A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

It seems like only a short time ago that I met many students and parents at bus stops on the first day of school. With nearly half of the school year already over, I am proud of all of the accomplishments, big and small, of our students. I am inspired every day by our students, the families who love and encourage them to do their best, and the Fox Chapel Area School District staff who teach, nurture, and support them. I know that everyone gives their best efforts to inspire our students to do their own best work, and I look forward to all of the great accomplishments that are to come.

So far this school year...

- •A middle school student knew she had a good idea for an invention and she worked hard to submit her best work. As a result of her efforts, she won an award in a prestigious national science competition. You can read about Amulya and her invention on page 10.
- •A fourth grade team, named for a sweet treat, knew it would be tough to compete against teams made up of older fifth graders, as well as other fourth graders. One of the girls said they worked so hard they nearly memorized the books they read in order to win this year's Battle of the Books tournament. You can see the team, the Rainbow Gummy Bears, pictured with their trophy on page 14.
- Twenty-five members of this year's senior class, including 16 who were named semifinalists, were among the few from across the nation to be recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. See their story on page 15.
- •Five of our 10 sports teams sent athletes to state championships this fall. In one of the most successful seasons in Fox Chapel Area history, nine teams competed in post-season play all against teams who worked hard and were determined to win as well. A summary of the sports season begins on page 22.
- •We pay tribute to a former teacher, Bob Gerhardt, who continues to serve the school district in the athletic department long after he retired. His story is on page 12.

I want you to know that the work of our students and staff truly inspires me to do my best every day. I make it a priority to get into the classrooms and visit the schools as often as possible and I am inspired by what I see. The Fox Chapel Area School District is truly a place filled with caring teachers, support staff, parents, and community members. We work together and give our very best so that our students are able to do *their* very best.

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.



I am inspired every day by our students, the families who love and encourage them to do their best, and the Fox Chapel Area School District staff who teach, nurture, and support them.



DMS STUDENT WINS THIRD PLACE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Works with Scientist Over the Summer to Develop Her Invention

WWW!" is the typical response of young children if they see a human brain specimen. But when Amulya Garimella saw a brain, she said, "Wow! This is cool. How can this mushy thing control what you think?"

Now a seventh grader at Dorseyville Middle School, Amulya's interest and curiosity in how the human brain works developed into an innovative device that won her a major award in a national science competition. She was named the third place national winner in the 2015 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge for her invention which helps prevent distractions. Her prize included \$1,000 and a student adventure trip.

The Young Scientist Challenge is open to students in grades five through eight. Applicants are asked to use scientific thinking and imagination and create a one-two minute video that describes how they dreamed up a solution to an everyday problem that could reshape the way people live their lives. The idea for Amulya's invention stemmed from her observation that

she and her friends became easily distracted when they were doing their homework. "I had the attention span of a goldfish," she laughed. Amulya hypothesized that brain waves measured on an EEG would change if a person became distracted. If she was right, she knew she could develop a distraction-monitoring device that would detect the brain wave changes and alert the user to when he or she became distracted.

Amulya tested her hypothesis by conducting several experiments on herself in which she simulated concentration by counting backwards by threes, and distraction by daydreaming. She then compared her brain waves during these two activities and found that her hypothesis was, indeed, correct. Next, she ran tests on several subjects, including her friend, Hannah Jahnke, who also has an interest in neurology. Amulya observed Hannah's brain waves while concentrating on an assignment and then compared her brain waves to when they talked and joked instead of concentrating. Once again, her hypothesis was proven to be correct.

Amulya first began working on her invention on a computer. She developed the program as much as she could and then transferred all of the code onto an Adafruit FLORA, a wearable electronic computing platform. She then mounted the FLORA on an Ace™ bandage along with a BlueSMiRF Bluetooth modem. She also purchased a headset that reads EEG brainwayes that are then sent to her invention. The BlueSMiRF takes in the EEG brainwayes and sends them to the FLORA and the FLORA puts them through an algorithm. Amulya's invention, that fits on the wrist of a user, has a green light that blinks once at the beginning of the process when the user is concentrating. However, a red light blinks three times when the brain waves change to remind the user to concentrate and get back to work.

Amulya hopes that distractions during homework will become a thing of the past and she plans to keep working to develop her invention further. She is thinking about incorporating a vibrating sensation in place of the flashing light. If she were to market her device, she would like to possibly have it connected to a free web service with data stored in the Cloud with tangible incentives for people who concentrate better and longer with

less distraction. "I plan to extend this as far as I can," she said.

Her friend Hannah, a seventh grader, is not surprised that Amulya was able to develop this sophisticated invention. She also says that Amulya is always thinking about problems other people are facing and how she can help solve them.

"I'm really super proud of her," Hannah said. "I knew she had the capability to do it. She's smart and she's also clever."

Amulya, who hopes to one day become a "scientist of some kind," was one of only 10 finalists from across the nation who were named by 3M and Discovery Education in June. As a finalist she earned an exclusive summer one-on-one mentorship with 3M scientist, Cordell Hardy, Ph.D. She worked with





Dr. Hardy, R&D Manager - Technology Development and Body Protection, 3M Personal Safety Division, to further refine her invention.

Amulya and the other finalists were invited to St. Paul, Minnesota, in October where they competed in a series of

> scored scientific challenges and presented their completed invention to a panel of judges. Finalists were evaluated on their scientific problemsolving, innovation and ingenuity, and communication skills.

"It was amazing to win a prize in the competition! I didn't even think that I could become a finalist, and I won third place, so I was really excited and amazed and thankful to 3M and Discovery. I worked really hard on my

project and I feel like it definitely paid off," Amulya said.

