

# IN

An IN Community Magazine

# Fox Chapel Area

## Fox Chapel Area Students Showcase Artistic Excellence

PAGES 16-23

**2022-2023 FCASD  
Final Budget Breakdown**

PAGE 10

**Special Section: Real Estate**

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fox Chapel Area Community,

In the small space of time between when one school year ends and planning for another begins, I allow myself some time for reflection. Looking back on the 2021-2022 school year, I keep coming back to one theme: success. Success, of course, is subjective and measured in a multitude of ways. For me, success was making it through the entire school year without any major disruptions as we endured yet another year under the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic. Success, to me, also resulted from the spirit of collaboration that so abundantly permeates our district, from our school board to our administrative team, to our faculty and staff, to our families and the members of our greater school community. Many of the ways that these groups bolster and uplift our students to aspire and achieve their greatest potential never become known to most people, but their contributions are immeasurable. Finally, success was reflected in the myriad academic, artistic, athletic, and citizenship achievements that our students and staff earned this school year.

Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students were named National Merit Finalists.
- A group of Dorseyville Middle School students placed first in the state in The Stock Market Game.
- Two teams of Fairview Elementary School students tied for first place regionally in the grades four and five division of the 2022 Science Bowl.
- Two high school students were named national winners in the 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.
- Eight Fox Chapel Area teams won their sections, and five triumphed as WPIAL champions. Three teams qualified for PIAA competition, as did 15 individual student-athletes. Overall, 21 of 26 interscholastic teams and/or individuals from those teams qualified for the postseason.
- The 2021 Fox Chapel Area School District telethon, which benefited Fox Families Care, raised more than \$107,000, a record for the event.
- Kerr Elementary School hosted its first-ever volunteer fair, which furthered a spirit of giving within the school.

The above examples of success, along with the willingness of the many stakeholders in our school district to come together, especially during uncertain and difficult times, provide much promise for the future. As I prepare to enter my third full year as superintendent of the Fox Chapel Area School District, I've never been more hopeful and excited, and I eagerly await all the success that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac  
Superintendent



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my third full year as  
superintendent of the  
Fox Chapel Area School  
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# FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2022-2023 FINAL BUDGET

The Fox Chapel Area School Board adopted the 2022-2023 final budget at its regular business meeting on June 13, 2022.

Total Revenues	\$109,301,495
Total Expenditures	<u>\$111,031,866</u>
Total Net Change	-\$1,730,371*

*\*In addition to a tax increase, the budget will be balanced via a fund balance drawdown.*

The 2022-2023 final budget reflects an increase of 1.5% to the millage rate, which will go from 20.1269 to 20.4288. The increase in millage is expected to add more than \$1 million in revenue each year.

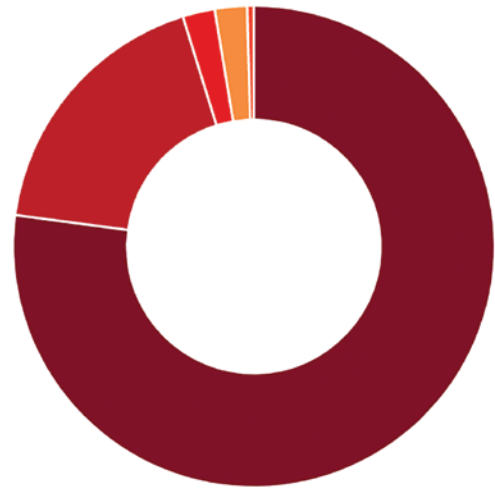
The budget includes annual increases in tuition outplacement costs (8%) and rising medical (8%), dental (3%), and vision (3%) insurance premiums for staff.

It also includes approximately \$1 million in planned ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) federal allocations. Plans for these funds include capital expenditures, summer learning initiatives, after-school programs, reading and math intervention programs, and student and staff support services. Among the capital expenditures planned is a window replacement project at Dorseyville Middle School that is expected to cost approximately \$800,000.

The 2022-2023 budget also includes a transfer of \$2 million into a capital reserve fund to be put toward other larger-scale capital improvement projects, which include heating, ventilating, and air conditioning upgrades at Hartwood Elementary School; an internal lighting project at Hartwood; and turf replacement at the high school for the baseball, softball, and multipurpose fields.

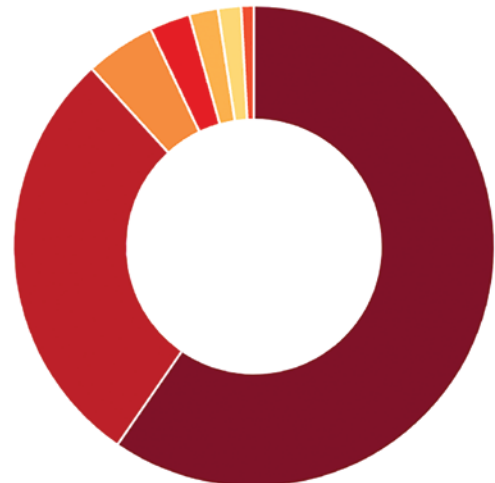
## Breakdown of Revenues

Local Revenue (76.8%)	\$83,988,688
State Revenue (20.1%)	\$21,989,015
Federal Revenue (1.6%)	\$1,753,792
Unassigned Fund Balance (1.4%)	\$1,500,000
Other Revenue (0.06%)	\$70,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$109,301,495</b>



