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FOX CHAPEL AREA

School News



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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

I still remember my first day of school as a new teacher. Reading about Dorseyville Middle School seventh graders “teaching” Hartwood Elementary students (please see pages 14 & 15) reminds me of the excitement and anticipation of arriving at school and entering a classroom of eager, young learners. Those DMS students experienced some of that excitement as they researched, coordinated activities, and prepared their lessons. The seventh graders adapted their instruction as needed to guide the younger students – just like trained and certified teachers do.

Everyone knows that teachers spend a great deal of time preparing lessons and refining the craft of teaching. At Fox Chapel Area our administrators and staff are devoted to planned, rigorous, and regular improvement of our curriculum and the delivery of instruction. We still provide the basics; we know our students can never succeed in today’s world, or the world of the future, if they cannot read, comprehend, write, understand math, and work together in collaboration with their classmates. In today’s world the methods change to meet the ever-evolving needs of children. Our teachers truly believe they must ensure success for every student and have adapted lessons taking into account how every child learns and masters concepts and lessons. Our staff is second-to-none in their attention to the needs of every child. Additionally, new educational practices that incorporate technology and all that it can bring to learning are an integral part of our educational system. Students at all levels (K-12) are learning through maker education, as well as learning the basics of computer science – all in an effort to prepare them for the world of tomorrow.

We seem to be in a time of challenge and transition in our public schools. Our state legislators are considering changes to funding formulas that could greatly impact public education. Our District Forum held a meeting on this very topic where we discussed how these changes could impact our educational programs right here in our very own district. The members of our community really stepped up and became involved.

I am profoundly grateful that our community cares so deeply about public education. Everything we do as an educational community is to ensure the success of our students. Even residents without children enrolled in our schools benefit from the wonderful educational programs we offer here.

Please be assured that no matter what, our teachers are in the classroom, ready to teach your children, as well to care for and about them – both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.
Superintendent



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ELEMENTARY CAPSTONE EXPERIENCES LEAD TO HIGHER LEARNING

This year, Fox Chapel Area rolled out a new elementary gifted curriculum that is designed to enrich the studies of both gifted and high-performing learners. The curriculum includes three capstone experiences and provides a cross-curricular project-based approach to learning. The first, creative connections, was English Language Arts (ELA)-based in which students wrote and published their own books. Students learned engineering concepts as they worked on a series of design challenges in the second capstone experience, innovative inquiry. The third capstone experience, application avenue, is math-based, and students, depending on their grade level, are engaging in either a stock market challenge with virtual money or a data analysis project.

"We are thrilled about the changes to the curriculum and have seen our students grow as a result of these efforts," said Ashley Nestor, the district's executive director of elementary education and instruction.

Students Write and Publish Their Own Books

Inspired by the "Encyclopedia Brown" series of books, O'Hara Elementary School third grade friends Sam Troutman and Michael Costello worked together to write "The Mystery of the Disappearing Act." Sam said he likes coming up with ideas and "I just wrote them down as they came to me." Michael added, "We just made it up, beginning to end. It was really exciting!"

The O'Hara students are referring to the ELA capstone experience that included both gifted and high-achieving students from all four elementary schools who wrote and published their own books.

"The purpose of the creative writing strand is for students to learn to love to write without being constrained," O'Hara Elementary School gifted support teacher Kara Cornett told parents at a recent Authors Share day in which 18 third grade authors shared their soon-to-be-published works. The Authors Share was part of the new ELA creative connections capstone.



Two O'Hara students shared their stories about the adventures of Turtle Guy at the Authors Share event.

The young O'Hara authors wrote fantasy, mystery, and adventure stories – the types of stories in which these students are interested. Ms. Cornett said that students learned about prewriting, writing, revising, and "editing, editing, editing" over the 10-week process. "At the beginning of the project, there were some reluctant writers out there, but they have become passionate about writing," she said. Now they were ready to share their works, Ms. Cornett told parents who attended the authors' presentations. "I can personally say that there are great, great stories out there."



The young student authors met with their teacher for two 45-minute periods a week to write their books. Here, gifted support teacher Tammy Balestrino works with Hartwood Elementary School students.

Nora Kelley and Atia DiGioia worked together to write "Evergreen Academy" and the book's cover features original artwork by Nora. Both girls said they like to read fantasy books, and not coincidentally, their original story is a fantasy in which characters they created are in a forest and enter through a portal to get to school. Nora said, "I liked to use our imagination to think about characters, setting, and plot."

At Hartwood Elementary School, "We've got some fact finders," gifted support teacher Tammy Balestrino reported about her young creative connections participants. "These kids like to know about certain things." One student wrote a book on Gettysburg, one on 9-11, and one on Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Balestrino said creative connections covers important concepts such as figurative language,



A Hartwood Elementary student works on his original book.



The finished books are on display at the Cooper-Siegel Library.

plots, sentence structure, and paragraphing. She particularly enjoyed this capstone because, "I can cover a lot of curriculum in a fun way," she said.

Third grader Cassie Classen researched her book, "Fun Things in Pittsburgh," by visiting downtown locations including PNC Park, the zoo, Heinz Hall, the strip district, and the museum. She even has photos of

herself at some of the locations included in her book. "I hope that people go downtown with their family and friends and tell some people about it so they come visit it too," Cassie said enthusiastically.

There were also Hartwood students who wrote fictional stories. Second grader Dylan Gdovichin's book, called "The Pantry," is about a magical pantry where food comes to life. When asked where he got the idea he said, "From my head. It just came right out!"

"There is no doubt they liked this project. They even dragged their feet on finishing," Mrs. Balestrino said laughing.

The finished books are proudly displayed at the Cooper-Siegel Community Library in Fox Chapel, as well as in the elementary school libraries.

Students Face Design Challenges

Fourth and fifth graders faced a design challenge to create a device that would, with a single action, knock a dog bone treat from a table to a plastic tray on the floor. The "Give a Dog a Bone" challenge was the opening innovative inquiry capstone experience and brought 50 gifted students from all four elementary buildings together at Kerr Elementary School.



Students first discussed ideas on how they should design their contraption for the "Give a Dog a Bone" challenge. Each team conceptualized their design and drew a diagram in their student reflection journals before building and testing their design.

The students worked in groups of five engaging in engineering- and making-processes to complete the design challenge – looking at their tools, discussing and drawing out a plan, building a contraption from their given materials, and testing their setup – all in a short time frame. Each group was awarded 10 points for successfully demonstrating they could get the bone in the tray and a point for each of the materials they used.

An air of intensity was evident throughout the "lab" set up in Kerr's multipurpose room, as students brainstormed and discussed, planned, built, tested, and demonstrated their work. Fairview fifth grader Abe White said, "It was stressful but fun."

