FOX CHAPEL AREA

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Friends,

What makes a great school? The students at Fairview Elementary know why their Blue Ribbon School is one of the best in the nation, and they are happy to tell you. Their comments were included in a video prepared to celebrate Fairview's recent recognition, and you can also read some of their comments on pages 12 and 13 in this magazine.

I can tell you that *all* of our schools at Fox Chapel Area are great. Recently, I was pleased to be able to share what makes the education that we offer here stand out at the League of Innovative Schools meeting held in Baltimore. The Fox Chapel Area School District was inducted into this prestigious organization, along with 18 other districts from across the nation who are also leaders and serve as examples of innovation. It was an honor to be among the leaders of these great districts and I look forward to both sharing what we do here at Fox Chapel Area, as well as learning about their best practices as we continue to innovate education and learning together.

Great schools don't happen by accident. At the best schools, administrators and staff are willing to constantly work to find the best tools for students, and are happy to share ideas that work with other districts. Parents are actively involved in the education of their children and cooperative partnerships are developed with teachers. The students engage in learning and the teachers serve as mentors guiding education. The support staff helps to make every day run smoothly. The School Board works diligently without compensation to ensure the district provides a great education while balancing the resources available in the community. Area business people share their expertise and resources so that education extends outside of the classroom walls, and the entire community believes in the mission of the school district. I am proud to tell you that this is representative of what is happening right here in the Fox Chapel Area School District.

I am so grateful to be a part of this educational community. As we build the future together, I pledge that we will focus on constantly moving forward – always keeping our eyes centered on the best interests of our students.

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.

I am so grateful to be a part of this educational community. As we build the future together, I pledge that we will focus on constantly moving forward – always keeping our eyes centered on the best interests of our students.

FOX CHAPEL AREA ACCEPTED INTO NATIONAL LEAGUE OF INNOVATORS

The Fox Chapel Area School District is consistently ranked among the best in the nation, and this fall, received yet another honor to validate that reputation. The district was one of 19 new school districts from across the country accepted into Digital Promise's League of Innovative Schools, a national coalition of forward-thinking school districts, based on Fox Chapel Area's innovative programs and commitment to collaboration. Specifically, the district was recognized for its comprehensive K-12 computer science curriculum which includes coding, programming, and digital badging at the elementary level; its infusion of maker-education and project-based learning; and the various educational technology and research partnerships it has developed with institutions of higher learning and local entrepreneurs.

Megan Cicconi, Fox Chapel Area's Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership, attributes the honor to the district's teachers. "Simply put, our teachers are willing to evaluate students' needs and take the necessary steps to ensure student growth. In this day and age, that means creating innovative opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery and work in authentic roles," she said. "We are thrilled to be recognized for their dedication and for our administration's visionary leadership."

District staff members have developed a new and redesigned computer science curriculum at the elementary and middle school levels that includes coding, programming, and robotics beginning in kindergarten. Additionally, a Fab Lab was designed and built by students at the high school. Plans are also underway to create a stationary makerspace adjacent to the school library at Dorseyville Middle School, as well as mobile makercarts.

According to Mrs. Cicconi, "The district is also a local leader in innovation. We train other teachers in the region and we put forth opportunities so that they can learn from us." For example, Fox Chapel Area hosted EdcampPGH in November in which 170 educators came together to experience how they can use technology to enhance deeper learning in the classroom. In addition to other Edcamp activities, teachers, alongside current Fox Chapel Area High School students, demonstrated a variety of robotics programming in a "digital playground" set up in the high school Fab Lab.

Launched in late 2011, the League of Innovative Schools connects and rallies the most dynamic leaders of the nation's school districts in order to advance positive change in public education. The League now includes 87 school districts in 33 states representing 3.3 million students. As a member school district, Superintendent Gene Freeman, Ed.D., will attend League meetings and join working groups on a broad range of topics relevant to the changing needs of school









Fox Chapel Area High School hosted this fall's EdcampPGH on November 5. Participants observed and experienced Hummingbird™, Finch™, and Dash and Dot robots; Bloxels™; Bee-Bots®; Puzzlets™; Modular Robotics™; and MakeyMakey® in a "digital playground" that had been set up in the high school Fab Lab. Fox Chapel Area High School students participated by explaining and demonstrating the various types of robotics programming that enhance student learning.

districts. Additionally, members engage with entrepreneurs and support research that expands teaching and learning. Dr. Freeman and Assistant Superintendent David McCommons, Ed.D., attended their first League meeting in November held in Baltimore that was sponsored by Digital Promise and the Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools. There they joined approximately 200 national school leaders, education experts, and entrepreneurs visiting schools and participating in workshops with the goal of addressing shared priorities and setting goals.

"It is an honor to be able to work with dynamic leaders of some of the top schools in the nation in order to improve and enhance public education," Dr. Freeman said. "Being a part of this network will enable us to broaden our knowledge far beyond the borders of Western Pennsylvania. We will bring back innovative programming that improves student learning across the board, and we plan to share that knowledge with other school leaders as well."

In addition to Fox Chapel Area, four other local school districts are also League members and Dr. Freeman is quick to point out that there is a culture of innovation in Pittsburgh. "The Pittsburgh region is the only region nationally to have such a high induction rate into Digital Promise's prestigious League of Innovative Schools. Our school district is grateful to the Remake Learning Network and our local foundations for their dedication to creating a culture of innovation in our city," Dr. Freeman stated. "We look forward to sharing our expertise and gaining valuable insight from other national leaders."

Dorseyville Middle School gifted education teacher Mimi Loeffler explained how students will be using Hummingbird robots as part of a cross-curricular project. Later this school year, the students will use the robots, programmed with Scratch, to design and create a museum display. Students will research westward expansion as part of their social studies curriculum and study science concepts dealing with electricity and circuitry to create their project that will feature motion, sensors, and lights. The final project will be featured at the Heinz History Center in May.





"What's great about this way of teaching and learning is that it's collaborative. Students have to learn to work together to design and problem solve," said Kerr Elementary School teacher Stan Strzempek about the use of computer science programs and tools in the classroom.

As students filed into his classroom, Mr. Strzempek explained that they will be introduced to Makey Makey. "What is Makey Makey?" a student asked. "Is it kind of like robotics?" "Yes!" Mr. Strzempek replied as he explained how they will use bananas and Play-Doh to turn everyday objects into touchpads. Within minutes, the students completely understand what to do.