## Breakdown of Expenditures

Instruction (60.1%)	\$66,744,842
Support Services (28.8%)	\$32,025,214
Debt Service (4.6%)	\$5,090,953
Non-Instruction (2.6%)	\$2,863,272
Fund Transfer (1.8%)	\$2,025,000
Budgetary Reserve (1.4%)	\$1,500,000
Facilities (0.7%)	\$782,585
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$111,031,866</b>



The 2022-2023 budget reflects costs of more than \$17 million for the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) employer contribution, an increase of 6% over the current year. The 2022-2023 PSERS employer contribution rate is set at 35.26%. The state reimburses the school district 50% of those costs, and that is reflected in the revenues section of the final budget.

### Gaming Funds Distribution

On May 2, 2022, the Pennsylvania Department of Education notified the Fox Chapel Area School District that the district's share of gaming funds will total \$1,847,213.20. The method of distributing these funds, as prescribed by Act 1, the Taxpayer Relief Act, will be via the implementation of the homestead exemption. Under this provision, any property in the school district that was approved by Allegheny County as a homestead will have the lesser of its taxable value, or an estimated \$11,703.33 of its taxable value, excluded for the purpose of calculating school district real estate taxes for the 2022 tax year. The owners of the 7,771\* properties in the district that qualified for the homestead exemption will receive the equivalent of a \$239.08 reduction in their property taxes. Property owners who currently do not have an approved homestead exemption will have the opportunity to apply again when the district sends out letters to those homeowners in December 2022.

*\*Allegheny County has certified that there are 7,771 properties in the Fox Chapel Area School District that qualify for the homestead exemption. If that number is adjusted by the county to include fewer or more properties, it could affect the amount of the final reduction.*

### Federal Stimulus Funds

Information regarding federal COVID-related stimulus funds is available at [www.fcasd.edu/budget](http://www.fcasd.edu/budget).

### Future Challenges

- COVID-19 and its economic impact for the current and future budget years continue to be an uncertainty.
- The contribution to retirement costs (PSERS) remains a challenge for all school districts in Pennsylvania.
  - The employer contribution rate is set by PSERS trustees, not by the district.
  - The district anticipates paying more than \$45 million in PSERS contributions during the next five years.
- Projected multiyear capital improvement plan costs are not finalized.

## Taxpayer Estimated Real Estate Tax Liability

	Without Homestead Exemption	With Homestead Exemption	Without Homestead Exemption	With Homestead Exemption	Without Homestead Exemption	With Homestead Exemption
2021 Assessed Value	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$224,000.00 Median Home	\$224,000.00 Median Home	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
2021 Homestead Exemption*		\$9,427.24		\$9,427.24		\$9,427.24
2021 Net Assessed Value	\$100,000.00	\$90,572.76	\$224,000.00	\$214,572.76	\$500,000.00	\$490,572.76
2021 Millage Rate	20.1269	20.1269	20.1269	20.1269	20.1269	20.1269
2021 Tax Liability	\$2,012.69	\$1,822.95	\$4,508.43	\$4,318.68	\$10,063.45	\$9,873.71
2022 Assessed Value	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$224,000.00	\$224,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
2022 Homestead Exemption*		\$11,703.33		\$11,703.33		\$11,703.33
2022 Net Assessed Value	\$100,000.00	\$88,296.67	\$224,000.00	\$212,296.67	\$500,000.00	\$488,296.67
2022 Millage Rate	20.4288	20.4288	20.4288	20.4288	20.4288	20.4288
2022 Tax Liability	\$2,042.88	\$1,803.80	\$4,576.05	\$4,336.97	\$10,214.40	\$9,975.32
Annual Increase/Decrease	\$30.19	-\$19.15	\$67.63	\$18.28	\$150.95	\$101.61
% Increase/Decrease	1.50%	-1.05%	1.50%	0.42%	1.50%	1.03%

- These amounts can be reduced by 2% if paid in full during the discount period.
- Senior citizens may qualify for a property tax rebate program available through the state.

\*More information about the homestead tax exemption can be found at <https://dced.pa.gov/local-government/property-tax-relief-homestead-exclusion>.

