



## CVHS Ranks on Top of the County in Latest *Future Ready PA Index* Report

Each year, the Pennsylvania Department of Education publicly releases the Future Ready PA Index to evaluate schools on more than just standardized test scores. This tool illustrates student and school performance based on three major categories: *State Assessment, On-Track*, and *College and Career Measures*.

Central Valley High School finished near the top of all Beaver County schools in achieving proficiency on the Algebra, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams. Regarding meeting Annual Academic Growth (PVAAS), CVHS finished first in Algebra and Biology in the county.

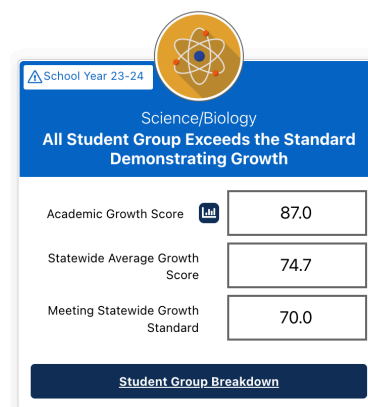
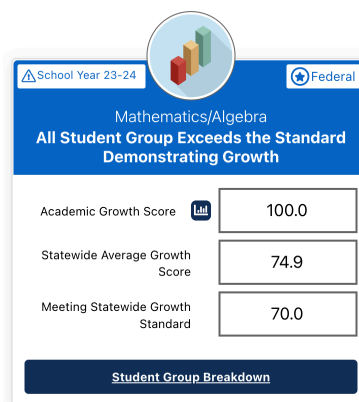
In addition, 98.9% of our graduating Class of 2024 met the Career Standards Benchmark, largely due to the Career Day and activities that have become a regular part of the high school events calendar. Our graduation rate of 87.2% was another wonderful mark for our school district. **Most significantly, however, Central Valley High School received an Overall Building Level Score of 79.4 which ranked #1 in Beaver County for the third year in a row!**

	2023-24 SPP	2022-23 SPP	2021-22 SPP
Central Valley HS	79.4 (1st)	80.6 (1st)	82.0 (1st)
Beaver HS	79.2	79.9	78.0
South Side HS	78.0	76.5	72.6
Western Beaver HS	74.0	70.5	73.6
Blackhawk HS	73.0	79.9	75.0
New Brighton HS	71.2	67.2	68.0
Hopewell HS	69.8	71.0	67.7
Rochester HS	68.6	61.9	67.1
Riverside HS	63.5	64.7	74.6
Beaver Falls Area HS	58.3	57.4	58.5
Freedom HS	56.5	67.0	63.8
Ambridge HS	53.9	59.4	66.1
Aliquippa JHS	49.2	51.3	49.6
Quaker Valley HS	85.6	83.4	85.6
North Allegheny HS	85.0	85.1	91.7
Montour HS	75.4	77.1	
Moon Area HS	74.7	70.0	80.4
West Allegheny HS	68.5	80.1	72.6
PA CYBER	54.4	55.9	57.7

An area of improvement for the high school is Regular Attendance. A little over twenty percent of our students are considered chronically absent (10 or more days absent). Attendance Incentives have been instituted this year as we aim to lower this percentage of our population. Studies show that attendance directly correlates to academic achievement. So hopefully next year's Future Ready PA Index report will be even better.

### Meeting Annual Academic Growth Expectations (PVAAS) ⓘ

We are extremely proud of the hard work and efforts of our students, parents, and staff that help make Central Valley High School "the leading education model fostering individual success for all students." We look forward to continued success in 2024 - 25 and beyond.