"You're allowed to play on the piano while using bananas," a second student exclaimed. "It's like a banana piano!"



Another group played Mario using Play-Doh to control the character on a computer. The students learned that by making connections with each other they could complete a circuit.

According to Mr. Strzempek, "Working together to solve a problem is a life skill. You have to work together or you won't succeed."



Students dressed in blue-ribbon colors created a sea of blue while they sang the "Fairview Foxes" Fairview song.

FAIRVIEW NAMED A TOP SCHOOL IN THE NATION

Blue Ribbon Status Result of Commitment to Educational Excellence

The blue carpet was rolled out for students and staff, trees were adorned with blue ribbons, and student lockers were decorated with certificates and blue ribbons. It was a special celebration day – recognizing Fairview Elementary School being named a National Blue Ribbon School. One of 279 public and 50 private schools from across the nation (and one of only 18 in Pennsylvania) to receive the honor from the U.S. Department of Education, Fairview was recognized for the high performance of its students who consistently score as a top-performing school on standardized testing.

"It's absolutely amazing to go here," said Fairview Elementary School fourth grader Matthew Begg, who said he first found out about the award from his mother, who is the vice president of the school's PTO. "I did a search on the computer. Fairview last won it [the Blue Ribbon] in 1999." He added, "It was amazing to be one of the older kids when it happened."

Fairview teacher Elizabeth Voltz, who has taught at Fairview for 19 years, said, "Soon after I began teaching, Fairview won its first Blue Ribbon. I'm glad to still be a part of Fairview as we win our second one."

Fourth grader Colette Walter agreed, "I was very excited. To receive a blue ribbon is a very high honor."

The entire student body, staff, and special guests assembled in the gymnasium October 14, dressed in blue-ribbon colors, creating a sea of blue, to celebrate their achievement.

Assistant Superintendent David McCommons, Ed.D., congratulated Fairview and told the students, "It's about what you have done. It is a really big, big deal."

Ashley Nestor, the district's executive director of elementary education and instruction, also congratulated the students and staff saying, "Being considered one of the best schools in the nation is quite an impressive honor. You have been recognized as an exemplary high-performing school thanks to the tireless efforts of each member of the Fairview learning community."



Photo Courtesy Joshua Hoover U.S. Department of Education

Fairview Elementary School Principal Becky Stephan, and fifth grade teacher John Anderson received the school's National Blue Ribbon Award from Aba Kumi, the director of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Each school received a plaque, a flag, and a banner at the national ceremony.

She addressed the students, "One of my greatest pleasures has been visiting you in your classrooms and seeing the exciting things you are learning each day. I've watched each of you grow these past few years with joy in my eyes and am so proud of the students you have become."

To the staff, Mrs. Nestor stated, quoting a book she once read, "It is often said that people are developed the way gold is mined; you don't go in looking for dirt, you go in looking for gold." She further

stated, "I can say first-hand that the staff at Fairview Elementary is truly golden."



Students participated in the ceremony with district administrator Ashley Nestor.

State Senator Randy Vulakovich presented a citation from the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Fairview Principal Becky Stephan and congratulated the entire Fairview community.

Fairview students shared what they think makes their school great in a video, and the student body sang the Fairview song, clearly stating their pride in their school, "We are small but mighty!"

Following the assembly, everyone went outside for a group photo, standing together to form the shape of a blue ribbon as a remembrance of the day and the accomplishment.

Fairview parent and co-president of the school's PTO Jodi Susnak said of the award and of the school's celebration, "It is very exciting. I am very happy for the teachers and students to receive such recognition."

Mrs. Stephan, who along with staff and parents completed the comprehensive Blue Ribbon Schools application process, said that the award would not have been possible without the combined efforts of many people, including all of the Fairview staff, students, and parents, as well as School Board members and district administrators. "Our Fairview community is simply fabulous! We are so fortunate to have a dedicated and highly-qualified staff and active parent support and involvement, and our students are such eager learners."

Fourth grade teacher Mary Jo Bisceglia commented, "Fairview looks at and values the 'whole child' with our goal being that each student reaches his or her full potential." She added, "The Fairview staff is a family who truly cares about both the students and each other. As a team, we work together to help our students achieve academic excellence."

Mrs. Susnak, who has been a part of the Fairview community for more than 11 years, agreed saying, "The teachers are friendly and involved with students, and Mrs. Stephan fosters a great community for students to grow and learn." She also pointed out that there is strong teacher-parent communication.

Susan Littwin's family just recently moved to the area from New York City where her children attended a private school. She said they chose Fairview for their two children based on its reputation, the advice of friends, and visits to various schools. She commented, "We are thrilled that the school earned the Blue Ribbon recognition! It is one thing to tout a school, but another to be nationally-recognized – that just solidifies the reputation. And, of course, we are thrilled and so thankful that we chose so well!"

Representatives from Fairview, including Mrs. Stephan and fifth grade teacher John Anderson, accepted the honor on behalf of the Fairview community at a two-day awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on November 7 and 8, along with the other National Blue Ribbon School honorees.

Fairview students were asked what makes their school special. The following are a few of the many comments that were included in a video shown at an assembly to celebrate the school's Blue Ribbon achievement.

"Fairview is special. It's not just the students, but it's the teachers. They taught us everything we know – from math to science – they taught us all of it. So, the students of Fairview don't get all the credit, but some of it. The teachers do."

"I think Fairview deserves this award because our school works as a team and because we love everyone here, and we know that they'll love us back. When I first came here in second grade, I was so shy. I had no friends. But the next day I was greeted as if I had been here always. From that I've learned that the teachers here also help us to be kind and to be generous to people."

"I think Fairview is a special place because the teachers teach each kid to be kind and helpful and we have awesome specials. My teacher loves school like I do."

"Fairview is special because teachers care about us."

"Fairview may be small, but we are strong and will all work together to succeed."

"We all work hard. That's the story of Fairview."

Following the celebration, the students and staff posed for a whole-school photo.