Continued on next page >





## Budget Summary for the General Fund

	Actual 2019-2020	Actual 2020-2021	Estimated 2021-2022	Final Budget 2022-2023
<b>Revenues</b>				
Current Real Estate Taxes	\$64,762,645.84	\$66,628,784.86	\$68,503,062	\$70,535,248
Other Real Estate Taxes	\$85,808.43	\$91,323.26	\$221,259	\$131,000
Act 511 Taxes	\$8,937,465.14	\$9,632,463.71	\$9,980,607	\$9,385,100
Delinquent Taxes (Real Estate & Act 511)	\$2,372,779.75	\$2,490,043.96	\$2,497,774	\$2,700,000
Other Local Income	\$1,869,766.33	\$784,854.83	\$1,272,061	\$1,237,340
Basic Instructional & Operating Subsidy	\$5,492,803.61	\$5,527,328.00	\$5,959,866	\$6,057,500
Revenue for Specific Educational Programs	\$2,567,776.92	\$2,417,751.76	\$2,444,966	\$2,450,000
Other State Revenue	\$11,917,033.61	\$14,124,954.37	\$12,633,236	\$13,481,515
Federal Revenue	\$845,223.57	\$1,558,319.29	\$3,844,298	\$1,753,792
Other Financing Sources	\$703,913.50	\$232,998.44	\$144,586	\$70,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$99,555,216.70</b>	<b>\$103,488,822.48</b>	<b>\$107,501,715</b>	<b>\$107,801,495</b>
Available/Unassigned Fund Balance (Less Portion to be Utilized as Drawdown)				\$1,500,000
<b>Total Revenue Available (Includes Fund Balance Utilization)</b>	<b>\$99,555,216.70</b>	<b>\$103,488,822.48</b>	<b>\$107,501,715</b>	<b>\$109,301,495</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Instruction	\$62,290,719.71	\$59,744,530.69	\$63,898,405	\$66,744,842
Support Services	\$29,745,146.71	\$29,076,506.99	\$33,306,288	\$32,025,214
Non-Instructional	\$2,637,296.76	\$2,400,902.14	\$2,964,634	\$2,863,272
Facilities	\$273,788.52	\$589,679.04	\$311,921	\$782,585
Debt Service/Refund of Prior Year Receipts	\$5,669,449.80	\$5,556,031.04	\$5,359,804	\$5,090,953
Capital Projects Fund Transfer	\$1,407,976.00	\$2,826,219.25	\$669,766	\$2,025,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$102,024,377.50</b>	<b>\$100,193,869.15</b>	<b>\$106,510,818</b>	<b>\$109,531,866</b>
Budgetary Reserve			\$43,635	\$1,500,000
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures (Includes Reserve)</b>	<b>\$102,024,377.50</b>	<b>\$100,193,869.15</b>	<b>\$106,554,453</b>	<b>\$111,031,866</b>
<b>Total Net Change (Revenues Less Expenditures)</b>	<b>-\$2,469,160.80</b>	<b>\$3,294,953.33</b>	<b>\$947,262</b>	<b>-\$1,730,371</b>

*Additional information about the 2022-2023 final budget can be found at [www.fcasd.edu/budget](http://www.fcasd.edu/budget).*

# FIRST-EVER VOLUNTEER FAIR FURTHERS KERR ELEMENTARY'S SPIRIT OF GIVING

**Z**achary Zornan Ferguson, like all Fox Chapel Area High School students, has service learning requirements to fulfill before he graduates. What the rising junior never anticipated, however, was how that obligation would help spark a tradition of volunteerism that will live on in the Kerr Elementary School community.

Zach, with the support of Kerr Elementary's diversity, equity, and inclusion committee, as well as the school's student change committee, recently organized a volunteer fair for Kerr's fourth- and fifth-graders. The goal of the event, according to Dr. Paul Noro, Kerr Elementary principal, was to encourage Kerr students to volunteer in the future, inspire giving, practice their social skills, and broaden their view of their community and beyond.

"We were brainstorming and came up with the concept of volunteerism, which then brought up the idea of a volunteer fair," Dr. Noro says. "We looked at the unique qualities of Kerr, what makes us different, and thought of what we could do to reach our population." During the month of April, all Kerr students received lessons on volunteerism, according to Dr. Noro.

Zach, a Kerr alumnus, wanted to do something that would create positive change at his former school. He selected Beverly's Birthdays to be the volunteer fair's highlighted benefactor. The local nonprofit works to ensure that every child, regardless of personal and/or financial circumstances, is able to celebrate their birthday. In March, Kerr students collected more than 1,000 party supplies to donate to Beverly's Birthdays and raised \$450 in donations during the school's spring showcase.

"Most kids love birthday parties and hope to have one each year, so Beverly's Birthdays seemed to be the perfect fit with our students," Zach says. "The organization has a great track record of giving in Western Pennsylvania. We are proud to have sponsored such a positive mission."

Zach also arranged for numerous organizations to visit the school on May 20 for fourth- and fifth-graders to find volunteer opportunities suited to their interests.

His mother, Carrie Ferguson, is Kerr's Response to Intervention and Instruction (RtII) facilitator. She said not only did she once again get to experience the generosity of the Kerr community



firsthand, but she had the unique opportunity to see her son take on a new initiative.

"Zachary is a shy and humble kid," Ms. Ferguson says. "While he has success in both the classroom and swimming pool, he was a bit out of his comfort zone with the number of people with whom he had to contact to arrange the volunteer fair. He learned how to better communicate with others and how sometimes you have to keep working for what you want. Seeing him grow as a person was truly amazing."

Plans are already underway for next year's event, Ms. Ferguson says. And, even with his service learning hours fulfilled, Zach plans to be a part of it to ensure that younger students can learn the importance of giving, she says.

"Time and again, our school does everything it can and gives as much as it can," Ms. Ferguson says. "While we're extremely grateful for the monetary support for Beverly's Birthdays, the volunteer fair shows that you can give in other valuable ways, such as by lending your time."

"The students, families, staff, and Dr. Noro were amazing to work with through the whole process of organizing the event and the collection drives," Zach adds. "I feel honored to be an alumnus of Kerr."