---

## IN OUR HIGH SCHOOL:

### Cultural Connections

Students from the **German III**, **German IV**, and **German V** classes had the opportunity to attend a seminar on German history at Washington & Jefferson College. **Frau Kain** was accompanied by students: **Damoni Anzur**, **Emily Goberish**, **Julia Henderson**, **Braiden Hostutler**, **Addy McFadden**, **Cameron McGuire**, **Nolan O'Neill**, **Finnegan O'Toole**, **Lily Seese**, and **Noah Taylor**. The seminar was held on **October 29th** and focused on the Berlin Airlift, an important event in World War II. Following the seminar, together with students from Bethel Park, Upper St. Clair, North Allegheny, and Moon Township, Central Valley students competed in teams to research aspects of Operation Vittles, which saved Berlin from Soviet occupation in 1948.



### The Ultimate Performance

On **October 30th**, **Ms. Lewis** and the **CVHS Marching Band** held their annual Band in Revue showcase. During the performance, the students performed all of the songs played throughout the football season. This show consisted of this year's halftime show "Heartbreaker," "Main Street America/Star Spangled Banner," "The CVHS Alma Mater," "Scare Tactics," "Animals," "Save Your Tears," "Feel This Moment," "Walking On Sunshine," "Runaway Baby," and a multitude of cheers including "The CV Fight Song" and "Planet Rock."

Later in December, Ms. Lewis's **Concert Band** held their annual Winter Concert. The concert music consisted of "Christmas Is Coming," "Greensleeves," "Sleigh Ride," "My Favorite Things," "All I Want For Christmas is You," and "Christmas At The Circus." The concert ended with Mrs. Lewis and the band encouraging the audience members to sing along to Christmas carols. Their hard work paid off!



### Holocaust History

On **November 12th**, **Mrs. Zilian's** and **Mrs. Kain's** students attended a Teen Screen event, sponsored by Film Pittsburgh, and they watched 999: *The Forgotten Girls*, a Holocaust documentary. Central Valley students watched the film with students from North Hills High School. The heartbreaking documentary focuses on the 999 teenage girls who were sent to Auschwitz on the first transport from Slovakia. The film follows the girls from the first days of their

---

imprisonment in 1942 until the liberation of the survivors in 1945. After the film, students posed questions to the director of the documentary, Heather Dune Macadam, who specializes in discussing the experience of young women during the Holocaust.

On **November 19th**, the **Holocaust** and **German** classes hosted Emily Loeb from the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh. Ms. Loeb is a "Generations Speaker" which means that she had a family member survive the Holocaust. She spoke fondly of her grandmother, Ilsa Dahl Cole (changed from Cohn), who, in 1941, arrived in the United States as a refugee. Ms. Loeb also discussed her extended family, some who perished during the Holocaust. Students got to listen to Ms. Loeb's grandmother's testimony and see many pictures of her family and her hometown of Geilenkirchen, Germany.



## Thanksgiving Dinner in Mrs. Hufnagle's Class



A Thanksgiving tradition at CVHS is when **Mrs. Hufnagle's** FCS classes prepare Thanksgiving dinner each year. Both her **International Foods** and **Food & Fitness** classes prepared Thanksgiving dinners. Some dishes included stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni and cheese, scalloped potatoes, candied yams, pumpkin and apple pie, deviled eggs, cornbread, and turkey, of course. Mrs. Hufnagle cooks the turkey while the students are in charge of making their favorite side dishes from scratch. This Thanksgiving lab had numerous benefits such as team-building skills and learning how to select, store, and serve aesthetically pleasing dishes. This also encourages and shows how to provide family-style meals. Research has proven that eating family meals has various benefits. Some benefits are encouraging healthier eating habits, preventing mental health disorders, and improving communication skills. Students look forward to setting their phones aside, collaborating with classmates, and sharing a feast with peers each year.



## Cultural Connections...Continued

On **December 11th**, **Frau Kain** and **Senora Gibson** took the **German III** and **Spanish III** students on a field trip to the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning. Here, students explored the Nationality Rooms where they learned about the cultures of Germany, India, Hungary, Africa, Japan, Turkey, Switzerland, Lithuania, The Philippines, Austria, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. The students discovered German folk tales set in stained glass, real crystal chandeliers created for an Austrian palace, and an ebony wood plank worth \$25,000!



