INCOMMUNITY MAGAZINES

# IN Fox Chapel Area




Fox Chapel Area School District

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# Message from the Superintendent

As I look back on the past school year, I reflect on the many accomplishments, awards, and achievements and I am proud of the work of the Fox Chapel Area students and staff. As you read through the pages in this State of the Schools, you will see that they continue to bring national, state, and regional recognition to our district through their success in academics, athletics, technology, the arts, and community service. Their achievements, and the commitment of all residents of the district, build a sense of community pride for the past – and great anticipation for what the future holds.

There were so many wonderful successes last school year, and this year is no exception. Already we have achieved state and national recognition for our programs.

- Our high school School Performance Profile (SPP) came in at an incredibly high 99.5. The SPP provides information on the academic performance of each school in Pennsylvania. Scores range from 0-100, with points for academic achievement on assessments such as the Keystones, SAT/ACT, and industry-specific exams for our technical school students; points for academic growth; points for closing the achievement gap; points for other academic indicators such as graduation rate, promotion, attendance, AP credit, and PSAT participation; and extra credit points for advanced scores on various assessments.

- In September, Fairview Elementary School was named a 2016 Blue Ribbon School, one of 329 schools from across the nation and one of two from our entire region. Fairview was selected as an "Exemplary High Performing School" based on the high performance of our students.

- The Fox Chapel Area School District was accepted into the League of Innovative Schools in early October. Only 19 districts nationwide were inducted into the League this year and Fox Chapel Area's selection was based on our innovative vision for learning and our commitment to collaboration. Specifically, we were recognized for our comprehensive K-12 computer science curriculum with digital badging at the elementary level, the district's infusion of maker-education and project-based learning, and the various educational technology and research partnerships we have developed with institutions of higher education and local entrepreneurs.

The recognitions from last school year and these current honors are well-earned and well-deserved by our students, staff, and the community. However, it is also important that we not just focus on the past, but that we continue to pay attention toward building our future. As always, we continue to look forward and take additional steps to provide an environment that maximizes learning, achievement, and development for every student. Our goal is to prepare students for the 21st century world of technology and collaboration through deeper learning opportunities. Our promise to you is that we will continue to make learning meaningful for our students.

It is important to note that none of these recognitions and the day-to-day mission of the school district can be accomplished without the support of the entire community – the students and their families, the staff, and the community at large. The journey we are on is a significant and important one, and we must never lose sight of that. Every day is another step toward our destination of teaching and engaging tomorrow's leaders. Thank you for taking this journey with us, and for your support along the way.

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.
Superintendent

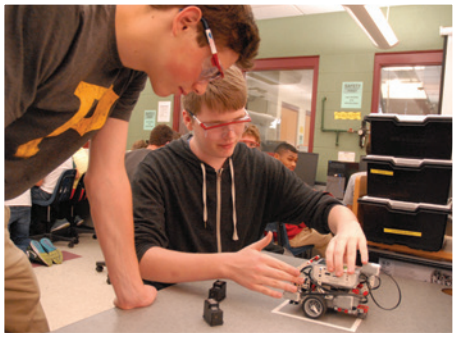







## 2015-2016 State of the Schools Awards and Achievements

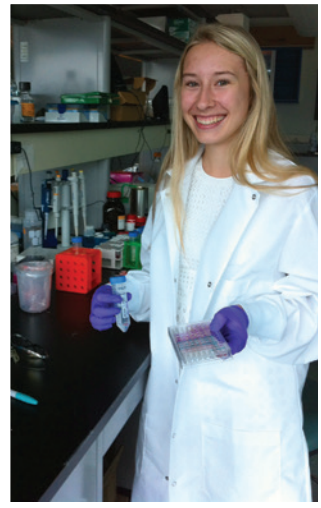
- For the seventh year, Fox Chapel Area High School received a Silver Medal rank from U.S.News & World Report. The annual rankings identify the country's top-performing high schools. The school was also ranked among America's Top High Schools in 2016 by Newsweek and was ranked among the top 250 high schools in the nation and also received an "A+ Overall Niche Grade" on niche.com.
- High school junior Nina Khorey earned the highest score in the nation in her division (French V) and received the Platinum Award on the 2016 Le Grand Concours (National French Exam). She was featured with other platinum winners in the fall publication of the American Association of Teachers of French.



- High school business education teacher Brian Yanizeski received a Next Generation Personal Finance Teacher Innovator Award for his online finance course "Home-Buying Project." The project is part of the online personal finance and investing course that he developed and is offered as part of Fox Chapel Area Online. Mr. Yanizeski, who was one of seven teachers selected from across the nation, had the opportunity to talk about his project on a podcast.
- High school counselor Rachel Machen was named a recipient of the 2015 Yale Educator Award by the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The award recognizes outstanding educators from around the world who support and inspire students to perform at high levels. Mrs. Machen was nominated by 2015 Fox Chapel Area graduate Rishi Mirchandani, who is a student at Yale.

# Highlights





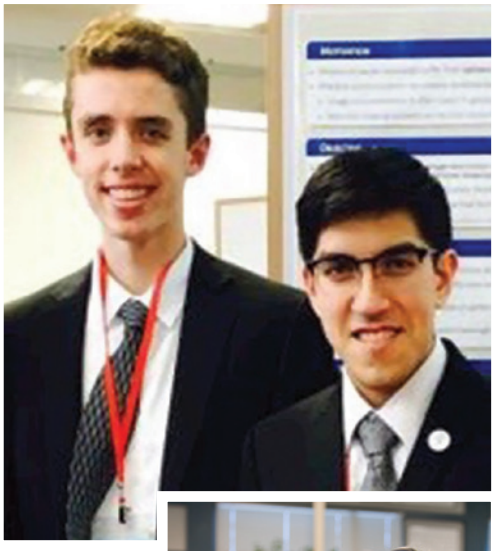
- Sixteen high school seniors were named National Merit Finalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program, including Isabel Acevedo, Jessica Berg, Madelyn Coulson, Christopher Esch, Conor Gaffney, David Humphrey, Nicola Lee-Oesterreich, Shaina Munin, Stephen Polcyn, Sophie Rodosky, Anja Schempf, Sreeroopa Som, James Thomson, Daly Trimble, Konrad Urban, and Spencer Williams. Additionally, nine seniors were named Commended Students.
- High school sophomore Helen Paulini was a winner in the Emperor Science Award program and had the opportunity to work alongside with and be mentored by an esteemed scientist on a multiweek cancer research project. She worked this past summer with the director of the UPMC Department of Radiology Molecular Imaging Center. Cancer research is very important to Helen, as she, herself, is a cancer survivor.
- High school junior David Han was chosen to be a 2016 Yosemite Alcoa Scholar and participated in the NatureBridge Alcoa Scholars program. One of 100 students chosen worldwide, he spent 12 days in the field at Yosemite National Park in California. His selection was based on his passion for the environment, experience in giving back to his community, and his demonstrated desire to learn in a team setting.