## 2022 GRADUATES CAP OFF FCASD JOURNEY

A total of 338 Fox Chapel Area High School seniors graduated Sunday, June 5, 2022, at a ceremony at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum in Oakland. The student speakers at the ceremony were graduating seniors Omar Shalaby and Lance Wilhelm.









# FOX CHAPEL AREA

## High School

Pages 16-23 feature an art gallery with student work from the 2021-2022 school year.



Jacob Shelestak - Grade 12



Sam Henry - Grade 12



Mia Fraga Ruiz - Grade 11



Gabrielle Generetti - Grade 9

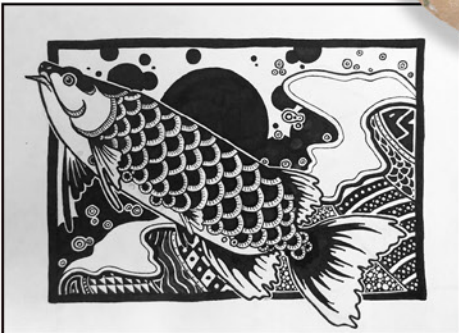


Lilah Blyth - Grade 9



Elie Nawrocki - Grade 10

Percy Starz - Grade 11



Alexander Kaufmann  
Grade 10



Lydia Sagath - Grade 12



Ishaan Acharya - Grade 11





Murugan Ayyanar - Grade 9

Yuqi Zhou  
Grade 9



Parthiv Patel - Grade 12



Cali Johnson - Grade 11



Sydney Ward  
Grade 11



Massimo Lagazzi - Grade 10

Uma Muzumdar - Grade 12



Katelynn Rothwell - Grade 11



Mikhail Ion - Grade 11

Anna Dering - Grade 10



Siheng Chao - Grade 11



Sydney Hudock - Grade 9



Eduardo Phelan-Vidal  
Grade 10



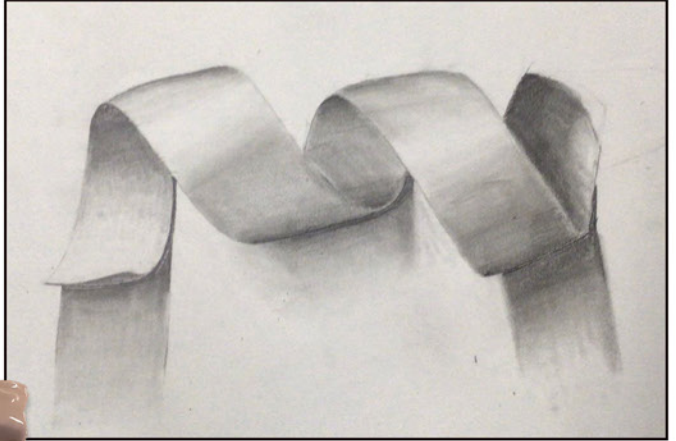
# DORSEYVILLE

## *Middle School*

Maccabee Sufrin - Grade 6



Ayush Patel - Grade 7



Molly Classen - Grade 8



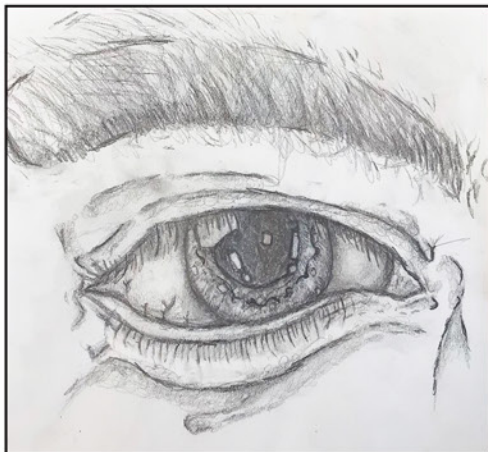
Junseo Yoo - Grade 7



Cate Conway  
Grade 8



Jacob Schapira - Grade 7

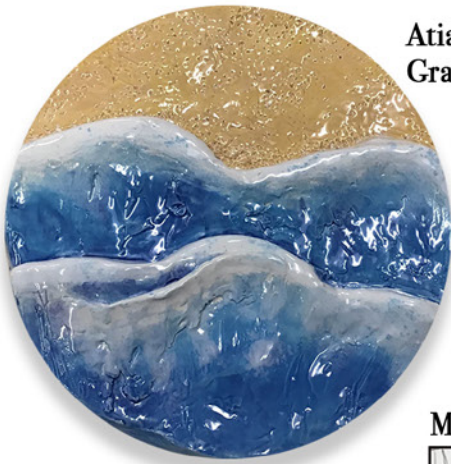


Cavinn Gray - Grade 8

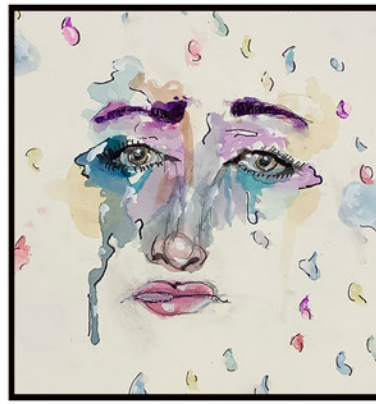


Addison Sacco - Grade 6





Atia DiGioia  
Grade 8



Milana DaPos - Grade 6



Stephen Hur - Grade 6

Makenna Marcussen - Grade 8



Ava DeBruyn - Grade 8



Cecilia Sumrok  
Grade 6



Luci Carvelli - Grade 8

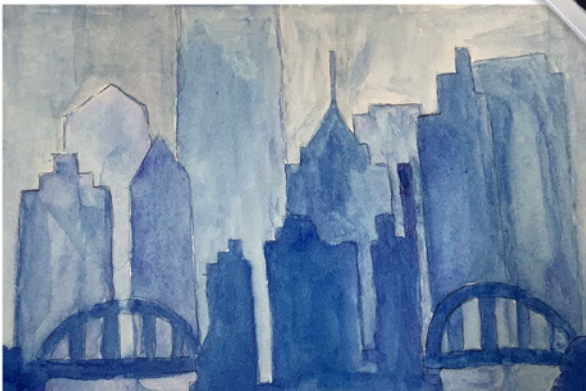
James Manges  
Grade 8



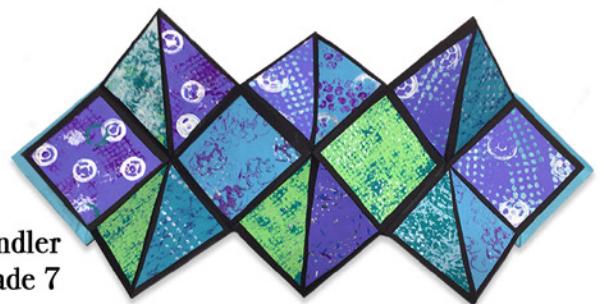
Sadie Stephenson - Grade 7



Harrison Soose - Grade 6



Victoria Pfendler  
Grade 7





# FAIRVIEW

## Elementary School



Maura Sample - Grade 4