Photo Courtesy Kari Grimsby & Bitsy Davis



DISTRICT'S REPUTATION DRAWS SEASONED EDUCATOR TO FOX CHAPEL AREA

The reputation of the district had everything to do with bringing seasoned educator Sari Brecosky to Fox Chapel Area. The district's new director of literacy said, "The level of professionalism in the district is second-to-none and is acknowledged throughout Allegheny County." She also noted the "sincere dedication" of the staff and faculty to the students. "I wanted to be a part of that kind of educational community! Everyone is committed to doing what is in the best interest of students."

Mrs. Brecosky has been an educator for many years, beginning as a teacher in several grade levels and even at the college level. She also worked as a consultant for educators in other states and has been employed as a literacy expert for technology companies that need assistance developing software in the field of literacy. For the past 15 years, she worked for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit where she served as the coordinator of curriculum and reading. Mrs. Brecosky said that working across the county and the state has given her the opportunity to understand both trends and misconceptions in teaching and learning.

A major goal Mrs. Brecosky has for the Fox Chapel Area School District is to establish it as a "premiere institution" for professional development in literacy. She already conducted a Primary Teacher Academy in the school district in September. The Academy is an intensive, comprehensive training in reading and proven instructional practice offered as a professional development series that extends over the course of one year. The end goal is to increase the expertise of instruction, so that all students have equal access to quality literacy instruction. Teachers from other school districts, as well as from the Fox Chapel Area, are participating in the academy. "I think that is a pretty good start in making Fox Chapel Area the hub of literacy knowledge. I am excited to see what else we can do," Mrs. Brecosky said. "But the bottom line is to improve the education of our Fox Chapel Area students. That comes before anything else."

Mrs. Brecosky, who started working at Fox Chapel Area in August, has degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh. She has an elementary education degree, a master's degree in reading, and reading specialist and administration certifications.

She and her husband Jack have two grown daughters and three grandchildren. She said with a smile, "Grandchildren are the best things ever!" Aside from spending time with her family, Mrs. Brecosky also enjoys gardening.



INTERIM BUSINESS MANAGER ALSO HAS BENEFITS & HUMAN RESOURCES EXPERIENCE

Kim Pawlishak was happy with her job of eight years managing payroll, benefits, and human resources at the Pine-Richland School District. But when she heard that there was an opening for an assistant business manager in the Fox Chapel Area School District, she knew that working here would be a great advancement. "I had been wanting to focus more just in the business and financial side for a while now. I've also had a few colleagues who have worked for the district and spoke highly of working here," Ms. Pawlishak said.

"I'm still learning new things about the district every day," she continued. "But all of the district employees have been very warm and welcoming. It's a great atmosphere for a new person to step into."

Since starting in June, Ms. Pawlishak's main focus has been on the district's implementation of new financial software and her goal is to help get the new system running smoothly. As an added bonus, Ms. Pawlishak used that same system when she worked for Pine-Richland.

She described her work ethic as "nose-down, get the job done." So far, she has proven that, as she has stepped into the role of interim business manager, a job which became available upon the resignation of the district's former director of business affairs.

In addition to working for Pine-Richland, Ms. Pawlishak handled payroll and benefits for Supercuts, PA, and had a job in accounting for a school in New Jersey. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ithaca College in New York. She currently lives in Cranberry Township, but is hoping to move closer to the Fox Chapel area. She enjoys spending her free time with her twin first-grade daughters whom she said have very different interests. "It's wonderful to see them grow – and it's definitely keeping me on my toes," she said laughing. Ms. Pawlishak also describes herself as a "huge sports fan" and enjoys watching Penguin games. In October, she was fortunate enough to be able to attend the team's season home opener to watch the raising of the Stanley Cup banner. She also enjoys football, baseball, and college basketball.

Photos Courtesy Hill's Studio



O'HARA PRINCIPAL TO FOCUS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Although she has only been the principal at O'Hara for a few short weeks, Kristy Batis is impressed with the O'Hara Elementary School community. "I am pleased to see how eager the students are to learn, how supportive and involved the families are, and how cohesive the administrative team is," she said.

Already Mrs. Batis has several main goals. In addition to wanting to continue the "wonderful" programs that are already in place, she wants to focus on student growth and rigor. She knows that the way to do that is by looking at and knowing each individual student. "Specifically, I look forward to cultivating an environment where teachers are consistently collaborating across sections, grade levels, and content areas to utilize data to drive instructional decision-making focused on each and every student's unique needs."

Mrs. Batis said that the use of data to drive instructional decision-making goes beyond just the classroom teachers. In a unique twist, she knows that the students must buy in to the process as well in order for it to be successful. "It's imperative that students learn to analyze their own individual data, set growth goals, and monitor their progress toward those goals," she commented. "In doing so, it helps students become more involved and invested in their own education."

She already has experience doing this. While a principal at Jeffery Primary School in the Shaler Area School District, she and the staff implemented this same concept with a focus on student growth and achievement. She reported that the method helped the students make great progress. "As a result of our team approach, our students made tremendous gains which were reflected by several measures, most notably, the PSSA scores and building SPP score," she reported.

Prior to starting her job at O'Hara on October 31, Mrs. Batis spent 10 years at Shaler Area working in a variety of roles. In addition to being the principal of Jeffery Primary, she was a second grade teacher, K-12 technology integrator, and a third grade teacher. Mrs. Batis has a Master of Education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, as well as a Master of Arts in elementary education from Chatham University, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Batis and her husband John have two small children. In their spare time, she and her family enjoy visiting the many attractions in the Pittsburgh area, including the Pittsburgh Zoo, the Children's Museum, and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.



HELPING OTHERS MOTIVATES EDWARDS TO CHOOSE EDUCATION

Helping others is the reason new O'Hara Elementary School Assistant Principal Stephen Edwards chose a career in education. His desire to help others also guided him to work with a nonprofit educational organization. Mr. Edwards has worked as a teacher in schools both in the area and in Virginia. However, it is his experience with A Connected Planet that gives him a unique perspective on the importance of 21st-century skills in the classroom. The agency brings professional development to help implement technology and education for the 21st century to teachers and students within Haitian schools. Over the past two years, Mr. Edwards has taken two trips to Haiti where he has worked directly with teachers and students to promote literacy and technology within their schools. That's in addition to being a fourth grade teacher in the South Fayette Township School District before joining the Fox Chapel Area School District in late October.