• Dorseyville Middle School seventh grader Amulya Garimella was named a third place national winner in the 2015 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. With a goal of preventing distractions, she invented a distraction-monitoring prototype that alerts the user of distraction by measuring EEG brainwaves. Amulya received $1,000 and a trip to Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, where she had the opportunity to take classes and interact with students from all over the world.

• Senior Konrad Urban and junior Suvir Mirchandani won first place in the 2016 Taiwan International Science Fair in the Computer Science and Information Engineering category for their project "Automated Illustration of Text to Improve Semantic Comprehension." The pair developed a software system that converts natural language input into illustrations in order to improve communication with individuals who have language communication disorders. Nearly 500 students from 22 countries competed at the fair. Konrad and Suvir qualified for the Taiwan International Science Fair by placing at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in May 2015.







• The Fox Chapel Area School District was named a Common Sense Digital Citizenship Certified School District, one of only 24 school districts from across the nation and one of five in Pennsylvania to receive the designation. As a certified district, each individual school in the Fox Chapel Area has demonstrated a commitment to a whole-community approach in preparing students to use the immense power of digital media to explore, create, connect, and learn. It also recognizes schools that limit the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying.



• Sophomore Cassidy Carson was selected to receive a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship and is spending her junior year of high school studying abroad in Germany.

• Junior Emma Paulini was selected as a national winner by scoring in the 91st percentile on the Level IV 2016 National German Exam for High School Students and was awarded a summer study trip to Germany. She and sophomore Carl-Emil Johansen each won gold awards on the exam.

• Middle school eighth grader Rajeev Godse scored in the top one percent of the country on the American Mathematics Contest 8 exam.

• High school junior Ellen Pil advanced to the semifinal round in Student Congress at the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Championship Tournament. This accomplishment placed Ellen in the top 60 students in the nation. She was one of eight students from the high school to qualify and compete in the national competition that was held in Sacramento, California.

• High school junior Jacob Klein was named one of 50 national winners in The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America Essay Contest.

• High school seniors Ryan Humbert won first place and Conor Gaffney won second place in the 2016 national Founding Freedoms Essay Contest in the 12th grade division. Additionally, eighth grader Jessica Klein received second place in the eighth grade division.

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- High school junior Tanvi Meringenti placed seventh at the 2016 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference. She was one of 12 Fox Chapel Area students to qualify to compete in the national competition by placing at the FBLA State Leadership Conference.
- A total of 147 high school students were named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board for demonstrating college-level achievement on the AP exams taken in May 2016. A total of 15 students, including seniors Christopher Esch, Elliott Norman, Priyanka Shah, Jesuloluwa Shodipo, James Thomson, Konrad Urban, Spencer Williams, Xi Xu, and Elaine Yates, and juniors Rohan Chalasani, Mihir Garimella, Yelim Lee, Darwin Leuba, Suvir Mirchandani, and Kai Shaikh, qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average score of 4 or higher on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.
- Dorseyville Middle School eighth grader Gwendolyn Davison was selected as one of 626 students from across the nation to be named a 2016 Carson Scholar. Additionally, eighth grader Claire Katz renewed her Carson Scholar Status.



# District Remakes Technology Education – Integrates Deeper Learning

## Twice on White House Short List for Innovative Programs

When President Obama presented his address to kick off a National Week of Making June 17-23, 2016, Fox Chapel Area School District was once again front and center – this time for demonstrating a commitment to the Nation of Makers initiative. According to the prepared White House press release, "Fox Chapel Area School District in Pittsburgh, PA, will integrate making into its computer science curriculum for more than 2,000 elementary school students, including the student-created and facilitated program, Code to Create." Earlier this year, the district appeared on another White House list as a leader in K-12 computer science education.

Across Fox Chapel Area, students at all grade levels are involved in making, including the district's Creativity and Literacy Program for preschool-age children and their caregivers.

- As a maker site, the Creativity and Literacy Program provides a unique way of combining literacy skills with the "making" strand of learning. Under the direction of Creativity and Literacy Program Facilitator Alison Francis, preschool-age children, along with their caregivers, are empowered to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a concept through making or creating, using a project-based approach. Visitors from the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Project Zero, Agency *by* Design, visited the Creativity and Literacy Program, located at Kerr Elementary School, in February and described the program as "inviting," intriguing," "creative," and "stimulating."





•Teachers across the district have been trained to encourage students to become makers and support interdisciplinary project-based learning.

•The district received a $20,000 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) grant through the Center for Creativity, the Benedum Foundation, and The Grable Foundation. The grant will be used to create a stationary makerspace adjacent to the school library, as well as mobile maker carts at Dorseyville Middle School. The mobile carts will be designed and built by the students.

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*Beginning in kindergarten, students program Bee-Bots that move to specific letters on a floor map.*



*Students at Kerr conducted a project where they studied playgrounds and landscaping and built prototypes of what their playground would look like. Additionally, Fairview second graders visited Salamander Park where they studied the concepts of engineering and habitats through project-based learning. They also created dioramas to demonstrate deeper learning.*



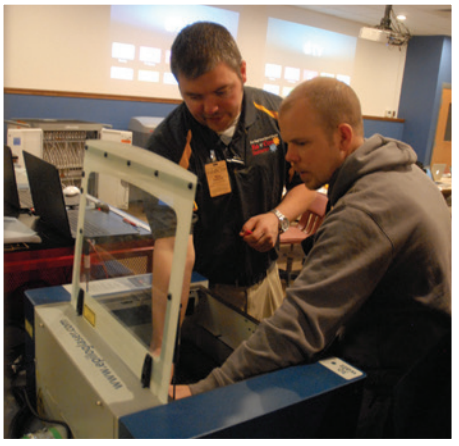
•For the fifth year in a row, the Fox Chapel Area School District was named among the 2016 Best Communities for Music Education.