Sophie Readal - Grade 1



Grace Cicero - Grade 2



Greta Straub - Grade 3



Karlyanne Kushon - Grade 5



Levi Hovis  
Grade 4



Esteban Flores  
Kindergarten



Rusty Dezort  
Grade 5



Teddy Brubaker - Grade 1

Linden Trac - Grade 5



Enzo Moschetta - Grade 3



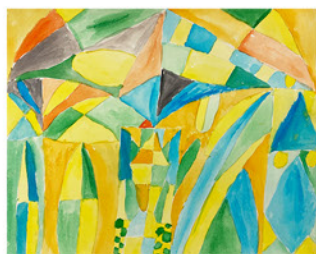
Emily Olesak - Kindergarten



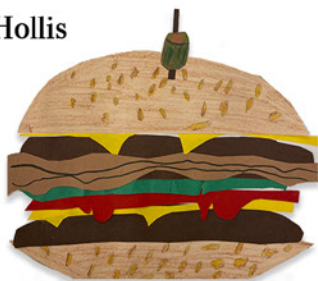
Holden Bronack  
Grade 2







Johnny Hollis  
Grade 3



Graham Ziegler  
Grade 2



Cloudio Jeffery - Grade 1

Neiht Brown - Grade 5



Harlowe Frank - Grade 1



Lauren Dominik  
Grade 4

Teja Thada  
Grade 3



Brooke Nalevanko  
Grade 5



Ryan Chiquelin - Grade 3

Henry Miga  
Grade 1



Thea Dunmyre - Kindergarten

Madelyn McCarthy - Kindergarten



Madison Walsh - Grade 2



Jack Sumrok - Grade 4

# HARTWOOD

## Elementary School



# KERR

## Elementary School



Veronica Troup - Grade 1

Mason McCloskey - Kindergarten



Sienna Murray  
Grade 3



Emma Weber - Grade 4

Charlotte Harcar - Kindergarten



Avery Schreckengost  
Pre-Kindergarten



Thomas Herstig - Grade 1



Kara Schneider - Grade 2

Bella Gao - Grade 2



Lorenzo Tarin - Grade 3



Delaney O'Toole - Grade 5

Cody Speer  
Pre-Kindergarten



Spanish Brazil - Grade 5



Mia Walters - Grade 4





Sasha Pechersky  
Grade 5



Olivia Bergman  
Grade 4



Penelope Gazarov - Grade 2



Conlan Jones - Grade 4



Lydia DiGioia - Kindergarten



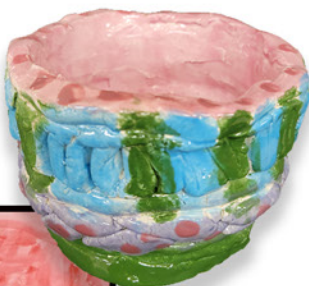
Asher Tobe - Grade 1



Graham Squires  
Grade 1



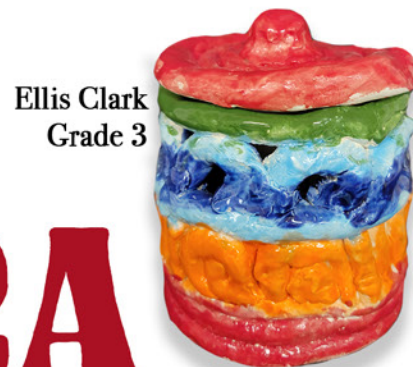
Brandon Tilstra - Grade 5



Miyu Komatsu  
Grade 3



Simon Patnik - Grade 2



Ellis Clark  
Grade 3

# O'HARA

## Elementary School





## STUDENT-ATHLETES TO LEARN AND PLAY AT THE NEXT LEVEL

**E**ighteen recent Fox Chapel Area High School graduates who signed and/or committed to further their academic and athletic careers at the next level were honored as part of a special recognition in May.