"Helping others is why I got into education, and having the opportunity to help those in need has always been something I've strived to do. My experience in Haiti was very gratifying and I feel very fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful organization." He added, "I have learned so much while working with teachers and students in Haiti. During my visits to the Haitian schools I met so many people who were so willing to learn in order to better themselves and their country."

Mr. Edwards looks forward to providing both students and staff with rigorous learning opportunities at O'Hara. "I want to help them grow as individuals and continue to build upon the nurturing culture that has become a staple for the students here at O'Hara Elementary," he said. "Providing teachers with effective practices for utilizing technology will further engage students in learning while building upon fundamental 21st-century skills."

Prior to his job teaching at South Fayette, Mr. Edwards served principal internships in the North Allegheny and Mt. Lebanon school districts. He also taught fifth grade in the Greensburg Salem School District and sixth grade in the Moniteau School District. Mr. Edwards began his teaching career as a sixth grade classroom teacher for the Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. He has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Duquesne University and a master's degree in reading education with reading specialist certification from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Edwards and his wife, Meggan, have two young daughters. In addition to spending time with his family, he enjoys outdoor activities including fishing and camping. "I am also a huge Pittsburgh sports fan," he said.



MISS PENNSYLVANIA VISITS HER FORMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Talks About Perseverance & Pursuing Your Dreams

Never give up on your dreams. Miss Pennsylvania 2016 and Fox Chapel Area High School graduate Samantha Lambert knows the meaning of putting your heart and soul into accomplishing your dreams, even through adversity. During her sophomore year in high school, the honor student and gymnast was injured during gymnastics practice – and that injury threatened to end her dreams. She shared her story of courage, determination, perseverance, and ultimately success with Fairview Elementary School third, fourth, and fifth graders during an October visit to her former elementary school. The visit kicked off an introduction to the students about the new Fairview Student Government which is being formed.

Fairview teacher Mary Jo Bisceglia introduced Samantha, a 2011 graduate, at the assembly and told the students that she remembered where her former student sat in her fourth grade classroom. She said she still has a photo of Samantha and her class on her wall. "I remember she had curly hair. And she had the biggest smile and was always kind." Ms. Bisceglia said. "She was beautiful because of her heart."

Samantha told the students, "The wonderful teachers at Fairview made me who I am." She shared with the students that in her fourth grade journal she listed her strength as kindness and her worst quality – "I was shy, which I still say." Additionally, even in the fourth grade she knew that she loved math and science, and by the time she was in high school, she took classes that would prepare her to become an engineer.

She also loved competing in gymnastics. However, during her sophomore year at Fox Chapel Area High School, she was injured during gymnastics practice. Though she was sent home from the hospital emergency room that same night, the next day Samantha passed out at school and was diagnosed with a head injury. It was then that she was told she would have to give up competitive gymnastics.

Following her injury, doctors were not optimistic that she would be able to withstand the rigors of her academic schedule, which threatened to end her dream of studying engineering in college. Samantha said that she continued to be sensitive to light and noise and could not attend school full time. She had to cut back on her schoolwork and missed more than 200 days over the next two and a half years due to the effects of her injury. However, through it all, she was able to graduate on time. The following fall she went to Georgia Tech, but she soon realized that she was not ready for the transition to a full-time college schedule, so she postponed her studies, and the next year transferred to the University of Pittsburgh.

Samantha said she first began considering competing in the Miss Pennsylvania pageant at age 20 when she saw that two of the finalists in the national Miss America competition that year had similar interests and career goals as she had – one worked for Google and the other was aspiring to become a doctor.

Never give up on your dreams was the message Miss Pennsylvania Samantha Lambert shared with Fairview Elementary School students. The visit was part of an introduction to the third, fourth, and fifth graders about the formation of the school's new student government.



In fact, those two women were the final two standing that year at the Miss America competition that she watched on TV. Again, the path to becoming Miss Pennsylvania was not easy. It wasn't until she competed for the third time that she won the title. "Not once was I upset," she said about not winning the first two times around and she observed the top contestants in the competition. "I looked at other people's success and I was happy for them and learned from them."

After being named Miss Pennsylvania, Samantha competed in the Miss America competition which she said was an exciting experience. She performed a gymnastics routine in the talent portion, and one of her highlights of the competition was meeting Olympic gold-medal gymnast Gabby Douglas, who was one of the judges.

Being Miss Pennsylvania is a job of service, Samantha told her young audience. As a part of her yearlong duties, she is the state ambassador for the Children's Miracle Network and makes guest appearances at the six children's hospitals throughout the state. The Miss America program partners with the Children's Miracle Network, she explained. She also continues to be involved with an organization that is close to her heart, the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania which is part of the national organization. "The title and crown draw attention to me, and I hope to use the attention that I have during my year to highlight these meaningful causes."

After the assembly, Samantha met with some of her former teachers who are still at Fairview, and she also visited her fourth grade classroom. There, she and Ms. Bisceglia looked at her old class photo still posted on the wall, and she sat at her former desk.

Fourth grader Mary Ann Frauenholz was so excited, she rushed to meet her idol, Samantha, in person following the assembly. "This was probably the best time of my life. I love who she is. This made me feel fabulous," Mary Ann said. Also a gymnast and a fan of Gabby Douglas, she added, "We're kinda alike."

Following her yearlong reign as Miss Pennsylvania, Samantha plans to continue to work as a gymnastics instructor and to accomplish another dream – finishing her degree in industrial engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

Her message to students was clear, "Always work hard and keep going… Try something outside of your comfort zone. You never know what you can accomplish."



Samantha shares a laugh with the student who sits in her old spot in teacher Mary Jo Bisceglia's classroom.

DMS STUDENTS CREATE E-BOOKS & READ TO HARTWOOD STUDENTS

Dorseyville Middle School students from Team 8C recently visited Hartwood Elementary School fourth graders. The older students shared astronomy e-books that they had written themselves on their iPads using the Book Creator app.

The books, specifically geared to fourth graders, included words, illustrations, and pictures. Prior to creating their books, the middle school students studied astronomy as part of their science class.