Amulya's invention involves a computing platform

(the circular device) and a Bluetooth modem (the rectangular device) attached to an Ace wristband

She added, "The experience in St. Paul was really fun. The challenges were fun and tough at the same time, and I made so many great memories with the other finalists. Getting to see the 3M Innovation Center was simply amazing. It was like a hands-on museum, filled with the 3M technologies that simplify our everyday lives."





JUST LIKE THE ENERGIZER BUNNY, BOB GERHART KEEPS ON GOING

eople in their 50s stand a little straighter as they enter the James M. Burk Stadium when they see Bob Gerhart is collecting tickets. Mr. Gerhart was their math teacher, they explain. He was known as a gruff, old-school teacher by his former students, and many of them are surprised to see him still working since he retired from teaching in 1989. They'll say, "He's still here! He taught me math." The much-beloved former teacher also served the district as a coach, transportation director, faculty manager, and athletic official.

"If it exists around here, I did it," Mr. Gerhart commented one late fall evening at the stadium as he collected tickets from patrons attending a soccer game.

According to athletic director Mike O'Brien, "Bob Gerhart is a living history of the district." He added, "He loves Fox Chapel, no doubt about that. His dedication to the school district is unmatched."

Although he's been retired for 27 years, Mr. Gerhart continues to work for the district as a faculty manager. "It gives me something to do," he said. He added, "It's not that hard." But that wasn't always the case.

Mr. Gerhart began his teaching career at Kerr School, even before the boroughs of Aspinwall, Blawnox, and Fox Chapel joined with Indiana and O'Hara townships (Sharpsburg would not join with the district until 1970) to become the Fox Chapel Area School District in 1958. Mr. Gerhart taught ninth and tenth graders mathematics in the school that then also included seventh and eighth grade students.

Just months before the Fox Chapel Area High School opened in 1961, Supervising Principal John C. Cober, D.Ed., stopped to see Mr. Gerhart and asked him if he would take on a new job – planning and coordinating the school bus routes for the next school year - while continuing to teach five classes a day, of course. "I learned the district real fast, every street," he said. Back then there were no computers, so the bus routes and schedules were all done by hand.

Gil Damico became the athletic director in 1968, and Mr. Gerhart worked as a coach and faculty manager under his direction. "He was a faculty manager but more like an assistant," said Mr. Damico. He arranged to get people to sell tickets, counted the money, and even did the job of an athletic trainer since high schools did not have trainers at that time.

Mr. Damico also pointed out, "Bob coached the tennis team forever [20 years]." Additionally, he coached varsity soccer for six years, as well as the rifle team. Mr. Damico continued, "He probably has more wins than any other coach in Fox Chapel." Mr. Gerhart also worked as a sports official over the years refereeing basketball, soccer, and volleyball, and even judging diving events.

When Mr. Damico was asked to take over district transportation in 1972, in addition to his duties as athletic director, he depended heavily on Mr. Gerhart. "He knew every street, every address."

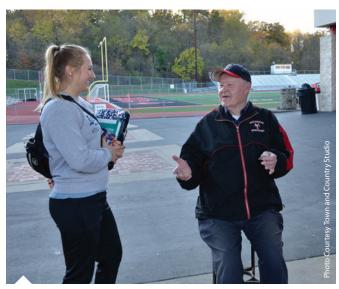
They worked together when the district made the decision to computerize the bus routes. The two of them drove through the district, preparing the information to be sent to the company that designed the computerized bus schedule.

According to Mr. Damico, "I couldn't have done it all without him. He was so, so loyal. I knew I could count on him."

Mr. Gerhart says that he retired in 1989, the year teachers were being trained to use computers in the classroom. He never learned to use a computer and does not have email. He has an early-model cell phone, but he only uses it if he needs to call his wife, or if he is waiting for a call from her. "I maybe charge it every six months." He still says he has an old-style 19-inch television that he bought in 1982 for his O'Hara Township



If you attend an athletic event at Fox Chapel Area High School, you're likely to see Mr. Gerhart.



Mr. Gerhart talks with a spectator who was entering a recent high school soccer game.

home where he has lived with his wife and raised their two sons. "It still works," he shrugs, and says that his son bought him a new 32-inch flat screen over Labor Day because he didn't like having to watch TV on the small screen when he would visit. Over the years, Mr. Gerhart says he has enjoyed hunting, fishing, and playing golf, although he stays closer to home these days. He points out that he moves a little slower now because of a bad hip, caused at least in part, he says, because of all the running up and down fields as a coach and sports official.

Most all of the staff he worked with have retired. "I know about a handful of the teachers now," he says, specifically mentioning Ron Frank and former student and current high school teacher Jill Tabis.

Ms. Tabis, who had Mr. Gerhart for two math classes in high school, said she hopes to be like him when she's in her 80s.

"Besides being active, more importantly, he truly, truly cares about people. He'll take the time to stop and say hello, and if he doesn't have the time, he'll make the effort to come back later." As a high school student Ms. Tabis often sought his help in math class and says he took the time to make sure she understood the concepts. "He was so patient with me."

Already in the Fox Chapel Area Schools Sports Hall of Fame, inducted in 2010, Mr. Gerhart is still going. He tells a story about how last summer he and his wife were at a restaurant and couldn't help but notice that two "elderly" couples at a table nearby kept looking over at them, especially one guy. Finally, the guy approached them and said, "Are you Bob Gerhart? You had all four of us at Kerr in 1955."

"That's how little people say I've changed over the years," he commented.

Mr. Gerhart says he has no plans to retire from his work as a faculty manager and will continue to work the gate at athletic events "as long as I can get around."



RAINBOW GUMMY BEARS VICTORIOUS

O'Hara Elementary Team Wins Battle of Books

he Rainbow Gummy Bears from O'Hara Elementary School were the winners of this year's Battle of the Books tournament. The winning team members were fourth graders Madelyn Jones, Whitney Jones, Clara Kelley, Kate Leland, and Megan Mulhern.