## Gingerbread Houses or Confectionary Masterpieces



Students in **Ms. Hufnagle's International Foods and Food & Fitness** created unique gingerbread houses from scratch. They spent four days preparing the gingerbread dough, cutting and baking their individual house pieces as well as accessories, and two days of gluing and decorating. The finished products were on display in the cafeteria for the students and staff to place their votes on the best designs! Displayed below are some of the top performers! Who did you vote for?

Gingerbread house designers: **Jarius Baker, Joanne Chen, Noah Clark, Rosie Conti, Madelyn Cowie, Jack Dobronz, Taylor Dusold, Evin Gales, Jordan Grant, Jacob Hunter, Fabian Leon, Lauren Lesher, Claire Miloszewski, Ella Moran, Tyler Ondrusek, Kailey Plakosh, Lacey Pugh, Luca Sant'Eufemia, Alyvia Swedberg, and Angelina Vallecorsa.**

## Christmas Spirit at CVHS

Students in **Ms. Kryzwick** and **Ms. Weltner's** classes work hard throughout the year to develop skills that will benefit them after high school. The South B Busy Bees were hard at work creating snowman ornaments for the holidays. This activity taught valuable work skills and shows what it takes to work as a team. The class worked hard on all steps of the project from creating wooden snowmen, collecting orders, and getting the product distributed. The students also learned the importance of the financials behind the project too! Mr. Fiedler was an enormous help by cutting out the pieces! For this project, 75 snowmen were created and sold by these hard-working students.







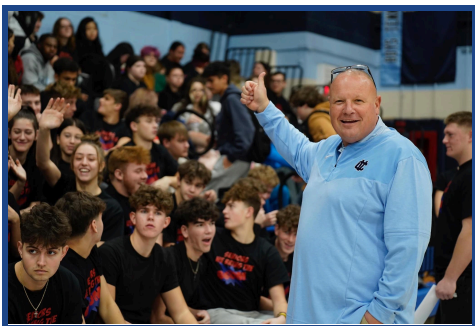
Outside the Central Valley High School office, it looked very festive for the holiday season! Mrs. Weltner's class and Mr. McCreary went to a Christmas tree farm and added hand-cut Christmas trees to the lobby. The trees have made the whole area smell of pine and Christmas spirit. On **December 9th**, **Mrs. Weltner's** class went to Hozak's Christmas tree farm and picked out two of the best trees for the front office lobby. The class then made the wonderful ornaments that are on the trees. The ornaments looked like hot cocoa mugs. After the holidays, all of the seniors were allowed to take their personalized ornaments home as a memento from high school. We hope the holiday decorations bring cheer to all students, teachers, and staff during the Christmas season. A big thank you to **Jack Cassida, Cole Hayden, Lupe Anderson-McLean, Mikayla Mineard, Natalie Samchuck, and Ava Tamburro** for all the hard work in making CVHS ready to celebrate Christmas.

## A Jolly Winter Choral Concert

On **December 10, 2024**, the **Central Valley High School Chorus**, directed by **Ms. Damp**, performed various songs to celebrate the holiday season. So many family, friends, staff, and community members attended the night of winter celebration! The performances included "Tidings of Comfort and Joy," "Twas the Night Before Christmas," "Sleigh Ride," "When Christmas Comes to Town," "Jazz Waltz of the Sugar Plum Fairy," "Joseph's Lullaby," "Long Ago In the Bleak Midwinter," "Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town," and a combined song titled "The Jingle All the Way Medley." These songs brought the Christmas spirit to life! Thanks to Ms. Damp and the CVHS Chorus for bringing the magic of Christmas to the whole community to enjoy.



