



Pine Valley Central School District Newsletter

Volume 48, Issue 1 • October 2025

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear Pine Valley Families,

Welcome to the 2025–26 school year! The start of a new year always brings excitement, energy, and the promise of growth for our students and school community. At Pine Valley CSD, we remain dedicated to supporting every student's success while continuing to strengthen the bonds between school, home, and community.

This year, we are guided by five focus areas that shape everything we do:



Academic Growth

We are committed to creating meaningful learning experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence, and prepare our students for the future.

Communication

Clear, timely communication is essential. We will continue to keep families, students, and staff informed, connected, and supported throughout the year.

Safety

The well-being of our students and staff is our top priority. We will maintain strong safety protocols, invest in security improvements, and provide ongoing training to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment.

Teacher & Staff Growth

Our educators are the heart of Pine Valley. This year, we will continue to provide high-quality professional development, mentoring, and resources so they can thrive and, in turn, support every student.

Wellness

We recognize that success goes beyond academics. We will focus on student and staff well-being by promoting healthy habits, positive relationships, and access to resources that foster balance and resilience.

As autumn begins, let's celebrate the opportunities ahead. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership. Together, we will make this school year one of growth, connection, and success for every student.

Wishing you a wonderful fall season,

Sincerely,
Shanda DuClon, Superintendent – Pine Valley Schools

New Hire Highlights

Welcome to Pine Valley!

Pine Valley Central School's administration is proud to introduce the newest members of our faculty and staff!



**Courtney
Bradigan**

Courtney Bradigan, previously an aide in our elementary school, finished her requirements for her teaching certification. Mrs. Bradigan earned a position as a 4-year-old preschool teacher, working alongside our longtime classroom aide, Mrs. Clapp.



**Amy
Drozdziel**

Amy Drozdziel is an aide in Mrs. Aber's kindergarten classroom. She comes to us with a wealth of early childhood experience! Most recently, Mrs. Drozdziel was the director of the Little Love Bugs program at Pine Valley Elementary School.



**Tiffani
Luce**

Tiffani Luce, a Pine Valley parent and resident, has been hired as a bus attendant for this school year. With her experience as a substitute teacher and aide, and a heart for helping our youngest students, Tiffani is a wonderful addition to our transportation staff.



**Emily
Kohler**

Emily Kohler, a registered nurse, has excitedly jumped into the elementary school nurse position after the retirement of Mrs. Kathy Bukosky. Nurse Emily is a lifetime resident of Pine Valley who is happy to give back to her community in this new role!



**Tara
Hayes**

Tara Hayes, well-known Pine Valley teacher and coach, stepped into the role of Dean of Students and District Curriculum Coordinator. Mrs. Hayes has her Educational Leadership certification, which will be beneficial as she works to support student growth at both the elementary and junior/senior high school.



**Jonathan
Rizzo**

Jonathan Rizzo is our newest math teacher at the junior/senior high school, filling the position opened by Mrs. Goodwill's retirement. Having just completed his teaching program at SUNY Fredonia, Mr. Rizzo brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the team.



**Karen
Henderson**

Karen "Kimberly" Henderson has joined the Pine Valley transportation team as a bus driver and substitute bus attendant. She has a bright smile and an eagerness to learn that will be a brilliant addition to the transportation department.



**Cheri
McCarthy**

Cheri McCarthy joined our cafeteria crew as a Food Service Helper. Cheri is a parent of a Pine Valley Elementary student and looks forward to working in the same building as her son.



Abigail Ellis

Abigail Ellis is a 2022 Pine Valley graduate who previously completed an internship with Ms. Leslie Milliman through the culinary program at BOCES. She has loved joining our elementary cafeteria crew in addition to cooking a few nights a week at the Ellington Rod and Gun!



Cody Troutman

Cody Troutman is a Pine Valley graduate who has returned to serve his community. Last year, he coached our varsity girls' basketball team. This year, he has accepted the role of Athletic Director as well.



Jr./Sr. High School News

by Mrs. Kourtney Almeida, Jr./Sr. High School Principal

Jamestown Community College Instant Admit Day!



On Friday, September 19, 2025, a group of Pine Valley seniors seized an exciting opportunity to meet with a Jamestown Community College admission representative during a special Instant Admission session. Students completed their applications and received on-the-spot acceptance to JCC! We're grateful to Jamestown Community College for this meaningful partnership that helps our students take an early step toward their college journey.

