



*"The Central Valley School District will be the leading educational model fostering individual success for all students."*

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

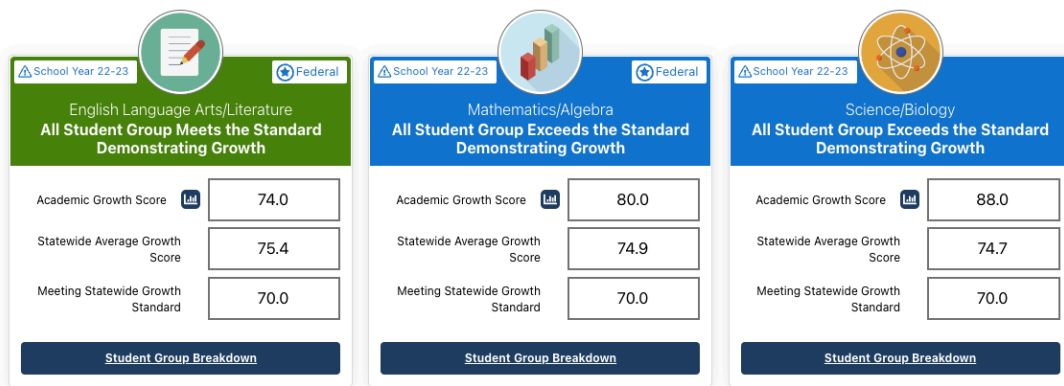
Each year, the Pennsylvania Department of Education publicly releases the Future Ready PA Index as a tool to evaluate schools on more than just standardized test scores. This tool illustrates student and school performance based on three major categories: State Assessment Measures, On-Track Measures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



Central Valley High School finished atop of all schools in Beaver County in all tested subject areas, Algebra, Biology and Literature in terms of academic achievement on the Keystone Exams. In addition, 97.7% of our graduating Class of 2022 met the Career Standards Benchmark, in large part due to the Career Day and activities that have become a regular part of the high school events calendar. Our graduation rate of 93.8% was the highest mark since the FRPAI began. **Most significantly, however, Central Valley High School received an Overall Building Level Score of 80.6 which also ranked first in Beaver County!**

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 educational model fostering individual success for all students." We look forward to continued success in 2023-24 and beyond.

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



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## IN OUR HIGH SCHOOL:

### Physics is Phun

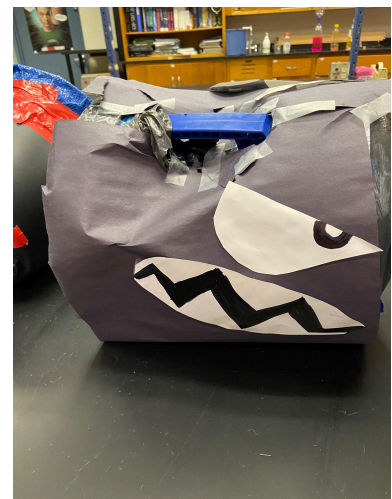
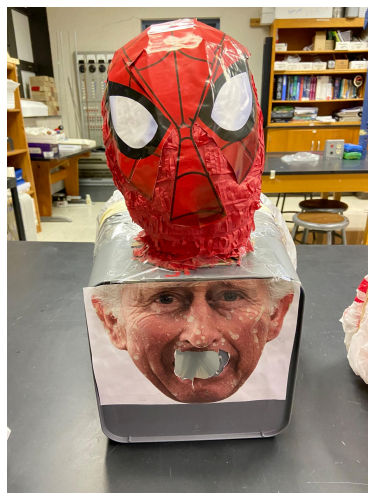
**Ms. Hyatt's Physics and AP Physics** classes participated in multiple fun activities themed with the different holidays that occurred during the first semester. Her students love to switch it up and do fabulous experiments to make the class more exciting.



Welcome to the mysterious and eerie world of the Haunted Physics Lab, where science meets the supernatural in a spine-tingling fusion of knowledge and the unknown. Nestled within the darkened corridors of an abandoned laboratory, this enigmatic facility promises an unforgettable journey through the realms of both the scientific and the paranormal. As the students stepped through the creaking doors, they were transported to a realm where strange phenomena and optical illusions play tricks on their minds, challenging their understanding of the physical world. The students were captivated, perplexed, and perhaps even terrified as they explored the supernatural science experiments and optical enigmas that awaited them in this chilling and otherworldly realm. All students enjoyed the Haunted Physics Lab, where reality and illusion collide, and where the laws of nature may not always apply as they should.