"This is always one of my favorite days each year because it represents the culmination of years of hard work and great sacrifice on the part of the student-athletes, as well as their parents and guardians," Fox Chapel Area School District Athletic Director Michael O'Brien said, comparing the student-athletes' achievements to a mountain climb. "It's important to note that this ascent by the students has not been done alone. You, the parents and guardians, brothers and sisters, grandparents, other family members, friends, and coaches have all been part of the climb and should be commended for being such a great support system."

Mr. O'Brien pointed out that this year's group of seniors were sophomores when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Some lost their seasons, while others narrowly completed theirs.

"What they all have in common, however, is a great resilience and dedication to their respective sports and the 'never give up' mentality that has gotten them here today. This type of perseverance will serve these student-athletes well as they embark upon this new chapter in their lives."

Just some of the Class of 2022's accomplishments are:

- Over the course of the last four years, the class participated in more than 1,100 athletic contests as a combined group and won more than 700 of those competitions.
- Twenty-one out of 26 teams qualified for the playoffs during the 2021-2022 school year.
- The boys golf team finished as PIAA runner-up; the girls golf team placed third.
- Five teams won WPIAL championships.
- Eli Yofan became the boys basketball all-time leading scorer, finishing his career with 1,600 career points.



- Ariana Pasquella and Rei Sperry were part of the girls swimming 200-medley relay team that qualified for All-America recognition through the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association.



- Mackenzie Borkovich ended the season with 545 strikeouts, nearly besting the school record of 552.
- Zidane Thomas broke the school record for total tackles in a season with 105, and also broke the school record for tackles for a loss during his career with 26.
- The football team, led by this year's senior class, won its first playoff game in more than 20 years.
- Carissa Shepard was the WPIAL section singles champion for the second year in a row.
- Team QPA awards went to the girls tennis (4.45) and boys soccer (4.03) teams.
- The cumulative QPA this year for all of the varsity teams was 3.94.





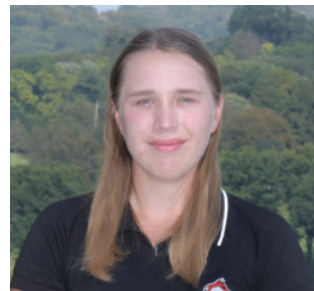
Mackenzie Borkovich – Softball  
Slippery Rock University



Wes Carnevale – Soccer  
Cornell University



Jake DeMotte – Basketball  
St. Vincent College



Erin Drahnak – Golf  
Bucknell University



Thomas Healy – Lacrosse  
Hamilton College



Amelia Herzer – Softball  
Carlow University



Kate Kinst – Swimming  
Franciscan University



Nick Korbe – Football  
Washington & Jefferson College



Colin Kwiatkowski – Football  
Washington & Jefferson College



Ariana Pasquella – Swimming  
University of Rochester



Nathaniel Ross – Swimming  
The College of New Jersey



Wilson Runnette – Lacrosse  
Heidelberg University



Carissa Shepard – Tennis  
Seton Hill University



Zoe Skirboll – Swimming  
University of Virginia



Rei Sperry – Swimming  
Loyola Marymount University



Zidane Thomas – Football  
Edinboro University



Jason Williams-Anderson – Football  
Westminster College



Eli Yofan – Basketball  
Miami University





## O'KEEFFE MARKS MAJOR MILESTONE

In 2003, when Phil O'Keeffe first saw Fox Chapel Area High School nestled in the valley, he wondered how things were going to turn out for him as the school's new head boys volleyball coach. One thing he never imagined was that, 20 years later, he would still be at the helm and so beloved that many of his former players would attend a game to celebrate him and his milestone coaching achievement.

Coach O'Keeffe's playing days began at Central Catholic and led him to Allegheny College and beyond. He also played professionally for eight years with the Macon Volleyball Club in France. After he came back to the United States, a friend asked him to help coach a Junior Olympic team over the summer. A year later, he accepted the coaching job at Fox Chapel Area High School.

In his years with the Foxes, coach O'Keeffe has led a number of teams to WPIAL and PIAA prominence, including 2 PIAA team runners-up, 6 teams making the PIAA playoffs, 2 WPIAL champions, 2 WPIAL team runners-up, 7 teams making the WPIAL playoffs, and 3 section titles.

Not only has coach O'Keeffe taught the game to hundreds of young Fox Chapel Area players, but he has also championed the sport. He co-founded three area club volleyball teams, as well as the Pittsburgh Volleyball Alumni Classic, now in its 23rd year.

But perhaps the biggest imprint coach O'Keeffe has made on the Foxes program is the many coach-player relationships that have developed into lifelong friendships. Nick Rivett (Class of 2006), one of the best players to come out of the program, even asked him to officiate at his wedding, and the coach was part of 2007 graduate Eric Garrison's wedding party.

His most high-profile protégé is Kellen Petrone, an assistant coach of the University of Pittsburgh women's volleyball team. He was a coach under the direction of O'Keeffe for a bit and helped guide two of the Foxes teams to the state finals and a WPIAL championship.