"It's mostly trial and error," Hartwood fifth grader Jude Willison commented as he worked. He described how his group came up with the solution to getting the dog treat to land in the

tray on the floor and not fly out. "You need the right amount of force," Jude pointed out. "The concept I first had in mind, without the dominos, was too much force." He also said that the positioning of some of the materials, including the bowl, aluminum foil, and the cotton in the bowl, was also important.

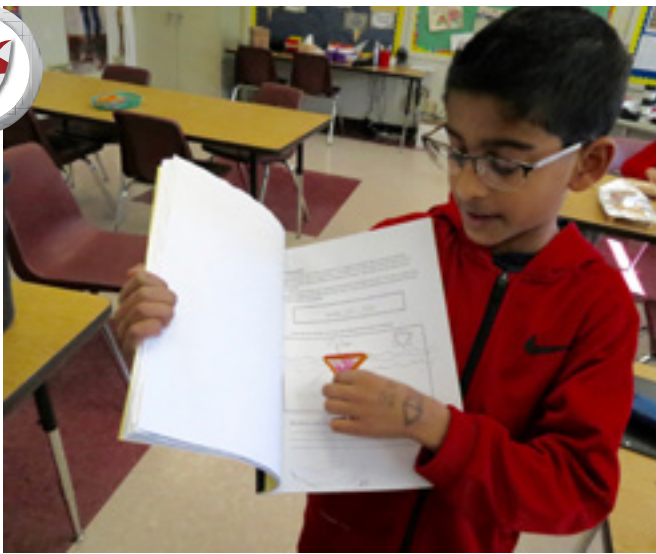
Earlier in the day the students visited Inventionland, the world's most creative workplace, located in nearby RIDC Park. Students toured the facility and stepped into themed settings where engineers imagine, design, manufacture, and market new materials. They learned the steps of engineering design processes and how to take an idea to invention.

"There were a lot of inventions I've never seen before," said O'Hara fifth grader Jayne Dye. She added, "I learned a lot about how the inventing process works. I also learned about what they do there and how they come up with inventions."

Continued on next page >



The winning team used every tool in their kit to get the bone from the table to the tray on the floor and successfully demonstrated the contraption they designed and built, earning the maximum score – 22 points.



An O'Hara student explained how he and his partner used the concepts of buoyancy, displacement, weight, and density to design and build a boat. Students used their student reflection journals throughout the innovative inquiry capstone.

The Fox Chapel Area student engineers explored through hands-on investigation and connection to real-world scenarios as they later completed other design challenges back at their own schools. Over the 10-week innovative inquiry capstone, they investigated the physical laws of bridge construction; investigated the forces of gravity and air resistance; explored relationships between buoyancy, displacement, weight, and density; experimented with the relationships between potential and kinetic energy; and investigated simple machines.

According to Kerr Elementary gifted support teacher Susan Kreit, "Students are highly motivated, eager to participate, and are learning to work with others."



O'Hara students with their gifted support teacher, Marilyn Hall, tested to see how many marbles could be added without sinking their boat. This particular boat held 96 marbles.

Mrs. Kreit also said, "Students are learning to be comfortable asking questions and posing problems, finding varied avenues to pursue answers, thinking flexibly when things turn out differently than expected, and making suggestions to peers about how they might improve a design."

Fifth grade O'Hara student Darren Jayaratnam found that when he and his partner built their boat for the buoyancy challenge, that compact boats would sink. "We learned about surface area," he said. "We made five different designs and we decided on a flat-bottom design."

When Kerr fifth graders Jack Cannon and Katie Haas began to build and test their original design in the potential/kinetic energy challenge, things didn't go exactly as planned. Jack said, "At one point the blocks started wobbling and collapsed." The two discovered they had to use more blocks in order to stabilize their structure. "We were expecting more turns. It was smaller than we thought," Katie said of their structure. Their final successful design was about a foot high and had just one turn, but Jack and Katie were pleased because when they moved the lever that allowed the marble to release, it successfully rolled down the chute and landed in the cup.

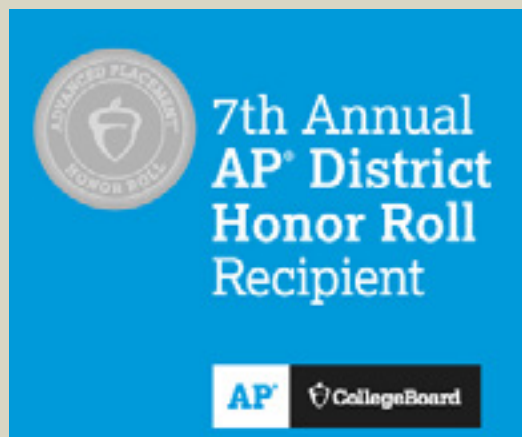
For the final challenge, the 50 students gathered once again and worked in small groups at Kerr to design and build a Rube Goldberg machine, a complicated device that's built to perform a simple task. For the project, the students had to build an obstacle course for a marble. The students applied the knowledge they had gained throughout the innovative inquiry to create a minimum of three different engineering actions to achieve the task of watering a plant.



Kerr students designed a structure out of KEVA Blocks that carried a ball to a basket without an external push or pull.

FOX CHAPEL AREA MAKES AP DISTRICT HONOR ROLL

The Fox Chapel Area School District is one of 433 school districts in the United States and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll. Schools included on the AP (Advanced Placement) honor roll showed significant gains in students' access and success. To be included, the district had to, since 2014, increase the number of students participating in AP, while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that the Fox Chapel Area School District is successfully identifying motivated, academically-prepared students who are ready for higher-level courses. Districts on the honor roll are also committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.



Fox Chapel Area High School Lead Principal Michael Hower is very proud of the high school students and staff. "This recognition reinforces the fact that our school community is special," he said. "The supportive, dedicated nature of our staff, coupled with the internal drive of our students, is a recipe for success." In fact, this recognition is especially significant for Fox Chapel Area because increasing the number of students taking AP courses and exams has been a district goal for the last decade.

In 2016, AP test scores were submitted to more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world and students received college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process. Inclusion on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll was based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2014 to 2016, looking across 37 AP Exams, including world language and culture.

SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY SING CONCERT – MARCH 31

The Fox Chapel Area School District will be hosting a special community sing concert Friday, March 31, at 7 p.m. at the high school. The concert will feature the district's elementary choirs, as well as very special guest, Nick Page. Mr. Page is a Boston-based composer, conductor, and author who is best known for his song leading.