WNY College Representatives Visiting PV Juniors and Seniors



On Wednesday, September 24th, our Junior and Senior students met with college admissions representatives from 17 WNY Colleges. Students explored college academics, athletics, extracurricular opportunities, and more by speaking with each representative face-to-face.

The colleges they were able to speak with were:

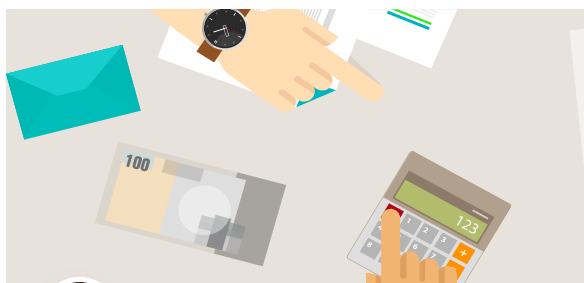
- Alfred University
- Canisius University
- D'Youville University
- Daemen University
- Hilbert College
- Niagara University
- St. Bonaventure University
- SUNY Alfred State
- SUNY Buffalo State
- SUNY Erie
- SUNY Fredonia



- SUNY Genesee Community College
- SUNY Jamestown Community College
- SUNY Niagara
- SUNY University at Buffalo
- Trocaire College
- Villa Maria College



FAFSA



FAFSA
Free Application
for Federal Student Aid



Attention all Seniors! It is expected that you will be able to file your 2026-2027 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as early as October 1, 2025. This means college applications must be completed and sent in before you begin the financial aid process.

Students should be ready to start completing college applications this September. Although many schools will accept later applications, it is very important to apply on time to receive the most financial aid available. Mrs. Chase will be meeting with each Senior to discuss their plans.

2025-2026 Pre-College Testing for PSAT, SAT, ACT, & ASVAB

PSAT at PV:

For Juniors-

October 16 | 8:00 AM

Students will be given information about the exam in October. For the 2025-26 school year, the cost of the exam will be covered by the school. The exam will be held in school and will take approximately 2 hours. Students will be dismissed from their morning classes, but they will attend afternoon classes.

The PSAT is a preparation test for the SAT. It also helps students measure their understanding of critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills that are important for success in college.

Pine Valley strongly encourages all juniors to take the test on October 16th.

There are test prep sites and materials to help assist the students with the format of the test. The Khan Academy offers a free practice resource online at khanacademy.org/sat.

PV HS Code (CEEB):

335260

If you would like help with the registration process for the SAT or ACT, you may request a pass to the Counseling Office during a study hall. We also have study guides available!

SAT School Day for Seniors:

SAT School Day is offered twice each school year - once in the fall and once in the spring -- giving students two convenient opportunities to take the exam during the regular school day at their own school. This allows students to test in a familiar environment without needing to register for a weekend date or arrange transportation to another location.

Information regarding the Spring SAT School Day, including test dates, registration procedures, and preparation resources, will be sent out to students and families at a later date. If you have questions about eligibility or accommodations, please contact the school counseling office.



SAT:

Cost: \$68 fee waivers available for those who qualify. Late fee cost: +\$38

SAT Registration: Registration can **only** be done online at www.sat.collegeboard.com. Students may request an appointment to meet with their counselor to assist in registering online. However, if they do not qualify for the fee waiver, they will have to finish registration at home with a parent (due to the payment portion).

The fee for this exam must be paid online. Students who are on Pine Valley's free or reduced lunch program may request a fee waiver from the counseling office.

Saturday exams are given at area high schools (not at Pine Valley). Students can choose their test locations during registration. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the actual exam. Pine Valley may offer an in-school exam when possible.

Photo identification is now a requirement for registering and taking the SAT. When you register online, you will be required to upload a photo of yourself. This photo must meet their requirements: photo shows only you, facing the camera, head and shoulders only, nothing obscuring your face (hair, hands, shadows, glare, sunglasses), and photo is focused (not fuzzy or grainy). If you need assistance with this, the counseling office can assist.

Make sure you choose to share your SAT Score with Pine Valley. This is important if you would like your score on your high school transcript.

After you complete the registration process, you will be directed to print your "**admission ticket**". This is **very important** and should be stored in a safe place and taken with you to the exam. More directions and expectations for your test date are also outlined on this admission ticket.

