Law Week Held at Schools Throughout Steel Valley School District

From kindergarten to high school, Steel Valley students had the opportunity to learn more about safety and law enforcement with *Law Week*, a series of special events held throughout the District from April 19-28. The event was sponsored by Magisterial District Judge Thomas Torkowsky in cooperation with the Steel Valley School District.

At the elementary school level, the focus was on safety, highlighted with several special events. Children practiced making emergency phone calls in the 911 Van; they also had opportunity to serve as the emergency 911 operator and respond to practice calls.

A Child ID program was also in place; students had their fingerprints taken and kept on file by computer (*instead of the old ink method*). They were also given DNA kits to take home so that their guardians can create an identification file for the child.

Kindergarten children participated in Safety Town, an actual city constructed at the school's playground area for the young students to tour and learn about home safety.

Fourth and fifth grade students participated in a mock trial with Judge Torkowsky. Students played all parts involved in a regular courtroom setting—judge, lawyers and jury, and then reached a group verdict.

"We try to focus on different subjects with different events each year," said Dr. Beth Tully, principal of Franklin Primary Center and Park Elementary School. "Law week has simply grown and blossomed into a nice experience for all the kids."

At the middle and high school levels, several discussions were held on subjects such as drugs and alcohol, bullying, gang violence, gun violence, date rape and domestic violence. Various professionals including Judge Torkowsky, police officers, and members of the District Attorney's office led these group discussions. Additionally, selected high school students took a field trip to the coroner's office.

Law Week activities at Park Elementary School



Law Week Events

Park Elementary School

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Activities by Allegheny County Crime Prevention Van and The Allegheny County District Attorney's ID Program
Cafeteria/Carport
8:10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Thursday, April 20, 2006

Discussions of District Attorney's Child ID Program and Mock Trial with Judge Torkowsky
Gymnasium/Cafeteria/Carport
8:10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Franklin Primary Center

Friday, April 21, 2006

Safety Town and Allegheny County 911 Van and Child ID Program
Playground Area
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Barrett Elementary School

Monday, April 17, 2006

Activities by Allegheny County Crime Prevention Van and The Allegheny County District Attorney's ID Program
12th Ave./Cafeteria
8:55 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Thursday, April 20, 2006

Discussions of District Attorney's Child ID Program and Mock Trial with Judge Torkowsky
Gymnasium/12th Ave.
8:55 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.

Steel Valley Middle School

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Discussion of Drugs and Alcohol
Middle School/Group Sessions
8th Grade
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Friday, April 28, 2006

Discussion of Bullying
Middle School/Group Sessions
6th Grade
11:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Steel Valley High School

Monday, April 24, 2006

Coroner's Office Field Trip
During school hours
Selected High School Students participating

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Discussions of Gang Violence
9th Grade/Group Sessions
8:30 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Discussions of Gun Violence
10th Grade/Group Sessions
8:30 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Friday, April 28, 2006

Discussions of Date Rape and Domestic Violence
12th Grade/Auditorium
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

“SmartBoards” Coming to Middle & High School Classrooms Next Year

The Middle and High School Math Departments recently received approval from the School Board to purchase SmartBoards and LCD projectors for use in their classrooms for the 2006-07 school year. They also received a SmarterKids grant enabling them to purchase the boards, projectors and accessories at a significantly discounted price.

According to Academic Math Coach **Beth McCallister**, a SmartBoard is an interactive whiteboard that provides a large area for exploring and manipulating computer material. The LCD projector is the device that casts images from the computer onto the interactive whiteboard.

“Interactive whiteboards promote active, inquiry-based learning and energize lessons with a dynamic experience,” said McCallister. “The key to the experience is touch. Students simply touch the surface to select icons, navigate websites and move images – their finger becomes the mouse. This simple and immediate access to information encourages students to investigate and organize ideas.”

With their finger, students can manipulate math shapes, go on a WebQuest, or give a presentation. The SmartBoard technology includes built-in math tools such as protractors, rulers, calculators, graphs, and more.

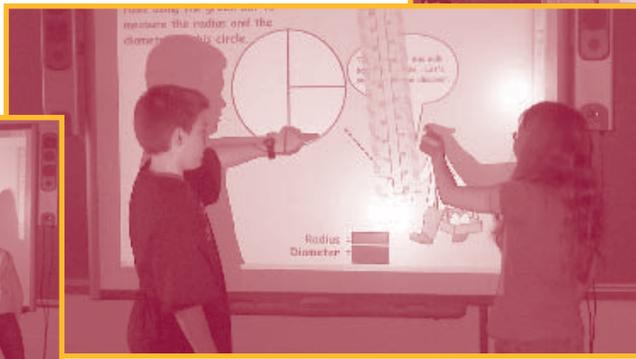
And, with a pen from the pen tray, students or teachers can write notes in digital ink. They can write over any application or website to highlight key points or record observations.