•High school junior Philip Swigon (bassoon) was selected by audition to perform with the prestigious 2015 National Association for Music Education All-National Concert Band. The band was made up of approximately 150 of the top student musicians from all 50 states.

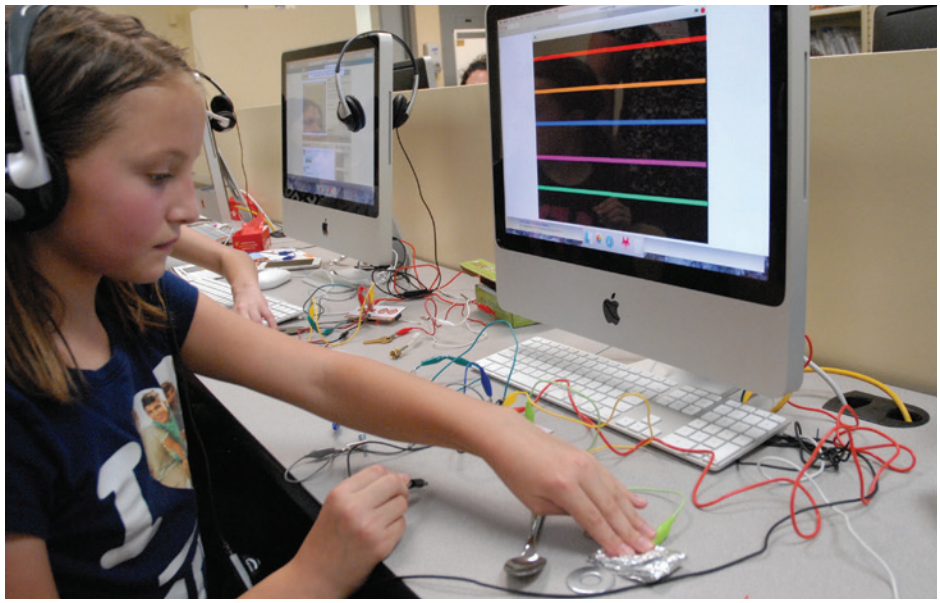
•High School sophomore Elizabeth Kauma won an American Visions Medal for her photograph entitled "Harmony in Solitude" in the national 2016 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. She was invited to attend the national awards ceremony in New York City where her photograph was on display at Carnegie Hall.

•The high school 2014-2015 literary arts magazine "Tapestry" was named a first place winner in the 2015 American Scholastic Press Association's Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Magazines. "Tapestry" also won a first place with special merit award. Additionally, 2015 graduate Faith Kim won the distinction of "Outstanding Artist" for her artwork that appeared in the magazine.

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- The high school's 2015-2016 student news publication Fox Tales Quarterly was named a first place winner in the 2016 American Scholastic Press Association's Annual Newspaper Competition.
- Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students earned silver medals on the 2016 National Latin Exam.
- Two high school students placed at the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association (TSA) State Leadership Conference and qualified for the national conference held in Nashville, Tennessee.
- A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students placed at the PA BotsIQ State Competition and qualified for the National Robotics League Battle Bot Competition.



*The district uses Makey Makey®, which allows students to turn every-day objects into touchpads and combine them with activities on the Internet. In recent years, the rise of the maker movement has been growing throughout the United States. It includes an innovative way of learning that involves the use of technology to incorporate a hands-on educational environment where students learn by doing.*

## District Leader in Computer Science Education

President Obama launched the Computer Science for All Initiative earlier this year to enhance computer science education curricula across the nation in order to ensure that all students can compete in a high-tech, global economy. Fox Chapel Area School District was among those schools listed in a January 2016 White House Fact Sheet pertaining to this initiative as a leader in computer science education.

The district continued to expand computer science education and coding at all grade levels, using the latest physical tools and software that develop coding, robotics, and computer games. Beginning in kindergarten and throughout middle school, students are involved in the Hour of Code, a national movement to engage all students in coding. The high school also offered a variety of experiences in coding from full courses in computer science, to coding in the technology and engineering classes. In addition to the already-established Computer Science Advanced Placement (AP) course, the high school launched the new Principles of Computer Science AP for the 2016-2017 school year.



- High school junior Yelim Lee won first place in the 2016 Pittsburgh Brain Bee and qualified for the 2016 National Brain Bee held in Baltimore.
- Middle school art educator Nanci Goldberg was one was of 76 teachers and students selected to participate in a special summer study seminar to Poland sponsored by Classrooms Without Borders. The group studied history where it happened – spending 10 days in Poland accompanied by a Holocaust survivor.

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## Fab Lab Opens Opportunities to Dream, Design, and Create




The newly-created, state-of-the-art Fab Lab at the high school opened for operation. The MIT-certified Fab Lab, one of only a few in the nation, is dedicated to digital fabrication and includes a 3D printer, laser cutters, CNC machines, laser engravers, and vinyl cutters. Students from a cross-section of content areas are learning in the Fab Lab, promoting multidisciplinary experiences and hands-on, project-based learning.

High school technology education teachers Mitch Palucis and Justin Papariello serve as the Fab Lab coordinators. Students have the opportunity to research, design, plan, and manufacture "almost anything" in the Fab Lab – which totally reinvents traditional technology education and promotes multidisciplinary learning. Students experience learning that includes lessons in science, math, language arts, computer science, and art concepts as they research, plan, and complete projects.

In March, the district, in partnership with the Pittsburgh FAB Network and made possible through a grant from The Grable Foundation, hosted nearly 150 educators from across the nation to showcase the Fab Lab. Teachers and administrators who participated were immersed in a full-day session that explored both the fabrication equipment as well as the Fab curriculum.



## Director of Innovation Reinvents Technology Education in District

If you google search terms like deeper learning and maker schools, Megan Cicconi's name will likely pop up as a national leader in the movement to create maker education and encourage deeper learning. Mrs. Cicconi began her appointment as director of instructional and innovative leadership in March. In that short time, she has already transformed how Fox Chapel Area students experience learning. She has been instrumental in the success of the Fab Lab, the district's involvement in maker education, and the enhancement of computer science education. All of these are multidisciplinary, project-based learning experiences that encourage deeper learning. Mrs. Cicconi says, "At Fox Chapel Area, innovative thinking doesn't detract from core subject areas, it complements and strengthens them."