"I didn't know we had won until they announced our name," said Megan. "I just stood up and we were all so happy!" Megan originally thought her team's chances might not be quite so good since they were only fourth graders competing against some older fifth grade teams. She said her team was very excited when they heard their name called as the winners.

Kate agreed with Megan saying, "We were really, really excited! We were really, really surprised too!"

According to O'Hara Elementary School librarian Karen Fornari, the Battle of the Books tournament has been an annual tradition at Fox Chapel Area for many years. The elementary librarians host the tournament "in an effort to promote literacy and reading through a shared experience."

"It's very powerful when students get together and read and talk about books," she said. One of the most rewarding parts of the program, according to Mrs. Fornari, is that it enables readers of all levels to work together for a common goal.

"We include books for every level of reader and we've really worked at that. It's always very exciting to see the involvement of many children, all working together," Mrs. Fornari said. "Also, students pick up books in a competition setting that they might not otherwise read, and the students are exposed to books from a variety of genres."



The O'Hara Elementary Rainbow Gummy Bears won this year's Battle of the Books.

Megan said she and her teammates studied a lot and that her mom, Maggie Mulhern, who served as the team's parent manager, helped her and the team by making up questions about the books they read. Mrs. Mulhern has been involved with the Battle of the Books for five years, and this is her fourth year serving as a team manager. She said the parent involvement really helped encourage the team and said the girls worked really hard, even holding a mock Battle of the Books at her home prior to the November 4 competition.

Before the big night, Mrs. Mulhern told the girls on the Rainbow Gummy Bears team, "We're going to do this!"

She added, "It was a great group of girls to work with. They are really enthusiastic readers." She also said the fact that the elementary librarians encourage the students to read throughout the year is very important.

According to Mrs. Fornari, parent involvement is, indeed, a highlight of the program. Parents serve as team managers for each of the groups, however, parent involvement goes beyond that. Parents host groups, donate snacks, help their children study, and write sample questions. But Mrs. Fornari especially enjoys that fact that, in the end, the Battle of the Books is a true group effort.

"We are like a community that promotes literacy. We are all engaged in the process – the librarians, the teachers, the parents, and the students. The Battle of the Books truly helps us become a community of readers and we are all part of that."

Parent Erin Leland agrees and said it was "wonderful" reading the books with her daughter Kate. She said she and Kate, as well as her other daughters, often read together, "but not quite like this. This was the most both Kate and I got into the same book. This was such a rewarding experience for us."

Kate enjoyed the experience as well, and said, "The books were really challenging and fun to read." She reported that her group studied so hard that it felt like they almost memorized the books.

Perhaps the most exciting thing for this team is the plaque featuring a picture of the Rainbow Gummy Bears that will be in the O'Hara Elementary School library for the next year. These girls will feel a sense of pride every time they see it.

The Battle of the Books features fourth and fifth grade students from Fairview, Hartwood, Kerr, and O'Hara elementary schools and is the culmination of eight weeks of reading and studying books from a selected book list. During the competition, the students answer questions about the books they have read. They also illustrate various books on poster-board shields which are displayed around the auditorium during the tournament.

The tournament is sponsored by the elementary library department of the Fox Chapel Area schools. The Fox Chapel Area elementary librarians are Karen Fornari, Kirsten Moller, Lynne Orsega, and Jasmine Precopio.

25 SENIORS RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM

ixteen Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are: Isabel Acevedo, Jessica Berg, Madelyn Coulson, Christopher Esch, Conor Gaffney, David Humphrey, Nicola Lee-Oesterreich, Shaina Munin, Stephen Polcyn, Sophie Rodosky, Anja Schempf, Sreeroopa Som, James Thomson, Daly Trimble, Konrad Urban, and Spencer Williams. The Semifinalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors and have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for National Merit

Scholarships worth more than \$32 million to be offered in the spring of 2016.

Additionally, nine high school seniors were named Commended Students. They are: Maria Burns, Ishan Khatri, Julia Lynch, Levi McCrady, Amanda Puthenpurayil, Siddharth Rajupet, Margot Savin, Priyanka Shah, and Emily Trageser.



This year's National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students were selected based on their 2014 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) scores. All the students who take this test are automatically enrolled in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists and about 34,000 are Commended.



FOX CHAPEL AREA TEACHERS HOLD FOOD DRIVE

he members of the Fox Chapel Educators Association (FCEA – the teachers' association) are always looking for ways to give back to the community. This November, the teachers at all six schools collected food for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Sharpsburg.

According to FCEA President Lisa Lang, the members heard that the Sharpsburg food pantry was in need of donations and all of the teachers wanted to help.

"When we learned of this need, there was no hesitation, and this was a perfect opportunity to give back to our community," Mrs. Lang said. "As teachers, we are truly a part of this community and we want to help those in need."

The association collected more than 100 boxes and bags of food and the teachers delivered the donations to the food pantry November 24.





NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MORE THAN A "RÉSUMÉ-BUILDER"

Members Exemplify Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character

ox Chapel Area High School students who are members of National Honor Society (NHS) know that having NHS on their résumé helps them look good to prospective colleges and employers. But members know that involvement in NHS means so much more. They understand that they are not just leaders in

the school, but in the community as well, and that NHS provides a way for its members to inspire other students.

"The cool thing about NHS is this organization is nationwide, but each school greatly differs from the other," says Fox Chapel Area High School Chapter's Vice President and senior Angelin Lucas. "I feel that NHS makes a huge difference in our school and community and I love that."

Particularly, Fox Chapel

Area members pride their school organization on the many volunteer opportunities the students engage in and the help that they provide to others. These opportunities include the school district's Homework Helper program where the older students help younger students, but the volunteer opportunities also extend into the Fox Chapel Area community and beyond.

