

IN Fox Chapel Area

FCAHS RECOGNIZED FOR Visual Arts Program

SUMMER 2015
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District News**

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**Local spots for fishing,
kayaking, paddleboarding
and more!**

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FOX CHAPEL AREA

School News



Fox Chapel Area School District

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year has arrived! Ten months have passed very quickly. This time of year always brings a lot of reflection as we look back on the wonderful accomplishments in our district. We mark many milestones in our children's lives with the beginnings and endings that are part of their school careers.

I always think about transitions at this time of year. Many of our kids are transitioning from elementary school to Dorseyville Middle School and our eighth graders are transitioning to the high school. However, the most significant transition takes place with our seniors as they graduate from Fox Chapel Area High School to a four-year college, two-year college, trade school, the military, or workforce. All of these are big transitions for them and their loved ones.

The year's end also brings with it a tremendous sense of pride for the many things that have been accomplished. Fox Chapel Area High School was recognized by the Middle States Association for Programs of Distinction in Visual Arts. Our high school is the first school, both nationally and internationally, to receive this designation and it really speaks to the high-quality arts programs that we offer our students. Additionally, two of our schools received Governor's Expanding Excellence grants to help mentor staff from other schools within the region. It's wonderful for our district to be considered a state leader in education!

We can't forget our staff members who have worked so hard this year to individualize instruction for all of our students. I think our staff now, more than ever, knows the specific learning needs of each of our children and works daily to make sure they are meeting those needs. A special thanks to Mairi Cooper, our very own Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year who has represented our district, students, and all of the teaching staff so well as she speaks about the profession to colleagues around the state. I have never worked with a better staff!

Our students have garnered so many awards there isn't enough space in our magazine to showcase them all. I am so proud of them and their hard work. But I am even more proud of the things our students do for others and the community, which may not be publicized. So many of our students do amazing volunteer work, give of their time helping other students, and raise money for important causes that benefit those less fortunate.

This time of year is also reflective of the coming year and preparation for many unknowns. Our budget has been developed with the forethought of continuing the great programs our district is known for. It is unfortunate that school districts are required by law to pass their own budgets before the state budget has been passed. Hopefully there will be no surprises. The governor has proposed increasing our Basic Education Funding from the state and decreasing property taxes next year and this proposal will have to be addressed by the state legislature. There is also a proposal to help school districts alleviate the escalating retirement (PSERS) contributions that will increase to more than 30 percent in the near future. We will wait eagerly to see how all this plays out as part of the political process.

As we end the year, I would like to say thank you to our School Board, staff, students, parents, and community members for their tremendous support for the district during the year. It truly does take a village.

Best always,

Gene Freeman



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2015-2016 PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET

The 2015-2016 Fox Chapel Area School District proposed final budget calls for budgetary expenditures of \$92,820,763. The increase in expenditures over the previous year's final budget is projected at \$3,055,482 or 3.4 percent. The proposed final millage rate for 2015-2016 is 18.6283 mills. This will keep the millage rate at its current level with no increase. One mill will equal approximately \$3.4 million.

The School Board approved the 2015-2016 proposed final budget at its regular business meeting May 11, 2015. The Board will discuss the proposed final budget June 8 and June 15 during its meetings. The Board is expected to pass a final 2015-2016 budget at its meeting on June 15. Residents are invited to attend the Board meetings which will be held on June 8 in the O'Hara Elementary School auditorium and June 15 in the high school large group instruction room. Both meetings begin at 7 p.m.

The 2015-2016 proposed final budget reflects the following:

- Salary line items are expected to increase 1.58 percent from last year's budget. The district anticipates a reduction of overall professional staff due to retirements. This reduction in staff will have no effect on the programs being delivered.
- Premium rate costs for medical insurance will increase by 2.75 percent and are projected to increase total costs by 0.36 percent. This increase is marginal due to fewer employees being covered under district plans and a switch in medical programs being offered to a few employee groups.
- The school district's contribution rate paid to the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) will increase from 21.4 percent to 25.84 percent. The school district will be contributing \$11,366,426 to PSERS in 2015-2016, compared to \$9,521,491 in 2014-2015 – a 19.4 percent increase in cost to the district. The PSERS trustees determine the contribution rate increase annually.
- Equipment and computer purchases for the district will cost \$2,040,388 which represents a 24.24 percent increase. These items will allow the district to keep pace with a one-to-one technology initiative for Dorseyville Middle School students and to replace aging laptops for staff and students at all buildings.
- Costs for supplies, books, and software are increasing by 16 percent. New textbook adoptions, upgrades and additional software, and increasing expenses for classroom and office supplies are estimated to cost \$2,582,405.
- Funds generated by the 2012 district Gala will be utilized during the 2015-2016 school year to fund initiatives in the art and music programs in the amount of \$201,000.

The 2015-2016 proposed final budget is endorsed by the district's Resource Planning Committee, a group of residents with financial and management backgrounds that provide additional expertise to the School Board on financial matters.

PSERS and Future Challenges

The district will continue to face difficult budget years in the near future. It is estimated that under the current rate structure proposed for funding the state retirement system (PSERS), the district will pay out nearly \$70 million over the next eight years. These unprecedented increases – combined with the limitations on increasing tax rates imposed under Act 1 – have necessitated the district to prepare for shortfalls in the budget.

The district currently has committed fund balance reserves of \$12 million to cover the anticipated PSERS increases. The district will need to utilize \$704,006 of these funds in 2015-2016 to "bridge" the gap in funding for PSERS and will continue to use committed fund balance reserves until the tax rates can keep pace and fund these costs. The district continues to reduce payroll costs through attrition and implement new instructional and administrative strategies to make the district more efficient and cost effective.

TAXPAYER ESTIMATED REAL ESTATE TAX LIABILITY

The median home in the Fox Chapel Area School District in 2015 is assessed at \$206,400. The chart below depicts the estimated tax liability based on the school district millage rate of 18.6283 for the 2015 tax year using a home assessed at \$100,000, \$206,400 (median home), and \$400,000. The homestead exclusion is calculated in the change in tax liability.

