

The

Chalkboard

A Report from the Wattsburg Area Schools

2007/2008 School Year

June 2008

<http://www.wattsburg.org>

Congratulations, Class of 2008!

Baccalaureate services for Seneca High School's Class of 2008 will be held on Sunday, June 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Pastor Dan Young from the Erie First Assembly Church will be the guest speaker. Graduation ceremonies will take place on Wednesday, June 4, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

Four students are competing for Valedictorian and Salutatorian this year. Formal announcements of these positions will not occur until the school year ends and final grades are calculated. The four students are: Christopher Pencille, Tatyana Borisenko, Nora Nies, and Jill Koehler. Faculty Choice is Kevin Larson Jr., and Class Choice is Joshua Metzger.



Back row: Christopher Pencille, Tatyana Borisenko
Front row: Nora Nies, Jill Koehler

*Behind us are memories.
Beside us are friends.
Before us are dreams
that will never end.*

Tatyana Borisenko, daughter of Veniamin and Anna Borisenko, has been recognized for her academic success throughout her tenure at Seneca High School. Tatyana has consistently made the Principal's Honor Roll and has been a member of the National Honor Society since her junior year. She will also be graduating with college credits from Edinboro University and Gannon University through the Regional Choice Dual Enrollment program. This past summer Tatyana attended Penn State's Women in Science and Engineering Program where she was also able to receive college credits for a class.

Tatyana has been a member of the concert band and an active member of Erie's Promise and Educational Talent Search since her freshman year. She has also participated in the Science Olympiad and the Student Ambassador program by participating in the Storybook Café and transitional programs. Tatyana has also been active in Fall Dinner Theaters and French Club.

Recently Tatyana has been the recipient of many awards and acknowledgments. She was the recipient of the Rensselaer Medal for her excellence in Science and Mathematics during her junior year and was nominated for the Who's Who Among All American Scholars in Science her senior year. She also received USAA's International

Class of 2008

Foreign Language Award and All American Scholar Award. Tatyana definitely fits the profile, so it is no wonder she has been named one of America's Future Leaders.

Tatyana plans on attending either Mercyhurst College or Gannon University in the fall and majoring in Business.

Christopher Pencille, son of Paul and Rose Pencille, has also been recognized for his academic success throughout his tenure at Seneca High School. Christopher has been on the Principal's Honor Roll for the past four years, as well as a member of the National Honor Society during his Junior and Senior years. He participated in many competitions through the Academic Competition team. Christopher has shown his interest in science as a member of the Science Olympiad as well as having participated in Penn State Behrend's Chemistry Day 2007. In addition to his academic pursuits, Christopher participated in athletics and theatrical events such as Fall Dinner Theaters, plays, and spring musicals. He is a member of the Varsity boys' soccer team.

Christopher plans to attend the main campus of Penn State University in the fall majoring in Chemical Engineering.

Jill Koehler, daughter of Peter and Kathy Koehler, has participated in many academic programs throughout her years at Seneca High School. Jill has received high honors all four years. She will graduate with credits from Gannon University through her participation in the Regional Choice Initiative Dual Enrollment program. Jill also received college credit by participating in the summer Women in Science and Engineering Program at Penn State Behrend. She was a member of the Seneca team who attended Penn State Behrend's Chemistry Day, 2007.

Outside the classroom, Jill has been a member of the track and field team for the past three years. She has participated in many events in the two years she was a member of the National Honor Society, French Club and Yearbook committee. Jill has participated in Student Ambassador events such as helping with book fairs and Storybook Café. She has also been a member of the Future Business Leaders of America during her junior and senior years.

Jill plans on attending Allegheny College in the fall and majoring in Environmental Science.

Nora Nies, daughter of Jim and Lorraine Nies, has been an active member of the Seneca High School student body. Nora has consistently made High Honor Roll and has been a member of the National Honor Society since her sophomore year, serving as Vice-President her senior year. She has been a class officer during her junior and senior years. Nora has participated in Erie Business Adventure as a ninth grader and Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week as a junior. She was a Lion's Club Student of the Month in September of 2007. Nora was also nominated for the Who's Who Among All American Scholars in Science her senior year.

