

**Steel Valley School District
220 East Oliver Rd.
Munhall, PA 15120**

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steel Valley's "Stand Together" Student Group Educates Others on Using Words Wisely

Munhall, PA – Steel Valley Middle School's "Stand Together" student group kicked off its first official school project by spreading the message that "Words Matter."

"We want students to understand that the names they may call others can hurt them and/or offend them or someone close to them," said Stand Together Advisor & Middle School Teacher Ryan Dunmire-Kuftic.

This message stemmed from a previous project conducted by Steel Valley Teachers Dr. Fenyus, Mrs. McGrew and Mrs. Churilla earlier this year.

The Stand Together team wore their green shirts with the words, "Wear Green. Be Proud. I stand with 1:4 people who suffer from Mental Illness" on them. Club members also placed table tents containing definitions of various mental illnesses and words that could hurt someone on cafeteria tables.

And, in order to gain a "words matter" bracelet, students needed to sign the Stand Together pledge. A trivia game was also set up to educate students on various mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders.

"It was a great day!" said Dunmire-Kuftic.

Stand Together is funded by the Allegheny County Office of Behavioral Health.