The Physics classes also channeled their inner pilgrim and participated in a turkey shoot! The Annual Physics Turkey Shoot combines precision and creativity in a friendly competition. Students designed and built devices that can extinguish a candle positioned 15 feet away. They also competed for the most creative design.

- Winning team (extinguishing a candle from 12 feet) is **Ava Ervin** and **Mia Eberhardt**
- Most creative design from AP Physics 1 is the true identity of Spider-Man designed by **Nate Lion** and **Sean Kennelly**.
- The winning design from Physics class is the shark designed by **Hannah Stolec** and **Dominique Douglas**.



## Hop On the Band Wagon

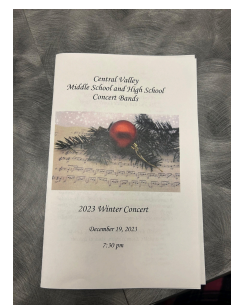
On **December 22nd**, nine of the high school band members performed for the students of both Center Grange Primary School and Todd Lane Elementary School. The nine students were **Ben Schurr, Cooper Mitchell, Dylan Shiel, Ethan Burkhammer, Liam Cairns, Matthew Basko, Mya Hazelwod, Paige Phillips, and Patrick St. Francois**. They played the songs “Silent Night,” “Frosty the Snowman,” and “Jingle Bells” while parading throughout the halls.

The students laughed with glee and could not wait for Santa Claus to finally arrive.



**Dylan Shein, Mya Hazelwood, and Paige Phillips** earned seats in the PMEA District 5 Honors Band. Their performance at Slippery Rock University took place on **December 7th, 8th, and 9th**. The students competed against other students from different counties, including Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer. Mya Hazelwood scored 7th chair clarinet, out of almost 40 students. Dylan Shiel scored 2nd chair euphonium, out of 8. Paige Phillips scored 3rd chair flute, out of almost 30. Our incredible students continue to exceed our expectations everyday!

The band's winter/Christmas concert took place on **December 19th**. The band began with the song “Here We Come A Caroling.” This was followed by “Skaters’ Waltz,” “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming,” “A Carmen Christmas,” “Snow Day Celebration,” and “Joy to the World.” Their closing song was a “Christmas Sing-A-Long,” where the audience was encouraged to follow along as the band played. Their hard work truly paid off after this exceptional performance.



## Giving Hope to Cancer Patients



Throughout the holiday season, **Ms. Brown** and members of Club Hope spread cheer for those experiencing difficult times with their health. **Ava Ervin, Gianna Gasperine, and Abigale Stewart**, members of Club Hope, volunteered at the Club Hope Foundation on **November 11th** to help make a holiday craft. On **December 6th, Ava Ervin, Gianna Gasperine, and Skylar Welling** delivered the crafts to cancer patients all throughout Shadyside Hospital. Club Hope continues to do wonderful and worthwhile community service events throughout the whole school year.



## Thanksgiving Dinner Enjoyed by FCS Classes



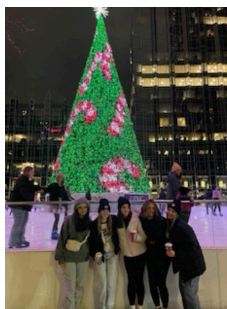
A Thanksgiving tradition at CVHS is when **Mrs. Hufnagle's** FCS classes prepare Thanksgiving dinner each year. Mrs. Hufnagle cooks the turkey and each group is responsible for preparing their favorite Thanksgiving side dish. Each dish must be completed from scratch. Some delicious sides that are made each year include: stuffing, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, cornbread, cheesy potatoes, pumpkin pie, deviled eggs, rolls, cranberry sauce, and green bean casserole! This Thanksgiving lab has 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.



## Foreign Language Field Trips to the Burgh

The advanced **German and Spanish students** were invited to tour the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning. **Senora Gibson** and **Frau Kain** were the eager chaperones for this field trip. They toured several of the 31 rooms, each designed to commemorate different cultures, including Austria, Russia, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Switzerland. During this field trip, students got to ask questions about the language rooms and learned valuable history. These students were able to learn some new facts about the language they love at Central Valley High School.



Members of the **German Club, French Club, Spanish Club, and FBLA** were invited on a field trip to Krampus Fest at Market Square in downtown Pittsburgh. Krampus Fest takes place on the night before St. Nicholas Day in southern German and Austrian cultures and includes a parade of the frightening Krampuses, who are meant to persuade children to behave. Students visited the German-style Peoples Gas Christmas Market and ice skated at the nearby PPG Ice Rink.