Nora is very active outside the classroom. She has played basketball since her freshman year and was captain of the basketball team during her senior year. She has run cross country during her junior and senior years and has been a member of the track team since her sophomore year. Nora also participates in many activities through the Student Ambassadors and participated in all choral concerts through all four years.

Nora will be attending Penn State University in the fall and majoring in Engineering.

Bobcat Bullet

The 2008 SHS Prom took place on Saturday, May 17th at Union Station. Seniors Joshua Metzger and Kirstie Prae were crowned as this year's King and Queen. Many of the workers at Union Station commented on how well behaved and respectful this group of kids was; they were very impressed. Special thanks to SHS teacher, Mrs. Valerie Krahe, for putting together this spectacular event.



Kevin Larson Faculty Choice

Kevin J. Larson Jr., son of Kevin and Lisa Larson and Barb and Tom Plooster, is the Class of 2008 Faculty Choice Speaker. Kevin has consistently made the Honor Roll throughout his years at Seneca High School. He was the Leo Student of the Month for February, 2008. Kevin was also nominated for an award for his outstanding academic effort in the classroom and for always going the extra mile for classes. He has also been an active member of the Student Ambassadors and participated in many events such as the Story Book Café, 8th grade tours, book fairs, activity fairs and many other activities.

Outside of the classroom, Kevin has worked with the Kuhl Hose as a firefighter and emergency medical technician. He spends most of his free time participating in events at the fire hall. Kevin also enjoys bowling and spending time with family and friends.

Kevin plans on attending Gannon University in the fall for to obtain his Master's Degree in the Physicians Assistant program.



*Kevin Larson
Faculty Choice*

Joshua Metzger Class Choice



*Joshua Metzger
Class Choice*

Joshua Metzger, son of Carl Metzger and Beth Bross, was chosen to be the Seneca Class of 2008 Class Choice Speaker. Joshua has consistently made the Honor Roll throughout his years at Seneca. He has enjoyed challenging himself with Advanced Placement and College Prep classes whenever possible. Joshua has also been very involved with sports. As a junior, he was a member of the varsity football team and played varsity football as a senior. Joshua was a member of the 2007 Homecoming Court and was recently crowned the 2008 Prom King.

Outside of school, Joshua enjoys playing paintball with friends. He has worked at Joe B's Carpeting and is currently working at the mall.

Joshua plans on attending Gannon University in the fall to acquire a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.



Seneca Basketball All Stars take on SHS Faculty and Staff!

On February 28, 2008, the SHS All Star Basketball Team played the Seneca faculty and staff. The event was sponsored by the Seneca Sports Boosters as a benefit for Jackson King. The All Star Team won, 65-61.



*Kneeling: Jim Stalford , Jennie Wells
Middle: Katee Biby, Ashley Trojanovich, Jackson King,
Nora Nies, Kristi Gdanetz
Back: Steve Gibbens, Shane Quigley, Richie Widdowson,
Nate Schreiber, Zak Betcher, Andrew Cole*

Classrooms for the Future

Students today are born into and live in a digital world. Our schools must adapt classroom instruction to complement learning in today's environment. Twenty-first Century learning involves creating environments for cognitive development through inquiry, real and relevant project-based learning, and differentiated instruction.

Classrooms for the Future is a high school reform initiative designed to place new technology including laptops into our English, math, social studies, and science classrooms. In a 21st century classroom, teachers are facilitators and guides; students are explorers, apprentices, and producers. Providing 21st Century skills will allow students to expand their learning opportunities and better prepare them for education beyond high school and to enter the global marketplace.

In April, Seneca High School applied for a state grant in excess of \$300,000 dollars. Seneca will be notified in July by the Pennsylvania Department of Education if the grant is approved. The grant will provide teacher laptops, class sets of student laptops, interactive whiteboards, web cameras, and some software. Part of reforming our high school classrooms will involve countless hours of professional development to expand our educators' skills. To facilitate that process and ensure maximum success, the district will receive additional grant funding to hire an instructional technology coach. Visit <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/edhub> for more information on Classrooms for the Future. Look for an update on our Classrooms for the Future project at Seneca in the next edition of the Chalkboard.