## 53rd Winter Olympics in the Books



On **December 20, 2024**, CVHS students gathered in the gymnasium for the 53rd year of the **Winter Olympics**. The Winter Olympics first started at Center High School in 1971. The Olympics are organized by the students' activity directors, **Mrs. Kramer** and **Mrs. McCracken**, who spend time creating various games for students to compete in. Leading the senior class were: **Micheal Bendekovic, Alexandra Bickerstaff, Julia Haney, and Steven Rutherford**. They were responsible for selling t-shirts, making signs, and finding students to participate in the games. Each student went head-to-head for two hours competing to win points for their grade. The most popular events were: Tug of War, Volleyball, and Three Point Shoot-Out. In the end, the senior class took the overall win with a total of 192 points.

The juniors followed with 113 points, the sophomore class followed behind them with 74 points, and lastly the freshman followed with 59 points.



## What are Some Career Options in the Manufacturing Field?



Manufacturing is such a broad field, with many different job titles that cover a wide range of skill sets or interests from inspection and CNC machine operator to machinist and engineer. To generate new parts and products, manufacturing occupations will fall under the realm of high-tech STEM careers. Some examples are robotics technicians who build, install, test, or maintain robotic equipment or related automated manufacturing systems. Mechatronics engineers research, design, develop, or test automation, intelligent systems, smart gadgets, or industrial systems control. Also, more traditional careers like machinists and mechanical or industrial engineering. Salaries in manufacturing can range from \$55,000 to \$145,200 on average. We are in need of more workers/employees in this line of field and the education requirements range from a high school diploma and an

employer-provided on-the-job training. About 45% of Americans just have a high school diploma and work in manufacturing. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics shows significant job growth in manufacturing careers for the foreseeable future.

Currently, **Mr. Fiedler's Central Valley Bots IQ** students are learning all about CNC machines and machine safety as we are currently in the process of starting to make our robot parts. We even had the Bots IQ students make/edit a safety plan book to learn more about the rules and safety hazards of the machines that we use in the workshop.



---

## What's Bots IQ? What's their Mission?

BotsIQ is a manufacturing workforce initiative whose purpose is to introduce high school students to rewarding manufacturing employment opportunities. This is accomplished by inviting students to compete in a high school robotics tournament that is both engaging and hands-on. Through its main youth program, Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ, the Pittsburgh Chapter National Tooling & Machining Foundation has exposed manufacturing careers to high school students across southwestern Pennsylvania for over 20 years (BotsIQ). This combat robotics program has provided nearly 10,000 high school students with exciting, hands-on STEM learning as they design, build, and compete with their 15-pound robotic creations, all while developing the technical knowledge and skills required for rewarding advanced manufacturing and STEM career opportunities.

The Central Valley team will compete in the Bots IQ regional competition against about 50 competitors from 42 schools on April 11th and 12th. There will be 50 robots involved and the competition is FREE and open to the public. Information on the program and competition can be found at [www.botsiqpa.org](http://www.botsiqpa.org).

## 2nd Nine Weeks Academic Games Wrap Up

### **Tessa Holzer - Forensics**

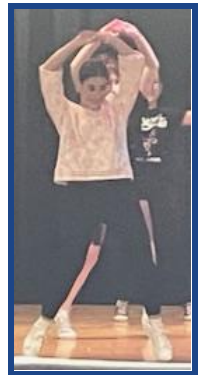
On **October 31st**, Freshman Tessa Holzer competed in three events at the Beaver County Fall Forensics Competition. She placed 3rd in Poetry Reading and 1st in Extemporaneous.

### **Roxanne Murtaugh, Dehlia Goss, Brooke Ladakos, and Chloe Reinstadtler - Propaganda**

On **November 22nd**, Sophomore Roxanne Murtaugh and Juniors Dehlia Goss, Brooke Ladakos, and Chloe Reinstadtler competed in the Beaver County Propaganda Competition. Propaganda is a reader game focused on techniques of persuasion. Brooke and Roxanne both earned their first qualification for the national competition to be held in Washington, D.C. in April.