2016 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Fox Chapel Area High School held its annual National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony September 27. This year, 132 students were accepted. Those inducted included: seniors Nathan Andrud, Megan Botos, Jack Brown, Joshua Cagan, Megan Eisengart, Francesco Fava, Lorenzo Fava, John Feczko, Ellin Fetting, Shannon Fisher, Roy Gao, Donovan Gorgas, Elaina Graca, Joshua Kieffer, Alexander Lawson, Daniel Markovitz, Amber Petrelli, Ellen Pil, Kai Shaikh, Andrew Sobek, Michael Sodini, Virginia Veltri, and Ryan Zakin. Juniors inducted included: David Ahlers, Nina Amorose, Sarah Baldwin, Anita Bargaje, Nikita Bargaje, Kieran Bartels, Bailey Beal, Diana Beasley, Karissa Becer, Olivia Bernacki, Emilia Bianchini, Christopher Bonavita, Liam Botos, Brandon Brewster, Emelyn Broniek, Emilia Cano-Czagany, Samantha Carnevali, Katherine Chomko, Carson Cohen, Nolan Crocker, Paul Cullen, Fallon Curry, Alyssa DiPaolo, Kathleen Dunn, Margaret Edgecombe, Madelyn Flanagan, Benjamin Franks-Meinert, Drew Franks-Meinert, Tessa Friday, Katherine Goodwin, Rachel Goodwin, Morgann Green, Claudia Guerrieri, Anna Hirsch, Emma Humes, Mia Jamiolkowski, Won Ho Kang, Lainey Kasian, Grace Katz, Elizabeth Kauma, Shania Khatri, Julia Kisslinger, Julia Kiszka, Jacob Klein, Benjamin Kronman, William Kuhns, Julia Kust, Christian Kyle, Braddock Lalor, Toby Lazear, Margaret Lazzara, Harris Lebovitz, Jacob Levit, Elena Liberto, Albert Liu, Katherine Livingston, Julianna Macdonald, Madeline Macek, Julie Mallinger, Meredith Massaro, Adam Mattioli, Danica Moffitt, Juan Morales, Elizabeth Mountz, Victoria Mountz, Daniel Nichols, Kaitlin Nichols, Amanda Nord, Andreas Paljug, Rohan Patil, Helen Paulini, Sydnee Pilarski, Rebekah Polcyn, Jarad Reiss, Madelyn Reuss, Deirdre Roberts, Delaney Roberts, Alexandra Sacre, Ryan Santilli, John Saunders, Jeffrey Savin, Mia Schmidtetter, Lisa Schmithorst, Ariel Schwartz, Sarah Seay, Alexa Selwood, Trisha Shah, Sarah Sheerer, Bridget Shelestak, Claudia Simon, Brianna Smith, Serena Smith, Megan Stafford, Devon Stein, Lucy Stone, David Sullivan, Justin Supsura, William Tabor, Jordan Taxay, Nathan VanDemark, Bridget Wang, Sofia Wedner, Danielle Werner, Molly Wiese, Max Wolfendale, Jorgen Wu, Tanvi Yende, Georgina Zimmerman, and Zachary Zytnick.

Students in their sophomore year who have an unweighted cumulative Quality Point Average (QPA) of 3.5 or higher 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.





Photos Courtesy Hill's Studio

32 SENIORS RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

The Fox Chapel Area High School 2017 National Merit Semifinalists.

Fourteen Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists from Fox Chapel Area High School are: Rohan Chalasani, Mihir Garimella, David Han, Elizabeth Heidenreich, Yelim Lee, Darwin Leuba, William Marsh, Tanvi Meringenti, Suvir Mirchandani, Grace Mueller, Hannah Mueller, Mary Clare O'Connor, Ellen Pil, and Kai Shaikh. 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 about $33 million to be offered in the spring of 2017.

Additionally, 18 high school seniors were named Commended Students. They are: Jared Cohen, Alec Eckman, John Feczko, Katherine Kauma, Sophia Lee, Victor Marculescu, Sean McCoy, Jonathan Monroe, Emma Paulini, Avalon Perdriel-Arons, John Ramassini, Bryce Ryan, Caroline Smith, Philip Swigon, Martin Taxay, Nathan Wecht, Bohan Yao, and Houruiyang Zong.

This year's National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students were selected based on their 2015 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.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS GOES DOWN TO THE WIRE



It was a bit tense. After five rounds of five questions for each team had been asked, the competition was still tight and ended with the teams being locked in a five-way tie… More questions needed to be asked. Even then, it took three questions to break the tie. "It was unprecedented," said Kerr Elementary School librarian Lynne Orsega. "All of the librarians were saying 'We've never had five teams in a tie-breaker.'" But, in the end, it was the Sport Squad from Kerr Elementary School who was victorious in the annual Battle of the Books Tournament. The winning team members were fifth graders Mackenzie Ben, Molly Ben, Isaac Jacobs, Sydney Schutzman, and Nora Siri. The team manager was parent Cory Siri.

Sydney described winning "as a very exciting moment." When they started asking the tie-breaker questions Sydney said, "We were thinking, 'O.K. guys. We can't lose.'" As they watched the other teams get the tie-breaker question wrong, she said she and her teammates knew they had to have won because their answer was correct. Sydney said to her teammates, 'Guys, I'm pretty sure we won!'"

Sydney said their parents were "in shock." She added, "They were all excited and cheering, and every time we got a question right, the team manager would give our parents the thumbs up and they would say 'Yes!' under their breath."

"It made me feel so happy that we ended up winning. It was just really cool," said Isaac. He explained that they kept last year's team together because they enjoyed working together. "I didn't really think we were going to win, because last year we weren't even close to winning," Isaac stated. He said he and his teammates worked and studied hard.

The Battle of the Books Tournament, held November 2, 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 Battle of the Books is sponsored by the elementary librarians of the Fox Chapel Area School District.

FALL ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

Fox Chapel Area High School sponsors 10 fall interscholastic sports teams each year, and this season they played a total of 99 section games. Of those competitions, Foxes' teams had 77 wins. Overall, two teams had perfect regular season records, four teams won their section championships or were co-champions, and field hockey clinched the WPIAL gold medal for the second consecutive year. Additionally, the girls' cross country team set a program milestone when they advanced to the PIAA championships for the first time in school history. Individually, Fox Chapel Area also was well represented at the WPIAL and PIAA championships, with the girls' tennis doubles team winning the state title.