		Median Home	
2014 Assessed Value	\$100,000.00	\$206,400.00	\$400,000.00
2014 Homestead Exclusion	(\$9,900.99)	(\$9,900.99)	(\$9,900.99)
2014 Net Assessed Value	\$90,099.01	\$196,499.01	\$390,099.01
2014 Millage Rate	18.6283	18.6283	18.6283
2014 Tax Liability	\$1,678.39	\$3,660.44	\$7,266.88
2015 Assessed Value	\$100,000.00	\$206,400.00	\$400,000.00
2015 Homestead Exclusion*	(\$9,960.00)	(\$9,960.00)	(\$9,960.00)
2015 Net Assessed Value	\$90,040.00	\$196,440.00	\$390,040.00
2015 Millage Rate	18.6283	18.6283	18.6283
2015 Tax Liability	\$1,677.29	\$3,659.34	\$7,265.78
Annual Increase (Decrease)	(1.10)	(1.10)	(1.10)
% Increase (Decrease)	(0.07%)	(0.03%)	(0.02%)
Monthly Increase (Decrease)	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.09)

**This number is based upon the estimated distribution of gaming funds provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on May 6, 2015.*

- 1.) These amounts can be reduced by two percent if paid in full during the discount period.*
- 2.) Senior citizens may qualify for a property tax rebate program available through the state.*
- 3.) The market value/assessed value will be reduced by \$9,960 for those homeowners in the Fox Chapel Area School District with an approved homestead exclusion.*

In addition, the district is preparing for future capital improvements and maintains a reserve to help fund these capital projects. The district issued bonds during 2013 and currently has a remaining balance of \$29 million to fund ongoing renovations at the high school, as well as to pay for a portion of the renovations at the middle school and three of the elementary schools over the next few years. The Board and administration were able to achieve significant savings on the 2013 bond issue as a result of historically-low market interest rates.

By implementing sound financial strategies to manage expenditures and anticipate revenue shortfalls, the district's future financial health continues to be stronger than many in the commonwealth. However, the district continues to plan for future shortfalls through long-range budget forecasts.

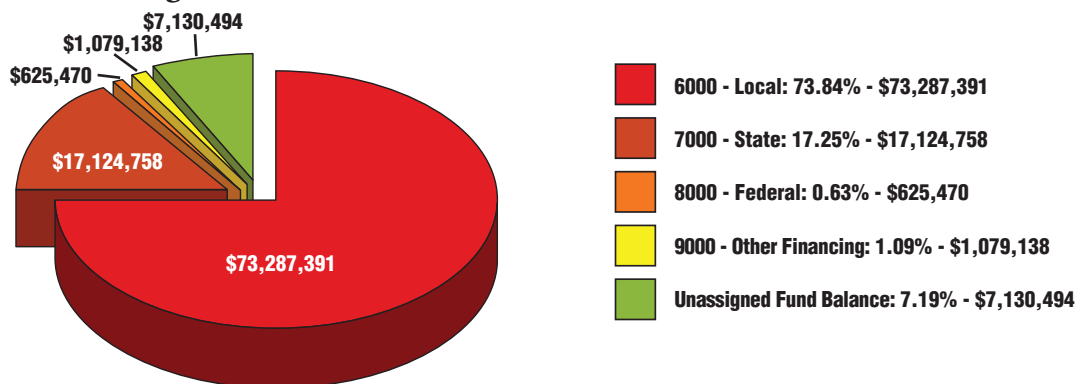
Gaming Funds Distribution*

As of May 6, 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Education provided the Fox Chapel Area School District with an estimate of the district's share of gaming funds available for distribution. The proposed final budget reflects a distribution of \$1,465,702. The method of distributing these funds, as prescribed by Act 1, the Taxpayer Relief Act, will be via the implementation of the homestead exclusion. 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 \$9,960 of its taxable value, excluded for the purpose of calculating current school district real estate taxes for the 2015 tax year. The owners of the 7,914 properties in the district that qualified for the homestead exclusion will receive the equivalent of a \$185.54 reduction in their property taxes. Property owners who currently do not have an approved homestead exclusion will have the opportunity to apply again when the district sends out letters to those homeowners in December 2015.

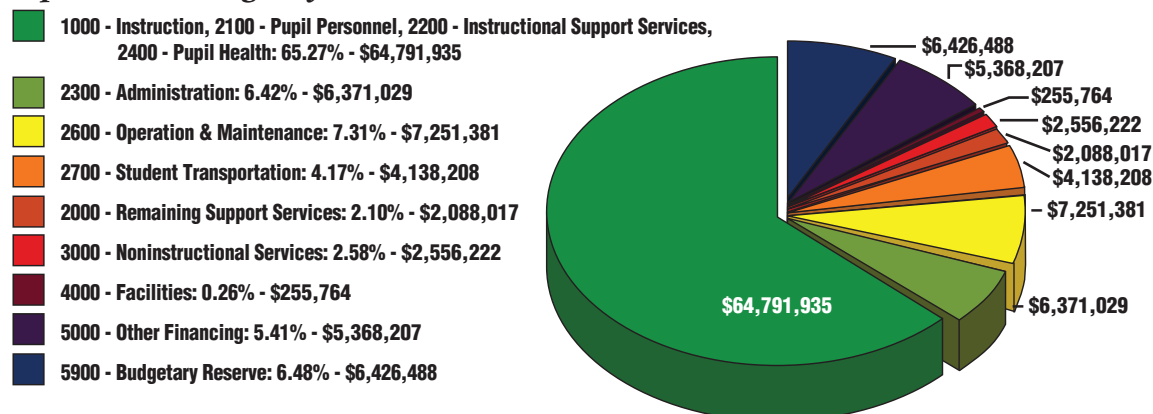
**Allegheny County has certified that there are 7,914 properties in the Fox Chapel Area School District that qualify for the homestead exclusion. If that number is adjusted by the county to include more or less properties, it could affect the amount of the final reduction.*

2015-2016 PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

Revenues/Unassigned Fund Balance



Expenditures/Budgetary Reserve



PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET INSIGHT



REGULAR INSTRUCTION 1100

2015-2016	\$42,646,328
2014-2015	\$40,737,520
Increase of	\$1,908,808
% of change	4.69%
Cost per student	\$10,247
% of budget	45.95%

Includes:

Regular instructional program salaries and fringe benefits for teachers in addition to textbooks, district program contracts, supplies, and equipment.

Comments:

1. Includes salary and fringe benefit increases for professional staff members, as well as increased costs of retiree payouts due to retirements.
2. Includes the cost of workbooks and textbooks, software, and increased costs for repair and maintenance of equipment.
3. The cost for books and supplies has been increased by \$178,000, or 20 percent, to support new textbook adoptions and continue the one-to-one technology initiative for students at the middle school.
4. An additional \$201,000 for art and music initiatives will be drawn down from proceeds generated by the 2012 Gala. These funds are held in reserve by the district.



SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS 1200

2015-2016	\$12,159,271
2014-2015	\$12,628,667
Decrease of	-\$469,396
% of change	-3.72%
Cost per student	\$2,921
% of budget	13.10%

Includes:

Salaries and fringe benefits for special education and gifted teachers and paraprofessionals. Services are mandated for life skills and learning, emotional, autistic, hearing, vision, orthopedic, and speech/language support, as well as gifted education. Also includes occupational and physical therapies, specialized materials, technology, purchased services, and tuition.

Comments:

1. The cost for services requested from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) has been decreased based on anticipated needs of students.
2. Tuition costs for students placed in outside agencies have been decreased based on estimated enrollments and fewer outside placements.



ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION 1300 & 1400 & 1500

2015-2016	\$1,447,459
2014-2015	\$1,274,749
Increase of	\$172,710
% of change	13.55%
Cost per student	\$348
% of budget	1.56%

Includes:

Vo-tech, English as a Second Language (ESL), homebound, Title I services, summer and Saturday classes, and support to nonpublic schools through federal grants.