“The SmartBoard engages student’s different learning styles, whether visual, auditory or kinesthetic,” said McCallister. “Students using the interactive whiteboard see large, colorful movable images and diagrams. Teachers can use interactive math lessons that correlate to their textbooks and Pennsylvania Academic Standards to engage students in the learning process.”

While there will be a SmartBoard installed in each of the Middle and High School math classrooms, two additional portable SmartBoards and projectors will be purchased for use in other curricular areas as well as devices called Wireless Airliners

that allow the SmartBoard technology to be used in the five new science classrooms and other curricular areas.

McCallister said that there are currently three interactive whiteboards on loan to the Math Department to enable teachers and students the opportunity to “get a feel” for the boards.



Steel Valley School District Telephone Directory

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 Colleen F. Andreyo, Business Office Secretarycandreyo@svsd.k12.pa.us412-464-3605

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Steel Valley Middle School

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Kevin M. Walsh, Principalkwalsh@svsd.k12.pa.us412-464-3645
 Steven A. Large, Dean of Studentsslarge2@svsd.k12.pa.us412-464-3612

Barrett Elementary School

221 East 12th Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120

Sharon L. Fisher, Interim Principalsfisher@svsd.k12.pa.us412-464-3630

Franklin Primary Center

220 East Oliver Road, Munhall, PA 15120

Dr. Beth J. Tully, Principalbtully@svsd.k12.pa.us412-464-3671

Park Elementary School

Main and Cambria Streets, Munhall, PA 15120

Dr. Beth J. Tully, Principalbtully@svsd.k12.pa.us412-464-3640

New Middle School Reading Program...

THE READING APPRENTICESHIP FRAMEWORK: A METACOGNITIVE LEARNING PROCESS

What is Reading?

Reading is not just a basic skill; reading is a complex process. Think for a moment about the last thing you read. A school bulletin? A newspaper analysis of rising conflict in another part of the world? A report on water quality in your community? A novel? If you could recapture your mental processing, you would notice that you read with reference to a particular world of knowledge and experience related to the text. The text evoked voices, memories, knowledge, and experiences from other times and place—some long dormant, some more immediate.

As experienced readers read, they begin to generate a mental representation, or gist, which serves as an evolving framework for understanding subsequent parts of the text. As they read further, they test this evolving meaning and monitor their understanding, paying attention to inconsistencies that arise as they interact with the text.

• **Reading is problem solving.** Reading is not a straightforward process of lifting the words off the page. It is a complex process of problem solving in which the reader works to make sense of a text not just from the words and sentences on the page but also from the ideas, memories, and knowledge evoked by those words and sentences.

• **Fluent reading is not the same as decoding.** Skillful reading does require readers to carry out certain tasks in a fairly automatic manner. Decoding skills—quick words recognition and ready knowledge of relevant vocabulary, for example—are essential to successful reading. Fluency drives from the reader's ability not just to decode

or identify individual words but also to quickly process larger language units.

- **Reading is situationally bounded.** A person who understands one type of text is not necessarily proficient at reading all types. An experienced reader of dessert cookbooks can understand what is meant by "turn out on a wire rack to finish cooling" but may be completely unable to make sense of a legal brief.
- **Proficient readers share some key characteristics.** Different reading researchers emphasize different characteristics of good or proficient readers.

Good readers are...

- Mentally engaged
- Motivated to read and to learn
- Socially active around reading tasks
- Strategic in monitoring the interactive processes that assist comprehension:
 - Setting goals that shape their processes,
 - Monitoring their emerging understanding of a text, and
 - Coordinating a variety of comprehension strategies to control the reading process.

Dimensions of Classroom Life Supporting Reading Apprenticeships

The following are the four dimensions necessary to support adolescent reading development:

- **Social dimension:** community building in the classroom, including recognizing the resources brought by each member and

developing a safe environment for students to be open about their reading difficulties.

- **Personal dimension:** developing students' identities and self-awareness as readers, as well as their purposes for reading and goals for reading improvement.
- **Cognitive dimension:** developing readers' mental processes, including their problem-solving strategies.
- **Knowledge building dimension:** identifying and expanding the kinds of knowledge readers bring to a text and further develop through interaction with that text.

Metacognitive Conversation at the Center

At the center of these interacting dimensions, and tying them together, is an ongoing conversation in which teacher and students think about and discuss their personal relationships to reading, the social environment and resources of the classroom, their cognitive activity, and the kinds of knowledge required to make sense of text. The *metacognitive* conversation is carried on both internally, as teacher and students individually read and consider their own mental processes, and externally, as they talk about their reading processes, strategies, knowledge resources, and motivations and their interactions with and affective responses to texts.