Test Dates	Registration Deadlines	Late Registration
August 23, 2025	August 8, 2025	August 12, 2025
September 13, 2025	August 29, 2025	September 2, 2025
October 4, 2025	September 19, 2025	September 23, 2025
October 23, 2025	October 1, 2025	*PV In-School Test Day
November 8, 2025	October 24, 2025	October 28, 2025
December 6, 2025	November 21, 2025	November 25, 2025
March 14, 2026	February 27, 2026	March 3, 2026
April 2026	TBD	*PV In-School Test Day
May 2, 2026	April 17, 2026	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026

ACT:

Cost: \$68 (No Writing section) or \$93 (Includes Writing section). Late fee cost: +\$38.
Fee waivers are available.

ACT Registration: Registration is very similar to the SAT. Students must register for the ACT online. Test centers include Dunkirk, Fredonia, Hamburg, JCC, Olean, and Pioneer, to name a few. The fee for the exam must be paid online. Students on Pine Valley's free or reduced lunch program are eligible for a fee waiver but must request one from their counselor. Make sure you choose to share your ACT Score with Pine Valley. This is important if you would like your score on your high school transcript.

Test Dates	Registration Deadlines	Late Registration
September 6, 2025	August 1, 2025	August 19, 2025
October 18, 2025	September 12, 2025	September 30, 2025
December 13, 2025	November 7, 2025	November 24, 2025
February 14, 2026	January 9, 2026	January 23, 2026
April 11, 2026	March 6, 2026	March 24, 2026
June 13, 2026	May 8, 2026	May 29, 2026
July 11, 2026	June 5, 2026	June 24, 2026



College Exploration Tasks:

We are strongly encouraging juniors and their families to start (or continue) the college exploration process. Many colleges are currently holding or will soon hold Open House events. It is as easy as a Google search! Just search for the college you would like to visit and then choose its Admissions page. It is a great idea for Sophomores and Juniors to start these college searches as soon as possible.

You can no longer wait until senior year to start college and career planning. The college application and FAFSA application timelines have been moved up in the last few years, so we want to help you out with our tips!

Junior Year

Fall

- Start talking with your school counselor!
- Make sure your schedule is challenging and in line with your future goals.
- Attend the WNY College Consortium at PV in **September**. Meet college admissions reps from the WNY area.
- Take the PSAT in **October**.
- Attend college open house events to start your college exploration.
- Start developing your high school student activity résumé. We have templates to help guide you!
- Keep involved in extracurriculars and take on leadership roles.
- Do your best academically.

Winter

- Meet with your school counselor to plan for senior year and discuss your future.
- Continue researching colleges.
- Register and take an SAT or ACT.
- Look into summer programs at college campuses.

Spring

- Attend the National College Fair with us in **March** (if available).
- Narrow down your college choices with more research.
- Think about a summer job or internship
- Start asking teachers for letters or recommendations (which you will need for your college applications coming up). Be sure to have your résumé ready to give to them (this will help them write you an awesome letter).
- Start planning and researching the financial aid process. The FAFSA is a major part of your college application process.
- Register to take an SAT or ACT. You may get a better score the 2nd time.

Summer

- Continue investigating colleges and start looking at their application processes. You should start applying in August!
- Apply to a variety of college choices- “safe” schools, “reach” schools, and “realistic” schools- to keep your options wide open.

Senior Year

Fall

- Meet with your school counselor to ensure your coursework is still in line with your future goals.
- Stay focused on your academics and do your best senior year is not for slacking and taking it easy!
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities and take on leadership roles.
- Take another SAT or ACT if you need to improve your scores.
- Finish up college applications. Competitive colleges have fall deadlines!
- Start the FAFSA on October 1. Submit it before the end of the month for the best financial aid opportunities.
- Order your graduation cap and gown!

Winter

- Continue doing your best academically
- Enjoy your extracurriculars for this last year of high school.
- Finish up any college applications, if necessary.
- Some colleges will have acceptance deadlines in the Winter so be ready to make decisions regarding your college choice.

Spring

- You are almost there- but don't stop pushing yourself!
- Finish your academic year strong and do your best. Your academic transcript isn't complete yet!
- Make your college choice and attend their accepted student events!
- Attend graduation!! YAY!

Summer

- Enjoy your new path as a high school graduate!
- Get a summer job to start building up your spending money.