**Computer Science, Making, and the Fab Lab all use a project-based learning environment that encourages deeper learning.**



*Kerr Elementary School second graders visited the Fab Lab on a special field trip where they made tool boxes and screen-printed T-shirts.*



*Teachers and administrators from around the nation learned from Fox Chapel Area Fab Lab experts – the experts were both teachers and high school students – at the Fab Con.*





- Nine high school and three middle school students won first place awards at the 82nd Annual State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). Additionally, three Fox Chapel Area students received Perfect Score awards.
- Three high school juniors won awards at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Championship Tournament.
- The Asian American Heritage Committee of the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board named junior Suvir Mirchandani a highest honor winner in its program that honors outstanding Asian American high school students.




- High school seniors Hansen Bursic and Daly Trimble were honored by the Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference Advisory Committee for their work in facilitating the Proud Youth of Pittsburgh Convention. The event involved more than 100 student members from Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs from various schools throughout Western Pennsylvania. The goal of the forum was to unite students from GSA clubs from across the region.



# Student Achievement

## 2016 PSSA Results

**Percent Scoring Advanced or Proficient on the 2016 PSSA**

| School | Math | ELA | Science |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dorseyville Middle School (Grades 6-8) | 63.4% | 83.3% | 78.5% |
| Fairview Elementary School (Grades 3-5) | 90.1% | 91.8% | 100% |
| Hartwood Elementary School (Grades 3-5) | 75.2% | 85.3% | 93.0% |
| Kerr Elementary School (Grades 3-5) | 68.8% | 76.3% | 83.6% |
| O'Hara Elementary School (Grades 3-5) | 77.8% | 85.8% | 92.2% |

*In 2015, the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests were revised to reflect the PA Core academic standards. This rigorous new assessment tests some content at a full grade level earlier than the former PSSA. The percent of students across the state scoring advanced and proficient on the PSSA decreased in 2015 by an average of 35 percent in math and by nine percent in English Language Arts (ELA). Additionally, in 2015 the PSSA reading and writing assessments were combined into a single ELA assessment. Students in grades three-eight take the ELA and math assessments. Students in grades four and eight also take a science assessment. Students are rated as Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic.*

## 2016 Keystone Results

**Percent Scoring Advanced or Proficient on the 2016 Keystone Exams**

| | Algebra I | Literature | Biology |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fox Chapel Area High School (Grade 11) | 93.1% | 96.6% | 93.7% |
| State Averages | 68.2% | 76.8% | 65.7% |

*The Keystone Exams replaced the PSSA tests at the high school. Beginning with the class of 2019, the state will require that students demonstrate proficiency in the end-of-course Keystone Exams in Algebra I, literature, and biology in order to graduate. However, it is already a requirement for Fox Chapel Area High School students to demonstrate proficiency in Algebra I and literature. The test results are banked until the students' junior year for accountability purposes.*

## School Performance Profile

**Pennsylvania School Performance Profile – 2016**

| School | School-Level Score |
|---|---|
| Fox Chapel Area High School | 99.5 |
| Dorseyville Middle School | 88.0 |
| Fairview Elementary School | 87.3 |
| Hartwood Elementary School | 86.4 |
| Kerr Elementary School | 84.0 |
| O'Hara Elementary School | 74.8 |

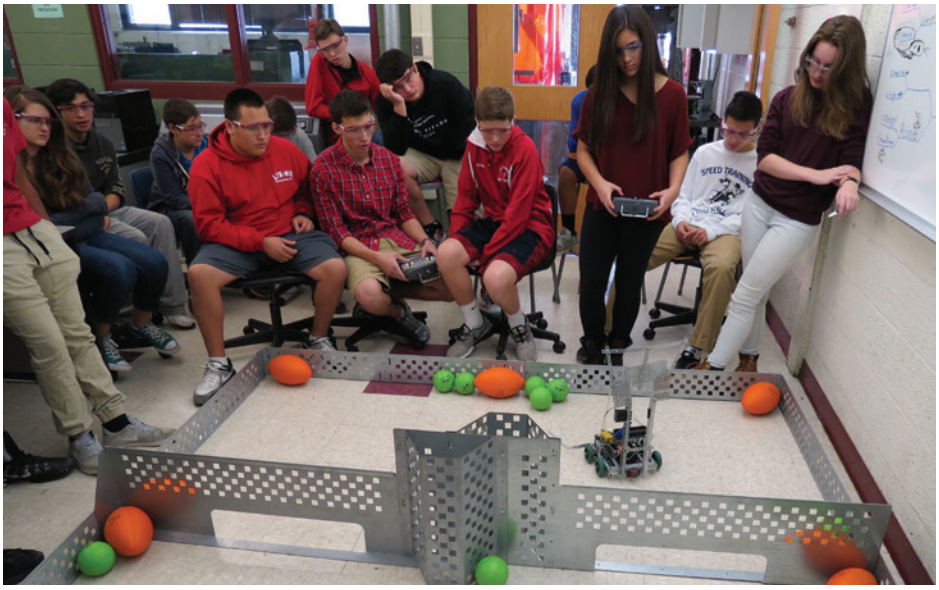
*The state uses the Pennsylvania Accountability System which includes the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP) that was developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and approved by the federal government. Academic achievement only makes up 40 percent of the numeric SPP score given to a particular school. Other indicators of school success include academic growth, closing the academic achievement gap, attendance, promotion rate, graduation rate, and the percent of students scoring Advanced on assessments. Our staff is continually striving to improve academic outcomes for all students. In fact, teachers administer various assessments throughout the school year to track student progress. They then look at each child's individual scores in order to maximize student learning and to meet each student's needs.*

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- High school senior Eli Berman received the 2016 Spirit of Unity Award and a $1,000 scholarship. The award is given annually to a student who assumes a leadership role as an agent of change for racial justice and who embodies the ideals of Martin Luther King Jr.
- High school senior Sreeroopa Som was named a gold medalist in the Trib Total Media's 2016 Outstanding Young Citizen Awards Program.
- Dorseyville business applications teacher Cathie Gillner and O'Hara Elementary School kindergarten teacher Michelle Ulanowicz were named "Champions of Change" by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Center for Creativity and its partner, Common Sense Media.
- Dorseyville Middle School science teacher Peggy Perdue was selected as the 2016 Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania Betty Abbott Excellence in Teaching Award winner. The award is presented to a classroom teacher whose commitment to environmental education inspires students to become responsible stewards of the environment.