FIELD HOCKEY DEFENDS WPIAL TITLE



The Foxes' field hockey team followed in the footsteps of last year's undefeated squad and finished the regular season with a perfect section record of 12-0. It was the 11th time the program had produced a section champion, six of which have come under the leadership of Coach Jen McCrady. Even better, the girls won their second consecutive WPIAL Class AAA championship – their third in four years – and advanced to the PIAA playoffs.

Staying atop the leader board this season wasn't as easy as the players might have expected, even with three Division I-recruits leading the way – senior Meg McCrady who will play lacrosse at Georgetown University, junior Abby Pitcairn who committed to the University of North Carolina, and Michigan State recruit junior Paige Ryan.

All year, the team counted on top scorers and all-state players Abby and Paige, and the team's other scoring forwards Megan Botos, a senior, and junior Katie McIlroy, along with playmaking midfielders Meg McCrady and junior Mia Jamiolkowski. A superb defense featured juniors Sarah Fownes and Grace Knepshield, sophomores Marissa Hardiman and Rebecca Klaas, and freshman Isabella Lagazzi. Goalkeeper Marissa allowed only two goals in section play.



Of course, winning the WPIAL championship is Coach McCrady's proudest moment of the season. However, it's not any of the team's other wins that Coach McCrady recalls as her second proudest moment this season. It actually occurred in an overtime loss at a tournament in Ohio. "We were battling fatigue in a second consecutive game that day, were missing some key players, and had some frustration," she recalls. "To watch them rally together and play one of their best games as a team was really awesome."

Now in her seventh season, Coach McCrady admits that while the team had an unblemished section record and went 16-5 overall, there still was some adversity along the way that had to be overcome.

"We faced some battles this year that I felt were extremely important for us to grow as a team," says Coach McCrady. "I do believe adversity is key in terms of growth, and is a reminder that you have to earn every victory."

Coach McCrady is confident about the shape of her team and what comes next. "We will come back next year with a powerful, fully-loaded team and will have the same goals as always – win the section and WPIAL tournaments and go deeper into the PIAA championship games," says the coach who, not too long ago, was named a Hines Ward positive coach of the year.

PERFECT YEAR FOR GIRLS' TENNIS



When girls' tennis coach Alex Slezak observes his players during August preseason practices, he always enjoys seeing the improvements they made in the offseason. This year, those advances were strong enough to serve up a perfect regular season record of 9-0 and the program's 21st section championship. The girls proceeded to the WPIAL Class AAA team tournament and took third place, and then advanced to the PIAA Class AAA quarterfinals.

Individually, junior Amanda Nord won the section 3 individual singles championship for the first time, but her signature event is doubles tennis. This season she paired with freshman Charlotte James and the duo won the section and WPIAL Class AAA doubles titles. From there, the duo breezed through the PIAA Class AAA playoffs and became the number one doubles team in Pennsylvania. It was Amanda's third WPIAL gold medal and her second time winning the state's most coveted title in doubles tennis. Both Amanda and Charlotte were selected for the all-state team.



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

ANOTHER BANNER YEAR FOR BOYS' GOLF



Last season, the boys' golf team topped the 500-victories-mark in section play and then added to the scorecard in a big way again this year with 11 more wins. The success also marked the program's 27th section championship and cleared the way for yet another run in the WPIAL team playoffs.

After progressing all the way to the final WPIAL team championship game, the team broke the former WPIAL scoring record in that game. Despite the Foxes' stellar performance, the team lost its bid for the gold medal by only one point. While a second place finish is certainly a mark of great accomplishment, Coach Bryan Deal would like nothing better next season than to break their tendency to finish as the WPIAL runner-up, something that's happened three out of the past four years.

Still, the good news was that four players advanced to the WPIAL Class AAA individual championship. Sophomore Gregor Meyer won the gold medal at the historic Oakmont Country Club golf course, and along with seniors Anthony Cordaro and Alex Lawson, moved on to the PIAA Western Regional Invitational Championship. The results enabled Anthony and Alex to press on to the PIAA Class AAA individual playoffs, both for the second time.

In the end, the boys tied for sixth place and automatically made Pennsylvania's all-state team. Not only were their scores the highest finish of any Fox Chapel Area High School boys' golfer since 1999, it also was a fitting conclusion to their high school golf careers. Especially during their junior and senior years, the two see-sawed for the number one and number two positions on the team, but now, for once, they were even.



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS SET MILESTONES

Cross country coach Tom Moul really enjoyed himself this season, although it's not just because the girls' team advanced to the PIAA Class AAAA championships for the first time in school history and was the WPIAL team runner-up. He also had some of the best young runners in the state and feels fortunate to mentor so many young people whom he describes as "genuinely good and kind, and a joy to coach."



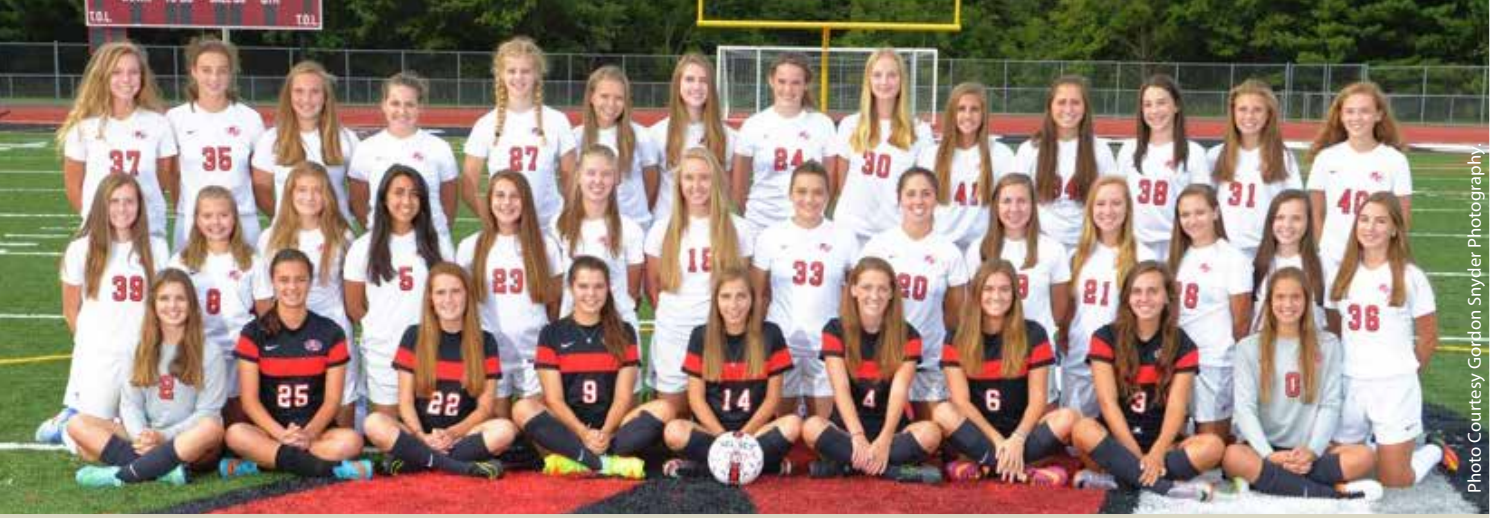
Coach Moul says the girls' team's success began months beforehand when he had the largest-ever preseason participation. That extra practice led to a great showing at the 2016 PIAA Foundation Invitational that draws all of Pennsylvania's top competitors. The team's top two runners, sophomores Sarena Seeger and Annika Urban, medaled at that event and established the momentum for the rest of the season. The team ended up with a 7-1 record and along the way, won the Gateway and Mack Cooper invitationals. There were even several meets where the team swept the first, second, and sometimes, even third-place finishes.