Comments:

1. There is an increase in costs for summer instruction programs including associated transportation, equipment, and supply needs based on estimated student enrollments.
2. Costs fluctuate annually based on the number of students who require services.



PUPIL PERSONNEL 2100

2015-2016	\$3,516,657
2014-2015	\$3,288,855
Increase of	\$227,802
% of change	6.93%
Cost per student	\$845
% of budget	3.79%

Includes:

Salaries and fringe benefits for guidance counselors, district psychologists, a share of the administrative staff in charge of the program, and support staff. Supplies, services, and equipment to operate the program are also included.

Comments:

1. Includes increased costs for outside educational programs, testing materials, and scoring services.
2. The cost of AP exams has increased.



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES 2200

2015-2016	\$4,160,391
2014-2015	\$3,829,882
Increase of	\$330,509
% of change	8.63%
Cost per student	\$1,000
% of budget	4.48%

Includes:

Salaries and fringe benefits for school librarians, curriculum coordinators, and support staff. Supplies, equipment, and purchased services for curriculum development, audio visual, library, educational television, technology, and computer-assisted instruction, as well as funds to support safety and security are also included.

1. Costs for technology equipment and supplies have been increased for the one-to-one iPad initiative at the middle school, as well as replacement costs for classroom and staff equipment that is obsolete.
2. Curriculum and staff development travel and professional services costs are also included.



ADMINISTRATION 2300

2015-2016	\$6,371,029
2014-2015	\$5,978,311
Increase of	\$392,718
% of change	6.57%
Cost per student	\$1,531
% of budget	6.86%

Includes:

Salaries and fringe benefits for district office staff, school principals, and clerical support staff. Expenditures for tax collection and legal services are also included.

Comments:

1. Includes cost of supplies and software related to the administrative offices.
2. Includes costs for advertising and printing services.



PUPIL HEALTH 2400

2015-2016	\$861,829
2014-2015	\$821,699
Increase of	\$40,130
% of change	4.88%
Cost per student	\$207
% of budget	0.93%

Includes:

Salaries and fringe benefits for the nursing staff and a clerk. Also includes the fees for doctor and dental exams and nursing services the district must provide for private and parochial schools. Supplies and equipment to operate the program are also included.

Comments:

1. Includes the cost of replacing older defibrillators (AEDs) at all buildings.



OPERATION & MAINTENANCE 2600

2015-2016	\$7,251,381
2014-2015	\$7,138,969
Increase of	\$112,412
% of change	1.57%
Cost per student	\$1,742
% of budget	7.81%

Includes:

Salaries and fringe benefits for the custodial and maintenance staff plus utility costs, custodial supplies, and equipment. Services needed to maintain the district's physical plant are included, plus salaries and fringe benefits for those responsible for the coordination of the operation and maintenance of the district's facilities.

Comments:

1. There is an increase in the cost of maintenance and repair agreements.
2. There is an increase in utility costs for electricity.
3. Includes the cost of two replacement pickup trucks and riding floor scrubbers to maintain the floors in the schools.



BUSINESS/DATA SERVICES 2500 & 2800

2015-2016	\$1,935,017
2014-2015	\$1,870,694
Increase of	\$64,323
% of change	3.44%
Cost per student	\$465
% of budget	2.09%

Includes:

Salaries and fringe benefits of business/data office staff along with supplies, expenses, and purchased services to conduct the business and data processing functions of the district. Also includes expenditures for video, voice, data networking equipment, and districtwide duplicating equipment.

Comments:

1. Includes the initial setup and training costs for a financial and human resources software management system for 2015-2016.
2. District printing and copying charges are allocated within this area.



**STUDENT
TRANSPORTATION
2700**

2015-2016.....	\$4,138,208
2014-2015.....	\$4,172,013
Decrease of.....	-\$33,805
% of change.....	-0.81%
Cost per student.....	\$994
% of budget.....	4.46%

Includes:

The transportation contract with the bus contractor for all of the district's regular transportation including private, parochial, and special needs schools. Also includes transportation for state-mandated early intervention programs for prekindergarten-age children (this transportation is also provided throughout the summer months, as well as during the school year).

Comments:

1. This budget reflects a decrease in costs due to a newly-negotiated transportation services agreement.

**OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES
2900**

2015-2016.....	\$153,000
2014-2015.....	\$136,643
Increase of.....	\$16,357
% of change.....	11.97%
Cost per student.....	\$37
% of budget.....	0.16%

Includes:

The district's share of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) administrative budget and funds for districtwide safety services.

Comments:

1. The increase is based on estimated costs for safety initiative expenditures.

**NONINSTRUCTIONAL
SERVICES
3000**

2015-2016.....	\$2,556,222
2014-2015.....	\$2,522,950
Increase of.....	\$33,272
% of change.....	1.32%
Cost per student.....	\$614
% of budget.....	2.75%

Includes:

Salaries and supplies for student activities and athletic programs, in addition to transportation and event management for these programs.

Comments:

1. The costs of supplemental contracts and officials' fees are increasing.
2. The costs for supplies, transportation services, new uniforms, and field/facility maintenance for interscholastic events are increasing.
3. Includes estimated increased costs for crossing guards.

**FACILITIES
4000**

2015-2016.....	\$255,764
2014-2015.....	\$78,675
Increase of.....	\$177,089
% of change.....	225.09%
Cost per student.....	\$61
% of budget.....	0.28%

Includes:

Funds for site and building improvements.

Comments:

1. Costs include painting, athletic facilities improvements, repairs to running track, emergency lighting installation, ceiling tile replacements, installation of an overhead garage door, insulation of HVAC systems, and purchase of moveable music instrument storage.

**OTHER FINANCING
5000**

2015-2016.....	\$5,368,207
2014-2015.....	\$5,285,654
Increase of.....	\$82,553
% of change.....	1.56%
Cost per student.....	\$1,290
% of budget.....	5.78%

Includes:

Debt service (mortgage) payments on building renovations, refunds of tax payments received in previous years, and financing for capital leases on computer equipment and printing/duplicating devices.

Comments:

1. The district issued new bonds for construction in 2013, but amortized interest payments to avoid increased debt service obligations until the current debt is retired in 2016.

Salary and fringe benefit costs are increased for all district personnel in all budget categories.

The 2014-2015 budget figures reflect the adjusted budget as a result of transfers that occurred throughout the school year.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IN COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Receives National Award for Aspirations in Computing

Sonia Appasamy has a passion for computer science and engineering. Currently a senior at Fox Chapel Area High School, she traces her interest in “how devices work” to when she was a little girl. “I always liked playing with Legos; I was never into Barbies.” She received her first LEGO® MINDSTORMS® kit from her parents in about third grade, and while her sister played with Barbie® dolls, Sonia built her first simple robot. “It was really fun,” she said.