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- The Fox Chapel Area School District received awards in the National School Public Relations Association 2016 Publications and Electronic Media Contest and in the 2015 Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association Excellence in Education Communications Contest.
- High school senior Stephen Polcyn was named a candidate in the 2016 United States Presidential Scholars Program.
- Two Dorseyville Middle School students won first place awards at the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair.



## 2016 SAT/ACT/PSAT Mean Scores

*Fox Chapel Area High School students continue to outscore the state and nation on the SAT, ACT, and PSAT in all subject areas. The district administered the PSAT to all students in grades 10 and 11 during the 2015-2016 school year. The results of this assessment are being used to improve outcomes for students on the SAT and to increase college and career readiness.*

### 2016 Senior Year SAT Mean Scores

| | Fox Chapel Area | Pennsylvania | Nation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Critical Reading | 563 | 500 | 494 |
| Math | 572 | 506 | 508 |
| Writing | 557 | 481 | 482 |

*A total of 291 members (78 percent) of the 375 students in the Class of 2016 took the SAT during their junior or senior year.*

### 2016 ACT Results

| | Fox Chapel Area | Pennsylvania | Nation |
|---|---|---|---|
| English | 24.9 | 22.6 | 20.1 |
| Math | 24.5 | 23.0 | 20.6 |
| Reading | 25.6 | 23.6 | 21.3 |
| Science | 24.5 | 22.8 | 20.8 |
| Composite Score | 25.0 | 23.1 | 20.8 |

*A total of 131 high school students took the ACT in 2016.*

### 2016 Grade 10 PSAT Mean Scores

| | Fox Chapel Area | Pennsylvania | Nation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mean Total (ERW & Math) | 1030 | 952 | 931 |

*ERW = Evidence-Based Reading & Writing*

### 2016 Grade 11 PSAT Mean Scores

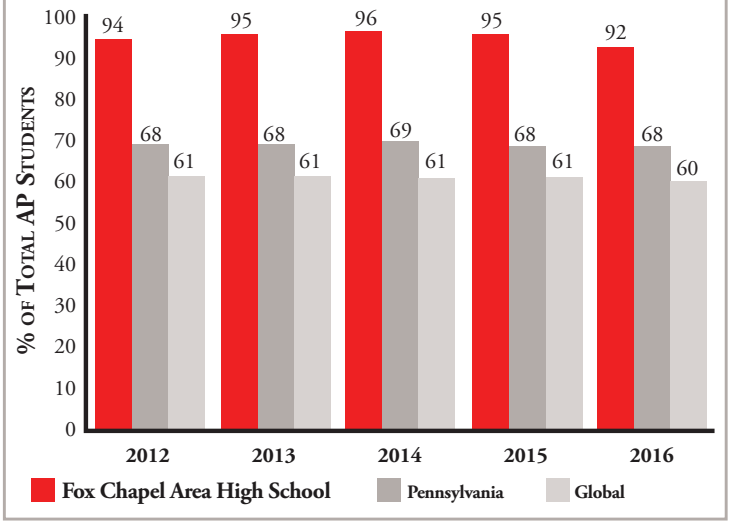
| | Fox Chapel Area | Pennsylvania | Nation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mean Total (ERW & Math) | 1091 | 994 | 1008 |

# AP Test History

**FCAHS Five-Year AP Test History**

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total AP Students | 257 | 259 | 256 | 309 | 338 |
| Number of Exams | 443 | 502 | 498 | 613 | 691 |
| % of AP Students with Scores of 3+ | 93.8 | 95.0 | 96.5 | 95.5 | 92.3 |

**% of Total AP Students with Scores of 3+**




•High school sophomore Elizabeth Mountz (oboe) was selected to perform with the 2016 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Concert Band. Additionally, five high school students were selected by audition to perform with the 2016 PMEA Region 1 Honors Band, six high school students were selected to perform with the 2016 PMEA District 1 East Band, and eight high school students were selected to perform with the 2015 PMEA District 1 Honors Band. A high school student was also selected to perform with the 2015 PMEA District 1 Honors Jazz Ensemble.










•Six high school students, including senior Olivia Van Dyke (oboe); juniors Elizabeth Heidenreich (violin), Timothy Sutton (cello), Philip Swigon (bassoon), and Bohan Yao (viola); and sophomore Benjamin Franks-Meinert (bassoon), were selected by audition to perform with the 2016 PMEA All-State Orchestra. Additionally, seven high school students were selected to perform with the PMEA District 1 Orchestra, and six students were selected to perform with the PMEA 2016 Western Region State Orchestra.

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# Two-Year High School Renovation Complete

The final phase of the high school renovation was completed this past spring. Major renovations to the high school included: upgrades to the library and commons area, with a new technology help desk; renovations to the auditorium including a new sound system, flooring, lighting, and seating; a completely overhauled and modernized cafeteria; new lighting, sound system, and scoreboard in the main gymnasium; a new school main entrance; and refurbished hallways, including brand new lockers, classroom doors, ceilings, flooring, and lighting. The final phase, a new natatorium, includes an eight-lane-pool, a new spectator area, and new locker rooms. The high school renovation project, which began in 2014, is expected to have a final cost of approximately $33 million.

Renovations planned for the other schools began this past summer. Fairview and O'Hara elementary schools had new roofs installed which were completed by the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Construction began on Dorseyville Middle School near the beginning of the new school year. The building will be getting new and/or updated HVAC, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical systems as part of the work that is scheduled to continue throughout the school year. Renovations will also include a new front office area, upgrades to the library and art classrooms, and a new makerspace classroom adjacent to the library. The cost for the Dorseyville renovations is expected to be approximately $10 million, and classes will be held as scheduled throughout the project.

- High school junior William Schwartzman (Bass 1) was selected by audition to perform with the PMEA All-State Chorus. Additionally, five students were selected to perform with the PMEA Region 1 Chorus, and six high school students were selected by audition to perform with the PMEA District 1 Chorus.
- Two Dorseyville Middle School seventh graders were chosen to perform at the Mucho Macho Music Young Men's Choral Festival.
- Two high school students and five middle school students were selected to perform with the young women's choral festival Sweet Harmony.

