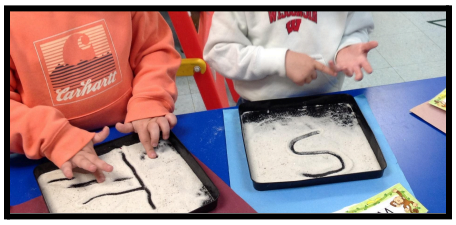
The Royal Report

SENECA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

What happened in October 2026!



Elementary Classroom Lessons and Activities



4K groups: Sand trays in 4K are used to introduce the formation of letters in our name. It is a great way to encourage children to begin writing their names.

To celebrate the end of October and completing the first 2 months of school, we made our own bat costumes and went a little *"batty"*. See the school website or facebook page for more photos. We also had a special guest visitor in our 4K room. We enjoyed hearing Grandma Marci Payne & Great Aunt Katie read and visit with us at storytime.





Thank you, Marci and Katie!





Kindergarten & First Grade:

Kindergarten and first grade wrapped up their apple lessons with a fun trip to Shahata's Apple Orchard! Students enjoyed a wagon ride around the orchard, had some playtime in the corn pit, and drew pictures showing how apple trees grow. They also learned about what happens to the apples after they are picked and got to tour the orchard.

To top off the day, students were lucky enough to enjoy a delicious apple cider donut for a snack at school! It was a fun way to celebrate all they learned about apples!







Elementary Physical Education: We have been busy moving our bodies on the cross country trails along with playing games outside. We learned about frisbee golf and played in groups.





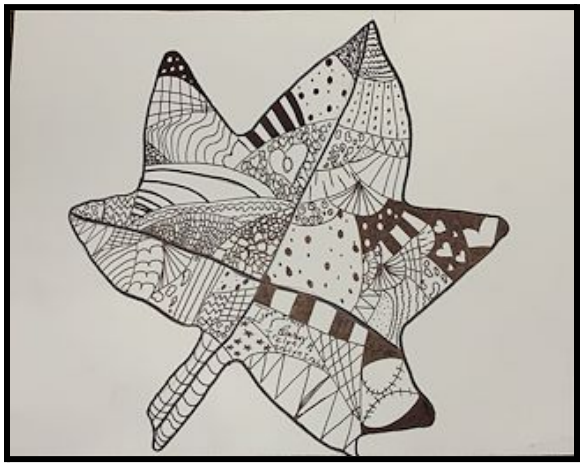






Elementary Art classes: This month the elementary art classes have been working on Fall themed artwork. Kindergarten and first graders have drawn pictures of apples and pumpkins. 2nd and 3rd graders have learned about leaves falling from the trees and what trees look like when there are no leaves on them.







In the Elementary Library Classes our younger students are enjoying storytimes that have focused on the seasonal themes of autumn, apples, pumpkins, falling leaves, Trick-or-Treat and fun Halloween activities. Our older students are learning about library organization and how to become more independent when choosing books and finding library items on the shelves. The second graders have been specifically focusing on how to use “browsing sticks” to keep books in the correct order on the shelves. The fifth graders have been introduced to the LMC’s online card catalog and are enjoying the independence of searching for their own books using this great resource.

High School and Middle School Classroom

Lessons and Activities

STEM Classes: 1st hour has been working on creating cutting and applying Cricut designs making stickers, mugs, shirts, bookmarks, etc. They also have been brainstorming and 3D printing new ideas for the StarBoost robotics team's intake and launcher. 5th hour has been building and coding XPR robots. They have a small project with 4K to enhance their interactive fire truck play area. Both classes have been brainstorming, compiling, and organizing ideas for a $50,000 grant challenge to use STEM to work toward solutions to issues related to 6-12 grade.

6th graders started coding and have been having challenges and fun with Ozobots. These robots are quarter-sized bots with line sensors (follow paths and color directions) and proximity (physical location) sensors. They can code first with colored marker paths (without devices) and then on their chromebooks with block coding (drag and drop) using Ozobot Editor 4.5.6.

Spanish 1: The Spanish 1 class has been learning how to use personality and physical descriptions to describe a person, place, or thing. We've also been learning about the Hispanic celebration of Day of the Dead.

Spanish 2: The Spanish 2 class' vocabulary has grown and they're now able to tell about the things they do to prepare for the day and take care of themselves with reflexive verbs.

High School History Classes:

High School Art: Sketch of the week:

The first and 3rd sketch are from Violet. The theme was Medieval, and Under The Sea. The middle sketch is from Grant. Theme for this was Nature.



Business Education Classes: Accounting students are learning to construct a basic chart of accounts based on the accounting equation and to understand T-accounts and their normal balances. Journalizing entries and the unadjusted trial balance are next learning targets. 6th grade Study skills class is finishing up a short series on the 7 habits of highly effective teenagers and practicing their keyboarding skills in typing club.