"Being in NHS... inspires me to pursue activities that can benefit my community," says President Sreeroopa Som, a

senior. "To me, a leader is one who not only leads others, but also inspires others to lead. As a member of NHS, I strive to encourage my peers to conduct their own leadership initiatives."

Angelin encourages all students to become involved in NHS as, "I feel that everyone can learn something from their involvement in this organization. I feel that so many students view NHS as a résumé-builder, but it is much more than that. It is

what the student does with that membership that changes what you get out of it."







According to Fox Chapel Area NHS Secretary, senior Nate Matisko, it's important that members demonstrate service and character both inside and outside of the school environment. "Not only must they pursue and participate in multiple activities, they must also volunteer their time to help the community and to better themselves."

This year's Fox Chapel Area High School NHS inductees include: seniors Michael Bonavita, Chad Capuzzi, Caroline DeLuca, W. Luke Feczko, Savannah Gehosky, Hannah Goodman, John Gurklis, Noah Kasian, Genevieve Laymon,

Alison Lightfoot, Joshua Manuel, Glenn Matamoros, Maya McCann, Eric Miloser, Samantha Olbrich, Jacob Pilarski, Tucker Root, Giovanni Scolieri, Jesuloluwa Shodipo, Heather Snowball, Mia Vento, and Cameron Walter. Juniors inducted included: Marissa Albrecht, Annamarie Alfery, Gabriella Badway, Phoebe Beard, Lee Beasley, Harper Bennett, David Breault, Desirae Buccigrossi, Dominique Buccigrossi, Camille Cagley, Rohan Chalasani, Jared Cohen, Anthony Cordaro, Aubrey Cullinan, Caitlyn Cupps, Mikayla D'Cunha, Deena DeBaldo, Madeleine Doerr, Brooke Echnat, Alec Eckman, Anne Friday, Andrew Fugh, Claire Gaffney, Mihir Garimella, James Gilmore, Rachel Gorby, Allison Gould, Sarah Hamilton, David Han, Nicole

Heasley, Elizabeth Heidenreich, Haley Herrmann, Alexis Hurwitz, Amanda Hurwitz, Nadia Islam, Elias Izenson, Katherine Kauma, Kathryn Kenney, Grace Kerr, Kevin

Kilmer, Emmeline Klatt, Jordyn Koontz, Alyssa Kozer, Sada Lantgios, Sophia Lee, Yelim Lee, Darwin Leuba, Maxwell Lucas, Vincent Lundy, Victor Marculescu, William Marsh, Timothy McCarthy, Macy McClaran, Moira McCormick, Sean McCoy, Megan McCrady, Alan McIvor, Jenna McKinley, Corinne Meinert, Tanvi Meringenti, Suvir Mirchandani, Solana Morningstar, Grace Mueller, Hannah Mueller, Juliette Naugle, Kerstin Nestel, Mary O'Connor, Jamie Palmieri, Maia Pauley, Emma Paulini, Sarah Pilarski, Kristen Rabbitt, John Ramassini, Jeremy Rodrigues, Conner Romango, Benjamin Rosen, Bryce Ryan, Alanna Rygelski, William Schwartzman, Ayan Sinha,

> Caroline Smith, Alexander Smolar, Dimitri Spina, Brooke Stillion, Nina Stumpf, Philip Swigon, Thomas Swigon, Waleed Tariq, Martin Taxay, Taylor Thiele, Ronald Tran, Bliss Uribe, Bryanna Urso, Natalie Vayonis, Robert Wallace, Nathan Wecht, Mallory Weimerskirch, Megan Wiese, Elizabeth Woodwell, Bohan Yao, Gabrielle Young, and Jerett Zaleski.

> Students in their sophomore year who have an unweighted Quality Point Average (QPA) of 3.5 or better are invited to apply for membership in the NHS. Applicants must also have a minimum of two service activities and be involved in at least two additional clubs/groups. They must exhibit leadership qualities and provide character references. Once

they are inducted as members, they must maintain their QPA and continue their community service work through NHS-sponsored projects and other organizations.









FOX CHAPEL AREA HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING

October 9, 2015

he theme for this year's homecoming festivities, which featured the annual carnival, was "Around the World." Attendees enjoyed cookie decorating, corn hole, an inflatable pirate ship, a bouncy house, an obstacle course, and carnival games. A petting zoo and pony rides also contributed to the fun for younger fans. Live music performed by Fox Chapel Area High School students was also featured before the big homecoming football game. Continuing the Fox Chapel Area Homecoming tradition, students from all four classes performed their annual skits. The evening culminated with the Foxes playing the Shaler Area Titans. The marching band performed, the homecoming king and queen were crowned, and the skit winners were announced during halftime. All homecoming activities were coordinated and sponsored by the Fox Chapel Area High School Student Government.

















May the Joys of the Ποliday Season be Yours.

> Created by Kerr Elementary 2nd Grade Artist Bailey (Dack



O'HARA FIFTH GRADERS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH AUTHOR OF "NUMBER THE STARS"

was so excited to meet her, I couldn't even wait," said O'Hara Elementary School fifth grader Molly Piper. "I even wore my star earrings."

O'Hara fifth grade students found out that they were going to meet author Lois Lowry at the beginning of the school year. For Molly, this was her first time meeting a real, live author, and she wondered what inspired Mrs. Lowry to write "Number the Stars," the book many students just finished reading. "It's my favorite book now since I read it. I loved it so much!" Molly said.

The author visit, held November 23 at O'Hara, was sponsored through Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures for Kids and Teens. Mrs. Lowry appeared live at O'Hara Elementary School, but also appeared via a livestreamed videoconference to students in 32 schools, including Dorseyville Middle School and five other schools where students were able to ask questions during the visit. Mrs. Lowry talked with the students about the books she has written, the writing process, and her life. She shared with the students that her father had given her a typewriter when she was 13 for a birthday present, a very unusual gift in the 1950s. She explained that this gift made a real difference in her life.