The special evening program will feature a song composed by Mr. Page and commissioned by the school district's music department, entitled "Train Song." The piece combines the American railroad song "Nine Hundred Miles" with a South-African train song, "Mbombela." The elementary student choirs will be singing and accompanying the song on Orff and other percussion instruments. Mr. Page will also lead the entire audience in a singalong as part of the performance.

Mr. Page's visit and the community sing concert is being made possible through the use of the Fox Chapel Area School District Gala funds. The district held a Community Gala in 2012 to raise money to benefit the arts programs in the district.

The concert will be the culminating event of Mr. Page's visit. He will also spend time at all four Fox Chapel Area School District elementary schools March 30 and 31 where he will work with each schools' choir and then hold all-school assemblies.



Composer, conductor, author, and song leader Nick Page.

According to Kerr Elementary music teacher and elementary music department chair Christy Ehman, everyone is looking forward to Mr. Page's visit with the students and the special evening community concert. "Our department is so appreciative that our district values and supports the arts for all children and families, and that the district promotes music education at all levels through a variety of opportunities for our students," she said. "The elementary choral students are especially excited about this performance since 'Train Song' was written specifically for them."

The event is free and all district residents are invited to attend this very special program in the high school auditorium.



Dorseyville Middle School students talked to Hartwood students about exercises that would strengthen the abdominal muscles.

SEVENTH GRADERS TAKE ON TEACHING ROLE IN DMS/HARTWOOD COLLABORATION

This day was going to be different than other days for a group of seventh graders – they had prepared for and were going to teach a class of younger students when they arrived at school. The 13 Dorseyville students researched and prepared lesson plans in advance and actually taught a physical education class to Hartwood Elementary School third and fourth graders.

According to DMS physical education teacher Michelle Bailey, seventh graders were divided into four groups of three or four students to begin working on the project in December. Each student team focused on a different muscle group: biceps, hamstrings, abdominals, and triceps as they researched in-depth and coordinated activities to work those muscles. Seventh grader Bridget Kilner said the groups spent about a month and a half working on the project, and the students spent a

lot of class time, as well as their own time, in preparation. She also pointed out that research went beyond just learning about the muscle they were assigned. “We also had to learn about the safety rules and come up with activities that would work those muscles,” she said.

The presentations included a short sit-down class-like lesson and various physical activities. The Hartwood students moved to four stations to complete the lessons.

“Do you feel it working yet?” one seventh grader asked the younger students. “No? Then you might be doing it wrong,” she pointed out.

According to Hartwood Elementary physical education teacher Jodi Travaglia, this is the third year for the collaboration. Dorseyville Middle School also works with Hartwood in other academic areas to give the older students a chance to interact with and help the younger



A DMS student explained how students could use the scooters to work their hamstrings.



Hartwood students, led by their seventh grade "teachers," worked their tricep muscles.

students. She also pointed out that peer-to-peer teaching is always beneficial.

"I love it because I think the students teaching students is always a good thing. It's great for the seventh graders to be in a leadership role," Mrs. Travaglia said. "The students develop the lesson, teach it, and then get feedback." She also said that she shares information with the students on the various muscle groups, "but when they get it from a 13-year-old, it changes their perspective."

According to seventh grader Cooper Smith, "It's cool to interact with the younger kids. It gives you more appreciation for the teachers who stand in front of us all day and teach us." He continued, smiling, "I also learned that it's hard to talk in front of a bunch of people."

Bridget added, "I hope they learn about muscles and that you can do many different activities to work them."

Third grader Mason Shelkey-Bray said he liked playing crab-walk soccer and learning about the abdominal muscles. "It's not just about working out our abs. That will help then when we work other muscles too. It's working out our core. If you don't work out your muscles, they won't be strong anymore," he said.



Dorseyville students explained an activity that was part of an obstacle course they designed to work bicep muscles.



Dorseyville students explained facts about the tricep muscles to Hartwood Elementary School students.

Fourth grader Shayna Horowitz liked the class because it was a combination of classroom learning and a gym class. "It was really cool since we're usually taught by teachers. It's fun that we were taught by seventh graders." She said she liked that the seventh graders explained things in a different way.

According to Mrs. Bailey, DMS principal Jonathan Nauhaus encourages service projects where the students help others. She said the project is different from any other learning experience the students participate in. They have to be adaptable, and be able to determine if the younger students are interested in the activity, and then change it if they are not.

During the presentations, Mrs. Bailey recorded each group and the students watched the videos and then critiqued themselves on their performance. "The students not only take ownership over what they learn about in class, but they create lesson plans," said Mrs. Bailey. "They have to think like a teacher – visualize, plan, adapt. It helps them see teaching from a different angle."



The Hartwood students received instruction on using bands to work their tricep muscles.



STUDENT SUCCESS DRIVES NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

A “driving desire to see students succeed” is just one reason Timothy Mahoney, Dorseyville Middle School’s new assistant principal, thinks Fox Chapel Area School District is the perfect match for his skill set and goals. Mr. Mahoney said his special education background provides him with a unique way of looking at things, and he likes that the district focuses on a “growth mindset.”

“The ideals within the district matched my own personal educational beliefs in regard to individual growth for all students and learning outside of the typical instructional pathways that people think about when considering a K-12 public school,” he said. “I was really excited to learn how deeply the district focused on the individual student and worked toward growing that individual throughout his or her educational career.”

Since arriving here, Mr. Mahoney has been impressed with the district’s many innovative programs and the support systems that go so far as to foster student interest in the learning experience. He has also been impressed with the staff and community involvement in the district.

His biggest goal, he said, is to ingrain himself in the Fox Chapel Area community. That should be easy given his genuine care for students.

“In large, I hope that through my time at Fox Chapel Area, I can be someone that students, parents, and teachers can rely on to be a driving force toward student success,” he said. “Individually, I hope to bring my work with establishing an effective model for intervention and multi-tiered supports to the district so that we can further establish a systematic approach to supporting all learners.”

Mr. Mahoney has already proven himself as an educational leader during his tenure as an RtII (Response to Instruction and Intervention)/MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) specialist and the special education department chairperson for students in grades 7-12 in the Pine-Richland School District. He worked to establish an effective K-12 RtII program that focused on data-based decision making for intervention. Additionally, in just his first two years there, he successfully implemented an effective process for PSSA and Keystone Exam remediation that yielded the highest student achievement and Student Performance Profile (SPP) in Western Pennsylvania, as well as one of the top in the state.

In addition to working at Pine-Richland, Mr. Mahoney taught at The Watson Institute and the Butler Area School District.



