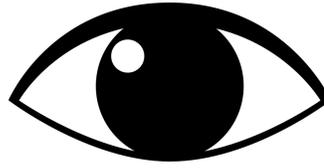


February  
2024

# SEIS



Mr. Shaffer  
Editor in Chief

On the lookout for news at South Eastern Intermediate School

# SEIS Celebrates Student Achievement

By Zoey Ryan

On January 26, 2024, SEIS held two end-of-the-marking-period spotlight assemblies in the cafeteria. Staff and students gathered by grade level for these assemblies. SEIS has held spotlight assemblies for 11 years.

The main focus of these assemblies is to hand out awards to students. Mr. Horton, the SEIS principal, stated that the purpose of the awards is, "to support success academically and behaviorally, and to acknowledge that not everything is negative. A lot of the time, schools are seen as negative, and we try to be positive when students have been doing what they are doing, especially with our character traits."

Mrs. Curry, the SEIS counselor, stated that the positive effects of the awards are to give, "students ownership to really show the places that they shine and also to acknowledge the students in

their class that they are doing well in. Another thing that I really like we do is that the students get to select the winners of the student of the marking period." She also stated that, "the teachers really do try to acknowledge as many students as they can. That's also why we try to do awards for attendance and why we also try to do things for students who don't have any points for those character traits so we have a way to celebrate them too."

The teachers have to take into consideration many factors to decide who gets awards. "The one thing I look at is grades and who has the highest in the class because I think they should be recognised for their hard work. Another award I like to give out is most improved because I think that is another one the students should be proud of, improving a whole letter grade." said Mrs. Alt.

**(Continued on next page.)**



Photo by Zoey Ryan

Sixth graders listen as Mr. Weakland, Mrs. Warner, and Mrs. Custer gave awards to their students.

# Achievement: Awards Given to Students

(Continued from prior page.)

There were a variety of awards given across different subjects including math, ELA, science, social studies, and special awards. Some special awards included the WWE (Wonderful Work Ethic) award from the Amspacher-Bynion team, and the DD (Dangerously Determined), and OO (Obviously Organized) awards from the Philus-Maciejewski team.

During this assembly a “Kid President” video was shown on the character trait of the marking period.

Student reactions to the awards assemblies were largely positive. Brooklyn Lang from Mr. Kline’s homeroom stated, “I like [the spotlight assembly] because you can see what people got awards and what awards they got.”

Elias Grove from Mrs. Filus’s homeroom stated, “Students take pride in their awards; students felt happy and proud about themselves.” and when they had not received an award, “they knew they were gonna try to do better next marking period.” He said he “displayed [the awards] in my room so whenever I wake up in the morning I can see the achievements I made.”



Mr. Shaffer gave awards to library helpers.

Photo by Zoey Ryan



Brandon with one of his rabbits and some awards.

Photo provided by Mrs. Hilderding

## Brandon Hilferding Shows Rabbits

By Phoenix Ehrhart, Zoey Ryan, and Mr. Shaffer

Brandon Hilferding from Mr. Brenneman’s homeroom has a hobby of showing rabbits. Showing rabbits means that Brandon raises specific breeds of rabbits, grooms them, trains them, and then enters them in competitions where they are judged. He’s been showing rabbits since he was 4 years old.

Brandon learned about showing rabbits from YouTube videos and a rabbit club.

He said he’s shown rabbits in “many places. I’ve gone to Kentucky for the national rabbit show, I went to Lebanon, I went to the state farm fair, and many other places.”

According to Brandon he has a “bunch of different breeds,” of rabbits including the Netherland dwarf, mini-rex, rex, Holland lop, mini-lop, and lionheads.

The rabbits live in a large enclosure outside that can hold over 30 rabbit cages.

It’s a daily chore to care for the rabbits. Brandon gives them hay and feed. His brother is responsible for giving them water. To prepare them for shows, the rabbits must be groomed including brushing their fur and taking care of their teeth and nails.

Brandon has won multiple awards including the “Best of Breed” award which is given to the best example of a particular kind of rabbit.