Mrs. Lowry encouraged the students who want to be writers to be observant and to read a lot. "I see stories everywhere, even a trip to the grocery store. There's a beginning, a middle, and an ending. Unless you are very observant, you won't get it, but the events are all out there."

The author described "Number the Stars" as a fictional story set in a real time in history (during World War II in Denmark) that's about courage. In fact, she, herself, admired Annemarie, the main character, for her courage.

O'Hara teacher Tracey Planz says "Number the Stars" is one of her favorite books and she likes having her students read it.

"It's a wonderful historical fiction book that is very well written. It shows courage," she said. "Hopefully it can inspire students to be courageous in their own lives." According to Mrs. Planz, although the main character of the book is a female heroine, even the boys really enjoy reading the story.

"I loved it!" said fifth grader Enzo DeCeccio. "I liked the suspense and how when Annemarie got into trouble, it kept leading to more trouble, and it was interesting to see how she was going to get out of it." He particularly liked the part of the story where Annemarie delivered a package into the woods at night. "She was full of bravery," he said.

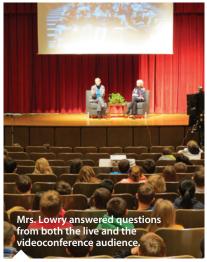
Following the presen O'Hara Elementary st

had the opportu

Enzo also enjoyed meeting Mrs. Lowry. "I could have sat there asking a lot more questions."

Mrs. Lowry said she enjoys doing the school visits because, "It's important that students see that authors are human beings. Kids have a more comfortable relationship with authors, and librarians and teachers have made that possible."

Mrs. Lowry has received many national and international awards for her books and twice has received the prestigious Newbery Medal. Her most well-known books include "The Giver" (which was made into a film in 2014), "A Summer to Die" (her first book), and "Number the Stars."



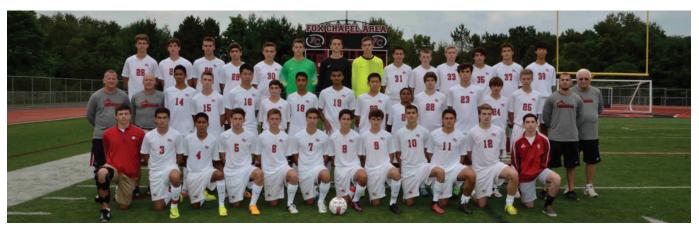
FALL ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

he fall 2015 sports season was one of the most successful in Fox Chapel Area High School history. Nine out of ten Fox Chapel Area athletic teams qualified for WPIALs and/or PIAAs.

Qualifying for WPIALs were boys' and girls' cross country, field hockey, boys' golf, girls' golf, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, girls' tennis, and girls' volleyball. Five teams and/or

individual athletes went on to qualify for state competitions including girls' cross country, field hockey, boys' golf, boys' soccer, and girls' tennis.

"This was an extremely exciting fall season for Fox Chapel Area sports," said Director of Athletics Mike O'Brien. "We are exceptionally proud of our student athletes and coaching staff as they have all made great sacrifices to reach great success."



BOYS' SOCCER REACHES STATE QUARTERFINALS, EXCEEDS GOALS

onths ago, when boys' head soccer coach Erik Ingram addressed his team and their parents, he predicted they'd go to states this year. There was no question they had talent and superb skills. Rather, it was the intangibles that can't necessarily be

taught – team chemistry, leadership, and soccer IQ – that gave him great confidence in their potential. If that wasn't enough, they had a good amount of versatility, especially from senior leader, regional all-American, and all-state player Kota Furuhata, who, if called upon, could deftly switch from defensive anchor to forward.

It turned out coach Ingram was right.

After a near-perfect season of 11-1-0 and a section championship, the team advanced to the WPIAL Class AAA championship finals for the first time since 2008. The game against Canon-

McMillan was grueling and extended into double overtime and a shoot-out. The team finished as WPIAL runner-up, but still qualified for the PIAA playoffs. In the PIAA Class AAA first-round game, the team showed its grit in a 110-minute game against Central York before winning in another shootout, with a final score of 3-2, to advance to the PIAA quarterfinals. That game against eastern Pennsylvania's Springfield-Delco High School was another physical competition that ended the Foxes' run for the state title by a 2-1 final score. The team finished the season 18-2-1.

"We left it out there and played well, but Springfield-Delco was a talented team that made the most of their chances," said coach Ingram, who achieved a milestone of his own when he was selected the Section-3 Coach of the Year for the eighth time in 10 years.



Reflecting upon the season and his years with the team, Kota said, "This year, I think we achieved our expectations and even exceeded them in states. Of course I was upset after the last game, but mostly because it was my last game with my 'brothers' who I've been playing with since I was a kid."

This marks the second consecutive year that Kota has been elected to the all-state team. Last season, he was the only junior in Pennsylvania to receive the accolade. This year, he was also named a regional all-American.

The Fox Chapel Area High School Varsity Boys' Soccer Team members

were: seniors Holden Armor, Domenico DiMatteo, Kota Furuhata, Jason Krysinsky, Elliot Norman, Benjamin Santilli, Yarden Solomon, Carlo Vignali, Zachary Wiegand, and Ted Wight; juniors Jung Eui Hong, Michael Snowball, and Nathan Wecht; sophomores Cole Bowman, Carson Cohen, Jakob Dunn, Theodore Faucher, Carl-Emil Johansen, Jacob Klein, Jacob Miller, Sinhong Park, Ryan Santilli, and William Tabor; and freshmen Eli Amshel and Alexander Marotte.

TENNIS DOUBLES TEAM STRIKES GOLD

enior Laurel Shymansky and sophomore Amanda Nord dominated WPIAL Class AAA doubles tennis all season with their flawless performances - and even won back-to-back championships - so it was a fitting end when they won the coveted 2015 PIAA crown as the state's new champions.