Websites and Tools for Students and Families to Prep for College and Careers:

https://www.pval.org/132270_3

Pine Valley Counseling Department's page- we try to post news, events, scholarships, links to pertinent sites, etc.

www.collegeboard.org

PSAT, SAT, and AP information and registration.

www.actstudent.org

ACT information and registration.

www.khanacademy.org/sat

Official SAT Practice website (after students take the PSAT, this site becomes more custom fit to their needs).

www.asvabprogram.com

information about the ASVAB exam (a great career exploration tool).

www.fafsa.ed.gov

the official Federal Student Aid website.

www.hesc.ny.gov

Higher Education Services Corporation- information about how to prepare for college and gives information about how to pay for college.

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

statistics, research and evaluations of colleges and universities by the Department of Education.

www.wnycollegeconnection.com

a good database of WNY colleges. Search degrees and careers to match up with colleges.

www.bls.gov/ooh/

Occupational Outlook Handbook- a guide to career information about specific occupations and their outlook.

THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS!

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our various local scholarship sponsors! Your generosity is deeply appreciated, and your contributions will absolutely assist our recent graduates in their endeavors at college. No matter how big or small, the gifts are helpful. For anyone interested in starting a new scholarship or memorial award, contact Debbie Youngberg in the high school Counseling Office by phone (ext. 4050) or email dyoungberg@pval.org

Transportation Department Reminder



A friendly reminder from your Pine Valley District transportation department:

As the new school year gets underway, here's a simple way to make mornings and afternoons run more smoothly: check that your house numbers are easy for the bus driver to see! Clear, visible numbers help drivers quickly spot your home and keep pick-ups and drop-offs safe and on time.

A few quick tips can make a big difference. Choose large, reflective numbers that can be seen even in low light and place them where they face the street directly—on your home or mailbox works best. Keep

branches, bushes, parked cars, or trash cans from blocking the view. Since buses can't always get close to the curb, it's important that numbers can be read from a distance.



Elementary School News

by Mrs. Brandi Meacham, Elementary School Principal



Hello Panther Families!

We have had a wonderful start to the 2025-2026 school year! What a pleasure it has been to watch the routines and procedures that make school safe, fun, and full of learning fall into place so early in the school year! Compliments for this success are due to a loyal and dedicated staff of lifelong learners here at the elementary school and to the support and diligence of our student families. It takes all of us to ensure students are present, cared for, and ready to learn each day! So, thank you!

Our elementary reading team created and shared a summer reading program for all students to engage in this summer. The plan offered fun ways to read, encouraged visits to local libraries, and supplied ideas to explore new topics. We celebrated all the students who participated in this summer challenge at our first assemblies! Although reading over the summer was just for fun, reading nightly during the school year is a priority for our elementary students. Research has shown a steady decline in reading at home over the past few decades, which contributes to the lower reading scores and student disengagement of today's students. Our goal is to rebuild student reading stamina, increase phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension skills, and restore a passion for reading in our students! Watch for tips, tricks, and fun reading facts to be shared throughout the year! Explore ways to make reading fun in your home and send those reading logs back every Friday!

Our PBIS team has restructured some beloved building activities and rewards to better suit our students. Students of the Month will now be selected using different monthly criteria that will align with our social-emotional learning and Panther expectations. For example, in September, staff will be looking for students to demonstrate a growth mindset, but the focus for October will be on empathy. Classes will have the opportunity to earn Golden Awards for exceptional behavior in Art, Music, Library, Physical Education, and the cafeteria. Once a class has earned an award for each area, their entire class receives a party! Our fifth and sixth-grade students have additional chances for fun incentive days when they work hard to meet their goals academically and behaviorally. It is important to our team that we support student growth and learning in all areas while bringing some fun to the table!

Please remember to download the ParentSquare app to receive district, school, and teacher updates! Reach out to our team for any PowerSchool updates, family needs, or celebrations! We are always here to help or celebrate with you! Let's make this an amazing year!

With Panther Pride,

Brandi Meacham
Elementary School Principal



Pine Valley Elementary School

Birthday Celebration Snacks

Healthy & Convenient

Why make a trip to the store to purchase a snack for the class? Let the PV Cafeteria help you!

- ❖ Order a special classroom birthday celebration for .75 per student.
- ❖ Orders will be delivered to the class on the designated day.
- ❖ Fill out the form below and return with payment to PVES Cafeteria.
- ❖ Orders must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the party.
- ❖ Substitutions can be made due to dietary restrictions.

Questions? Please contact Leslie Milliman at 988-3291 ext. 3320.

