

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

Dedication and hard work are the hallmarks of any successful school district. If education is to be elevated, everyone must work together and be truly dedicated to our students. It's not enough to simply say we put children first. We must *really* put children first and mean it.

What happens when everyone in the school community puts children first and means it?

- Students succeed because every day they exhibit hard work and dedication. In this magazine you will see examples of how years of hard work and dedication lead to high student achievement. This includes our National Merit Semifinalists and the 143 new students inducted into our National Honor Society – and there are many more. I am sure that these students, as well as every graduating class, will find post-graduate success as they continue their journey of hard work and dedication.
- The success of students would certainly not be possible without the dedication of our district parents who always put their children first and make the commitment to education a priority. Even after a long day-on-the-job, parents work with their children to be certain that they complete their assignments, study, and are ready for school. They also participate in school activities and parent groups and volunteer in the classrooms and at the schools. These parents are setting the example of how home and school work hand-in-hand to make successful students.
- Of course, our teachers continue to show their dedication and commitment day-after-day by truly putting their students first. In addition, they are also committed to keeping up with the best educational practices and working for the success of their students. Their dedication is demonstrated by the extra effort they put forth to ensure that every student masters his or her academic studies. The members of our support staff, as an integral part of the educational team, also help students succeed.
- Our School Board members exhibit a tremendous amount of dedication and hard work. In fact, one School Board member, Joel Weinstein, recently retired from the Board after more than 21 years of service. Another member, Sandra Garbisch, has been on the Board for 22 years. Our School Board members work without any monetary compensation and we appreciate each one's commitment to our students and their futures.
- If you ask any coach, it's dedication and hard work that are the keys to the success of any program. The success of our athletic teams this fall season is a testament to this philosophy. The coaches are dedicated to their players so that they can be the best they can be. Players are dedicated to their sport, attending practices, working tirelessly, and always putting forth their best efforts. And, not only are our student athletes dedicated to their sport, they are also dedicated to their academic studies.

It can be easy to take for granted what we have here in the Fox Chapel Area School District. But let me assure you that there is a great deal of hard work and dedication that make an exemplary education possible. Every day we put our children first. We look forward to the additional successes that the combined dedication and hard work of our whole community will bring.

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.




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Internationally-known author and illustrator Dav Pilkey showed off his new look.

## CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS AUTHOR VISITS O'HARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In a rare visit to a school, Dav Pilkey brought laughter and delight to the student body at O'Hara Elementary School in September. The internationally-known author and illustrator writes books such as the Captain Underpants series and his latest series, Dog Man, that are widely read by young readers. The event was also videoconferenced to several other elementary schools in the region.

"This was me when I was a kid," Mr. Pilkey said as he drew an illustration of himself. He said he was a pretty happy second grader. However, he also said that

he couldn't pay attention very well in class and was later diagnosed with ADHD. Because he would sometimes be disruptive in the classroom, his teacher would send him out to a desk in the hallway. It was there that he could do one of his favorite things – draw – and he began developing his first superhero, Dog Man. He also remembered that later in the year, his teacher said the word underpants, and the entire class burst into laughter. He wanted to keep his classmates laughing, so he developed the character Captain Underpants to entertain them.



Mr. Pilkey drew a funny face on a book that was written about him. The book tells the story of why he dropped the "e" off of his first name. He said he worked at Pizza Hut® and they forgot to put the "e" on his name tag. He kept Pizza Hut's spelling of his first name!





Mr. Pilkey fist-bumped every student as they left the assembly.

Mr. Pilkey said that even though his school days were sometimes difficult, he was fortunate to have supportive parents. “I owe credit to my mom,” who told him to “look at problems as opportunities.” He described how he used his extra energy and imagination to create his characters on paper and, beginning with his first Captain Underpants story published in 1997, books that bring laughter as well as a love of reading to children.

Mr. Pilkey’s Captain Underpants series has sold 70 million copies worldwide. According to his website, he has written and illustrated numerous popular, award-winning books for children, including both the Captain Underpants and Dumb Bunnies series; “Dog Breath,” winner of the California

Young Reader Medal; and “The Paperboy,” a Caldecott Honor Book. Many of his characters evolved from those second-grade illustrations, including the half-man, half-dog superhero, Dog Man.