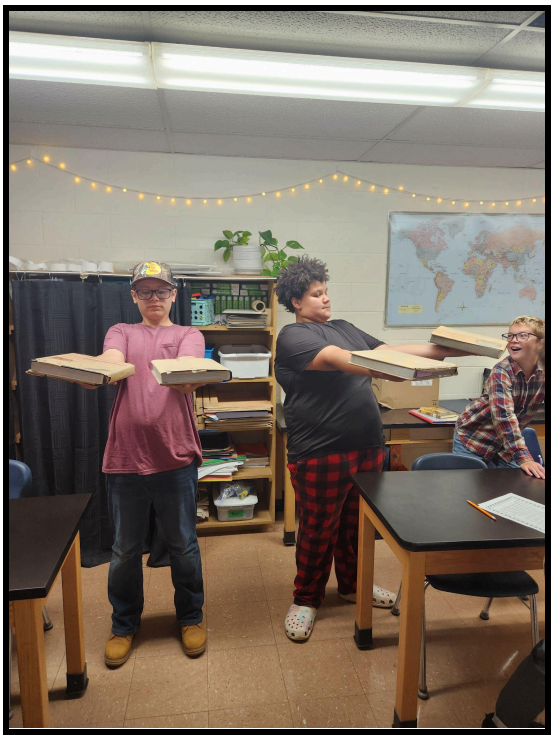
5th-grade:

- **6th-grade Reading:** 6th grade is working on their own reading goals for the 1st quarter, and we just started a class book called *A Long Walk to Water.* Students are learning about Salva and Nya, children in Sudan during the 80s and early 2000s. We're learning how life can be very different for a child in another part of the world.
- **6th-grade Language Arts:**
- **6th-grade Science:** October is the time for 6th-graders to learn about space! We're focusing on the Sun-Moon-Earth system in class this month. We've talked about moon phases, tides, and eclipses. To gain a better understanding of the effect of one on another, we've made different models.

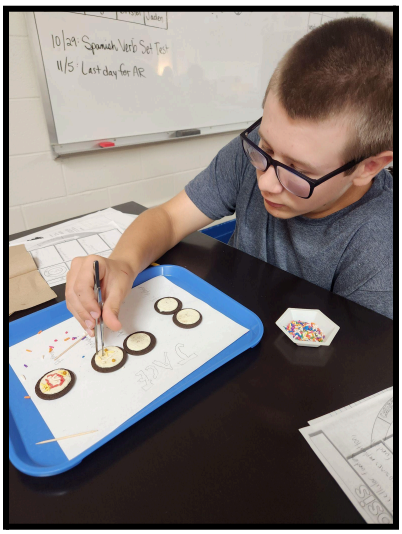


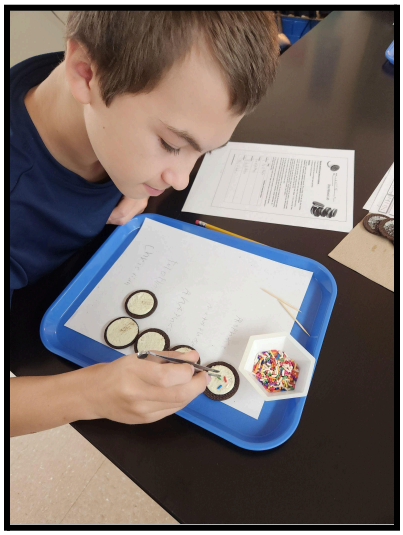

- **7th-grade Geography:** Our seventh graders are exploring Europe—and getting ready for a dream adventure! Students are researching countries, discovering cultural traditions, and learning how geography shapes daily life and travel (time changes, flights, costs). From choosing destinations to deciding what to see and do, students are connecting classroom learning with real-world choices. Ask your student which country or countries they're visiting, what they're excited to discover, and how they're planning their journey. We can't wait to hear about the creative trips they design!
- **7th-grade English Language Arts:** In Unit 2, "Take Control," students will explore choices and the ways our thoughts, experiences, and influences can shape how we see ourselves. As part of the unit, we'll read the Greek myth of Icarus and consider how its themes connect to decision-making, personal responsibility, and taking control of our choices. Students are focusing on themes and lessons of stories and plays we read together.
- **7th-grade Science:** 7th grade Science is still learning about functions of the cell and how it works. In a Lactic Acid lab, they learned how their bodies step up to continue to function when oxygen is low. Students had to perform "feats of strength" to see how long they could endure.