Coach Petrone says, "I started coaching with Phil at a young age and was really lucky. Phil has an absolute specialty in getting kids excited about volleyball. It's why I got hooked onto coaching while I was still playing."



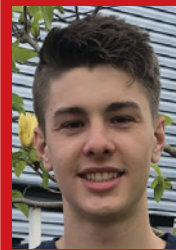
*Fox Chapel Area High School boys volleyball coach Phil O'Keeffe played professionally for eight years with the Macon Volleyball Club in France.*



*Fox Chapel Area boys volleyball alumni join current players in honoring coach Phil O'Keeffe.*

To mark his 20th season with the program, some of coach O'Keeffe's past players expressed their praise for the impact he had, and continues to have, on their lives.

**Patrick Kiszka** (Class of 2020): "Phil is a great coach! He



convinced me to come to a few open gyms after telling me my previous sports backgrounds of soccer and basketball were perfect to make a good volleyball player. I was completely new to the sport, so to say those first few practices were rough is an understatement. But Phil took his time and really helped me become a great player."

**DJ Guardino** (Class of 2006): "Phil's leadership was always



there while he was my coach. He showed me how to teach and lead, but more importantly, he helped me mature as a young man. One of the best qualities that Phil has is integrity. He always does the right thing."

**Dan Tublin** (Class of 2010): "I credit my incredible

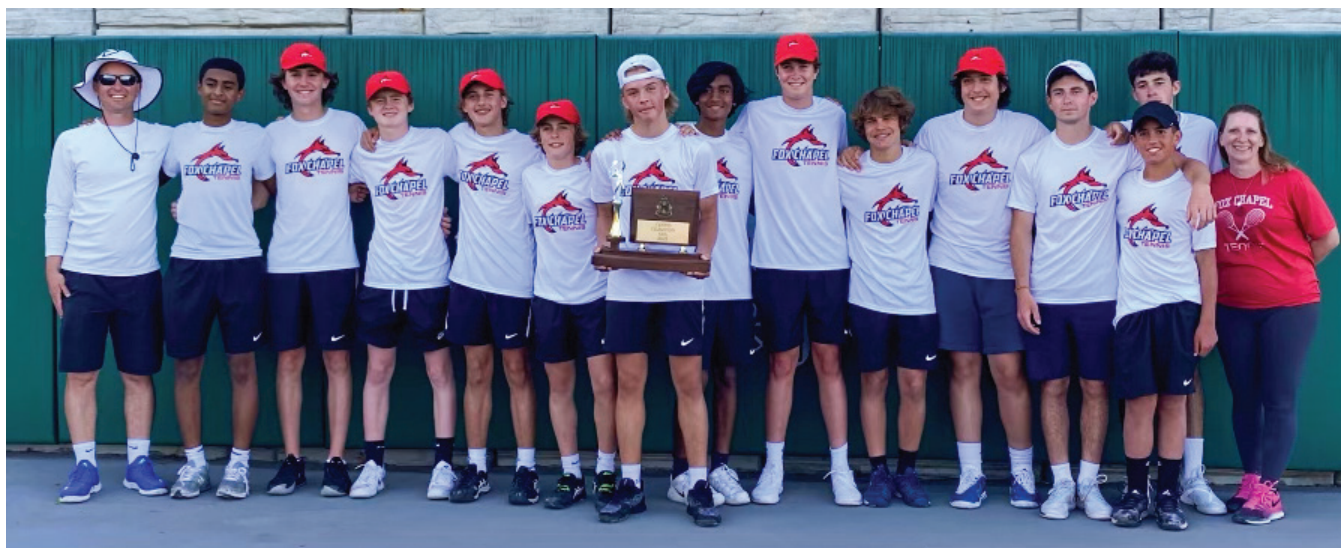


experience to Phil and what makes him so special – his commitment to my development, his deep knowledge of the game, and his relentless promotion of and enthusiasm for volleyball. Through Phil, I learned how rewarding it can be to stick with something and make slow but steady progress. And,

more importantly, Phil taught me the value of sharing that progress alongside a team and the larger community it's a part of."



# FOXES BOYS TENNIS WINS WPIAL GOLD



It was quite a season for the Foxes boys tennis team, which included a colossal victory over last year's WPIAL team champions, Shady Side Academy, 5-0, to capture the WPIAL Class 3A team crown for the fifth time in six seasons. Getting to the championship finals was a hard-fought effort for the sixth-ranked Foxes and included prior big upsets over North Allegheny and Mt. Lebanon. And they did it without the "stars" that often flank many top teams' rosters.

"It's rare for a team to advance so far without having any individual section champions," says coach Alex Slezak. "Many of the best teams have individuals who are bigger than their programs, but our team was bigger than any one individual, and that's how we have won."

That statement takes on even more meaning when considering that the team is very young, and none had ever played tennis at levels higher than the equivalent of the WPIAL quarterfinals until this season. But the athletes came into the playoffs with a lot of energy and a high standard to win.

"Coming into the playoffs as the sixth seed, many would be surprised that we made it that far, but I am not at all surprised," says singles player, junior Cooper Friday. "We have worked extremely hard this season and have a deep roster of young, energetic players. Being a part of the Fox Chapel Area varsity team for three years, and finally getting a stab at a WPIAL championship, is a great feeling. I wouldn't want to share this playoff journey with any other group of boys."