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

Mr. Mahoney graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and special education certification from Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He completed a master’s degree in special education supervision from Slippery Rock University and earned his principal’s certification from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Originally from the Philadelphia (Bucks County) area, Mr. Mahoney and his wife, Kristen, who is from the North Hills, moved to this area after they graduated from college. He has never looked back, other than the times Philadelphia and Pittsburgh sports teams play against each other he said laughing. The couple has one son, who is three, and they are expecting their second child in May. He and his family are very active, and during weekends they can be found on hikes exploring the wilderness, working on house remodeling, or attending community events in the greater Pittsburgh area. Additionally, Mr. Mahoney has been involved with athletics “all of my life” and has coached football both at the college and high school levels for nearly 10 years.

Mr. Mahoney, who replaced recently retired Assistant Principal Patricia Clark, began his new job at Dorseyville in December 2016.

2017 EARLY GRADS CELEBRATE IMPORTANT MILESTONE

Members of the early graduating Class of 2017 celebrated their achievement with family and friends at Fox Chapel Area High School January 19. At the ceremony, Michael Hower, lead principal, stated, "This is the culmination of 12½ years of work. This is no easy task," and added, "We are excited to celebrate with you."

The high school has been holding a more formal ceremony for midyear graduates for the last several years. According to Mr. Hower, high school administrators wanted to formalize the ceremony held in January to give the students the recognition they deserve. He also noted that although the ceremony is more formal, it is less so than the June graduation. This allows the students to speak so that the attendees – which include parents, family members, teachers, and friends – get to hear about their future plans and goals. Additionally, early grads are invited to participate in the ceremony in June with the rest of the graduating seniors.

Mr. Hower said that this year's early graduates are a really good group of students. He pointed out that they are willing to



The Fox Chapel Area High School first graduating Class of 2017.

take risks and they are prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. He also said he is particularly proud that the students have solid game plans for the next step in their lives. Some of the students are already taking college-level classes and will pursue further schooling. Some will be working or participating in internships. One will even be leaving this spring for advanced individual training with the U.S. Army.

"I think their fortitude and perseverance over the years virtually guarantees them success in whatever endeavors they choose," Mr. Hower said.

The early graduates included: Mohammed Al Bayati, Kayleigh Balzer, Ashanti Booker, Danielle Brewer, Kristie Claus, Aubrey Cullinan, Joseph Daniher, Samantha Fabiszewski, Alyssa Kasper, Nina Khorey, Austin Klinge, Kayla Lees, Genevra Morgan, Charles Okunewick, Zachary Popovich, John Ramassini, Alanna Rygelski, Andres Salinas, Ashlyn Spencer, Jenifer Valdez, Harry Wetmore, Aleksander Hero Wojnaroski, and Ryan Zakin.



Principal Michael Hower addressed the early grads and their guests.



An early graduate accepted congratulations from his mother. He will be leaving this spring to go to Missouri for advanced individual training with the U.S. Army.



The graduates and their guests enjoyed a reception following the ceremony.



O'Hara Elementary School Principal Kristy Batis and Assistant Principal Steve Edwards spoke to the fifth grade chorus members prior to their performance for the School Board.



The O'Hara students presented small tokens of appreciation to the Board members for all of their hard work.

O'HARA STUDENTS HONOR SCHOOL BOARD

January School Director Recognition Month

On January 9 the Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors was recognized by O'Hara Elementary School students in honor of School Director Recognition Month. The 25 members of the O'Hara Fifth Grade Chorus, under the direction of teachers Shawn Funk and Heidi Pandolfi, sang two songs to acknowledge the Board members for their hard work.

"We want to thank you, our Board of Directors, for working diligently to provide us with wonderful schools that are part of a community of peace and acceptance," student Harrison Lee said during the presentation, prior to the group singing "Peace Round."

Before the chorus sang "Give Me Wings," student Maria Weldon said, "Your willingness to serve our school and share your instincts and talents continue to create schools where we can grow roots as well as wings."

The final speaker, Claudia "CJ" Smith, said, "Please know that we appreciate your service. We know that with a strong education here at Fox Chapel Area, our wings will carry us far."

The members of the chorus then handed out small tokens of their appreciation to the Board members. Additionally, several

books were donated to the O'Hara Elementary School library in honor of the Board.

According to CJ, being asked to perform was quite an honor. "I loved performing for the School Board," she said. "It was awesome to be able to represent our amazing school district!" She also said the School Board members do an "amazing job." "I think it's important to honor members of the School Board because they try so hard to make Fox Chapel the best it can be."

Student Emily Torbert said it's important to honor the School Board because they generously give of their time, all for the good of the community. "They also have to make very large and hard decisions on a lot of different subjects. We don't get to see them every day, but they are the ones behind the scenes who help our teachers do their best," she said.

School Director Recognition Month is a program of the Pennsylvania School Board's Association. It was started in 1985 and is held to honor school directors for their dedication and the many hours that they voluntarily spend to help students across Pennsylvania.



O'Hara Elementary music teacher Shawn Funk directed the chorus while they sang "Peace Round."



The chorus, under the direction of teacher Heidi Pandolfi, performed "Give Me Wings."

TELETHON BREAKS RECORD AGAIN



The marketing/management students sponsored games and food in the high school commons area, with all of the proceeds benefitting Live Like Lou.

Fox Chapel Area School District students held their 27th annual telethon December 23, 2016. This year's telethon total of nearly \$72,000 broke last year's record-breaking total. This brings the money raised by Fox Chapel Area students to more than \$770,000 over the last 27 years for various local and regional charities.

For the second year in a row, the telethon raised money for Live Like Lou, which was founded by two parents (Suzanne and Neil Alexander) in the Fox Chapel Area School District to help ALS (commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease) patients and their families in Western Pennsylvania. This year's total also included a contribution of \$25,000 from an anonymous donor who works for Mr. Alexander's former employer, Hefren-Tillotson. This anonymous donation was made in celebration of Fox Chapel Area School District's efforts for Live Like Lou.

The telethon involved students from all six schools. Mrs. Alexander appeared as part of the telethon and Pittsburgh Pirates skipper Clint Hurdle shared a video message. Fox Chapel Area students also shared a video from a visit to the Live Like Lou Center for ALS Research at the University of Pittsburgh. The telethon is coordinated by the marketing/management and



Representatives from the Dorseyville Middle School Student Government presented their school's \$5,372 contribution on the air. Each of the district's six schools participated in fundraising efforts for Live Like Lou.

television production students of the high school who plan and produce the event.

For the first time the telethon was available in high definition and was streamed live on the Swift Fox Media YouTube channel. It was also broadcast on cable television.



Suzanne Alexander was interviewed by the television production students during the telethon. She and her husband Neil, who passed away from ALS in 2015, cofounded Live Like Lou in 2012. The Fox Chapel Area School District telethon is the second largest fundraiser for the organization.