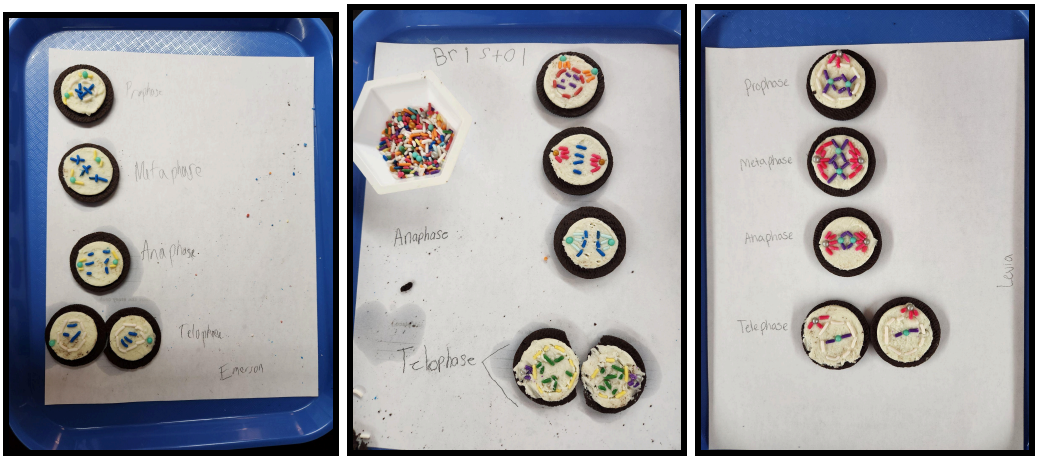




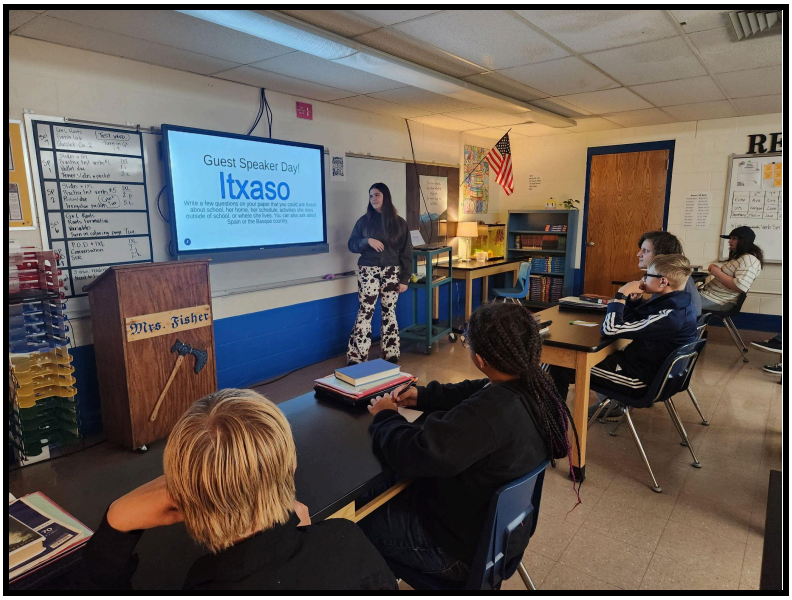
We’re also learning about how cells replicate and reproduce. Oreos and sprinkles make good hands-on versions of the different stages of cell mitosis!





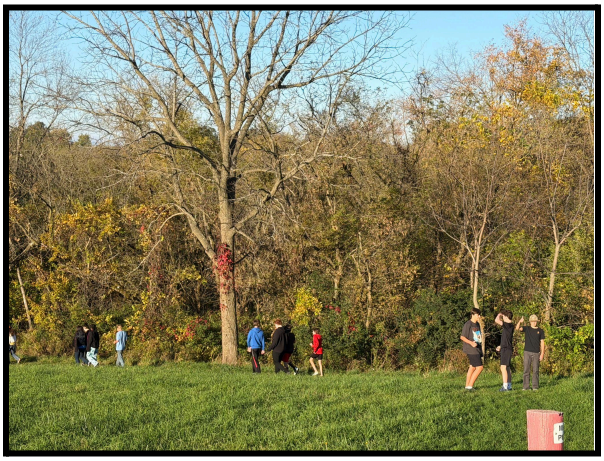


- **8th-grade English Language Arts:** 8th graders have been exploring how stories create suspense and fear in our "Thrill of Horror" unit. We read Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" and W.W. Jacobs's "The Monkey's Paw," then compared and contrasted their short story, play, and film versions. Students noticed how choices in language, performance, and visuals can shape a story's mood and affect an audience. We're now turning to mythology. Students are choosing a Greek myth and retelling it in graphic novel format, combining words and images to bring the story to life. This project gives them a chance to practice identifying key events, understanding characters and themes, and making creative choices while staying true to the myth's central ideas. We're excited to see the stories they bring to the page!
- Students in **8th-grade Reading** class are nearing the end of our class book *Fever, 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson. We are all anticipating plot developments as our story comes to an exciting conclusion. Students also continue to read books of choice for their first quarter AR reading goals which are to be completed by Thursday, November 5th.
- **8th-grade Spanish mini:** The 8th grade Spanish class was visited by a guest speaker! Itxaso, an exchange student from Spain, talked to the 8th grade about what her life in the Basque country is like, the food, geography, and some of the activities in her area. Students were able to ask her questions about her school and things she likes to do.