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*Members of the high school varsity swim team were the first to try out the brand-new eight-lane pool.*





*The new school entrance provides a more predominant-looking main entry.*

## Athletic Upgrades

The high school has a new track and a new turf field that were installed over the summer. Additionally, a new track was also installed at Dorseyville Middle School. The district had anticipated these projects and money was set aside through the ongoing capital projects fund. Additional funding was provided by revenues from ticket sales to athletic events and the entire athletic projects cost approximately $1.1 million.







*Students enjoy the library classroom.*





- The Dorseyville Middle School Mixed Choir, made up of the girls chamber chorus and the FoxTones choirs, took first place and ranked "Superior," the highest rating possible, at a Music in the Parks Festival in Hershey. The group was also given the Overall Best Jr. High/Middle School Choral Award. Additionally, the DMS Girls Chamber Chorus performed independently and also placed first and earned a "Superior" rating. The DMS FoxTones earned a first place and a rating of "Excellent" (the second highest rating).
- The Dorseyville Middle School Honors Band earned first place at a Music in the Parks Festival in Williamsburg, Virginia. The band also earned a rating of "Superior."

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# DMS Students Build a Permanent Aquaponics System

## Summer Program Provides Opportunity to Build and Maintain Academic Skills

They were learning math, reading, science, and art concepts, but these middle school students weren't thinking about those skills – they were too busy accomplishing a common goal to design and create a permanent, self-sustaining aquaponics growing system outside their school.

For the first time, Dorseyville Middle School offered a full-day summer program. The morning session consisted of English language arts and math and was designed for students to maintain and build the skills necessary for academic success. A new component was added in the afternoon – a project-based learning activity that was met with high enthusiasm from students as they dug in (literally), working together picking out jobs, researching hydroponics and aquaponics, planning and measuring, designing, and building.

"We were very excited to expand the middle school summer learning academy this year to a full day," said Matt Harris, the school district's director of secondary education and instruction. He explained, "We revitalized the English language arts and math programs with new curriculum and teaching practices. We also added the afternoon component where students engaged in an authentic challenge to construct an aquaponics/ hydroponics system with ponds and a greenhouse."





Joe Eisel, a DMS technology education teacher and a DMS Summer Learning Academy coordinator, led the project-based learning portion. Teachers from a variety of content areas were also involved in the experience.

The 19-day summer program, which included district-provided transportation, as well as breakfast and lunch, was a success. Enrollment in the 2016 summer program increased to 90 students from 51 last year. Additionally, pre-and post-assessment numbers showed a significant increase in student achievement in reading and math.

Two incoming sixth graders wrote a summary of the hydroponics/aquaponics building project that appears on the school district website. They described the success of the project, "As everyone worked, you could hear the shovels clanging, the fan running, and everyone sharing their ideas. Even on humid days, the students still went outside, got dirty, drank iced tea, and regrouped in the shade. The project progressed very quickly because everyone was contributing their best and working hard."

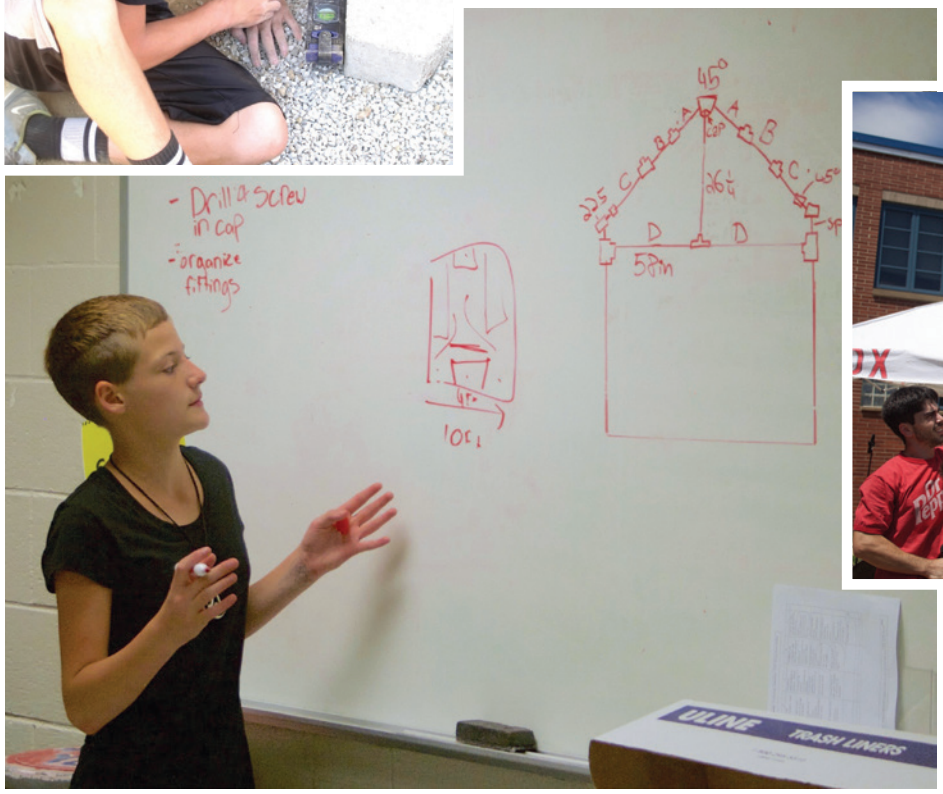
Dorseyville students also had the opportunity to choose to take the long-time summer science academy taught by science teacher Peter Pinko.







"As Everyone Worked, You Could Hear the Shovels Clanging, the Fan Running, and Everyone Sharing Their Ideas."





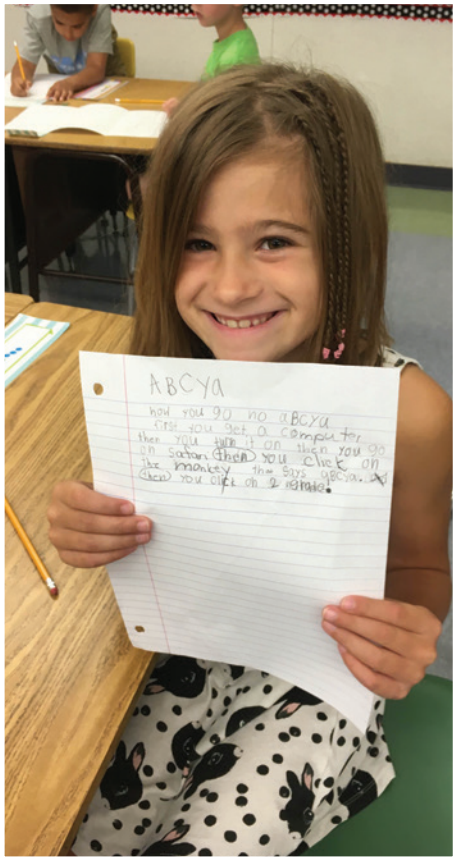



• The Dorseyville Middle School Sinfonia and Philharmonic orchestras received special awards at a Music in the Parks Festival in Hershey. The Sinfonia placed first in their division with a "Superior" rating. The Philharmonic placed first in their division with a "Superior" rating and won first overall orchestra. The Philharmonic also won the Espres de Corps Award.