Mrs. Charlotte Majerik Retires

WASD Housekeeping Department announces the retirement of Mrs. Charlotte Majerik. Mrs. Majerik has worked for the District for 9 years. Her plans for retirement including spending time with her husband, raising beef cattle and taking care of her garden. We greatly appreciate her dedication and service to the District and wish her well!

Please see the August issue of The Chalkboard for more retiree information.



Mrs. Charlotte Majerik

School & Industry Partnership

Custom Tool and Design Inc. graciously opened its doors to Seneca to show students the new and improved Tool and Die industry. Mr. Jeff Mertz led students through the process from when the customer brings in a drawing of the finished product to designing the mold, making the mold, perfecting the mold and testing the mold. Students were able to see how technology has improved timing and accuracy in the process. Three-D computer programs allow the designer to look at cross sections of a mold as well to investigate and change any area. Mr. Mertz explained the importance of geometry and some trigonometry when designing new molds. He stressed the importance of teamwork as each employee is working on a piece of the steel mold which could cost a customer thousands of dollars. Whether the customer is requesting a high volume or low volume mold, the precision is very important. Seneca and Custom Tool and Design Inc. hope to continue working together to train new tool designers for an ageing industry. Custom Tool and Design Inc. is offering an apprenticeship or paid training to seniors with a good work ethic and mathematical ability. If any senior is interested in this job opportunity or a junior would like to shadow for a day in this industry, please contact Miss. Oslak in Guidance.

Bobcat Bullet

177 WAMS students were recognized for academic excellence at the May 13, 2008 Honors Program!



New PIAA Resolution

The PIAA, the governing body of all interscholastic athletics in Pennsylvania, recently passed a resolution that requires school districts, parents, and student-athletes to complete a more comprehensive pre-participation physical. With the new comprehensive physical, student-athletes will no longer be required to have a recertification for their next sport season unless they suffer a severe injury or illness during the previous season.

Physicals for the fall season must take place on or after June 1st. First time physicals for winter and spring seasons must take place within 6 weeks of the starting date. Physicals are good for one year between June 1st and May 31st.

Parents and student-athletes must complete Sections 1, 2, and 3 before the physical evaluation. Section 3 will be reviewed by the doctor and the doctor will complete Section 4. Section 5 will be completed only when a student-athlete competes in more than 1 sports season.

When a student-athlete decides to participate in a second or third sport during the school year, he will be given Section 5 to complete and turn in for review. If there were no significant injuries or illnesses in the previous season, the student-athlete will be eligible to compete. However, if there was an injury suffered or an illness experienced, the student-athlete will have to have Section 6 completed by a doctor, preferably the doctor that took care of the injury or illness. This should all be taken care of before the start of the season.

Section 7 will be completed by the trainer and the doctor for students that are involved in wrestling.

Please make sure that Sections 1, 2, and 3 are completed when your son or daughter comes in for a physical. If you have any questions about the pre-participation physical, please contact Mr. Podpora at 824-3400, ext. 4557.

Macaroni Mania

Did you know that more than 1,200 families in Erie County go hungry every day? The Erie City Mission is trying to help with this major problem. More than 40 families come to the Erie City Mission in need of food on a daily basis. The City Mission employees try to give every family a large bag of groceries, but supplies are running low. Believe it or not, one of the items people request most often is

Students in Mrs. Szymanski's 6th grade classes decided that they wanted to help. They made PA announcements, talked to students in every homeroom at WAMS, and created posters advertising the whole-school pasta collection. From April 14-25, generous middle school students and staff brought in every variety of macaroni imaginable. A total of almost 600 pounds of macaroni was collected! The food was picked up by Mr. Dan Quigley, Erie City Mission's Director of Operations, who was very grateful for the students' help.



*Carolyn Lang & Rachel Post
and almost 600 lbs. of macaroni!*

**SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE ON
MICROSOFT PRODUCTS FOR PA STUDENTS!**

Dear Parents,

Through an agreement with Microsoft Corporation, Pennsylvania students can now purchase several Microsoft products at substantially discounted prices. There is no restriction on the use of the software. It may be used for schoolwork or personal use.

**THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU AT A
SIGNIFICANTLY DISCOUNTED PRICE.**

PRODUCT	YOUR COST	RETAIL COST	PRODUCT	YOUR COST	RETAIL COST
Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2007	\$ 84.98	\$ 599	Microsoft Office Standard	\$ 74.98	\$ 399
Microsoft Office Standard 2007	\$ 74.98	\$ 399	Microsoft Student w/Encarta	\$ 19.98	\$ 50
Microsoft Office Mac 2008	\$ 74.98	\$ 499	Microsoft Sharepoint Designer	\$ 49.98	\$ 499
Microsoft Office Mac 2004	\$ 54.98	\$ 399	Microsoft OneNote	\$ 19.98	\$ 199
Windows XP Pro Upgrade	\$ 79.98	\$ 199	Microsoft Project Pro	\$129.98	\$ 999
Windows Vista Ultimate Upgrade	\$ 99.98	\$ 399	Microsoft Visio Pro	\$ 79.98	\$ 299
Windows Vista Business Upgrade	\$ 79.98	\$ 199			

Journey Education Marketing is handling the fulfillment of these products for Pennsylvania students. Products can be ordered online at www.JourneyEd.com/Select (select K12 as the type, then select Pennsylvania as the state, then select PAK12) or by calling 1-800-874-9001. You will be required to send Journey Education proof of your child’s status as a student. This can be a photocopy of his/her school ID or a copy of a recent report card. Shipping and handling charges will be added to each order.

This transaction is between you and Journey Education. Your school district does not have any responsibility for support and/or fulfillment of the order. Journey Education will handle, and is responsible, for the entire transaction including:

- Verification of educational or employment status
- Ensuring that each customer purchases only one copy of any product per student
- Ensure that the customer agrees to the terms of the Microsoft License Agreement
- Shipped products directly to the customer’s home from their warehouse
- Customer service issues are addressed promptly either by e-mail or phone

We are pleased to provide you with this opportunity.

“Go Fish”

On May 6th and 7th, the first and second grade classes provided evening performances of the spring musical under the direction of elementary center music teacher Mrs. Lesley Lopez. The musical was entitled “Go Fish,” and the musical focused on a little tiger shark who wanted to be friends with everyone. He met many friends, including a seven-legged octopus, a clown fish who wasn’t funny, and a blowfish with allergies. The musical reinforced the theme that just as it takes all kinds of fish to make the ocean a beautiful place, it takes all kinds of people to make the world a beautiful place. Hats off to Mrs. Lopez and the first and second graders for two outstanding performances!



*Top left to right: Ryan Alloway, Joey Trayer
Bottom left to right: Bryan Stroup, Danny Barber*

Mr. Hart Receives PA Keystone Award

The Wattsburg Area School District would like to congratulate Mr. Robert Hart, social studies teacher from our middle school. Mr. Hart was selected from more than 600 nominees to receive the State of Pennsylvania Keystone Award. This award is bestowed by the Commonwealth in recognition of Outstanding Educators Integrating Technology into the classroom. As a finalist, Mr. Hart was also invited to present a sampling of student work and various projects completed within the classroom. The presentation will be held at Bucknell University from July 27-31, 2008.



Mr. Robert Hart

The Keystone Technology Integrators program celebrates model practices of teachers throughout Pennsylvania. These teachers demonstrate expertise in motivating and managing students. They capture students' imaginations and harness learning in our children. Keystones represent more than 300 public and non-public school districts. Approximately 100 Keystones attend a five-day summer summit each year where they engage in hands-on workshops on topics such as differentiating instruction and teaching in the 21st Century. The Keystone network continues to grow stronger through use of communication tools, learning communities, grant writing competitions and professional development opportunities. Keystones also continue to be featured at the annual Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference.

Mr. Hart's work includes creating the 8th grade video team, producing several Seneca sports movies, and introducing the Medal of Honor program to the Middle School.