By the time she entered ninth grade, Sonia had taught herself fundamentals in computer science and programming languages. “I taught myself programming and joined a bunch of computer science clubs in high school,” she said.

Her list of computer-programming related involvement includes the high school robotics club, STEM club, software development club, Technology Student Association (TSA), and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). She took AP Computer Science as a sophomore, and this year decided to take two courses in computer science at Carnegie Mellon University (functional programming the first semester and humanoids in the robotics department this semester). She’s also been a member of the FIRST® FRC Team 3504, the Girls of Steel Robotics, an all-girls team in the Pittsburgh area. Additionally, she has competed in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) since seventh grade, qualifying for the state competition each year, and has competed and won awards in the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair since eighth grade. Her tenth grade project was the creation of a computer application that translates American Sign Language into text to allow a deaf user to communicate with someone who does not know sign language. The app also has the capability to teach a user basic sign language.

During her summers Sonia has gained valuable experience at MIT’s summer Launch entrepreneurship program and her interest in developing computer programming apps has led her to begin her latest venture as co-founder of a startup company. STEMGirls, which she developed over the winter, is a programming app designed so that girls can use social media to connect with other girls, and they can help each other along in their paths to learning computer science.

All of these experiences and accomplishments have led to Sonia being named one of 35 national winners in the 2015 Award for Aspirations in Computing given by the National Center for Women & Information Technology. The award recognizes young women for their aptitude and aspirations in technology and encourages their continued interest in



computing. Sponsored by Bank of America, Sonia and the other national winners were given a tour of their corporate headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, as a part of an awards ceremony weekend in March. “They showed us the technologies used at the bank,” she said. At the Bank of America Technology Stars of the Future Showcase and Awards Ceremony, Sonia received a \$500 cash prize, a laptop computer, and two engraved trophies (one for Sonia and one for Fox Chapel Area High School).

“I am thrilled Sonia won the award since I have known her since her freshman year and of her passion for computer science,” said high school science teacher Heather Skillen, who wrote a letter of recommendation endorsing Sonia for the prestigious recognition. “The award is well-deserved and I’m confident Sonia will make a significant contribution to the field in the future.”

In addition to her passion for computer science, Sonia says she has a broad range of other interests. She maintains a very high academic record and also participates in cross country and track and has won scholar athlete awards. She is active in Girl Scouts and is an Ambassador Scout and has been involved in a variety of community service activities. She participates in Model United Nations and forensics, as well as the high school orchestra and the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra. After she graduates from Fox Chapel Area High School in June, Sonia plans to study computer science at the Cornell University School of Engineering and minor in business.



HIGH SCHOOL FIRST TO BE AWARDED PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION IN VISUAL ARTS

Middle States Association Validates Success of Program

For decades Fox Chapel Area School District has been known K-12 for its top-notch visual arts program. Earlier this spring, Fox Chapel Area High School received validation of this success by receiving the Program of Distinction in the Visual Arts by the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS). This award is especially significant as Fox Chapel Area High School is the first school – nationally and internationally – to receive this honor.

In order to receive the Programs of Distinction status, the visual arts department underwent an intensive self-study that examined the department's vision, climate and organization, curriculum, instruction, and assessment of student learning. As a part of this process, students and faculty were also surveyed to gather information on the success of the programs and to determine areas to improve. After compiling the extensive report, the department hosted Jane Pruitt, Ed.D., associate director of MSA-CESS, an external evaluator who came to observe classes, examine the quality of student work, and determine the scope and level of excellence in the department.

Following that successful visit and Dr. Pruitt's recommendation, Fox Chapel Area High School's application was reviewed two additional times prior to a final vote by the MSA-CESS Executive Committee.

In a statement of congratulations, Henry G. Cram, Ed.D., president of MSA-CESS commented, "Our Programs of Distinction award recognizes high-achieving schools for their ongoing accomplishments in specific areas. These programs are models for other academic programs throughout the world."

"At Fox Chapel Area High School we are committed to promoting the visual arts and fostering an environment where creativity and imagination are encouraged," said Senior/Lead Principal Michael Hower. "The Middle States Programs of Distinction award validates the work of our teachers, staff, and community in ensuring the arts remain a valued and appreciated part of our overall curriculum."

According to computer art teacher and high school art department chair Christine Smith, "The art department was thrilled to receive this honor and to be the first school ever named as a Program of Distinction in the Visual Arts. It highlights and validates the amazing work our students do every day."



Site visitor, Jane Pruitt, Ed.D., Associate Director of MSA-CES, talks with a student in the jewelry and glass class during her two-day visit to the high school in October.



In order to meet the needs of a wide range of students with varying interests and talents, the high school offers four levels of computer art, ceramics and fibers, drawing and painting, jewelry and glass, and photography. Advanced Placement (AP) Studio Art and portfolio class are also offered, as well as art history. Additionally, the high school also has an art club, cartoon club, jewelry club, National Art Honor Society, photography club, and pottery club. During the 2013-2014 school year, when the report was prepared, 32 percent of ninth graders were enrolled in a visual arts course, 47 percent of 10th graders, 33 percent of 11th graders, and 22 percent of 12th graders.

The strengths highlighted in the self-study of the high school visual arts department include:

- **Courses:** The high school has continued to introduce courses and stay current with technology and a variety of art medium. To meet student needs, the high school offers flexible class options including both five-day-a-week and three-day-a-week classes. By offering multiple levels of classes and with the longer class structure of the school's block schedule, students can opt to take more advanced art and create more sophisticated artwork.
- **Cross-Curricular Involvement:** Among other cross-curricular opportunities, the high school presents the Grand Salon/Major Works Concert that includes the music, visual arts, language arts, world languages, and history departments.
- **Enrichment Opportunities:** Students from diverse backgrounds have opportunities to grow through a rigorous curriculum, external apprenticeships, and job shadowing, as well as opportunities to showcase their work both internally

at the high school and externally in the community, including student participation in art competitions and art shows such as The Scholastic Art Awards.

The high school visual arts department will continue to enhance opportunities and programs for students including: expanding the AP Studio Art course and streamlining the portfolio course, adding an AP Art History course to be piloted during the 2015-2016 school year, expanding student critiques, infusing more historical and cultural content, and continuing to focus on instructional best practices.

The Programs of Distinction review process helps already MSA-CES-accredited schools identify strengths and areas for growth through its Programs of Distinction recognitions. Fox Chapel Area High School received exemplary program status in the areas of music and school counseling in 2012 by following the same intensive self-studies and outside evaluations. The high school is one of only two MSA members to have achieved recognition in three different areas.



Fox Chapel Area High School art teachers, front row, left to right, Amy Wickman, Joan Marangoni, and Sarah Stewart; and back row, left to right, Christine Smith, Ron Frank, and Jody Shell.