The telethon is planned and produced by the marketing/management students, under the direction of business education teacher Jill Tabis, and the television production students, under the direction of media teacher Ryan Devlin.



Photo Courtesy Primetime Shots

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAMS

The hardships of being displaced while the Foxes' new natatorium was under construction over the past two years taught the Fox Chapel Area High School swimming and diving teams that there really is no place like home.

The teams' eagerly awaited homecoming to their new eight-lane pool, a beautiful grandstand, and state-of-the-art diving boards, not only was a source of pride, it also spurred an increase in the size of their "family" and had a definite influence on their tremendous success this season.

For the first time in 10 years, the girls' team went undefeated and won the section championship outright. They had shared the title in 2015. Junior Joslyn Filo broke two school records, including one in the 50-freestyle that had gone unbeaten for 25 years. Additionally, seven girls were WPIAL qualifiers, with most swimming in multiple events. On the boys' side, three swimmers qualified for the WPIAL championship.

"The new pool definitely has attracted more freshmen and underclassmen to the teams, and they are really good," says junior swimmer Brandon Brewster. "It was hard to get people

interested in the program when we were practicing at Shady Side [Academy Senior High School] during the very last practice slot from 8 to 9 p.m. It made for a really long day and we were tired a lot of the time."

"We have the strength and ability to be great performers, kids who are great people and great athletes, and a crazy beautiful pool that is by far the best in Western Pennsylvania."

– Diving Coach Vernon Yenick

With the team back in their home pool, Coach Dan Taylor is thrilled with the depth created by the addition of the new swimmers – something that will come into play in the years ahead. It's a luxury that could be further enhanced through Coach Taylor's affiliation with the Fox Chapel Killer Whales, where he also serves as head coach for the local youth swimming program. Already, he has introduced many of his middle school-aged Killer Whales swimmers to the high school program by using them as timers at home meets.

"I covet hard work and effort," says Coach Taylor, whose career highlights include leading 20 swimmers to top-16 national

rankings and more than 50 swimmers to sectional, junior national, senior national, and Olympic trial qualifying times. "Over the past few seasons, I have implemented more practice sets that attempt to simulate race situations. The additional lane in the new pool gives us much-needed room for race-pace



The girls' swimming team went undefeated this first season in their new pool and won the section championship.

training for different kinds of events. The new pool has really motivated the kids to swim fast.”

For diving coach Vernon Yenick, the natatorium attracted talented athletes who blended nicely with his existing top-performers. Coach Yenick says divers from his team, as well as those from visiting teams, have raved about the new diving boards and say they are the best in the entire area.

“The spring in the new boards led to some incredible jumping in the divers’ approaches,” says Coach Yenick. The approach can greatly influence the success or failure of the actual dive. One athlete who benefited from the improved boards was sophomore diver Jonah Cagley. He not only qualified for the WPIAL diving championship, but won first place, becoming the first Fox Chapel Area diver in history to do so. He beat the second place finisher by more than 30 points! Earlier in the regular season, he made history at the new pool by surpassing a scoring record set by JB Kolod, a Fox Chapel Area alum who went on to have a stellar diving career at the University of Virginia and was an Olympic trials qualifier.

Additionally, freshman novice Nate Serkov was the first on the team to qualify for the WPIAL diving championship, and he did it at the team’s very first home meet in the new pool, in his first set of dives, in his first-ever diving competition. His success was even more remarkable considering the WPIAL increased the qualifying level by 20 points this season. A total of five divers advanced to the WPIAL championship.

Coach Yenick, who has mentored some of the area’s top divers, adds, “Having a great new pool, more interest in the program,

and an amazing team doing incredible things – it’s more than I could have ever possibly imagined or hoped for. We have the strength and ability to be great performers, kids who are great people and great athletes, and a crazy beautiful pool that is by far the best in Western Pennsylvania. It’s exciting just to walk into the complex.”





MULTITALENTED DIXON VELTRI'S WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS

Dixon Veltri is the first to admit it. She. Can't. Sit. Still.

She also figures her inability to remain sedentary for too long is what triggered her to play four interscholastic sports – soccer, gymnastics, diving, and track. That's unique enough by itself, but the fact that she excels so skillfully in every single one of them is definitely a feat that will be hard for any other athlete to match for many years to come.

But amazingly, her athletic interests don't end with just school sports. In the spring and summer she also plays with the Beadling Soccer Club and has traveled to high-level competitions throughout the country. In 2015 and 2016, her team was back-to-back US Youth Soccer Region I champions, and last year placed third at the organization's national championship.

The quad-sport athlete has played every sport all four years of high school, with the exception of a sophomore start in gymnastics, and when she graduates in June, she will have amassed a total of 15 athletic letters. In addition to Dixon's varsity status in every sport, every year, she has also won numerous section and WPIAL postseason honors in all four



Photo Courtesy Gordon Snyder Photography

sports, qualified for the PIAA track and field championship last year, and so far this year, has been a captain for each of her teams.

"I don't have time for much else other than sports, especially since I take Advanced Placement classes," says the star athlete who often times stays up late to get all of her studying done. "In order for it to work, you have to manage your time wisely and really want to do those things. Then you'll do whatever you need to do in order to get better. You have to make some sacrifices along the way, but it's worth it."

A Soccer Star

Of all her callings, Dixon's first love is soccer. Her parents signed her up for youth soccer when she was five-years-old as a way to let her run off her abundant energy – and she is still just as enthusiastic about the sport today.

"I've worked really hard all of these years to get better," points out the all-state midfielder who regularly catches fans' attention with her trademark flip throws that shoot from the sidelines like cannonballs. "Soccer is my happy place."

Thanks to her incredible talent, Dixon helped lead her team to a 9-1 section record this season and a spot in the WPIAL AAA semifinals.

Many colleges recruited her, but Dixon picked NCAA Division I University of North Carolina-Wilmington. It's a reward for an impressive high school soccer career that included two all-section and all-WPIAL designations. This past season, Dixon was named to the all-state team, Pennsylvania's highest

honor in soccer. Her teammates also voted her “Rookie of the Year” as a freshman and “Best Offensive Player” as a junior.

“Dixon has made a huge contribution to our program and to the success of other players on the team,” says Peter Torres, the Foxes’ head soccer coach. “Her strengths are her ability to win headers, see the field, and make the correct decisions with her passes. She knows where to pass it and how to pass it, and defenders have a difficult time guarding her because she is always moving. She will be remembered as one of Fox Chapel Area’s top players.”