At the state meet, Sarena, a repeat qualifier, finished as one of the top 20 female cross country runners in the state, up 10 spots from her finish last year. Also participating at the PIAA team meet were juniors Caelan Miller and Megan Stafford, and sophomores Anna Folkerts and Annika, who was also a repeat qualifier. Freshmen Grace Sisson and Brooke Krally completed the state team. Another freshman, Izzy Doerr, qualified to run, but was injured, so Grace ran in her place.

The boys' team also had some notable success this season. They won two invitationals – the same ones that the girls won – making it a Foxes' sweep. Also, senior Adam Cook had the best race of his career at the foundation invitational. Christian Fitch finished as the top freshman runner and began a trajectory that now places him in the top echelon of all runners in the area. Both Adam and Christian also qualified to run in the PIAA Class AAAA championships. Christian was one of only three WPIAL freshmen to qualify for the statewide event.






Photo Courtesy Gordon Snyder Photography

GIRLS' SOCCER REACHES STATE PLAYOFFS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1999

When the 2016 fall sports schedules were being coordinated months before the school year started, girls' soccer coach Peter Torres met with Athletic Director Mike O'Brien, and asked that his schedule include the best teams in the WPIAL.

"We knew that win or lose, we would learn valuable lessons in those games that could come into play during the playoffs," he told Mr. O'Brien. "You don't get that training from playing inexperienced teams."

Out of the 16 teams that ended up qualifying for the WPIAL Class AAAA playoffs, the Foxes played 11 of them during section or nonsection games, or at their scrimmages. Plus, every nonsection opponent they put on the schedule was a WPIAL playoff-qualifier. The difficulty of their schedule didn't bring them all wins, but that was less important to Coach Torres than what they learned, and the fact that he was able to weave so many girls into the rotation.

His strategy led the Foxes to a 9-1 section record and they were the co-section champions. Most importantly, the team qualified for the WPIAL Class AAAA playoffs and advanced to the semifinals. They lost to an undefeated Norwin High School team 1-0, but all was not over yet – they got a second chance to work their way into the PIAA playoff lineup if they defeated Mt Lebanon in the WPIAL consolation match, which they did 1-0. That victory earned the girls' soccer program its first appearance at a PIAA playoff since 1999. By the luck of the draw (or rather not so much luck), they were pitted against Norwin again in the first round of the PIAA playoffs. Again, they suffered a heartbreaking outcome to Norwin in a second 1-0 loss.

In recognition of their outstanding achievements, seven members of the starting lineup received WPIAL Class AAAA all-section honors. Additionally, seniors Deena DeBaldo, an all-state pick last year, and Dixon Veltri were named all-state and all-WPIAL for 2016. Coach Torres also received recognition as Co-Section 3 Coach of the Year.

REMAINING FALL SPORTS WRAP-UP

No team had a losing fall season in section play this year, which is a tribute to the fortitude and hard work exhibited by the Foxes' student athletes.


Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

Football made some real strides this season, including earning the program's best record in nearly 20 years. The fact that they won five consecutive games in the second half of the season and junior Micah Morris gained more than 1,200 yards rushing, were clear evidence that the program is definitely on the upswing. The season also ended positively for a number of players named to all-conference teams. Five times as many players were voted to those teams this year as compared to last year.