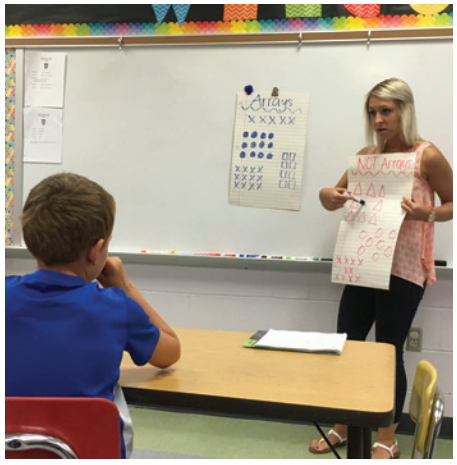


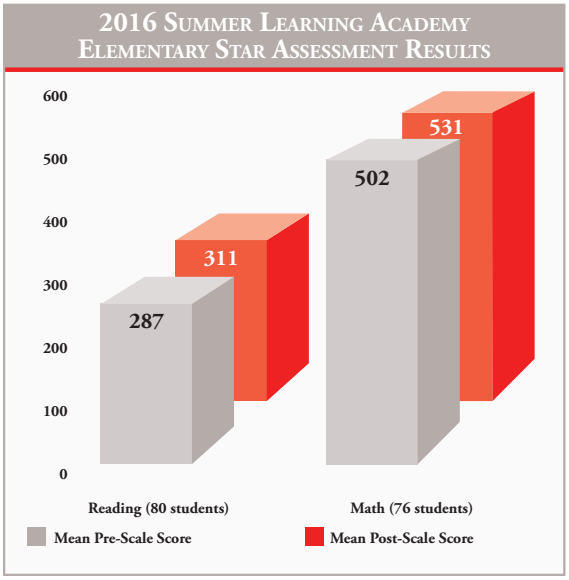

# Elementary Students Have Fun While Learning

## Program Designed to Prevent Summer Slump

Fox Chapel Area educators leave no stone unturned when it comes to ensuring that all students achieve success. The elementary summer learning academy provides extra support in reading and math in a small-group setting. The program is designed to prevent the summer slump that can occur with students over the summer break. A total of 164 students participated in the 19-day program this past summer.

"This program really impacts students in pre-K to grade five across the district. Our teachers invested a great deal of time and effort to ensure that our students would benefit from this exemplary program," said Director of Elementary Education and Instruction Ashley Nestor. She added, "The pre-K class is especially important because it's a nice opportunity for the children to interact with the kindergarten teachers and get acclimated to a regular school day. It really provides a smooth transition for the start of their formal education."






On average, students came in with a scale score of 287 in reading and, as a result of the 19 days of instruction, students scale scores increased 24 points, Mrs. Nestor said. Math scale scores jumped by 29 points.

For the second year, the summer session was a full-day program and included transportation, breakfast, lunch, and snacks. This year high school students provided extra support in the classroom.

Elementary teacher Amy Myer, who worked with incoming third grade students in language arts, said, "I had the opportunity to teach and interact with students from all four buildings. I taught summer school before when it was half days, three days a week. Teaching it five days a week has really afforded students the chance to grow and not just maintain."

O'Hara Elementary third grade teacher Lauren Sirianna agreed, saying, "The summer learning academy was a huge success because students were able to have fun while learning. Students that attended were able to engage in exciting, motivating, academically-based activities."

Mrs. Nestor said, "The students are so proud of what they accomplished over the summer. They had fun while learning and that keeps them coming back."






- Three high school students won first places in the annual regional German Day Competition.
- Fox Chapel Area School District students held their 26th annual telethon in December and raised more than $68,000. This was a record-breaking total and brings the money raised by Fox Chapel Area students to more than $696,000 over the last 26 years. This year's total also included a matching donation of $25,000 that was made by an anonymous Fox Chapel Area family. The telethon raised money for Live Like Lou, which was started by two parents in the district to help ALS patients and their families in Western Pennsylvania.

## Freshmen LAUNCH High School Career

Redesigned and expanded, the LAUNCH program (Learning and Understanding the Necessities of College and High school) is designed for incoming ninth graders – providing an orientation to the high school and preparing students academically for success in high school and beyond. Executive functioning skills, including organization, time management, notetaking, prioritizing, making decisions, setting goals, and study skills, were the focus of the weeklong program. The sessions were led by high school teachers, and guest speakers provided motivational and instructional tips.

# Athletics

## 2015-2016 Athletic Accomplishments

- Tennis team members senior Laurel Shymansky and sophomore Amanda Nord were named the PIAA Class AAA Doubles Champions, the WPIAL Class AAA Doubles Champions (for the second year in a row), and the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 Doubles Champions.
- Sophomore Abigail Pitcairn, a member of the high school field hockey team, was named to the USA Women's Indoor National Team, which competed in the 4 Nations Field Hockey Tournament in Durban, South Africa, in December. Abby was the youngest member chosen for the team and one of only 12 players to be selected from across the U.S. Additionally, Abby was also named a Class AAA all-state first team selection.
- Senior Megan McCrady was named a high school lacrosse All-American.
- Senior Amanda Puthenpurayil was named to the USRowing Scholastic Honor Roll and senior Kathleen Kiszka earned honorable mention honor roll recognition. The USRowing Scholastic Honor Roll recognizes high school seniors who have excelled in both academics and rowing.
- The boys' varsity tennis team won the Class AAA Section 3 team championship, was the PIAA runner-up, and, for the first time in school history, won the WPIAL Class AAA championship. The team finished the regular season undefeated with a record of 13-0. The team's overall record was 20 wins and only one loss.
- Freshman Robert Shymansky finished second and senior Siddharth Rajupet finished third in the PIAA Class AAA Singles Tennis Championship.
- Senior Kota Furuhata was a regional All-America player and was named to the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association boys' all-state team.
- Junior Deena DeBaldo was named to the 2015 Pennsylvania girls' soccer All-State team.





