STORY TIMES PROVIDE SCHOOL INTRODUCTION TO INCOMING KINDERGARTNERS

Each spring, all four Fox Chapel Area School District elementary schools host story times for incoming kindergarten students. The story times enable the preschoolers to be introduced to their elementary school. The special program includes books read to the students by the schools' kindergarten teachers and other hands-on activities. The purpose of the program is to help young children and their parents to feel more comfortable with the upcoming transition to kindergarten.

"The story time program is just one component and a very important part of our home to school transition," says Ashley Nestor, the district's director of elementary education. "We hope that the program helps students feel confident about coming to school in the fall."



ART GALLERY PROGRAM SHOWCASES STUDENT WORKS

The Fox Chapel Area School District's administration lobby just received a new makeover. Perhaps the best part is the student artwork that now adorns the area.

The idea came from Superintendent Gene Freeman, Ed.D. who stated, "I established the student art gallery because I feel strongly about promoting the visual arts and the creative and imaginative efforts of our students."

Currently, the pieces in the lobby include a photo as well framed mosaic glass pieces from the high school, and plaster craft artwork from Kerr Elementary School. It is the intention to feature the artwork of students across the district

in kindergarten-grade 12 and the artwork will be rotated approximately every nine weeks to showcase as many pieces as possible.

Senior Maura Clark has a panorama of Pittsburgh on display that she took for a class assignment while visiting with her brother on Mount Washington. Her art teacher, Christine Smith, said that when she took the photo, it was a dreary day and Maura wasn't certain how it would turn out. "I got to school and opened it and it was really cool," Maura stated.

Junior Maia Russo also has a piece, a mosaic glass tiger, in the lobby. "I like that people like it and give me compliments on it," she said.





Students conduct an experiment using static electricity. First the students rub a foam pad with steel wool. They then touch a neon light bulb and see that a wood rod does not conduct electricity, but the aluminum rod does. Static electricity is the first topic covered in the unit on electricity in the Summer Science Academy. Although students in eighth grade learn about static electricity as a part of their science curriculum, younger students may not be familiar with it.

SUMMER SCIENCE ACADEMY COOL EXPERIENCE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Sports camps and leisure time with friends is how many students look forward to summer vacation. But Michael Braham spent four weeks last summer learning about electrical systems. “I really like science, and it was cool to try it out,” says Michael, a Dorseyville Middle School eighth grader, who attended science teacher Peter Pinko’s Summer Science Academy.

The Summer Science Academy offers sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students the opportunity to learn by doing – focusing on a particular science topic not covered in the regular middle school science curriculum. “In the past, we have rotated three topics: researching optical systems, exploring the nature of

light, and discovering electrical systems,” according to Mr. Pinko. Students can learn about all three topics by participating in the summer program for three years.

The class setting is informal, and there are no tests or grades, but the students are all very motivated, Mr. Pinko reports. Students work in small groups, up to four in a group, with a maximum of 28 students. Using the same interdisciplinary approach as the regular middle school curriculum – hands-on problem-based learning – topics incorporate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) applications. Each day students are presented a different focus question, such as comparing concave and convex lenses or the differences between open

and closed circuits, and they then conduct activities and experiments. Just like in the regular science curriculum, the students use science notebooks to take notes, make observations, record results, analyze, and draw conclusions.

Mr. Pinko says he distributes a sheet of facts about each of the topics the students study. “My job is to tie it all together. I call it a line of learning.” For example, students can observe in an activity how the moon has phases but he would fill in the blanks about how long it takes for the moon to go through its entire cycle.

Any Dorseyville student who has a strong interest and background in science can elect to take the Summer Science Academy. Busing is provided so that

all middle schoolers are able to take advantage of the program, and midway through the morning, a snack is provided in the cafeteria.

Mr. Pinko comments that frequently the students are so engaged in their work that they ask if they can just pick up a snack and drink and return to the science room to finish what they started.

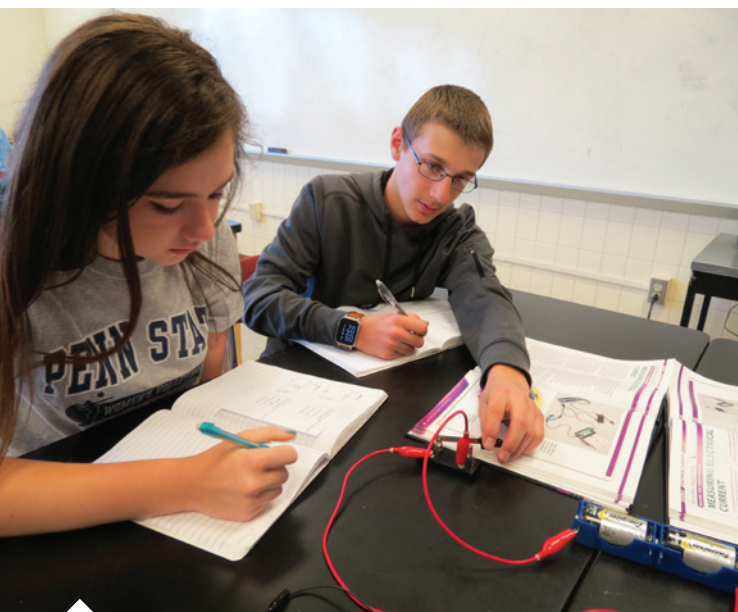
Eighth grader Sanjana Harish, who studied the optical systems program two years ago, said she chose to participate in

the summer program because she knew it would be beneficial as she continues to study science. "I thought it was really cool to do something that would help you." She added, "I find it interesting."

Mr. Pinko agrees that the Summer Science Academy covers material that enhances and enriches STEM education. He says when he began the program he had a group of students who had an interest in expanding their knowledge of additional science topics. The Summer

Science Academy offers that opportunity for all middle school students who have an interest in STEM subjects.

Mr. Pinko says the school district has been very supportive of the Summer Science Academy. The first two years, he applied for and received the maximum grants available from the Great Ideas Grants program. He says that the district has continued to provide him with all of the necessary equipment and materials that he needs.



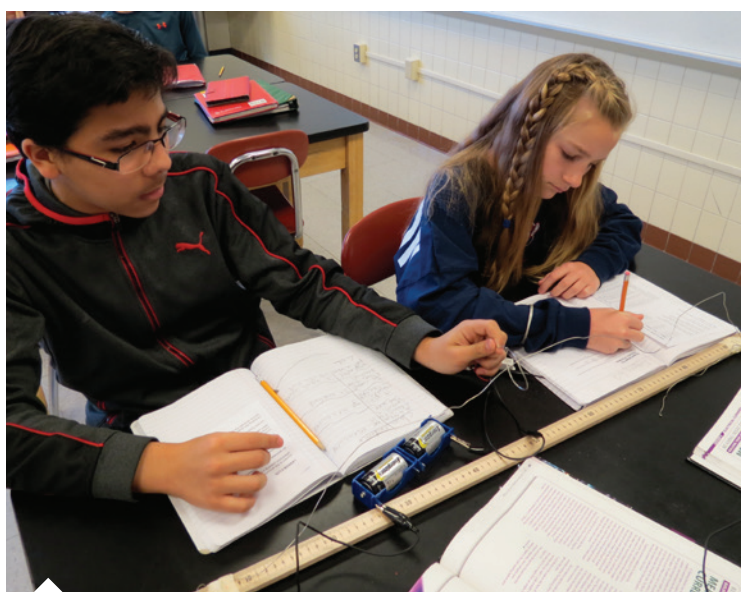
The students are introduced to the basic concepts of electricity, including voltage, current, and resistance. By building their own circuits, students learn and experience how circuits work and the differences between closed and open circuits. They record their findings in their lab notebooks.