With perfect tactical play, quick pressure, and clutch play in the finals, the duo defeated North Allegheny High School's Tina Li and Ashley Huang, 6-4, 6-2. It was a sweet win, especially for Laurel, who played her last high school match. But both girls were determined to avenge their loss from last year when they finished as runner-up following their loss to a different tandem from North Allegheny.

The victory was Laurel's second PIAA doubles title. A Duquesne University

recruit, Laurel earned her first state championship as a sophomore.

Laurel's and Amanda's climb to become the state's highest ranking doubles team in scholastic play began with winning the Class AAA Section 3 championship. Once that was behind them, the defending WPIAL champs were focused on repeating their regional success from the previous year, and they did just that. With their win at the WPIAL championship match, they became the first WPIAL girls' doubles team since 2008 to repeat with consecutive titles.

In all, Laurel concluded her high school career possessing three WPIAL titles and as the first girls' doubles player in 20 years to earn that many WPIAL championships.

"Amanda will take over the number one singles spot next year and I know she will



be working hard in the off season," says head coach Alex Slezak. "As for Laurel, she's grown so much over the past four years and has been a tremendous champion."

FIELD HOCKEY **SCORES PERFECT** REGULAR SEASON

ack in August before the season even started, seventh-year coach Jen McCrady recalled that both the players and coaches thought this might be their year to regain the WPIAL AAA championship title. After all, they had all but two starters returning and were strong both offensively and on defense. Their ability to move and pass the ball down the field, a relentless defense, and the advantage of being able to score from all places on the field, helped them win the WPIAL AAA Section 2 title and a 12-0 section record.

Moving on to the WPIAL AAA championship, they were just as stellar. The Lady Foxes had a huge victory over the defending champions, North Allegheny, 2-0. They advanced to the PIAA playoffs for the second time in three years, however, the team suffered a very emotional loss in the first round of the PIAA tournament, 3-0. It was their first loss of the year and, until that point, they were 20-0.

Leading the Lady Foxes on offense were two phenomenal sophomores, Paige Ryan and Abby Pitcairn. Paige broke a school record for most goals scored in a season with 33. Abby, who is a member of the U17 US National Field Hockey Team, broke her own scoring record from last season with 74 total



points (26 goals and 22 assists). Additionally, Abby has been named to the USA Women's Indoor National Team that plays international games. She is the youngest player selected for the team and one of only 12 players from across the country to be chosen.

The team members were: seniors Jenna Alexander, Samantha Bernacki, Lydia Beyer, Christina Brown, Sarah Kintner, Maggie McIlroy, Molly Mendelson, Margot Savin, and Nicole Susi; juniors Megan Botos, Megan McCrady, and Krista Spuhler; sophomores Sally Dean, Sarah Fownes, Gwynneth Heidinger, Mia Jamiolkowski, Grace Knepshield, Katie McIlroy, Abby Pitcairn, and Paige Ryan; and freshmen Marissa Hardiman and Rebecca Klaas.





BOYS' GOLF: MORE THAN 50 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

here's a little bit of Fox Chapel Area High School sports trivia that has gone rather unnoticed: boys' golf has now earned more than 500 victories in section play. Over the past four years alone, the elite players have amassed a 45-1 section record, making it pretty logical to assume not many teams in the country have achieved their overall level of success. Historically speaking, Fox Chapel Area boys' golf teams have been pretty good at stockpiling section gold medals. In Fox Chapel Area history, the teams have won 26 section championships. In fact, the program has had only three losing seasons since its inception in 1962.

This year the players continued that half-a-century tradition of excellence by winning the WPIAL AAA Section 4 crown for the fourth consecutive year. Additionally, for the second time in three seasons, the team advanced to the WPIAL AAA finals where they finished as the runner-up this year. The team ended the year 12-0 in section matches and 16-0 overall.

Individually, junior Anthony Cordaro was the Section 4 co-champion this season and junior Alexander Lawson qualified for the PIAA individual championship at Heritage Hills Resort in York in October

"The players are a great group academically and are very talented, but even better young men," coach Bryan Deal pointed out. "As their coach, I am extremely proud of them."

The team members were: seniors Griffin Bartley, James Braham, Mark Calandra, Matthew Friday, Matthew Hardiman, Michael Hudic, Michael Marsico, Nathan Matisko, and Patrick Monteverde; juniors Anthony Cordaro and Alexander Lawson; sophomore Andrew Friend; and freshmen Gregor Meyer and Grant Thiele.

BOYS' & GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY



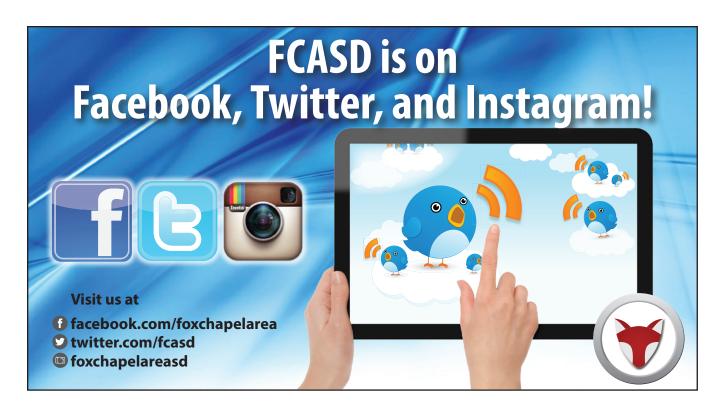
he boys' cross country team won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 4 team title. The team members were: seniors Jeffrey Amorose, Michael Bove, Aaron Ivie, Glenn Matamoros, Konrad Urban, Brendan Urso, and Matthew Wilk; juniors Adam Cook and Alec Eckman; sophomore Jonathan Folkerts; and freshman Gregory Overbeck. The team's record was seven wins and no losses. Members of both the boys' and girls' teams participated in the WPIAL meet.