6th graders play gaga ball.

Photo by Phoenix Ehrhart

# Students Enjoy PBIS Reward

By Mattie Shipley

On January 26, 2024 SEIS held a PBIS reward in the gym area. Events included gaga ball, capture the flag, and four square. Teams took turns going to the PBIs reward and homerooms rotated through the stations. The PBIS reward lasted about an hour and a half for each team.

“The idea for the PBIS reward started with the teacher and student committee” stated Mr Horton. PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

The reason SEIS started doing the reward is to make students feel good about doing the right thing.

The way a student qualified for the reward is if they have no checks or points in their agenda. “We try to do it once a month to get a fresh start for everyone,” stated Mrs. Stoltzfus.

Both Mrs Stoltzfus and Mr Horton said that they think that the reward is a good idea to be able to insure and encourage good behavior. Sometimes there are students that get points and cannot partake in the reward so instead they will go some other place and read or do make-up work.

Many students said that they enjoyed the PBIS rewards. Camden Bailey from Mrs Bynion’s homeroom said, “I liked it because I like sports and this month it was all sports.” Camden Decker for Mrs Bynion’s homeroom stated that she, “really liked gaga ball because I like moving around alot.”

# Nemo Cast Prepare for Show

By Brielle Congleton & Mr. Shaffer

At SEIS every Thursday after school from 3:45 to 5:00 student actors and adult directors gather to practice and prepare for the upcoming production, *Finding Nemo: The Musical*.

Mrs. Stoltzfus, Mrs. Wise, Mrs. Zell, Mr. Buckner (Mrs. Stoltzfus’s dad), and Mrs. Buckner (Mrs. Stoltzfus’s mom) are the adult directors in charge of the practices.

Preparation for the play begins long before practices begin. According to Mrs. Stoltzfus, research into which musical to perform begins over the summer.

Next, the directors recruited student to perform in the musical. From there, the directors assign roles.

Each practice the directors decide what needs to be worked on during that practice. “We kind of divide and conquer,” said Mrs. Stoltzfus. For example, during the practice on Thursday, February 22 Mrs. Buckner pulled some kids to work on their performance while Mrs. Stoltzfus took the rest of the performers to practice some of the songs.

Students practice their roles between practices. Georgia Absher from Mr. Brenneman’s homeroom, also known as “Seahorse #2”, said, “I practice my lines and I practice the dances and songs so i can be ready for the practice.”

The music and choreography are only part of the preparation. Props, set pieces, and costumes are purchased or made by hand.

The shows will be on April 12th and 13th.



Nemo performers practice a dance.

Photo by Brielle Congleton

# Meet Dr. Venné, the New Dean of Students at SEIS

By Zoey Ryan

Dr. Venné is the new dean of students at SEIS this year. She splits her time between SEIS and Stewartstown. She stated, “Since this is my first year; this position is actually split. 50% of my time I am at Stewartstown, 50% of the time I am at SEIS. [Cycle] B days I am [at SEIS], and in [cycle] A days I am at Stewartstown.”

She said her job is to “assist the school principal with the daily operations of the school with emphasis on students and student programs.”

As the Dean of Students, she has plans to work alongside of the building team for the future of

both schools she works at. She said, “This year it was about learning how the buildings run and making relationships with students and staff. And I look forward to just working along Mr. Horton and his team here to develop goals that will benefit the school.”

Before she was the Dean of Students, Dr. Venné worked at Kennard Dale High School. She states “When I was at the high school, I was the principal. So my responsibility was managing the entire school, my role has completely shifted as a dean. My job is to support the building principal.”

Her transition, she said, “was a huge adjustment for me. But I started my career many many years ago working with preschool students so I’ve had the opportunity to work with the very young and then high school students. Everyone has been so welcoming at SEIS and made my transition very nice and easy.”

She stated that the best part of being a dean is “working with students; you get into education because you want to make a difference, you get into education because you like kids. Whether it is students who come to me who want to talk, or I’m holding a peer mediation, I want to support kids as much as I can and have a positive outcome is always the goal.”