- Thirteen high school athletes qualified to participate in the PIAA (state) individual championships. They included: freshmen Sarena Seeger and Annika Urban (cross country); freshman Jonah Cagley (diving); junior Alexander Lawson (boys' golf); senior Siddharth Rajupet and freshman Robby Shymansky (boys' tennis); senior Laurel Shymansky and sophomore Amanda Nord (girls' tennis); senior Michael Bove, sophomore Caelen Miller, and freshman Annika Urban (track and field); and senior Michael Mahon and sophomore Zachary Carcy (wrestling). Additionally, several athletes qualified for state indoor track championships including senior Michael Bove, sophomores Margaret Edgecombe and Caelen Miller, and freshmen Sarena Seeger and Annika Urban.
- At the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Association Championship Regatta, the Fox Chapel Crew Team had three boats win gold or silver medals qualifying them for the Scholastic Rowing Association of America (SRAA) Championships. Additionally, seniors Noah Kasian and Dylan Lukas placed second in the men's varsity 2x grand final at the SRAA regatta.
- The varsity field hockey team won the WPIAL Class AAA Championship and the WPIAL Class AAA Section 2 Championship and participated in the PIAA playoffs. The team was undefeated throughout the WPIAL championships, and their overall record was 20 wins and one loss.
- The boys' varsity soccer team won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 team title, participated in the WPIAL Class AAA championship game, and qualified for the PIAA playoffs.
- High school boys' and girls' tennis coach Alex Slezak was named the United States Tennis Association Middle States – Allegheny Mountain District High School Coach of the Year.
- The boys' varsity golf team won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 4 team title. The team finished with an undefeated record in section play (12-0) and the team was the WPIAL runner-up. Additionally, junior Anthony Cordaro was named the WPIAL Class AAA Section 4 co-champion.

*Continued on next page*

- Twenty-one of the 24 high school interscholastic athletic teams qualified for WPIAL playoffs. The teams included: baseball, girls' basketball, boys' cross country, girls' cross country, field hockey, boys' golf, girls' golf, gymnastics, boys' lacrosse, girls' lacrosse, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, softball, boys' swimming, girls' swimming, boys' tennis, girls' tennis, boys' track, girls' track, girls' volleyball, and wrestling.
- The middle school eighth grade boys' basketball team completed an undefeated season with a perfect 22-0 record. In addition to the regular season results, the boys were the Shaler Area Junior High Tournament Champions and also won the North Allegheny Holiday Tournament and the Western Pennsylvania Junior High School Basketball Championship.
- The boys' cross country team won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 4 team title. The team's record was seven wins and no losses.
- The girls' varsity soccer team won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 team title. They were undefeated (14-0) in section play.
- High school athletes continued to be named to special all-star teams and all-conference teams.












# Fox Chapel Area High School Class of 2016

On June 12, 2016, a total of 375 seniors became the 55th class to graduate from Fox Chapel Area High School. Approximately 90 percent of those graduates are continuing their education and 43 percent are enrolled in schools outside of Pennsylvania. The graduates continued the tradition of being accepted to the top colleges and universities across the nation.









## Fox Chapel Area High School Class of 2016 College Choices

Allegheny College (5) • Boston University (2) • Bowling Green State University • Bradford School • Brigham Young - Idaho • Brown University (2) • Bucknell University • Community College of Allegheny County – Monroeville Boyce Campus (2) • California University of Pennsylvania • Carlow University (2) • Carnegie Mellon University (4) • Case Western Reserve University (4) • Community College of Allegheny County – Allegheny Campus (24) • Community College of Allegheny County – North Campus (7) • Cedar Crest College • Chatham University • Clarion University of Pennsylvania (2) • Clemson (2) • Coastal Carolina University • Colgate University • College of Charleston • College of Holy Cross • Colorado State University – Fort Collins • Community College of Philadelphia • Concordia University • Connecticut College • Cornell University • Dartmouth College • Denison University (3) • DePaul University • Drexel University (2) • Duquesne University (12) • Florida Institute of Technology • Furman University • Gannon University • George Washington University (2) • Georgia Institute of Technology • Harvard-Radcliffe (2) • Hobart & William Smith College • Indiana University of Pennsylvania (10) • Indiana University – Bloomington • Johns Hopkins University (2) • Kent State University (3) • La Roche College (3) • Lehigh University • Liberty University • Mercyhurst North East • Mercyhurst University (4) • Messiah College • Miami University – Oxford (4) • Michigan State University (2) • Moore College of Art & Design • Northwestern University • Oberlin College • Ohio State University (6) • Ohio Technical College • Ohio University (3) • Penn State Altoona • Penn State Behrend (5) • Penn State Greater Allegheny • Penn State New Kensington (2) • Pennsylvania State University (14) • Point Park University (6) • Princeton University (2) • Purdue • University • Rice University • Robert Morris University (2) • Rochester Institute of Technology • Rollins College • Rose-Hullman Institute of Technology • Rosedale Technical Institute • Saint Vincent College • Seton Hill University (2) • Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (8) • Southern Methodist University • Stanford University • Swarthmore College • Syracuse University (2) • Temple University (7) • The American University (2) • The Catholic University of America • The College of Wooster • The Evergreen State College • Triangle Tech • Tulane University • University of California – Davis • University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill • University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown (5) • University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa (2) • University of Arizona • University of California – San Diego • University of California – Los Angeles (2) • University of Chicago • University of Colorado – Boulder (3) • University of Dayton (6) • University of Hawaii – Manoa • University of Maryland – College Park (2) • University of Massachusetts – Amherst • University of Miami • University of Michigan – Ann Arbor • University of Notre Dame • University of Pittsburgh – Greensburg (8) • University of Pittsburgh (23) • University of Rochester • University of South Carolina – Columbia • University of South Florida • University of Tennessee – Knoxville • University of Vermont • University of Virginia • Virginia Technical Institute • Villanova University (2) • Virginia Wesleyan College (3) • Wake Forest University • Washington & Jefferson College • Washington University • Waynesburg University • West Virginia University (2) • Westminster College (2) • Wheeling Jesuit College • Xavier University

Fox Chapel Area
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