Additionally, two members of the girls' cross country team, freshmen Sarena Seeger and Annika Urban qualified for the PIAA Cross Country Championships. Sarena and Annika finished as the second and fourth overall freshmen at the state meet, which was held November 7 in Hershey.

GIRLS' SOCCER



he girls' varsity soccer team won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 team title and participated in the WPIAL playoffs. In 14 section games, the defense allowed only two goals and the team had a total of 15 shutouts. The team members were: seniors Elayna Burdelski, Taylor Cohen, Maggie Coulson, Maia Russo, Alexis Schwartz, and Asia Stewart (team manager); juniors Annamarie Alfery, Harper Bennett, Mikayla D'Cunha, Deena DeBaldo, Elizabeth Heidenreich, Madeline Lucey, Caroline Smith, Taylor Thiele, Bryanna Urso, and Dixon Veltri; sophomores Diana Beasley, Emilia Cano-Czagany, Fallon Curry, Katherine Goodwin, Lainey Kasian, Margaret Lazzara, Katherine Livingston, Julie Mallinger, Caelan Miller, Abigail Pogue, and Katrina Stevenson; and freshmen Maura Curry, Kate Feczko, Hannah Flanders, Theresa Heidenreich, Sabrina McQuarrie, Julie Scheffler, Alexis Schutzman, Sarah Sinnott, and Grace Wiegand. The team's overall record was 18 wins and four losses. Additionally, Deena DeBaldo was selected for the all-state team.



NOTICES TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO RESIDE IN THE FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, SERVICES FOR GIFTED STUDENTS, AND SERVICES FOR PROTECTED HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

■ IDEA – Chapter 14

In compliance with state and federal law, notice is hereby given by the Fox Chapel Area School District that it conducts ongoing identification activities as a part of its school program for the purpose of identifying students who may be in need of special education and related services. Child Find refers to activities undertaken by public education agencies to identify, locate, and evaluate children residing in the state, including children attending private schools, who are suspected of having disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disability, and determine the child's need for special education and related services. The purpose is to locate these children so that a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) can be made available. Identification Activities are performed to find a child who is suspected as having a disability that would interfere with his or her learning unless special education programs and services are made available. These activities are sometimes called screening activities. The activities include: review of group data, conducting hearing and vision screening, assessment of a student's academic functioning, observation of the student displaying difficulty in behavior, and determining the student's response to attempted remediation. Input from parents is also an information source of identification. If your child is identified by the district as possibly in need of such services, you will be notified of applicable procedures.

Individualized services and programs are available for children who are determined to need specially-designed instruction due to the following conditions: autism/pervasive development disorder, blindness or visual impairment, deafness or hearing impairment, deaf blindness, orthopedic impairment, developmental delay, multiple disabilities, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, and/or speech or language impairment. We offer a continuum of services for students with disabilities that begins with full inclusion in the child's home school and class, to separate programs within other schools in which peers without disabilities would not participate.

If you believe that your school-age child may be in need of special education services and related programs, or your child (ages three to school age) may be in need of early intervention, screening and evaluation processes designed to assess the need of the child and his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at anytime, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for school-age evaluations and screenings are to be made in writing to: Special Education Department, Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Requests for children ages three to school age should be made in writing to: Project DART, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, 475 East Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120.



■ Potential Signs of Developmental Delays and Other Risk Factors that Could Indicate a Need for Special Education Services

Some indications that your child may be a child with a disability who is in need of special education are:

- Exhibition of an emotional disturbance over a long period of time which affects your child's ability to learn;
- · Consistent problems in getting along with others;
- Difficulty communicating;
- · Lack of interest or ability in age-appropriate activities;
- Resistance to change;
- Difficulty seeing or hearing that interferes with the ability to communicate;
- Health problems that affect educational performance including attention problems;
- Difficulty performing tasks that require reading, writing, or mathematics; and
- When, a child who is at least three years of age but before he or she has started school as a beginner, scores on a developmental assessment device, on an assessment instrument which yields a score in months, which score indicates that the child is delayed by 25 percent of the child's chronological age in one or more developmental areas, or if the child is delayed in one or more of the developmental areas, as documented by test performance of 1.5 standard deviations below the mean on standardized tests.

■ Section 504 – Chapter 15

In compliance with state and federal law, the school district will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services, or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities. A protected handicapped student must be school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to an aspect of the school program. You may request screening and evaluation for Chapter 15 services at any time, whether or not your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to: Pupil Services Department, Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

■ Gifted Education – Chapter 16

In compliance with state law, services designed to meet the unique needs of gifted students are provided. Students are identified individually based on state law and district policy, and those students who possess superior intelligence scores or meet multiple criteria indicating gifted ability may receive services. If you believe that your school-age child may be eligible for gifted services, screening and evaluation processes designed to assess his/her eligibility are available to you at no cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, whether or not your

child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to: Pupil Services Department, Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information gathered about your child is subject to the confidentiality provisions contained in federal and state law. The district has policies and procedures in effect governing the collection, maintenance, destruction, and disclosure to third parties of this information. For information about this, as well as the rights of confidentiality and

access to educational records, you may contact, in writing: Pupil Services Department, Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.



PUBLIC NOTICE - STUDENT RECORDS

As a parent of a student in the Fox Chapel Area School District, you have certain rights in regard to your child's school records. These rights are guaranteed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 1974, and the Pennsylvania State Board of Education Regulations. These rights apply whether your child is exceptional or nonexceptional.

The district protects the confidentiality of personally identifiable information regarding exceptional and protected handicapped students in accordance with state and federal law and the district's student records policy.