Students examine a closed electrical circuit. When the light hits the bimetallic strip, the strip bends and forces the fan to turn on. As the fan cools the strip, the fan turns off. The students can move the light closer or farther away to view the different reactions.



Students look at everyday electronic devices and examine their common electronic parts such as capacitors, resistors, and conductors, so they can better comprehend how electronics work.



Students study an open-loop electrical system, similar to the game Operation®. In this activity, when the wire touches the loop, a light turns on or a buzzing sound is made. The students in the summer program make their own version of the game Operation using foil, the lid of a shoebox, and a pair of tweezers.



(Clockwise from top-left) 1. The winning act performs their percussive duet. 2. Fox Chapel Area High School Principals Mike Hower and Dan Lentz served as the MCs for the evening and complimented each act. 3. The distinguished panel of judges commented on each act, just like the reality television show, "America's Got Talent." 4. The second place winners included a vocalist, an electric violinist, and a guitarist. 5. All of the performers gather for a photo following the show. 6. The third place winners performed a vocal duet.

FOX CHAPEL'S GOT TALENT

Following the format of the reality television series, "America's Got Talent," the Fox Chapel Area High School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsored its own version of the show, Fox Chapel's Got Talent. The event showcased 13 high school student acts including singers, dancers, musicians, and even a martial arts performance. Principals Michael Hower and Daniel Lentz served as the MCs for the show on April 23 which was only the second event held in the high school's newly renovated auditorium.

Fox Chapel's Got Talent contestants were critiqued after each performance by a distinguished panel of three judges – Lindsey Nova, the executive director of Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestras; Candace Erb, a Fairview Elementary School music teacher and choral director, as well as a vocalist, educator, conductor, and pianist in the Pittsburgh area; and surprise judge, Andrew Golio, a Fox Chapel Area High School senior and vice president of the student government.

At the end of the evening, the top prize of \$500 was awarded to sophomores Andy Fugh and Ronald Tran who stomped out an exciting and original arrangement of a drum set duet using drum sticks, garbage cans, the stage floor, and garbage can lids. Ronald is a self-taught drummer and Andy plays in the high

school band. Second place and \$200 was awarded to juniors Izzy Acevedo (violin), Becca Salamacha (guitar), and Leah Saleone (vocalist) who performed "Peace of Mind" by Boston. The third place prize of \$100 went to juniors Murphy Patterson and Ana Spangenberg who performed a vocal duet, "Feeling Good" by Nina Simone in the style of Michael Buble.

The evening's program would not have been possible without the hard work of the students who showcased their talents; the FCAHS PTO, including Candace Uricchio and Robbin DeBiasio who were the parent co-chairs of the talent show committee; and teacher and student government and activities director Erin Butkovic. Corporate sponsors included Massaro CM Services, LLC; MedExpress Urgent Care; Paragon; Berkshire Hathaway Home Services; McNeil Dental LLC; James Edmonds Jr., DMD; Jennmar USA; and Hey Baby. All proceeds from the program benefit the high school PTO.



The percussive duo celebrates their first place win.

STUDENTS SPONSOR ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCHEON

The Fox Chapel Area High School Student Government students served a free luncheon to more than 140 of the district's senior citizens on Saturday, April 18. Seniors were treated to a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and the Fox Chapel Area High School String Quartet provided musical entertainment

during the event. The annual luncheon is just one of several free events that is open to senior citizens ages 60 and older who live in the school district. For more information on the senior citizen program and the district's Gold Card, call 412/967-2443.



The students sang "Happy Birthday" to one of the district's senior citizens who celebrated her special day at the luncheon.





HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



The construction of the new natatorium is continuing. Concrete and masonry work is ongoing on the pool and work should be completed in mid-fall.

Work on the high school front entrance began March 10 and will be completed this summer. The inset photo is the rendering of the new entrance.

Work on the team locker rooms has begun and the physical education locker room work will begin this summer. Work on the school corridors will continue throughout the summer, as well as work on the cafeteria and kitchen areas.

STUDENTS SIGN TO PLAY SPORTS AT COLLEGE LEVEL



The proud families of the athletes were invited to a special reception to honor their athletic accomplishments.

Fox Chapel Area High School student athletes recently signed and committed to Division I and Division II colleges and universities. The students are: Kelsey Feeney – Softball – University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, Elias Graca – Cross Country – University of Pennsylvania, Katherine “Cleary” Johnston – Crew – Mercyhurst University, Miranda Simon – Diving – George Washington University, Carrington Vaughn – Football – University of Arizona, Megan Walkowski – Softball – Florida State College at Jacksonville, and Jaysen Zaleski – Volleyball – Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne. Additionally, the following students have signed with Division III schools: David Brown – Football – John Carroll University, Isabella Bungo –



Students from the Class of 2015 who signed to play sports in college.

Softball – Thiel College, Cullen Higgins – Football – St. Vincent, and Billy Urso – Basketball – Allegheny College.

The students were recognized for their efforts and they and their families were invited to a reception at the high school April 24.

Additionally, the athletic department announced that four other high school students will play sports for Division II and Division III schools. They are Noah Cagley – Swimming – Tufts University, Franny Dean – Swimming – Williams College, Ben DePellegrini and Max DePellegrini – Volleyball – Penn State Behrend, and Greg Yaksich – Baseball – Fairmont State University.

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL NETS TOP STATE RANKING

Phil O'Keeffe, head coach of the Fox Chapel Area High School Boys' Volleyball Team, says it's nice his team is recognized as one of the best in Pennsylvania, but knows they will have to be at the top of their game, every game, as they enter the final stretch of the 2015 season and the WPIAL and PIAA playoffs. Actually, Coach O'Keeffe is more than understating of the Foxes' abundant talent. Going into the final section game of the season, the team was on an 11-game winning streak and was ranked number one in both the WPIAL and the state.

A Tradition of Excellence

Now in his 13th year of coaching at Fox Chapel Area High School, it would be fair to say that Coach O'Keeffe has created quite a legacy. His teams have won three section championships, appeared in 12 consecutive WPIAL playoffs, been in three WPIAL finals, and won the WPIAL championship in 2006. Five of his teams have advanced to the PIAA playoffs (2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, and 2014) and the 2006 team was the state runner-up.