SHS Authors Team with WAEC Students

The WAEC was recently visited by a group of authors from Seneca High School during a collaborative project conducted by Mrs. Teresa Pearce and Mr. Mark Shields. The teachers worked together to provide an audience for student authors who composed children's books. The idea came about after the twelfth graders had completed a unit study on mythology. They were asked to write an original myth, based on the style and philosophy they had studied in College Prep English 12. After they had finished, they illustrated and published the work in the SHS Media Center with the help of Mrs. Glenda Patterson, Seneca High School librarian. During the project, many of the students asked about presenting their books to a group of younger children. Mrs. Pearce opened her classroom to the invitation, and on April 8th, the two classes joined.



Students in Mrs. Pearce's class with SHS student authors

Utilizing the gathering area at the elementary center, students paired up with a high school author. They had the opportunity to either have the book read to them or, if they chose, to read the book back to the writer. Interaction between the two grade levels also afforded the chance to ask questions and offer feedback. After approximately 5 minutes, the students then switched partners and met a different author.

Reactions from the students were overwhelmingly positive! Mrs. Pearce stated that after the seniors returned to their home school, her students spoke favorably about the experience. The seniors also stated that it was definitely a part of the curriculum which should be continued next year.

Summer School - 2008

Wattsburg Area Middle School

Purpose: To remediate students in area(s) of deficiency relating to specific course content or skills and to prepare students for the next grade level in the curricula sequence.

Pre-requisites: A final grade average of an F for the specific course taken (social studies, science, math, language arts, and/or reading) in the current school year and/or inadequate academic growth as identified by the 4Sight assessment (grades 5-8).

Course assignment, if a student has more than 1 failure, will be determined by the grade level team.

Grading: Grades will be generated by tests, projects, and quizzes. Final grade reporting will be P (Pass) or F (Fail)

Costs: \$130.00 registration fee. Full payment is due upon registering for the class.

A minimum of 6 students is required for each content area to operate, as well as a teacher being secured to teach the class.

Students may not be assigned to more than one content area.

Attendance: Students are expected to be present every day of summer school. Students who miss 2 days of a session will be dropped from the roster, unless prior administrative approval is granted.

Location: Wattsburg Area Middle School

Transportation: Student's responsibility.

Timelines:

8th Grade Registration Deadline ----- Wed., June 11, 2008

8th Grade Start Date ----- Mon., June 16, 2008

8th Grade Completion Date ----- Friday, June 27, 2008

5th -7th Grade Registration Deadline --- Friday, July 25, 2008

5th - 7th Grade Start Date ----- Mon., August 4, 2008

5th - 7th Grade Completion Date ----- Fri., August 15, 2008

Weekly schedule: Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. until Noon

Student Authors Present Writings to Board

Several fourth graders in Mrs. Jackie Wismer and Ms. Madelyn Simmons' class attended the April School Board meeting and shared some of the writing that they produced as part of their daily writer's workshop lessons. Shantaya Swanson shared a persuasive essay about the uses of alcohol, Rachel Shreve shared the writing surrounding her multi-genre research project about an endangered Pennsylvania animal, and Tyler Gryskevicz shared his poem, "Good Grief!" Thanks to the children and their parents for helping the children to broaden their readership to members of our school board and community.

YMCA Summer School

Wattsburg Area Elementary Center will again be a site for YMCA summer programs. The YMCA is currently enrolling for Summer Camp, which includes two weekly field trips as well as lots of outdoor activities. The YMCA is also enrolling for preschool and before and after school care for the fall of 2008.

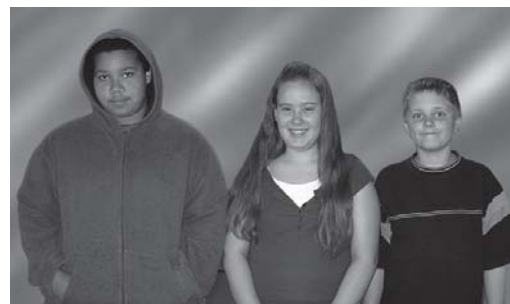
The YMCA is participating in the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts program, which offers a quality preschool program to help your children learn the skills they need to be ready and excited for kindergarten. Benefits of this program include:

- Highly qualified teachers with experience in working with young children
- Small class sizes so that teachers have lots of time to work with children individually and in small groups
- A rich curriculum with learning activities that help children thrive
- A time for your child's teacher to review your child's development with you

Please call the YMCA at 825-2706 for more information.