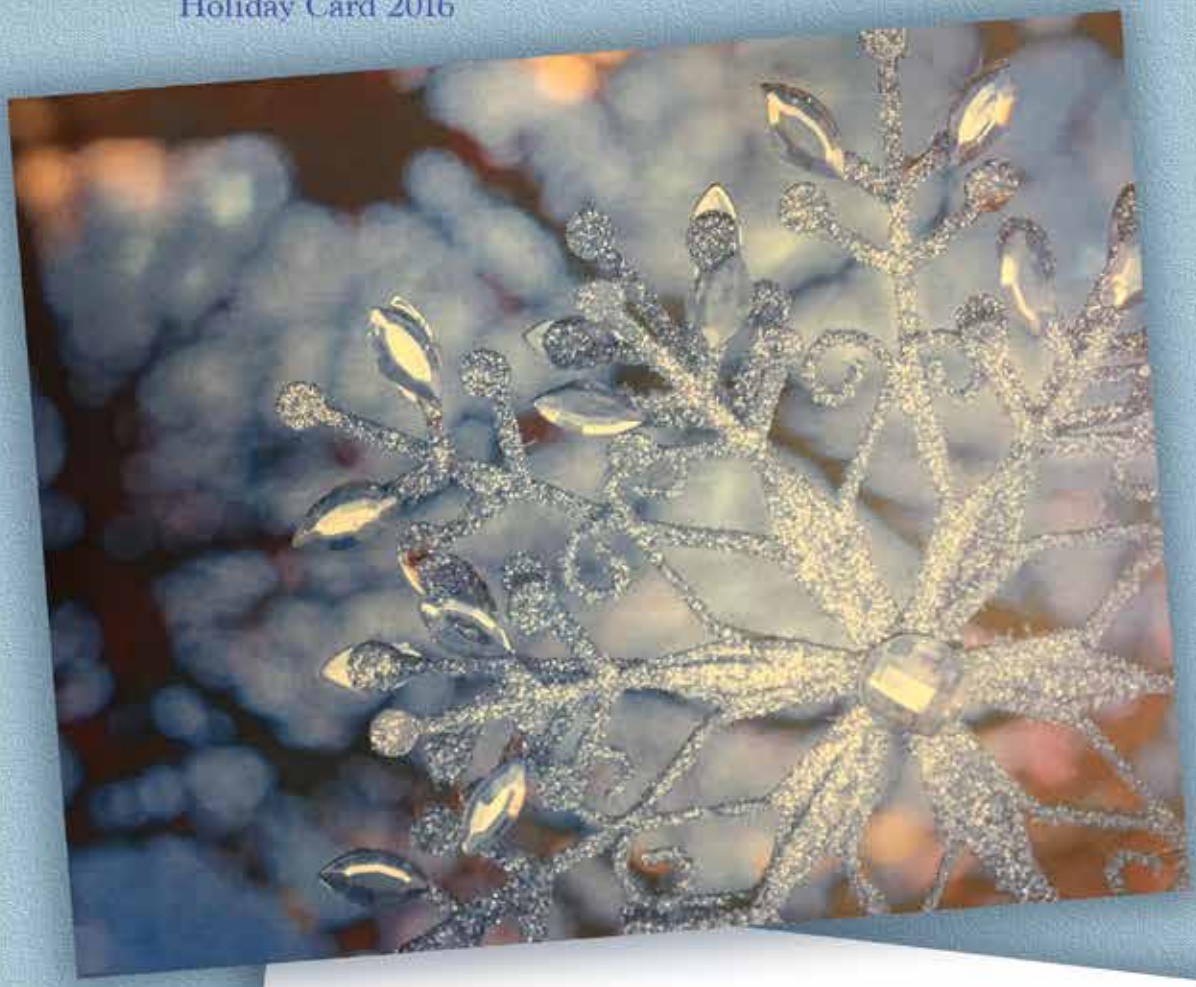
Girls' golf also set some milestones of their own when four players advanced to the WPIAL individual playoffs, the most-ever in program history. The players were seniors Ursula Meyer and Kerstin Nestel and juniors Hanna Conroy and Cara Levicoff.

Boys' soccer had a very young team, which gave a lot of underclassmen valuable experience to take with them next year. The team advanced to the WPIAL Class AAAA playoffs.

Girls' volleyball also advanced to the WPIAL Class AAA playoffs.

Fox Chapel Area School District

Holiday Card 2016



A flurry of good wishes this holiday season!

Fox Chapel Area School District

Photograph by Lea Prato ~ Grade 11
Fox Chapel Area High School





STUDENTS HONOR VETERANS

Fox Chapel Area students continued their tradition of honoring and remembering those who served their country as part of special Veterans Day commemorations. The Kerr Elementary School main hallway was decorated with photos and remembrances of veterans from staff and students and the whole school held a special ceremony at the flagpole. Hartwood Elementary students and staff also held their annual schoolwide recognition event and approximately 30 veterans attended their ceremony.

Each of the schools in the district commemorate and honor veterans, not only on Veterans Day, but throughout the year.



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 has released the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP). This public site provides an academic performance score for public schools in the state. The School Performance Profiles for the schools of the Fox Chapel Area School District are available online at *http://paschoolperformance.org*.



ARMED FORCES/MILITARY RECRUITERS/ MILITARY SCHOOLS

Both federal public law 107-110, section 9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and state laws require that school districts provide military recruiters access to secondary school students. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, and Pennsylvania Act 10 (The Armed Forces Recruiting Act) reflect these requirements. They collectively require school districts to provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as they provide to postsecondary institutions or to prospective employers. This would include the student's name, address, and telephone number. However, the law also allows parents/students the right to opt-out from this by requesting that the district not release information to armed forces, military recruiters, and/or military schools. The school counseling department offers a "Military Release of Information Opt-Out Form." The completion and return of the form serves as a parent's/student's request to withhold private information. Parental permission is required for those students under 18-years-of-age. Students 18 and over may sign for themselves. For further information, parents/students should contact 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 October 2016, 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 tools. Since the schools are public buildings, students are frequently the subject of video and audio recording, interviewing, and/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.

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, social media, 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.
Interim Business Manager: Kimberly M. Pawlishak

District Resource Staff
Executive Director of Elementary Education and Instruction: Ashley L. Nestor
Executive Director of Secondary Education and Instruction: Matthew J. Harris, Ed.D.
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services: Lonnie Carey, Ed.D.
Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership: Megan Cicconi
Director of Literacy: Sari Brecosky
Director of Federal Programs and Student Achievement: Alicia Gismondi
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.

O'Hara Elementary School
115 Cabin Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/963-0333
Principal: Kristy L. Batis
Assistant Principal: Stephen P. Edwards

Dorseyville Middle School
3732 Saxonburg Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/767-5343
Principal: Jonathan T. Nauhaus
Assistant Principal:
Timothy A. Mahoney
Assistant Principal:
James Phillip Prager Jr., D.Ed.

Fox Chapel Area High School
611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/967-2430
Lead Principal: Michael H. Hower
Program Principal (A-L):
Daniel E. Lentz, Ph.D.
Program Principal (M-Z):
John J. McGee, Ph.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."

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

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

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

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

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL BOARD



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

Front Row (left to right): Lisa M. Rutkowski (2019 - Region I); Terry L. Wirginis, President (2019 - Region II); Gene Freeman, Ed.D., Superintendent; and Sandra M. Garbisch, Assistant Secretary (2019 - Region II)

Row 2 (left to right): Robert Mauro (2017 - Region III); Paul J. Giuffre, Esq., Solicitor; Nancy B. Foster, Vice President (2019 - Region III); and Somer Obernauer Jr. (2017 - Region I)

Row 3 (left to right): Joel R. Weinstein, Treasurer (2017 - Region III); David P. McCommons, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent; Kathleen Anuszek, Board Secretary; Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D. (2017 - Region II); and Eric C. Schmidt (2019 - Region I)

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

School Board meetings are usually scheduled for the first and second Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.