Coach O'Keeffe's expertise as a coach is reflected by the fact that many times when Fox Chapel Area High School plays a powerhouse team in WPIAL Class AAA volleyball, a majority of the best athletes on the court have played under his mentorship, either in high school or through his involvement with the Junior Olympic program at the Pittsburgh Volleyball Club. In fact, one year when the Foxes battled North Allegheny for the WPIAL title, he realized he had or was currently coaching every player on the court except one.

"For years, I kept seeing North Allegheny win the WPIAL championship, so when we won it (in 2006), I just moved back from the podium and let the boys go for it," says the former European professional volleyball player. "It was cool to see their expressions and reactions."

While those memories are still vivid, it's his current squad that's making the headlines. Coach O'Keeffe says they have the ability to surpass the achievements of the 2006 team, the first group of players he coached from the time they were novice freshmen through their senior year when they won the WPIAL championship and PIAA runner-up title.

"With all due respect to the other teams, this year's team is the best I've ever had." Before going into their final section game of the season, Coach O'Keeffe continues, "Their average game score is 25 to 16.5 points and they have only lost one set out of 34 in 11 matches."

The team also won three tournaments and in a rare upset, placed second at the fourth one. They started off the 2015 season with a major championship win at the North Allegheny Boys' Volleyball Tournament. They bested 16 teams, including WPIAL champs North Allegheny and Central York High

School, the defending state champs, which earned them their top ranking by the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association. They also won the Fox Chapel Boys' Volleyball Invitational for the first time in six years when they once again beat Central York, and they won the Plum Boys' Volleyball Invitational.

Andrew Tublin, a senior outside hitter, says the team validated their potential by beating the 2014 state champs twice. "We knew Central York was going to come back much stronger and focused the next time we played them, so by beating them again at a later date proved that we are continually improving and not becoming complacent with our current standing."

Junior middle blocker Jack Reese attributes their success to team camaraderie and depth. "I think one component of our success is the friendship we share with each other. I believe our team is strong because we have no weak positions on our team; we have great players to fill every position. To me, it appears that all players have stepped up their game."

The Truth About Volleyball

Volleyball might not draw the same kinds of crowds as football or basketball, but Coach O'Keeffe says many people wrongly consider it a "minor" sport. People wouldn't be so quick to label it that way, he says, if there was more awareness about the difficulty of the game and the strength, finesse, skills, and intelligence required to play for a highly

ranked team such as the Foxes. He's on a mission to get more middle and high school students interested in volleyball and wants to attract more multisport athletes, even if they don't consider volleyball their primary sport.

"Unlike other sports, it's one that you have to get hooked on because it's not a super popular sport," admits Coach O'Keeffe. "But when kids do try it, they say, 'Wait, this isn't so easy. I should be able to do this,' and then they want to get better at it."

Right now, however, his attention is on getting the team ready for a record 12th consecutive appearance in the WPIAL playoffs, and he's accomplishing that by doing what he does best – keeping the team focused and not letting anyone get ahead of themselves. Some players, hypothetically speaking, say no matter what the future holds, they still will walk away with some of the most unforgettable memories of their lives.

The hope, of course, is that the season continues to go as well as it has and when all is said is done, the Foxes are still at the top of the leaderboard with their gold medals in hand.

Editor's Note: The 2015 WPIAL boys' volleyball championship finals are on May 22 and the PIAA finals are June 6. To read the latest news about the boys' volleyball team and other Fox Chapel Area High School sports teams, visit fcasathletics.org.





ELIAS GRACA RACING FOR GOLD

Elias Graca had just returned home from the New Balance Indoor Nationals in New York City, his final race of the winter indoor track season, and was looking forward to a brief, but much needed break before starting outdoor track.

It's no wonder he was exhausted. Elias, who runs for both the high school track and cross country teams, had completed an amazing couple of months of record-setting finishes that culminated in state and national rankings higher than any other runner in the history of Fox Chapel Area High School.

First, he set a new meet record at the Spire High School Showcase in Geneva, Ohio, with a time of 1:53.2 in the 800-meter race. Then, at the Pennsylvania Indoor Track and Field Championship in Hershey on March 1, Elias finished the same event in second place with a time of 1:50.86.

"I knew I wanted to do well, but I wasn't expecting to do as well as I did," says Elias, a senior honors student. "It's a bonus to do well in indoor, but outdoor is what counts for me."

"Elias definitely has the athleticism and natural speed to be a great runner, but that alone is not enough," says his Foxes' track and cross country coach Tom Moul. "You must have desire, work ethic, and a killer instinct when it comes to racing

that complements your natural skills. He is the total package in that way."

Last year Elias' speed earned him the WPIAL silver medal in the 800-meter race and a gold medal as the anchor of the reigning back-to-back WPIAL champion 4 x 400 relay team.

This season, the University of Pennsylvania recruit is determined to close out his high school running career by beating his personal best outdoor time in the 800 of 1:53.78. He ran it at the 2015 Butler Track and Field Invitational on April 17, but says his goal is to get it under 1:50.

Also this year, Coach Moul asked him to add the 1600-meter event to his repertoire. In his first-ever appearance as a distance runner, Elias clocked in at 4:22, and won the 1600-meter race amid tough competition.

"His time of 4:22 would certainly put him near the top in the WPIAL thus far," says Coach Moul, now in his eighth season heading the track and field team.

Only a few weeks later and without running the event in between meets, Elias ran a 4.18.81 against North Allegheny.

A Natural Progression

Elias' success isn't the story of a phenom who grabbed the limelight as a young boy. It's more about a very good runner whose dedication, love of the sport, competitive nature, work ethic, and guidance from some wise coaches produced a star who is just on the perimeter of reaching his full potential.

"He is one of the hardest working kids I've ever coached. He gradually came into his own over his high school career" says Coach Moul. One of the factors was getting him into the right events. He spent the first two years being primarily a 400 runner, but once I convinced him (last year) that the 800 was more conducive to his abilities, he really took off. This year is just building off of last year's success."

It also didn't hurt that when he was rising through the ranks his mentors were two of the best athletes in Foxes' school sports history, former teammates and prolific runners Colin and Ethan Martin, now freshmen at the University of Michigan and members of its men's cross country team.

To understand Elias' rise to the top also means going back to his days as an eighth-grader at Dorseyville Middle

School. After deciding baseball and basketball weren't for him, he chose to follow his father's suggestion to try track. Besides, he liked the fact that he and his father, Rick, a former track star at Boston College, would be able to share something special.

"My dad is someone who works really hard," he says, "so it's cool to do a sport that he did and excelled at it. He uplifts me."

In addition to his father, it is DMS track and field coach Matthew LaPatka whom he credits for instilling his love for running.

"Mr. LaPatka inspires a lot of kids and puts so much passion into what he does," Elias says of his first track coach. "He showed us that running isn't just a sport, but something to enjoy. He always says success will come if you put in the time and have the will to do it." Elias' success this season is partially due to a seven-day-a-week training schedule and fierce determination.