Plunging into Winter Sports

As Dixon hangs up her well-worn soccer cleats, she barely has time before moving along to her winter sports, diving and gymnastics. In sharp contrast to her tough and gritty play on the field, her winter sports are all about precision, power, body control, grace, and beauty. Her favorite dive, a somersault with two twists, was part of her set that qualified her for the WPIAL championship this season and last year as well.

“Dixon has incredible natural ability and is probably the best all-around athlete I have ever seen in my many years as a competitor and coach,” marvels Vernon Yenick, her Foxes’ diving coach. “She has been a top performer and a leader on the diving team, and is great at motivating her teammates.”

When Dixon added gymnastics to her repertoire in 10th grade, it was just a natural extension of diving, and with only three practices a week, she found it was possible to squeeze in that sport as well. She’s a mainstay on the squad and an all-around performer, meaning she competes on the balance beam, uneven parallel bars, floor exercise, and vault. Even with limited practice time, Dixon is a two-time WPIAL championship qualifier.



As Fast as They Come

Part of Dixon’s extraordinary quickness in soccer comes from years of running track as well as natural athleticism. She first started running in middle school and still holds the record there in the 800-meter run. Now, as the anchor for the high school’s 4x800 relay team, Dixon has proven she’s not only fast, but according to her coach Tom Moul, “If she took the baton in second place, I usually could count on her running down the person in front of her to give her team the first-place finish.”

That relay team qualified for the PIAA track championship last season and she also qualified individually for the WPIAL championship in the 800-meter event. Coach Moul expects she will do a repeat performance in the upcoming season.

An Inspiration

Dixon’s dedication to performing at the top of her game is innate. She’s always been competitive and expects a lot from herself and her teammates. But she’s also infused that burning desire with a hefty sense of humor and leadership skills that drive others to believe in her.

As far as her own inspiration, one person she credits is brilliant soccer player Crystal Dunn, a former star for the University of North Carolina and a member of the U.S. Women’s National Team. “She inspires you to never stop working hard until you get what you want,” Dixon says.

It’s that very mindset that fuels her belief that all things are possible through hard work and dedication. It has served Dixon well these past four years, as it will in her future endeavors, and has resulted in an enduring legacy as one of the very best all-around athletes in the history of Fox Chapel Area High School athletics.



Wrestling Coach Ron Frank celebrates his 400th win on February 15 with family, friends, and his wrestlers.

ROAD TO #400 ENDS WRESTLING SEASON

Thirty-eight years ago, Fox Chapel Area High School art teacher Ron Frank became a wrestling coach in the district. At that time, he never could have imagined that on February 15, 2017, he'd earn his 400th career victory and become one of the best-ever wrestling coaches.

Coach Frank is the first to admit he wasn't an expert by any stretch of the imagination when he started out. But he was a quick learner, an eager student, and possessed a work ethic that has served him well throughout life.

Now, as one of the most respected coaches in the sport, Coach Frank just added to his already long list of credentials with his 400th win, which also distinguishes him as third among the WPIAL's all-time winning wrestling coaches. It's an achievement that eclipses those of some of his heroes when he first began coaching – the legendary Gus DeAugustino from North Allegheny High School, Bob Siar Sr. from Shaler Area High School, and Ken Lockey from Seneca Valley High School.

"They were great people that took the time to help a young coach," says Coach Frank. "They taught me – as did two of my own teachers and coaches, Larry Mannion, who is the reason why I am a coach, and Fred DeGroot, who influenced me to be an art teacher – to never stop chasing your goals and that hard work can overcome your shortcomings, of which I have many. I was never the smartest, fastest, or strongest, so inheriting my mother's work ethic was essential to any accomplishment."

Regardless of where Coach Frank thinks he falls short, Fox Chapel Area School District's director of athletics sees it differently.

"In my 12-year tenure at Fox Chapel Area, it's been my pleasure to watch Coach Frank and how he interacts with his athletes and students," says Michael O'Brien. "It's amazing how many kids come back in their later years to still be part of the program. I believe that is a true testament to the impact he's had upon his students. He is certainly deserving of his 400 career victories, and I couldn't be more proud of him and our wrestling program."

Paying It Forward

Just as those coaches took him under their wing years ago, Coach Frank has always tried to pay forward the kindness he was shown. Although he might have a gruff exterior and an old-school approach to life, he has a heart of gold when it comes to his family, his wrestlers and their families

(both past and present), and the many students who cite his jewelry-making class as their favorite.

"Some people might find it hard to believe, but I get as much pleasure in seeing a great jewelry project each morning as I do a wrestling win at night," says the father of three grown boys, Patrick, Michael, and Timothy. All three wrestled for him when they were young and throughout high school.

A true teacher-at-heart, Coach Frank is happy about his 400th win, but people who know him will probably groan when, with his trademark humility, he says, "Four hundred is just a number. It was great that our four seniors all got their hands raised in victory last night."

Coach Frank adds, "We have a wrestling staff that works as a team and we make decisions together to benefit the students." His staff has been with him for many years and includes Bob Siar Jr., a PIAA champion; Ron's sons, Michael, who earned his way to the NCAA Championships, and Tim, a WPIAL champion; and Joe Bursick, a coach with 200 wins.

He notes of himself and his assistant coaches, "None of us measure our success in match victories, but in how successful the men and women in our program are 20 years after graduation. We have former students that now have families of their own and are carpenters, police officers, engineers, teachers, doctors, stockbrokers, and business owners. Sports is part of the educational experience and mission of the school district, and we are proud that so many of them have earned their degrees from colleges ranging from Community College of Allegheny County to Harvard and Princeton, and everything in between."

Myriad Honors with More in Store

Coach Frank takes infinite pleasure deflecting from his own achievements, but they are numerous and shouldn't be overlooked. He is an inductee of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame, as well as the national and PIAA wrestling halls of fame, yet ironically, he has yet to be inducted into the Fox Chapel Area Schools Sports Hall of Fame. That's because only retired coaches are eligible for consideration.

With no signs of slowing down, and already placing his 400th victory celebration behind him, Coach Frank now is singularly focused on what's ahead for the team. As he puts it, "It really is all about the kids."

FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS BASKETBALL TEAM NAMED SECTION CHAMP

Outside of the Fox Chapel Area High School boys' basketball locker room is a sign that sums up the new WPIAL 6A Section 3 co-champions' way of thinking this season: "Play Present, Know Your Role, Do Your Job." Before coming out on the court for every game, each of the players touches the sign as if the gesture will remind them of what their mindset has to be that night in order to win.

It's a mantra that kept the team going all the way to their dramatic come-from-behind overtime win against Plum High School, which enabled them to tie for the section championship with Penn Hills and Greater Latrobe. This was the first time in 10 years that the boys' basketball team was named a section champion.