### **Alex Vallecorsa - Quiz Bowl**

On **December 11th**, Sophomore Alex Vallecorsa competed in the Beaver County Quiz Bowl Competition at the BVIU. Quiz Bowl is a fast-paced trivia contest between Beaver County teams.



### **Tarasa Householder - Drama Days**

On **December 13th**, Sophomore Tarasa Householder participated in Drama Day at Beaver Falls High School. Pittsburgh Theater Arts individuals coach the students in three areas: Music, Acting, and Dance. Tarasa earned a lead role and executed her performance with expertise.

### **Zoe Russell - Equations**

On **December 17th**, Freshman Zoe Russell competed in the Beaver County Equations Competition at CCBC. Equations is a cube game in which players set goals and create solutions using numbers and operators revealed through a cube roll.



---

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:

### National Honor Society Supports Local Families and Spreads Holiday Cheer



This Fall, members of the **National Honor Society** at Central Valley High School organized a successful food drive to benefit the **Central Valley Food Pantry**. The food pantry serves families throughout the district, providing essential support to those in need. The NHS students worked together to collect and restock a variety of food items, which will be included in the backpacks sent home with students over long weekends and used to help ensure that families have enough food during the holidays. This generous effort reflects the NHS's commitment to community service and its dedication to making a positive impact on local families.

This holiday season, members of the **NHS** and dedicated high school volunteers brought joy and festive spirit to two community events that helped make the season brighter for local children. At the North Pole Event at Center Grange Primary School, NHS members and volunteers worked together to create a magical morning for the students. The event was filled with holiday-themed games, activities, and snacks. Additionally, NHS members collaborated with the Monaca Library to provide a delightful Santa-filled experience for local families. Volunteers helped set up the library, greeted children, and facilitated a variety of activities. Kids had the opportunity to create their own holiday wish lists, decorate cookies, and enjoy all the magic that comes with this special time of year. In another initiative, **FBLA** members joined forces with the NHS to create holiday cards for residents of assisted living facilities in the county. The cards, each featuring a personal message, were lovingly decorated and packed into envelopes by the students. This thoughtful gesture spread holiday cheer to those who may not have family nearby, ensuring that every resident felt remembered and appreciated this season.



### Business Leadership's Community Service Efforts

On **October 26th**, students in the **Business Leadership** class decided to improve the community's appearance. Project leaders **Emmit Cassano, Logan Maier, Grant Nemecek, and Elisha Saykin** held a clean-up in Center Township. A dozen volunteers from the class filled a dumpster with over 35 trash bags.

Another amazing project done by the Business Leadership Class was the middle school Halloween lock-in to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House. Students played basketball and cornhole and socialized with their friends. The event raised over \$400.00. Project leaders were **Brenna Hays, Maddy Miller, Travis O'Toole, Dylan Reed, Garrett Warsing, and Bria Zelesnik**.



On Thursday, **November 7th**, students **Ashley Bible, Nina Guandolo, Luci McKittrick, Lola Semovoski, and Audrey Steigerward** hosted a Community Bonfire for their project in front of the high school. In efforts to raise awareness for mental health and money for Nicolina's Wishes, food trucks were brought in for the event. Some of the trucks were Ambridge Italian Villa, Brusters, Curbside Cocina, J&J's, Papa Dukes, and Slurp N Burst. The event raised about \$1,700.00, and the bonfire was deemed a success.



## Unified Sports Field Trip to South Pointe



On Thursday, **October 31st**, **Mr. DiBenedetto** took **Marino Cercone, Gianna Gasperine, Ava Tamburro, and Cole Hayden** on a field trip to South Pointe for the Unified Youth Summit. Their goals were to promote inclusion and make all students feel as welcome in the high school as possible. While on the field trip, they discussed the Rain Rally, Polar Plunge, Fans in the Stands, and Polar Pop. This was to promote inclusive activities all across our high school community. After the informative field trip, the students came back with multiple great ideas for unified events in their districts.