You have the right to review, inspect, or obtain a copy of your child's records. Records are also open to school officials who have a legitimate



educational interest in a child. You may make a written request for copies of your child's records at a fee not to exceed duplicating costs. If you believe that any information is inaccurate or misleading, you may challenge the contents of the records. You have the right to refuse individual consent where such permission is needed for releasing certain student information. Should you feel the district is not providing these rights, you may file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.

If a child transfers to another school system, records will be forwarded after notification of enrollment is received from the new school.

According to the FERPA, 1974, various nonconfidential information can be released to outside agencies without your consent. This directory information consists of student's name; address; telephone number; email address; photograph; date and place of birth; major field of study; dates of attendance; grade level; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; degrees, honors, and awards received; the most recent educational agency or institution attended; and other similar information.

If you do not want directory information about your child released, please notify the Fox Chapel Area School District Assistant Superintendent, in writing, at the beginning of each school year at 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILE

Under the Pennsylvania Educator Effectiveness System (Act 82 of 2012), the Pennsylvania Department of Education normally releases a Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP) for each school. However, for the 2014-2015 school year, only high schools with 11th grade students received an SPP rating. Earlier this year, a one-year pause was instituted in furnishing SPP scores to schools administering the PSSA, which was newlyaligned to more rigorous PA Core Standards. There is a public website that provides an academic performance score for schools with 11th grade students in the state. The SPP for Fox Chapel Area High School is available online at http://paschoolperformance.org.

MILITARY RECRUITERS

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Section 9528 requires each school district that gets assistance under the Title I program to give military recruiters access to secondary students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. However, according to NCLB 9528(b), parents can request that the school district must get prior written consent before releasing their child's contact information to military

or college recruiters. Parents

who want to give prior written consent before releasing their child's contact information should call the high school counseling office at 412/967-2438 prior to the beginning of each school year.

ASBESTOS REINSPECTIONS

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, the EPA requires the district to perform reinspections of asbestos materials every three years. In August 2013, accredited asbestos inspectors performed these reinspections and a certified asbestos management planner reviewed the results. The results of the reinspections are on file in the school district administration office as part of the asbestos management plan. The management plan is available for viewing by the public during regular school hours (Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.).

MEDIA NOTIFICATION

Our students, educational programs, school events, and community-oriented activities are sometimes made the subject of recording by video, audio, photography, and the like for use as instructional and informational

> buildings, students are frequently the subject of video and audio recording, interviewing, and/

tools. Since the schools are public

or photographing. In addition, our students' work is sometimes published in print and/or the electronic media. The district will allow students to be recorded, interviewed, and/or photographed and students' work to be

published for legitimate public purposes.

NEWS

Throughout the school year, students may be recorded, interviewed, and/or photographed by representatives from newspapers, television stations, and radio stations, as well as district communications office personnel or their designees and these items may be publicly displayed. Students and their work and photographs may also appear in print media and/or electronically on places such as public websites and through broadcasts.

If parents/guardians object to such publication, a written objection must be filed. The district will not deliberately publish a child if a written objection has been filed. The district will also make a reasonable effort to avoid publication by any third party. It is understood that the district certainly has no control of the news media or others outside of the school organization. Student participation in school activities, especially athletics and other competitive events, increases the likelihood of publication of stories and images of those students.

Written objections must be filed at the beginning of each school year with the Coordinator of Communications, Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. If a written objection has been filed in the past, a new letter of objection must still be filed each year. If parents/guardians do not file a written objection, their silence will serve as implied consent.



FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Administration

611 Field Club Road Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412/963-9600 www.fcasd.edu Superintendent: Gene Freeman, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent: David P. McCommons, Ed.D. Director of Business Affairs:

District Resource Staff

L. Douglas McCausland

Director of Secondary Education and Instruction: 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.

Director of Federal Programs and Student Achievement: Alicia Gismondi Director of Innovation and Technology:

Scott W. Hand

Director of Ancillary Services: Daniel Breitkreutz

Director of Athletics: Michael O'Brien

Coordinator of Communications: Bonnie Berzonski

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOLS

Fairview Elementary School

738 Dorseyville Road Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412/963-9315 Principal: Rebecca A. Stephan

Hartwood Elementary School

3730 Saxonburg Boulevard Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412/767-5396

Principal: Rachel K. Fischbaugh

Kerr Elementary School

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

115 Cabin Lane

O'Hara Elementary School

Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412/963-0333 Principal: Michael E. Rowe, Ed.D. Assistant Principal: Aaron C. Rea

Dorseyville Middle School

3732 Saxonburg Boulevard Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412/767-5343 Principal: Jonathan T. Nauhaus Assistant Principal: Patricia A. Clark Assistant Principal: James Phillip Prager Jr.

Fox Chapel Area High School

611 Field Club Road Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412/967-2430 Senior/Lead Principal: Michael H. Hower Program Principal: Daniel E. Lentz, Ph.D. Assistant Principal – Senior Program: John J. McGee, Ph.D. 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 athletic website at www.fcasdathletics.org and click on "SCHEDULE STAR."

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL BOARD



Photo Courtesy Town and Country Studio

Front Row (left to right): Sandra M. Garbisch, Assistant Secretary (2019 - Region II); Gene Freeman, Ed.D., Superintendent; and Nancy B. Foster, Vice President (2019 -Region III)

Row 2 (left to right): Lisa M. Rutkowski (2019 - Region I); Charles R. Burke Jr., Treasurer (2017 - Region III); Terry L. Wirginis, President (2019 - Region II); and Joel R. Weinstein (2017 - Region III)

Row 3 (left to right): Somer Obernauer Jr. (2017 - Region I); Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D. (2017 - Region II); and Eric C. Schmidt (2019 - Region I)

Row 4 (left to right): L. Douglas McCausland, Board Secretary; Paul J. Giuffre, Esq., Solicitor; and David P. McCommons, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent

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)

Fox Chapel Area School District Address:

611 Field Club Road Pittsburgh, PA 15238

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.