It certainly appears as though the Foxes peaked at exactly the right time. Even though they went into the WPIAL finals with a 12-1 record, they were largely overlooked as serious contenders. So, what made the difference?

"Our wins against North Allegheny and Mt. Lebanon gave them the confidence to know they can do it," coach Slezak says.

However, the coach isn't necessarily giving himself enough credit for the role he has played in the program's success over the years. He simply says good players come to him, but his approach to the mental part of the game is very effective.

For example, take what he said to junior Ananth Kashyap during the WPIAL semifinal match versus North Allegheny. When Ananth came onto the court as the last one to compete for the Foxes, the score was tied at 2-2, and the team's outcome depended on him. Coach Slezak knew it was time to impart some advice to settle him down.

"Ananth is really smart in math," says coach Slezak, "so I said to him, 'If you were in the finals of a math competition, what would you do?' And, he said, 'I'd go in there, solve the problem, and just do it.' And that's exactly what he did."

Rounding out the starters were first flight doubles partners sophomore Travis Malone and freshman Mason Friday, and the second-team doubles duo of junior Jack Delaney and sophomore Ben Hallman.

The Foxes won their first-round PIAA contest against City League champion Carrick before falling in the PIAA quarterfinals to Conestoga High School.



*Singles player Ananth Kashyap warms up during a practice.*





# FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORY

## District Administration

611 Field Club Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412/963-9600  
www.fcasd.edu  
Superintendent: Mary Catherine Reljac, Ed.D.  
Deputy Superintendent: David McCommons, Ed.D.  
Business Manager: Kimberly Pawlishak

## District Resource Staff

Executive Director of Elementary Education and Instruction: Ashley Constantine, Ed.D.  
Executive Director of Secondary Education and Instruction: Matthew Harris, Ed.D.  
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services: Timothy Mahoney  
Executive Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership: Megan Collett, Ed.D.  
Director of Literacy: Dana Simile  
Director of Student Achievement and Instructional Verification: Stephen Edwards, Ed.D.  
Director of Ancillary Services: Daniel Breitreutz  
Chief of School Police/School Safety and Security Coordinator: Joseph Kozarian  
Director of Athletics: Michael O'Brien  
Coordinator of Communications: Bonnie Berzonski  
Community Engagement Specialist: Jill Leonard

## FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOLS

### Fairview Elementary School

738 Dorseyville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412/963-9315  
Interim Principal:  
Stephen Edwards, Ed.D.

### Hartwood Elementary School

3730 Saxonburg Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412/767-5396  
Principal:  
Rachel Fischbaugh, Ed.D.

### Kerr Elementary School

341 Kittanning Pike  
Pittsburgh, PA 15215  
412/781-4105  
Principal: Paul Noro, Ed.D.

### O'Hara Elementary School

115 Cabin Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412/963-0333  
Principal: Kristy Batis, Ed.D.  
Program Principal:  
Benjamin Canan

### Dorseyville Middle School

3732 Saxonburg Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412/767-5343  
Principal: Jonathan Nauhaus  
Program Principal:  
Laura Miller, Ed.D.

### Fox Chapel Area High School

611 Field Club Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412/967-2430  
Lead Principal:  
Michael Hower, Ed.D.  
Program Principal (A-L):  
Daniel Lentz, Ph.D.  
Program Principal (M-Z):  
John McGee, Ph.D.

## CONTACT INFORMATION SOUGHT

The Fox Chapel Area School District is gathering emails of individuals who do not have children in the district but are interested in receiving occasional emails from the district. If you are interested in getting emails from the district, please fill out the Google form at <http://bit.ly/FCASDContacts> so that you can be added to an email distribution list.

## FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Amy B. Cooper (2025 – Region I); Marybeth Dadd, President (2023 – Region III); Katie Findley (2023 – Region I); Ronald P. Frank, Vice President (2023 – Region II); Adam G. Goode (2025 – Region III); Eric G. Hamilton, Treasurer (2023 – Region I); Vanessa K. Lynch, Assistant Secretary (2023 – Region II); Kimberly Joi Andrews (2025 – Region III); and Ariel Zych (2025 – Region II).

Region I covers all of Sharpsburg Borough and Wards 2, 3, and 4 of O'Hara Township; Region II covers Districts 2, 4, and 5 of Fox Chapel Borough and all of Indiana Township; and Region III covers all of Aspinwall Borough, Blawnox Borough, Wards 1 and 5 of O'Hara Township, and Districts 1 and 3 of Fox Chapel Borough.

School board meetings are typically scheduled for the first and second Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. in the high school large group instruction room. The public is invited to attend.

## COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Fox Chapel Area School District is an equal rights and opportunity school district. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, or handicap/disability. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

Additional information pertaining to civil rights, school district policies, and grievance procedures can be obtained by contacting the compliance officers listed below between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. This notice is available from the compliance officers in large print, on audiotape, and in Braille.

Title IX: David P. McCommons, Ed.D.  
(412/967-2456)  
Section 504 and ADA: Timothy A. Mahoney  
(412/967-2435)  
Address: Fox Chapel Area School District  
611 Field Club Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238