## Art Students Spread Holiday Cheer in Downtown Monaca

On **November 25th**, students from CVSD made their mark in Monaca by painting on building windows to spread Christmas cheer. The following high school students attended: **Klark Beeman, Cassidy Burghardt, Delanie Buss, Olivia Cermak, Joanna Chen, Madelyn Cowie, Grace Engle, Abbagail Frazier, and Mandi Shaw**. The following middle school students attended: **Bella Anskate, Kendall Craft, Cameron Forman, Jordin Green, Alessa Hamner, Parker Hojdila, Brant Lenah, Autumn Mano, Molly McGuire, Cassidy Pfeiffer, Mylee Snyder, Brooklyn Wardell, and Genevieve Wilson**. Thanks again to all who participated in spreading Christmas joy this year!





## Turkey Giveaway

On **November 26th**, the nurses in the Central Valley School District gave away turkeys for the Thanksgiving season. The turkey giveaway was supported by donations from local churches and families to help fund the food pantry. Other items were provided to families on a case-by-case basis dependent on family needs such as clothing, shoes, hygiene items, and coats. CV nurses, **Mary Ann Kostelic, Erin Park, Kayse Hicks**, and several high school students worked to fundraise and organize distributions for the long weekend. We are so proud of all the hard work our staff does and hope this wonderful tradition happens again next year!



## Giving Hope to Cancer Patients

On **December 2, 2024**, **Mrs. Brown** and several **Club Hope** members brought snow globes, fun activity pages, socks, and Christmas ornaments to cancer patients at Shadyside Hospital. The Club Hope Foundation's CEO personally saw approximately 25 patients, but the entire Club Hope Organization saw three floors of cancer patients. The Central Valley Club Hope members participated in a wonderful day of giving back. The students who attended were **Ava Ervin, Gianna Gasperine**, and **Brenna Hays**. Club Hope continues to do amazing and worthwhile community service events throughout the whole school year.

## FBLA Advances to Hershey

**Ms. Delon's FBLA students** in grades 9-12 had the opportunity to go to Robert Morris University on **Monday, December 9th** for the Regional Leadership Conference. This event had very important and insightful meetings and messages delivered to students about hard work and information about Robert Morris University. The RMU staff announced the names of students who qualified for Hershey at the state level. Over fifty CVHS students will be competing at the state level. Congratulations to all the Central Valley students! Students will be traveling to Hershey for the competition from **April 7th-10th**.





---

## IN OUR DISTRICT:

### Winter Keystone Exams

The Keystone Exams are a state-issued graduation requirement established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This school year's Winter Wave of testing began on **January 7th**. Keystone Exams were administered in Algebra for students enrolled in Honors Algebra I and Literature for students enrolled in English 10 during the first semester. In addition, any student who has taken any of the Keystone Exams and did not achieve proficiency was required to retake the exam.



The Spring Wave of Keystone Testing will take place **later in May** for those students enrolled in Algebra, Biology, and Literature (English 10) during the second semester. All students have until the end of junior year to pass exams and meet this requirement.

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **January 21st** - First Day of the Third Nine-Week Grading Period
- **January 25th** - Polar Plunge
- **January 27th** - Second Nine Weeks Report Distribution (Online in PowerSchool)
  
- **February 10th** - Snow Day (No School)
- **February 11th** - NHS New Member Induction Ceremony
- **February 12th** - Central Valley School Board Meeting (Voting Session)
- **February 20th** - Central Valley School Board Meeting (Work Session)
- **February 28th** - High School Musical
- **February 29th** - High School Musical
  
- **March 1st** - High School Musical
- **March 12th** - Central Valley School Board Meeting (Voting Session)
- **March 20th** - Central Valley School Board Meeting (Work Session)
- **March 21st** - Last Day of Third Nine-Week Grading Period