# A Jolly Christmas from the CVHS Students

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 a



new product to sell for the holidays. This activity taught valuable work skills and shows what it takes to run a small business. The class worked hard on all steps of the project from creating the wooden trees to collecting orders and getting the

product distributed. The students also learned the financials behind it too. Mr. Fiedler was an enormous help by cutting the trees! For this project, 74 trees 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. Welter's class and Mr. McCreary, went to a Christmas tree farm, added hand cut Christmas trees to the lobby. The trees have made the whole area smell of pine and Christmas. On **December 4th, 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 adorable ornaments that are on the trees. The ornaments are supposed to look like travel cups of coffee



from Starbucks, and they have all of the seniors' names on them. 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, Mia Koch, Lupe Anderson-McLean, Mikayla Mineard, Natalie Samchuck, and Zander Soliz** for all the hard work in making CVHS ready to celebrate Christmas!



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# Spanish Traditions in Central Valley

Las Posadas is a traditional Mexican Christmas celebration that takes place during the nine nights leading up to Christmas Eve, from December 16th to December 24th. The word "posada" translates to "inn" or "lodging" in English. Las Posadas is a cherished tradition in Mexico and is also celebrated in other Latin American countries and among Hispanic communities in the United States. During this time, communities come together to reenact the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter in Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus. On **December 21st, 2023**, the students in **Mrs. Gibson's Spanish III class** performed by wandering the halls and classrooms and asking students and teachers if they had any room for them.



## The Seniors Win It!



made a halfcourt shot, a difficult task that is usually unheard of. In the end, the overall winner was the Senior Class with a total score of 151, followed by a close call from the Juniors at 142.

On **December 22nd, 2023**, CVHS students were gathered in the gymnasium for the annual **Winter Olympic Games**. Leading up to the event, the Class Officers were responsible for selling t-shirts for the students in their grade to wear to represent their class. They also each created a sign that went along with the theme of their shirts. The Student Activities Directors, **Ms. Kramer** and **Ms. McCracken**, organized 12 different events that the students participated in. The students went head-to-head competing to win points for their grade. The most popular events of the Winter Olympics this year were the Obstacle Course, Tug of War, and the Strong Man Challenge. This year, the Half-Time Shot competition rose to fame when the sophomore class



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## Character Speed Dating

On **January 10th**, **Mrs. Greco's AP Literature & Composition**, in preparation for the final exam, participated in a speed dating exercise. In this exercise, each student received a character from a book, short story, or poem that was read throughout the semester. Each student had the chance to look back on the first half of the school year and act as if their



characters were on a date. During this game, the students got a chance to take a break from preparation of the final exam. Once each student talked, they picked their least and most favorite date. Some of the seniors who participated were, **Sydney Slater** as Ophelia from *Hamlet*, **Will Manning** as Amir from *The Kite Runner*, and **Sydney Sekely** as Connie from the short story "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" This was a perfect way for the seniors to joke around and let out a lot of laughs. Overall, it was the best way to study past readings to prepare for the final.



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:

### Academic Games: A Feature on Drama Days

Drama Day is a special day where students from all different experience levels go to work in a musical theater workshop. Every year, the students put on a different scene from a popular musical. This year, Drama Day was held on **December 18th** at Beaver Falls High School. **Katrina Panek**, who is a senior at Central Valley, participated and said the scene that was performed was from the musical, *Pippin*, which is a very whimsical and theatrical musical. There are three different actions performed during the work day. The students are tasked to perform a singing, acting, and dancing workshop. All three segments are then combined together to create the best possible performance. Katrina also added that she personally believes that Drama Day is a very rewarding experience. Katrina says that she has participated for three years, and at first it was very nerve racking, but over time it became more enjoyable. She met countless new people and had a great time. The students separate into three groups of about 12-14 people and practice performing. The best part about Drama Day is meeting new people and getting to see everyone's unique talents, which is what makes Drama Day so special.