They are also learning about the Day of the Dead, and drew their own calaveras (decorative candy skulls) and alebrijes (spirit guide animals).

Middle School Physical Education: Students have been enjoying flag football, kickball and using the cross country trails to get their 60 minutes of exercise each day.



High School Health Class: Students are learning about mental and emotional health, self-esteem, healthy relationships, and good communication skills. We used some toilet paper for a fun Friday activity where students needed to tell facts about themselves to share with the

class to continue building relationships and learning more about their classmates. It's always a favorite during homecoming week.



High School Physical Education: Students in high school PE have been learning some new golf skills using the foam golf balls. Students have been practicing a variety of clubs to see what they like the best. Zeke was able to get a hole in 2 hits. Our holes are not perfect but the kids are learning and enjoying the beautiful fall weather.







High School Science Classes

High School Language Arts: English 1 students have been learning about the Holocaust in preparation for reading *Night.* English 2 has finished the unit on "What Conflicts Can be Bridged?" and will now prepare for a synthesis essay.

High School Math High

School Social Studies: U.S. History students have been learning about the problems with the Articles of Confederation and the events that led to the development of our current Constitution.

Robotics: Robotics had their FIRST Tech Challenge League Meet on Saturday, October 24th. Team StarBoost earned 5th of 14th place, and overall 8 of 28 in competition. Most of the competition were older students, yet Seneca scored 75 game points, the highest event score. The team is revamping for more success in upcoming November and December competitions.

FBLA: The FBLA Club continues to operate our school store and sells iced coffee and flavored lemonade on Tuesday and Friday mornings before school. As part of our community service project, we are supporting the PTO by closing the store and supplying workers for their PIT STOP fundraising event.

The Seneca Royals Volleyball Team are Regional Champions



Seneca volleyball continues to roll. The royals earn the number one seed in division 5 and earn a bye in the first round of regionals. First up for the Royals was the Potosi Chieftains. Potosi was the #8 seed and ready to upset the Royals. They were scrappy and were able to stick with the Royals going point for point until Lily Payne went on an 11 point serving run. The offense was clicking and Anne Manning was difficult to stop at the net. The royals won set one 25-13. It was again the same back and forth play in the second set until Addison Davidson went on a 13 point serving run and the royals were able to pull ahead and win set two 25-14. In the third set Seneca was able to dominate on all sides of the ball and Addison Davidson again went on a 10 set scoring run and the Royals were able to pull ahead with a score of 25-14. Addison recorded a season high 9 aces on the match and served 33 of 34 from behind the service line. The Royals were led on offense by Anne Manning 22 kills on the night. Addison Davidson was all over the court for the royals and was able to record 28 assists on the night. Defense was led by Emma Manning with 18 digs and Lily Payne with 15. With this win, Seneca advances to play River Ridge in the regional finals at Seneca. This game was anticipated to be a very hard battle between two great teams. Both teams bring experience and a great deal of grit to win. Seneca came out strong from the service line and took an early 5-1 lead but River Ridge continued to battle and was able to come back in the match. River Ridge had strong blocking but Seneca was able to move the hitters around and win set one with a score of 25-15. Set two was much of the same with strong serves from the Royals and winning hustle points that was able to keep

Seneca in the lead. River Ridge was a strong and scrappy team that continued to battle until the middle of the set in which Seneca was able to take the lead and win set two 25-13. Seneca continued to dominate in the third set with a strong offensive presence from the net and the service line. Seneca was able to win set three 25-16. With this win, Seneca was able to bring home a regional title for the first time since 2019. Leading the offense was Anne Manning with 17 kills and Violet Varo added 7 kills. Seneca recorded 9 aces on the night and really used that momentum to fuel the offense. Addison Davidson recorded 30 assists on the night. Leading the defense was Emma Manning recording 24 digs, Lily Payne with 11 and Anne Manning with a season high 10 digs. I am so incredibly proud of this team for what they have accomplished in the regular season and in the post season but our goals are far from over. They show tremendous grit and have a refuse to lose mentality. We are looking forward to hosting Highland on Thursday. With this win the Royal will now match-up against the Highland Cardinals. Seneca has previously beaten Highland at the Iowa Grant Tournament. Both teams will try to show the other some new offensive looks and win the battle. The game is at Seneca on Thursday, October 29 2026.