Throughout the season, the team was consistently ranked as one of the top-four teams in the WPIAL. They had two separate nine-game winning streaks, concluded the regular season with a 19-3 record, and had the number one scoring defense in 6A. Going into the playoffs, the Foxes were ranked third among the 12 WPIAL 6A playoff teams. Three out of the four top-rated teams are section rivals, demonstrating the strength of the division.

Senior Jake Livingston and junior Carson Cohen, two of the team's four captains this year, were at the heart of a metamorphosis that began shortly after the team failed to make the playoffs last year. Ironically, while Carson was one of the WPIAL's top scorers this season (as was Jake) he wasn't even a starter until this year.

The two decided to partner in their quest to get to the playoffs in 2017, and stopped playing with their respective football and soccer teams to focus solely on basketball. They started intense training while most of the other boys were staying in condition by playing other sports.

The two lifted weights – for Jake it was to get leaner after accumulating some excess bulk for football, and Carson's goal was to gain strength and put on some weight. Jake says they really pushed themselves to develop more endurance and speed, and their workouts took them to a new level of athleticism.

"Whenever Jake and Carson got focused on just basketball, I knew we could

be very good," says senior captain Dimitri Spina. Then, once the entire team finally came together, it quickly became a total group effort where everyone shared the same goal and every player was equally valued for what he brought to the game.

"Dimitri hit some key shots a number of times when we needed them and was a valuable player on defense," says Coach Zach Skrinjar, who earned his 100th career victory this season and was voted by his peers as section coach of the year. "Dimitri did a lot of work that didn't show up on in the stats, but brought great physicality and leadership to the game. I always assigned senior Michael Snowball, our fourth team captain, to the number one opposing offensive player because he is such an elite defender, but he's also been very consistent on offense. Few players can carry the weight of watching the other teams' best player and also still produce on offense like he has."

Additionally, Coach Skrinjar says the other major contributors to the team this year were junior Micah Morris, sophomore Ben Kelly, and freshman Sam Brown. "All of these young men played a crucial role in the team's success at varying points throughout the season," the coach says.

Most of all, however, it was the combination of efforts, their positive attitudes, and strong sense of unity that brought them success.

"This team is completely unselfish. Everybody plays a role and does what they're asked to do," adds Michael O'Brien, the school district's director of athletics. "They just really gelled as a group and a lot of the credit for that goes to Coach Skrinjar and his staff. They have put in a lot of time and effort to develop their players and to make certain they are well-prepared for every game."

Even after the season ends, and long after the final whistle is blown, what Coach Skrinjar will probably remember most about this team is that they had a dream. It was a vision they pursued relentlessly and collectively while maintaining great respect for each other.

That's only part of what Dimitri says he'll remember. "I'll never forget some of the big wins we had and the guys on the team, especially this group of guys, the friendships we've made, and how we played together. We've come so far," he says.



Photo Courtesy Gordon Snyder Photography



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

DID YOU KNOW...

The Fox Chapel Area School District has received national, state, and regional recognitions.

- The Pennsylvania and United States departments of education have honored individual buildings and programs through their elementary and secondary school recognition programs. All six schools have been named National Blue Ribbon Schools and two schools, Fox Chapel Area High School and, most recently, Fairview Elementary School, received the designation twice.
- In 2016, the district was one of only 19 new school districts nationwide accepted into Digital Promise's League of Innovative Schools.
- The district was honored by the College Board in 2017 with placement on the 7th Annual AP[®] District Honor Roll, a distinction for districts that show significant gains in student access and success on Advanced Placement courses and tests.
- The high school was the first school, nationally and internationally, to be recognized for Programs of Distinction in Visual Arts (2015). Additionally, the high school was the first ever to receive Exemplary Educational Program Credentials in school counseling (2012) and also received the same credentials in music (2012). These recognitions came from the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools.
- The Fox Chapel Area School District has been named among the "Best Communities for Music Education" for the past five years.
- Dorseyville Middle School was named a 2013 and a 2010 Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch school.
- Fox Chapel Area High School was given 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2009, and 2008 Silver Medal ranks by U.S. News & World Report and was ranked among the nation's top high schools in 2016, 2013, and 2012 by Newsweek. The high school is also ranked among the top 250 high schools in the nation and received an "A+ Overall Niche Grade" on *niche.com*.
- All four Fox Chapel Area elementary schools were ranked by *niche.com* as being among the 2017 best public elementary schools (in the top 18) in the Pittsburgh metro area.
- Other commendations have recognized district programs and individuals, including the winner of the 2015 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year, the 2013 Outstanding Superintendent Award from the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA), the 2012 PMEA District 1 Citation of Excellence, the 2011 Assistant Principal of the Year, the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award, and a Disney Teacher Award.



SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors held its annual reorganization meeting December 5, 2016. Terry L. Wirginis was re-elected president, Nancy B. Foster was re-elected vice president, and Sandra M. Garbisch was re-elected assistant secretary.

The Board also set the following meeting schedule for 2017:

Agenda Study Sessions

April 3* (Fox Chapel Area High School); May 1 (Dorseyville Middle School); June 5 (O'Hara Elementary School); August 14* (Fox Chapel Area High School); September 11* (Fox Chapel Area High School); October 2 (Fox Chapel Area High School); November 6 (Kerr Elementary School); and December 4* (Fox Chapel Area High School).

Regular Business Meetings

April 3*; May 8; June 12; August 14*; September 11*; October 9; November 13; and December 4*. All regular business meetings and combined meetings are held at Fox Chapel Area High School.

The School Board's annual reorganization meeting will be held December 4, immediately following the December combined agenda study session and regular business meeting at Fox Chapel Area High School.

All Board meetings are held on Mondays at 7 p.m.

Treasurer Joel R. Weinstein; Robert Mauro; Somer Obernauer Jr.; Lisa M. Rutkowski; Eric C. Schmidt; and Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D., are also members of the Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors.