Metacognition, simply put, is thinking about thinking.

Through metacognition, apprentice readers begin to become aware of their reading processes and, indeed, that there are reading processes.

Steel Valley Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Winner Samantha Faulds' Essay

The pursuit of higher education is a choice, not a requirement. As stated by Ezra Pound, "Real education must ultimately be limited to one who INSISTS on knowing, the rest is mere sheep-herding." To make the decision to obtain a degree is a choice that will add value to your future plans. That degree symbolizes that you have committed yourself to learning and are determined to make a difference. Reverend Edward Malloy once said, "A college degree is not a sign that one is a finished product but an indication a person is prepared for life."

I have chosen to major in Political Science

with a concentration in International Relations and Law. This major is designed for the student to understand the complexity of political developments in the United States and throughout the world. My career goal is to become a foreign diplomat, possibly working for the United Nations. There are 30 affiliated organizations that assist in the UN in solving the problems of humanity. The purpose of the UN is to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, to cooperate in solving international problems, to promote respect for human rights and to

be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations. In order to be able to uphold these standards, one must have the knowledge of the world: its languages, cultures, policies and laws.

To reach my goal to become a servant of the world, I need to obtain this knowledge through my pursuit of higher education. Malcolm Forbes once said, "Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one." Once this feat is accomplished, I can head out into the world ready to make a difference.

Steel Valley Middle School raises over \$2,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Sixty Steel Valley Middle School students participated in the 2006 Math-A-Thon benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and raised \$2,307.22. This was the 15th year that the Middle School participated in the event.

The Math-A-Thon is an educationally-based fundraising program; participating students obtained sponsors for the number of math problems they completed in special workbooks. The program is sponsored

nationally by Six Flags Theme Parks.

Beth McCallister, academic math coach, and the Steel Valley Middle School math teachers coordinated the Math-A-Thon. "We're very proud of the students for working so hard to make the event a success," said McCallister. "St. Jude will be able to use Steel Valley's contribution to help them in their fight against cancer and other childhood diseases."

2006 Math-A-Thon Participants

8th Graders

Katie Bennett
Nate Blazeovich
Ellen Cao
Carolyn Dixon
Jacob Laird
Liz Lengyel
Lauren Lichtenfels
Dominic Marcone
Amanda Morgan
Emily Muha
Kristen Olson
Mike O'Malley
Steven Parker
Lauren Schram
Matthew Vasilevich

7th Graders

Natalie Abraham
Mark Balaban
Kelly Bennett
Ashley Besh
Audra Besnak
Chris Cerda
Mike Cerda
Alexandra Chir
Jessica Coddington
Kaleen Cunningham
David Dzujko
Caulin Edmunds
Sara Fallon
Allie Fisher
Brystol Johnson
Miranda Ladik
Abby Maddigan
Iyauna Maloy-Lewis
Jay Maloy
Angela Marcone
Ilyssa Nera
Mike Pavasko
Jayson Phouthavong
Nicholas Sarraino
Anthony Theofiledes
Craig Wargo
Chelsea Watkins
Gary Whitling

6th Graders

Cameron Boston
Jillian Churilla
Andrea Cibula
Nicole Curtin
Zachary Edelmann
Brian Estochin
Kelli Findlay
Audrey Gardner
Jacque Joll
Allie Mehok
Emily Olson
Louis Petrone
Mandy Potoma
Jamie Seiss
Joe Sims
Taylor Szczepankowski
Allison Yuhus

Ways to Practice Your Child's Oral Reading Fluency

Partner Reading #1

- Child reads a section or page to parent.
- Then, parent reads a different section or page to child.

Partner Reading #2 (Echo Reading)

- Parent reads a section or a page.
- Child reads the same section or page that was read by the parent.

Timed Readings

- Parent times the child reading orally for one minute.
- Count the number of words read correctly and jot that number down.
- Keep track of the timed reading numbers so that the child can see improvement.
- Try these different ways of timing:

One week have the child read the same piece three times and check fluency count.

The next week have the child read a different piece for each timed reading.

Compare the scores. Usually reading the same piece increases the score.

Point out how practicing really helps!

Other Oral Reading Activities

- Practice oral reading fluency with nursery rhymes (for younger children) and with poetry.
- When riding in a car with your children have them read the road signs to you.

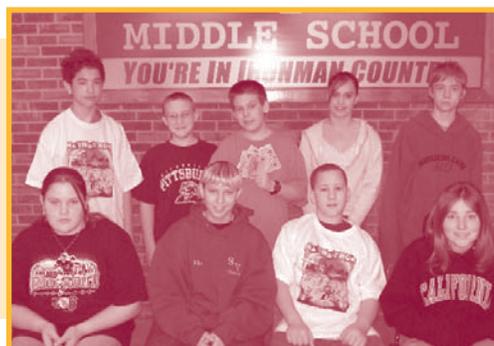
Be sure to choose reading pieces from all types of materials: books, magazines, comics, newspapers, road signs, menus, etc.

