SENeca VALLEY AQUATIC CENTER

DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY
The process of building this facility began in August 2017 when the Seneca Valley School Board approved an agreement with IKM Architects to design a stand-alone Seneca Valley Aquatic Center. After more than a year of thoughtful planning and working cooperatively with a core group of stakeholders, the vision began to be realized in September 2018 when initial plans and renderings were met with excitement and enthusiasm in a school board meeting. The approval of the plans was unanimous—and necessary—to replace the original natatorium built in 1965. After many years of repairing the original pool, it became time to address a long-term solution. As such, a new aquatic center has been part of the District’s long-term facilities planning efforts since 2014. The facility was also a part of the District’s 2015 Feasibility Study, which was an in-depth study of the District’s facilities to address long-range planning and responsiveness.

“The completion of the aquatic center is the culmination of six years of planning and cooperation among the entire Seneca Valley community,” said Eric DiTullio, Seneca Valley School Board President. “The fact we were able to finish and open the facility in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic made the entire experience just a little more special. To be able to offer our students and residents access to this type of quality facility makes me proud, not only as a board member, but as a member of the community.”

On September 16, 2019, to celebrate the groundbreaking of the SV Aquatic Center, members of the Seneca Valley School Board joined administrators, staff, students, coaches and swim families for a ceremony. After several challenges, including the global pandemic, the project took a little longer than anticipated to complete but ultimately opened via a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Feb. 17, 2021. Students from the SV swim and dive teams celebrated with quite the splash when the more than 50 members of the teams all jumped in the pool simultaneously.

Thoughtful Planning and Design Result in Innovative Aquatic Center
A unique feature in the Seneca Valley Aquatic Center is an impressive 8’ x 16’ mural. Students and teachers, grades 7-12, collaborated on the mural with the goal of aesthetically enhancing the new aquatic space and showcasing the commitment that Seneca Valley is a place for all learners. The group worked for some time researching various forms of public/street art and developing several drafts, many of them submitted by students. The final mosaic was pieced together using a grid design and features harvested tile from the original pool. Additional assistance for the mural was provided by local artist Elizabeth Klevens.

But, in addition to being a showcase for the swim and dive teams, the aquatic center will be a place for the entire community. Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tracy Vitale said, “This aquatic center will be a community asset, where many of our youngsters will learn to swim. While many of the sports so many of us participate in have a shelf life, swimming does not sit in a lifelong sport that we can continue to participate into our golden years.”

According to Jim Nickel, Seneca Valley School Board Vice President and former president of the board during the aquatic center approval process, “I’ve said since I began serving on our board that our District is the nucleus that brings all of the communities we serve together as one. The aquatic center is a tangible demonstration of exactly that. I am so proud to have played a small role in making it a reality, particularly in what has been such a difficult time in our community and our country.”

An Asset for the Community

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SV Aquatic Center Fast Facts

- **Dirt Moved**: 14,000 Cubic Yards
- **Concrete**: 2,000 Cubic Yards
- **Steel**: 140 Tons
- **Concrete Masonry Blocks**: 45,000
- **Bricks**: 13,000
- **Glass**: 3,000 Square Feet
- **Ductwork**: 30,000 Square Feet
- **Piping**: 15,000 Square Feet
- **Water**: 367,000 Gallons