Dr. Venné wants students to know, “that my door is always open; they can also reach out to me in email if they want to meet with me or stop by my office.” She stated she wanted “students to know that anything is possible and if you have a dream and you have goals, that they are obtainable with hard work and a positive attitude.”



Dr. Venné in her office.

# Enrichment Clubs Begin Meeting

By Phoenix Ehrhart

On Tuesday, January 30th, SEIS clubs met for the first time during the school day. Clubs are scheduled to continue meeting on cycle days 2A during RAMS period. Clubs meet throughout the entire school.

According to Mrs. Wise clubs have been around, "since I have been here. I've been here more than 10 years now and that's about when the clubs started."

Mrs. Wise stated, "Teachers get to pick whatever they want that students will want to do. So if I picked Math Problems not many people will want to sign up for that. "

The clubs were chosen by students getting a Google Form and chose a first choice and a second choice. Mrs. Wise places the students in clubs by, "doing it based off of what they selected. My goal is to always give them their first choice. But sports club fill in quickly, so many have to get a second choice." However, some students had to make a third choice because even their second choice club was full. The club capacity is determined by how much space they have in the classrooms.

The brain puzzle club is run by Mrs. Bynion and Mrs. Kandeel with 7 students in it. Mrs. Bynion says her goal is "to stretch our brains and to try things that we don't get to do in class everyday."

The Play-Doh and clay sculpting club is run by Mrs. Amspacher and has 18 students in it. According to her, the club is to help students "to relax, have fun, be creative and hands on and to meet new friends."

The Disney club is run by Mrs. Pabis, Mrs. Zell, and Mrs. McCormick with 27 students in it. Mrs. Pabis stated that her goals are "first, to have fun. Second, for students to be able to spend time with their current friends and make new friends and to make even stronger appreciation for all things Disney."

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Students engaged in ukulele club, chess and checkers club, coloring club, and kickball club.

Photos by Phoenix Ehrhart and Zoey Ryan

# Clubs: Student Reactions Positive

(Continued from prior page.)

The club with the most people in it is 6th grade kickball run by Mr. Brenneman, Mr. Maciejewski, and Mrs. Alt with 42 people!

The teachers usually have all the supplies they need, but Mr. Horton can give them budget money for whatever they don't have.

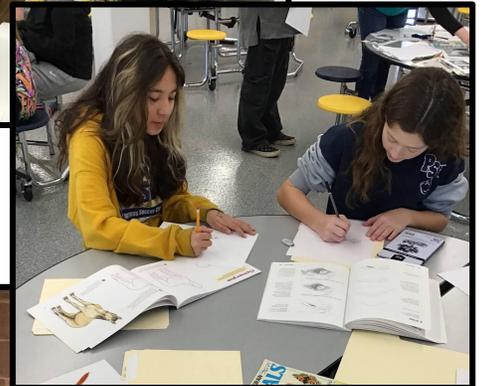
Student reactions to clubs have been largely positive. "I like them. They're fun and they're interesting and they give us a fun time to learn about each other," stated Logan Kessler from Mrs. McCleary's homeroom who is in the club bikes and gaga ball. Marley Kurek from Mrs. Amspacher's homeroom who is in the Play-Doh club stated, "It's cool because you can make new friends."

Ariana Walls from Mrs. Amspacher's homeroom chose the Walking Club. She says she chose that club "because I think walking is relaxing."

However, some students were looking for clubs that were not offered. Logan Kessler from Mrs. McCleary's homeroom stated; "I wish there was ping-pong and tennis because I enjoy doing them."

Students engaged in activities in musical props club, Play-Doh club, sketching club, LEGO club, and agriculture/gardening club.

Photos by Austin Benson and Mrs. Webb.



## We Must Have Blinked

In the January, 2024 issue the SEIS Eye incorrectly identified the positions of two new Chartwells staff. Miss Emily Kobel is the new director. Miss Amanda Porter is a new cafeteria manager. We apologize for the incorrect information.