Healthy Snack Order Form

Please submit order at least 10 days prior to the party. Substitutions can be made due to dietary restrictions.

Date of Celebration: _____

Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____ Grade: _____

Parent name: _____

Parent phone: _____

Number of snacks: _____

Price each: X .75

Total cost: _____

Check enclosed (PVCS Cafeteria)

Cash in sealed envelope

Select one:

- Sidekick Slushie Fruit Juice Cup
- Chocolate Chip Cookie & Milk
- Sugar Cookie & Milk
- Whole Grain Rice Krispie Treat & Apple Juice Cup
- Fresh Assorted Veggies with Ranch Dip and Bottled Water
- Fresh Assorted Fruit with Fruit Dip and Bottled Water
- Ice Cream Cup with Bottled Water

UPCOMING EVENTS



October

- 10/13 - No School/Holiday
- 10/15 - Senior Formal Pictures
- 10/16 - PSAT
- 10/21 - 6th gr. family lunch
- 10/23 - SAT
- 10/27 - Circus
- 10/29 - Trunk or Treat
- 10/31 - ES Halloween Celebrations



November

- 11/7 - End of 1st quarter
- 11/10 - No School/Staff Development Day
- 11/11 - No School/Holiday
- 11/14-11/15 - Peter and the Starcatcher, Drama Club Play - 7 pm
- 11/18 - 5th gr. family lunch
- 11/24 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - 12-4 pm & 5-8 pm
- 11/24-11/25 - Early Release
 - HS - 10:50 am & ES - 11:00 am
- 11/26-11/28 - No School/Thanksgiving Recess



December

- 12/1-12/4 - Project KNOW
- 12/10 - HS - Winter Chorus and Band Concert
- 12/10 - Picture Retakes
- 12/16 - 4th gr. family lunch
- 12/22-1/2 - No School/Winter Recess

January

- 12/22-1/2 - No School/Winter Recess
- 1/6 - RAD Panel
- 1/13 - 3rd gr. family lunch
- 1/15 - Winter Sports Pictures
- 1/19 - No School/Holiday
- 1/20-22 - Regents Exams
- 1/22 - End of 2nd quarter
- 1/27 - Elective Fair



**Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)/Provision 2 non-base year
Household Income Eligibility Form**

Pine Valley Central School District is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). All children in the school will receive meals/milk at no charge regardless of household income or completion of this form. This form is to determine eligibility for additional State and federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for. Read the instructions on the back, complete only **one** form for your household, sign your name and return it to the school named above. Call (716) 988-3293, if you need help.

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	No Income
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits: If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 5, and sign the application.

Name: _____ CASE # _____

3. Household Gross Income: List all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly). Do not leave income blank. If no income, check box. If you have listed a foster child above, you must report their personal income.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions Amount / How Often	Child Support, Alimony Amount / How Often	Pensions, Retirement Payments Amount / How Often	Other Income, Social Security Amount / How Often	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school may receive federal funds. The school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Address:
Home Phone
Work Phone
Home Address

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

**Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12**

SNAP/TANF/Foster Income _____ Total Household Income/How Often: _____ Household Size: _____
Free Eligibility Signature of Reviewing Official _____ Reduced Eligibility _____ Denied Eligibility _____

Pine Valley Central School District
South Dayton, NY 14138
PV Junior/ Senior High School: 988-3276, PV Elementary: 988-3291
Website: www.pval.org/

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ADMINISTRATION

Shanda DuClon, *Superintendent*
Paige Cobb, *Director of Sp. Ed. and Curriculum*
Nicole McCracken, *Business Official*
Kourtney Almeida, *Jr./Sr. High School Principal*
Brandi Meacham, *Elementary Principal*

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BOXHOLDER
Cherry Creek, NY 14723
BOXHOLDER
Conewango Valley, NY 14726
BOXHOLDER
South Dayton, NY 14138



Pine Valley's Drama Club production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* sets stage on November 14th and 15th at 7:00pm in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium. *Peter and the Starcatcher* upends the century-old story of how a miserable orphan comes to be The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up (a.k.a. Peter Pan). From marauding pirates and jungle tyrants to unwilling comrades and unlikely heroes, *Peter and the Starcatcher* playfully explores the depths of greed and despair... and the bonds of friendship, duty and love.

Stay tuned for ticket information on our school's social media platforms and our Drama Club Instagram page @ [pinevalleydramaclub](https://www.instagram.com/pinevalleydramaclub). We are excited to see you all in November!