# FBLA Advance to Hershey Competition



**Ms. Delon's FBLA students** in grades 9-12 had the opportunity to go to Robert Morris University on **Tuesday January 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. The following students will be competing at the state level: **Addison Woelfel, Aidan Svanda, Alexandra Bickerstaff, Ariaahna Cain, Ashley Bible, Ava Fisher, Avery Soriano, Brandon Porter, Brooklyn White, Bryn Dolata, Christian Thompson, Delaney Mccarter, Delilah Dohanich, Donovan Matsook,**

**Elizabeth Warrick, Ellora Economos, Emma Mrkonja, Francesca Bell, Gaille Oneill, Giada Digiovine, Isabella Gabauer, Jacob Kerlin, Joseph Skibinski, Julia Haney, Julian Semovoski, Kaitlyn Strother, Kalecia Mcleod, Kaylee Hill, Lacey Aikens, Lucas Householder, Madelyn Cowie, Madilyn Feher, Mckenzie Rizor, Mia Spinelli, Michael Crea, Nicholas Cercone, Nolan O'neill, Owen Friend, Paige Phillips, Paige Warzynski, Peyton Hogue, Quinn Connolly, Riley Norton, Sienna Zelesnik, Sonya Householder, Sophia Bell, Sophia Colonias, Sophie Moidel, Sydnee Hill, Tanner Stevenson, Teonii Dawkins, Tyler Strickland, Will Manning, and Wyatt Strickler.** Congratulations to all the Central Valley students! Students will be traveling to Hershey for the competition from April 7th-10th.



# Combining Skills to Help the Environment

Students in **Mr. Whipkey's Conservation Science and Ecology** class are currently using mechanical drawing skills to re-draw plans for birdhouses. **Brandon Heater and Chris Pisok** are using mechanical engineering skills, learned in **Mr. Fiedler's Mechanical Engineering Class**, to create plans that the Conservation Science students will then use to build birdhouses that will be placed throughout the Central Valley campus. These birdhouses will then attract and house songbirds strengthening the habitat here at Central Valley High School.





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# National Honors Society Program Empowers Students to be Transformative Leaders

Under the leadership of **Mrs. Jones** and **Mrs. Dzumba-Rubb**, the National Honors Society program at Central Valley High School is making a tremendous impact. This program is not just about academic excellence, but it also aims to empower and equip students with the knowledge and skills to be transformative leaders in their school, community, and their future beyond.

One of the key aspects of the program is bridging the gap between students and school leaders. It provides a platform for students to express their thoughts, feelings, and needs, ensuring that their voices are heard and valued. This open line of communication fosters a strong sense of community and collaboration within the school. Numerous noteworthy events took place within the organization during the second nine-weeks and with many more to come!



On **October 21, 2023**, the Central Valley PTA and various community participants came together to organize a delightful Trunk or Treat event for the elementary-aged children in the community. High school students generously volunteered their time and creativity, adding to the excitement of the event. Trunks were beautifully decorated, and "booths" and "stands" were set up for the children to Trick or Treat. It was a memorable evening filled with treats, prizes, and cherished memories.

This fall, the NHS held a heartwarming new and gently used "Hoodie" drive. Recognizing that everyone has at least one hoodie they can part with in their closet, the NHS collected over 75 hoodies! These hoodies were then donated to two local organizations, which will distribute them to residents in need in Beaver County. This initiative not only provided warmth but also spread a sense of community and compassion.



The National Honor Society went above and beyond to support children in foster care by securing donations, shopping, and creating emergency bags during the holiday season. These bags were specifically designed to provide comfort and aid during the challenging transition of moving into a new residence. Each bag contained essential items to ensure a smooth and comforting experience during this difficult time.

On **November 22, 2023**, the Nation Honors Society and fellow high school students came together to spread holiday cheer at Center Grange Primary and Todd Lane Elementary. With their creative talents, the students worked tirelessly to create a festive and welcoming holiday theme for the primary schools. Their efforts brought joy and excitement to the young children within the community.

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## 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 4th**. Keystone Exams were administered in Algebra for students enrolled in Honors Algebra and in Literature for students enrolled in English 10 during the first semester. In addition, any student that has taken any of the Keystone Exams and did not achieve proficiency were 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 their junior year to pass exams and meet this requirement.

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **January 20th** - High School Semi Formal
- **January 24th** - First Day of the Third Nine Weeks Grading Period
- **January 27th** - Polar Plunge
- **January 29th** - Second Nine Weeks Report Distribution (Online in PowerSchool)
  
- **February 7th** - NHS New Member Induction Ceremony
- **February 12th** - Snow Day (No School)
- **February 14th** - Central Valley School Board Meeting (Voting Session)
- **February 22nd** - Central Valley School Board Meeting (Work Session)
- **February 29th** - High School Musical
  
- **March 1st and 2nd** - High School Musical
- **March 13th** - Central Valley School Board Meeting (Voting Session)
- **March 21st** - Central Valley School Board Meeting (Work Session)
- **March 27th** - Last Day of Third Nine Weeks Grading Period