**Indicates a combined agenda study session and regular business meeting.*

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2016-2017 FACTS & FIGURES

2016-2017 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (K-GRADE 5)

Fairview Elementary School.....	345
Hartwood Elementary School	354
Kerr Elementary School.....	381
O'Hara Elementary School.....	707
Total Elementary Enrollment.....	1,787

SECONDARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 6-12)

Dorseyville Middle School (6-8).....	929
Fox Chapel Area High School (9-12).....	1,356
Total Secondary Enrollment.....	2,285
Total District Enrollment.....	4,072

CLASS OF 2016

The total number of graduates in the Fox Chapel Area High School Class of 2016 was 375. The percentages of 2016 graduates entering some type of postsecondary education were as follows:

Four-Year Colleges	279 or 74%
Two-Year Colleges.....	59 or 16%
Total Continuing Education.....	338 or 90%

AVERAGE SAT SCORES

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Class of 2016.....	563	572	557
Class of 2015.....	562	574	561
Class of 2014.....	568	583	569
Class of 2013.....	567	578	561
Class of 2012.....	554	573	549

A total of 291 members (78 percent) of the Class of 2016 took the SAT during their junior or senior year. The national average scores for all 2016 graduates taking the test were 494 in critical reading, 508 in math, and 482 in writing.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF STATISTICS

NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Elementary.....	169
Secondary	216
Total.....	385

MASTER'S DEGREE OR EQUIVALENT

Elementary	75%
Secondary	78%

AVERAGE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Elementary	17 Years
Secondary	17 Years

THE COMMUNITY

The Fox Chapel Area School District is located in a dynamic suburban community about 11 miles northeast of downtown Pittsburgh. The district includes six municipalities (the boroughs of Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel, and Sharpsburg and the townships of Indiana and O'Hara) representing a wide range of social, economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. The schools provide a comprehensive array of educational opportunities to serve the needs of this diverse population and to meet the high expectations of its residents. The district encompasses an area of about 36 square miles with approximately 30,000 residents.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Fox Chapel Area School District is a nationally-recognized, award-winning school district that produces high achievement in students, with a motivated and professional faculty and an involved and caring administration. There are six schools in the district.

VISION

The Fox Chapel Area School District will be recognized as one of the top-performing public school districts in the nation. Toward that end we will:

- Challenge each student to reach his/her maximum potential level of achievement.
- Provide scholarly experiences that deepen understanding, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, innovation, and collaboration.
- Provide an environment that promotes inclusiveness and embraces diversity.
- Foster a culture that encourages student involvement in the community and raises awareness of civic responsibilities.
- Build relationships with postsecondary institutions, businesses, and industry to create and sustain programs that prepare students to excel beyond high school.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Fox Chapel Area School District exists to maximize student learning, achievement, and development.

CORE VALUES

Respect – Responsibility – Integrity



2017-2018 Fox Chapel Area School District Calendar

August 2017				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
P/C	FC	P	P	P
21	22	23	24	25
FC				
28	29	30	31	

September 2017				
				(4)
				1
X				(8)
4	5	6	7	8
				(13)
11	12	13	14	15
			X	(17)
18	19	20	21	22
				(22)
25	26	27	28	29

October 2017				
				(27)
2	3	4	5	6
		E/+		(32)
9	10	11	12	13
				(37)
16	17	18	19	20
				(42)
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

November 2017				
				E/C(47)
		1	2	3
E/CONF	CONF+			(51)
6	7	8	9	10
				(56)
13	14	15	16	17
		E/(59)	X	X
20	21	22	23	24
X				
27	28	29	30	

December 2017				
				(63)
				1
				(68)
4	5	6	7	8
				(73)
11	12	13	14	15
				(78)
18	19	20	21	22
X	X	X	X	X
25	26	27	28	29

January 2018				
X				(82)
1	2	3	4	5
				(87)
8	9	10	11	12
P			(90)	FC
15	16	17	18	19
				(95)
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

February 2018				
				(100)
			1	2
				(105)
5	6	7	8	9
			E/(109)	P
12	13	14	15	16
X				(113)
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28		

March 2018				
				(118)
			1	2
				(123)
5	6	7	8	9
				(128)
12	13	14	15	16
				E/C(133)
19	20	21	22	23
X	X	X	X	X
26	27	28	29	30

April 2018				
				(138)
2	3	4	5	6
				E/(143)
9	10	11	12	13
				(148)
16	17	18	19	20
				(153)
23	24	25	26	27
30				

May 2018				
				(158)
	1	2	3	4
				(163)
7	8	9	10	11
				(168)
14	15	16	17	18
				(173)
21	22	23	24	25
X		K/E		
28	29	30	31	

June 2018				
				(177)
				1
				E/C(182)
4	5	6	7	8
P	FC	P/C		
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1st Grading Period – November 3 – 47 days
 2nd Grading Period – January 18 – 43 days
 3rd Grading Period – March 23 – 43 days
 4th Grading Period – June 8 – 49 days

November 6 – Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Parent Teacher Conference Day
 November 7 – Parent Teacher Conference Day (No School for Students)
 June 8 – Last Day for Students = 182 Days (unless make up days are required)
 June 13 – Last Day for Professional Staff = 195 Days (unless make up days are required)

First Semester
 8/16-18 New Teacher Induction Days
 8/21 Professional Development/Clerical Day
 8/22 & 28 Full Clerical Days
 8/23-25 Professional Development Days
 8/29 First Day for Students
 9/4 Labor Day
 9/21 Fall Break
 10/11 Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
 11/3 Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
 11/6 Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & PT Conf Day
 11/7 Parent Teacher Conference Day
 11/22 Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
 11/23-27 Thanksgiving Break
 12/25-1/1 Winter Break
 1/15 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday & Professional Development Day

Second Semester
 1/19 Full Clerical Day
 2/15 Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
 2/16 Professional Development Day
 2/19 Presidents' Day
 3/23 Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
 3/26-30 Spring Break
 4/13 Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
 5/28 Memorial Day
 5/30 Kennywood Day & Early Dismissal
 6/8 Last Day for Students
 Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
 182 Days (unless make up days are required)
 6/10 Commencement
 6/11 Professional Development Day
 6/12 Full Clerical Day
 6/13 Professional Development/Clerical Day
 195 Days (unless make up days are required)

I New Teacher Induction Day
C Clerical Day
FC Full Clerical Day
 (No School for Students)
P Professional Development Day
 (No School for Students)
E Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
X Holiday/Break/No School
+ Act 80 Day
CONF Parent Teacher Conference Day
K Kennywood Day



April 9-May 4 shaded areas indicate PSSA testing windows. January 8-22 and May 14-25 shaded areas indicate Keystone Exams testing windows. Refer to the FCASD website (www.fcasd.edu) for specific grades tested in each time frame. **Make up days (if necessary): June 11, 12, and 13, 2018**

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.
Deputy 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 Student Achievement and Instructional Verification: Daniel DiDesiderio
Director of Ancillary Services: Daniel Breitzkreutz
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, visit the Fox Chapel Area School District website at www.fcasd.edu.

The athletic events calendar can be found on the Fox Chapel Area School District athletic website at www.fcasathletics.org and click on "SCHEDULE STAR."

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., Deputy Superintendent; Kathleen Anuszek, Board Secretary; Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D. (2017 - Region II); and Eric C. Schmidt (2019 - Region I)

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

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.