Top Ten Math-A-Thon Fund-raisers

Bottom row (l-r): Chelsea Watkins, Jillian Churilla, Joe Sims, Kelli Findlay

Top row (l-r): Jayson Phouthavong, Craig Wargo, Gary Whitling, Brystol Johnson, Steve Parker

Missing: Lauren Schram



From Musicians to Writers and more... Steel Valley High School to hold Career Day with almost 60 Professionals in Attendance

On Thursday, March 23 from 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Steel Valley High School students explored various career paths at “*The Future is Mine*,” a career day held in the High School Gymnasium.

Participants included Actor **David Conrad** (from the CBS show *The Ghost Whisperer*), State Representative **Marc Gergely**, Sen. **Jay Costa**, Musician **Bill Deasy** from the band The Gathering Field, and Artist **Robert Qualters**.

In fact, close to 60 individuals from a variety of fields including business, healthcare, theology, art, politics, military, criminology, and engineering attended the event to meet with students and discuss their professions.

“We hope we helped make students aware of possible careers available to them so that they make more informed decisions,” said Secondary Gifted Program Teacher and Event Organizer **Michelle Maddigan**. “And, we’re concerned that college students are changing their major on average now more frequently than ever before...maybe an earlier introduction to career options will help them make deciding upon a college major more effective.”

The career day was sponsored by the Mon Valley Education Consortium (MVEC), a non-profit, community-based group which works to respond to the challenges faced by school districts. The MVEC works with Steel Valley and approximately 20 other school districts in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Students attended the event from their English classes throughout the school day.



BELOW IS A COMPLETE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

ARTS

Tim Kaulen - Fine Artist / Sculpture/ site specific work)
Tami Dixon - Actress / Drama instructor / Theatre Company Manager
Lea Blackwell - Scenic Painter / Head Scenic-City Theatre Pittsburgh)
Vanessa German - Poet / Performance Artist/ Visual Artist/ Motivational Speaker
Douglass McDermott - Master Carpenter/ Set Designer
Mike Pfalzgraff - Designer/ Illustrator
Tom Sarver - Painter/ Puppeteer
Peter Lambert - Decorative Iron Worker Welder-Owner & Proprietor Red Star Iron Works)
Suzanne Pace - Director American Short Reading Series / Pittsburgh Arts Lectures)
Brian Butko - Editor/Author
Kathy Puchy - Penn. Culinary Institute
Robert Qualters - Artist
Charley Brodsky - Photographer
Adam Piscitelli - Photographer
Heather Mull - Staff Photographer
Teresa Foley - Video / Artist / Media
Ian Green - Artist / Painter
Paul Glader - Reporter Wall Street Journal
Ed Masley - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Pop Music Critic
Joey Murphy - Musician, Director of Marketing
Rick Sebak - TV Producer
Dave Conrad - Actor
Bill Deasy - Musician
Tyrone Ward - Library Director

MEDICAL

Tammy Edwards - Psychologist
Jane Carey - Massage Therapist
John Wilczek - Occupational Therapist
Dr. Mark Minuto - Chiropractor
Valerie McCann - Pharmacist
David Dorko - Pharmacist
Cheryle Stone - Nurse
Dave Hinzman - Dietitian
Marie Bainbridge - Respiratory Therapist
Marcellus Boggs - Medical Staff (MD)
Jeanine Richardson - Personal Trainer
Mike Sarraino - Funeral Director
Patty Deegan - Vet Technician
Michelle Chesmer - Vet Technician

EMERGENCY

Jamie Kielur - Fire Fighter
Bill Purifoy - Fire Fighter

THEOLOGICAL

Father Robert Buzak
Rev. Greg Golden
Lori Ellis
Father Nick

BUSINESS

Leeanne Rattigan - Beautician/ Business Owner
Jan Dofner - Public Relations of Rivers of Steel
Bob Metz - Community Related Manager
Ron Baraff - Director of Museum Collections
Nancy Schepis - Volunteer Coordinator

POLITICS

Mark Gergely - PA. State Rep.
Mayor Dindak - Mayor
Sen. Jay Costa - District Senator

CRIMINOLOGY

John Smart - Attorney
Joe Dominick - Coroner
Michael Stagnac - Police officer
Dave Smalley - Mumball Police Officer
Linda Tanes - Probation Officer
Shawn Forbes - Probation Officer

UNITED STATES RECRUITERS

James M. Willson - Navy
Nicholaus Shoaf - Air Force
Kim Marlin - Coast Guard
Sgt. Massey - Marine Corps
Army