Bobcat Bullet

Mrs. Kathy Holland's kindergarten class recently partnered with Ms. Cecilia Polumbo's AP Biology class. The biology students taught the children about the parts of a sunflower and how sunflowers grow from tiny seeds to giant flowers. The kindergartners planted sunflower seeds and are expecting big things when they return to school in the fall as first graders.



*Shantaya Swanson, Rachel Shreve,
and Tyler Gryskevicz*

Famed Author Shares Insights at WAMS

The 7th and 8th grade students of Wattsburg Area Middle School were fortunate enough to have author Mary Hogan visit their school. She gave many great tips on being a writer and had amazing experiences to share. Ms. Hogan lived in Los Angeles, and was an editor at *TEEN* Magazine. After she moved to New York, she became a freelance writer and her articles appeared in *Sassy*, *Seventeen*, *TEEN* (of course) as well as women's magazines such as *Family Circle*, *Parenting*, *New Woman*, *Woman*, *First For Women* and *Fitness*. In between magazine gigs, Ms. Hogan was lucky enough to land a job writing an episode of a television show called "Working It Out" starring Jane Curtin ("Third Rock From The Sun") and Stephen Collins ("Seventh Heaven"). The show went off the air before her episode was ever made. After that she rode the online wave for a little while at *TV Guide Online* until she returned to her true love, writing novels. Ms. Hogan has written many books including *The Serious Kiss*, *Susanna Sees Stars*, *Perfect Girl*, and her latest book *Susanna Hits Hollywood* which came out in April, 2008. Thank you to Mrs. Sadaly for donating Mary Hogan's books to the Middle School library for the students' enjoyment. For more information on this author, visit Mary Hogan's website at <http://www.maryhogan.com>. The following remarks about the author's visit were shared by our WAMS students:



Author Mary Hogan

- It was cool to meet an author. I couldn't believe that she was 51 years old! She was very nice and had a good sense of humor. I think I'm going to read one of her books. She was very interesting to learn about. She could make a book out of the people she saw on her travels and turn them into characters. —Courtney Hunt, 8th grade
- I think that it was interesting to have an actual author come to our school. I was really surprised to have someone like that to take time and talk to us. Mary Hogan was an interesting author.

She taught us a lot of things about writing. She told us about how she got her ideas. She also said that she was looking at us and we might appear in a future one of her books. I never knew that authors did that kind of thing. I thought that they just came up with most things they write. It turns out they mostly come up with things based on what they have seen or experienced. I thought that that was interesting, but I don't think I could do that job because I would not be able to be that observant. That is why I think it was interesting to have Mary Hogan come to our school. — Seth Tau, 7th grade

- Mary Hogan made an interesting day of school. For one, I learned she stalks people for ideas in books. That amused me. It also tells me she doesn't have a very good imagination, but that is a good idea, nonetheless. Another thing, she told us she liked writing books about girls, but she said a few boys read her books. She gave some good advice for future writers, so I'm confident she helped a few people. I am also surprised that she came to our school when practically no one knows where we are, we practically live out in the boonies. I really don't like her style of books, and I probably won't read them. I have my opinion, and her books just aren't my style. I'm sure some girls (and boys) like them though. I think it's funny how she incorporates real people into her books. I just hope if she includes me she won't say anything bad! —Devon Smith, 7th grade
- I really liked having an actual author, not somebody who writes for a made-up company or a couple of newspaper articles. Mary Hogan was very interesting to hear about because she had interesting techniques of writing and such. For example, she would write whatever popped in her mind for 3 minutes, even though she may only write: **I hate doing this, this so boring, this coffee tastes good.** It was a very interesting, yet helpful technique.—Ben Crandall, 8th grade
- I was very excited to have an author come speak to my classmates and I. Mary Hogan was very interesting and I took a real interest in what she was saying. I like how she was very realistic and told us a lot about herself and how she got started in writing.

I thought it was interesting to hear how authors come up with stories and where and how they develop ideas. One of the biggest things that struck me was when she said how she studied people like teens, to write stories told by them. I learned a lot about her and what authors do. —Carly Bitters, 8th grade

The Chalkboard

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*Congratulations,
Graduates!*