Hoping for a Golden Finish

According to Elias, who maintains a specific running style, "I don't like to lead the pace. I like to hold back until I can make a move." His strategy has earned him a reputation for having a "killer kick down the straightway," according to "FloTrak," an online media channel featuring everything related to the sport of running. In fact, Elias and Coach Moul both agree that when his performance wasn't up to par, it was because he failed to get out of the pack at the right moment. It's something he has no intention of repeating in his quest for WPIAL and PIAA gold.

Yet, for as talented and driven as he is, Elias is not known as a cutthroat competitor. He is, by all accounts, a sincerely nice and humble young man with a big heart.

"Elias is the first person to go over and congratulate any one who finished before him as well as the others," says Coach Moul. "He's a really special kid."

Editor's Note: The 2015 WPIAL individual track and field championship finals are May 14 and the PIAA championships are May 22 and 23. To read the latest news about Elias Graca and the track and field teams, along with information about other Fox Chapel Area High School teams, visit fcasathletics.org.

LONGTIME TENNIS COACH DAVE PREVOST TO RETIRE

His name is synonymous with the Foxes' high school tennis program, but after 35 years as a head coach – including 19 years leading both the boys' and girls' teams – Dave Prevost has decided “the time is right” to pass the torch after the spring 2015 season concludes.

Only the second person in school history to ever coach the boys' team, Coach Prevost leaves behind an incredible history of memories and successes. Between the boys' and girls' teams combined, he wracked up more than 640 team wins and 40 of his teams advanced to the WPIAL championships. Numerous doubles' and singles' players appeared in the WPIAL and PIAA championships – a few were state runner-ups – and he led his teams to 25 section titles, nine for the girls and 16 for the boys.

According to Athletic Director Michael O'Brien, “Dave Prevost has given his very best to the student athletes of the Fox Chapel Area School District and has worked diligently to make our program one of the most respected in the WPIAL.”

“Coach Prevost has spent an astounding number of years coaching and mentoring young people through the sport of tennis,” says Alex Slezak, head coach of the girls' tennis team and Coach Prevost's assistant for the boys' team. “If you do the math, that equates to more than 7,000 hours of his life doing in-season coaching. In the time I have had the fortune to work with him, I can say he cares deeply about all of the players he has coached and, as many wins and accomplishments that he has, remains a humble man.”

It just so happens that Coach Prevost, who retired from the classroom two years ago after 40 years of teaching, most of it at Fox Chapel Area High School, has not only made history, he also has a particular fondness for teaching it. He enjoyed the fact that he could bring history to life for his students and one of his favorite classes was AP U.S. Government and Politics.

“I wanted the kids to look at history as more than just memorizing dates and events, but what led up to them, the rationale, and why history happened,” he says.



Dave Prevost, longtime boys' head tennis coach, congratulates two of his players during the WPIAL Class AAA section doubles tournament.

While the history and evolution of tennis weren't part of those lessons, Coach Prevost has lived through many of the advancements in tennis since his father, a competitive player for Duquesne University, first taught him how to play when he was 10-years-old.

“When I was growing up in the '60s, there was no such thing as tennis lessons,” he recalls. “And, we played with wooden racquets, not like the ones today that are made of graphite or fiberglass and have more flex to the frame to allow players to hit the ball harder and faster.

“The game has changed dramatically, particularly the skill levels of the players as they enter the high school program. Players now start much, much younger, and when they get to the high school, I'm not teaching them the basics. They've already played several days a week for a number of years, many of them year-round. There is more intensity in the training and the quality of play has increased. I'm just polishing their skills, making suggestions, giving them multidimensional observations as I watch the matches, and then helping them with their strategy.”

He says throughout the course of his career, he tried to give as many players as possible the chance to participate and enjoyed getting them to the point where they were successful, no matter what their skill level.

“Part of that was determining where their talent and skill sets lie,” says the coach. “Some players are not singles players and some players are not doubles players. It was always good to look at the kids and see how far they'd come along and see them play well.”

There are other lessons, however, that Coach Prevost considers more important than merely learning how to play tennis, and he hopes he instilled some of them in his young players.

“I'd like to be remembered more as having used sports to teach players how to deal with life after high school – things like perseverance, how to deal with adversity, how to manage time, and how to be competitive without being cutthroat.”

Those life lessons probably helped many of his former players become successful adults and he's proud of what many of them have achieved once their tennis careers were over.

“Some are doctors and lawyers and some still live in the district,” he says. “I taught them and now I'm teaching their kids. The time went awfully fast.”

As he looks ahead to the time when coaching will no longer be part of his everyday life, Coach Prevost anticipates spending more time reading for enjoyment, particularly nonfiction history, and adding to his model aircraft collection. He estimates he's built well over 200 model aircraft, all in the same scale. He'll also continue assisting the athletic department as a faculty manager, helping to run sporting events and coordinating event workers.

As far as tennis goes, Coach Prevost says, “I wanted to leave the program when everything was fine; I didn't want to stick around too long. Besides, you can't do anything forever.”



FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Director of Business Affairs:
L. Douglas McCausland

District Resource Staff

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Matthew J. Harris, Ed.D.
Director of Elementary Education and Instruction:
Ashley L. Nestor
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services:
Lonnie Carey, Ed.D.
Coordinator of Federal Programs and Student
Achievement: Alicia Gismondi
Coordinator of Educational Technology:
Scott W. Hand
Director of Ancillary Services: Daniel Breitkreutz
Director of Athletics & Activities: Michael O'Brien
Coordinator of Communications: Bonnie Berzonski

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412/767-5396
Principal: Rachel K. Fischbaugh

Kerr Elementary School

341 Kittanning Pike
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Principal: Paul S. Noro, Ed.D.

O'Hara Elementary School

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Assistant Principal: Patricia A. Clark
Assistant Principal:
James Phillip Prager Jr.

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Program Principal:
Daniel E. Lentz, Ph.D.
Assistant Principal – Senior Program:
John J. McGee
Assistant Principal –
Intermediate Program:
Rebecca J. Cunningham, Ed.D.

For the latest information on school activities and weather-related delays and cancellations, call the Fox Chapel Area School District 24-Hour Information Line at 412/967-2500 or visit the website at www.fcasd.edu.

The athletic events calendar can be found on the Fox Chapel Area School District website at www.fcasd.edu or visit www.highschoolsports.net.

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: Lonnie Carey, Ed.D.
(412/967-2435)
Address: Fox Chapel Area School District
611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

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Front Row (left to right):
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Row 2 (left to right):
Eric C. Schmidt (2015 - Region I); Robert Mauro (2017 - Region II); Somer Obernauer Jr. (2015 - Region I); Lisa M. Rutkowski (2015 - Region I); and Joel R. Weinstein (2017 - Region III).

Row 3 (left to right):
David P. McCommons, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Paul J. Giuffre, Esq., Solicitor; and L. Douglas McCausland, Board Secretary.

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 regular business meetings are usually scheduled for the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. and are held at the high school. The public is invited to attend.