“Students *love* his books,” said O’Hara Elementary School librarian Karen Fornari. “I can’t keep his books on the shelf. We have a long waiting list in the library for his Dog Man books.”

Following his presentation, Mr. Pilkey greeted each of the O’Hara students with a fist bump as they walked out of the auditorium. Each student was also invited to bring a book for Mr. Pilkey to autograph, and he took the time to sign several hundred books.

Third grader Leo Vandapel took Mr. Pilkey’s latest book, “Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties,” to be signed by the author. “They are really funny,” he explained as to why he likes Mr. Pilkey’s books. Leo said that Little Petey (the bad cat) was his favorite character in the Dog Man series. He also said that he and his father had traveled to the Carnegie Library the day before for a presentation by his favorite author, and it was the first time he had ever gone to see an author in person. “I met him. He was a great guy,” Leo said, and added about the experience, “It was really cool, and I felt special.” He also said he learned from Mr. Pilkey’s presentations that “If you don’t succeed, keep on doing until you can.”

The author visit at O’Hara was sponsored through the Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures Words & Pictures program with support from the EQT Foundation.



Mr. Pilkey drew a picture of one of his favorite characters as he told the students about his life.





## DMS HONORS LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

“We need to remember that although natural instinct is to run away from danger, our first responders were running toward it,” Dorseyville Middle School teacher Todd Ashbaugh told his students, referring to the first responders in New York City following the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. “They are the real heroes.”

As a part of the school’s September 11 remembrance, DMS students from Team 7A wanted to do something meaningful to show appreciation for local first responders – those police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel who protect and serve the community every day. The students thought it was fitting to host a breakfast in their honor.

Approximately 25 first responders attended from local municipalities.



They were treated to a full breakfast catered by John Marshall Catering, who helped sponsor the event along with a Pittsburgh-based foundation. Each student also contributed \$5 to help cover the cost.

According to Indiana Township Police Chief Robert Wilson, this was the first time they had ever been honored in this way, and he was especially grateful for the one-on-one time to talk with the students.

“So often the police are represented in the media to be the enemy, whereas we see ourselves as being the friend in most circumstances,” Chief Wilson stated.

Sharpsburg Police Chief Tom Stellitano shared that he feels a very real connection with the community. He grew up in Sharpsburg, graduated from Fox Chapel Area High School, and has been an officer on the Sharpsburg force for 27 years. One of his main goals since he became chief over a year ago is for every officer in his department to connect even more with the community and to reach out to youth on a more personal level.

“This is great,” he said. “We need more of this in the world. We need more kids interacting with the police.”

Some of the 7A students actually have relatives

who serve as first responders who also attended the breakfast. Alexis Fabrizi said that she is proud of her dad, 14-year O’Hara Township police veteran John Fabrizi. “It’s important to thank your officers, firefighters, and EMS for their service and what they do for us to protect us,” she said.

Seventh grader Oona Kreidler shared a personal story about the events of 9-11 with her class. Recently she talked with her dad who was in New York City in a business meeting on the very day when the planes struck the World Trade Center. She said her dad could see the twin towers from where he was at his meeting. At first, they assumed that it was a small plane that struck the first tower. But when they were told another plane had hit, they knew it was much more serious. “My dad said he knew the skyline would look different,” Oona stated. “It was built so it wouldn’t tip over, so it just went straight down.” She said her dad had to take a ferry out of the city and the line was 10 blocks long. It took him all day to get home.

“A lot of first responders died on 9-11 and they showed a lot of selflessness,” Oona added. “Even at our age, it’s important to learn about the everyday dangers that they face.” She felt the first responders breakfast was important because “Every little thing counts and it should always be acknowledged.”



## 16 SENIORS RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM

Three Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists are Albert Liu, Elizabeth Mountz, and Jordan Taxay. The Semifinalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors and have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million to be offered in the spring of 2018.

Additionally, 13 high school seniors were named Commended Students. They are: Emilia Bianchini, Christopher Bonavita, Emelyn Broniek, Theodore Faucher, Nicholas Fennell, Won Ho Kang, Shania Khatri, Jacob Klein, Margaret Lazzara, Adam Mattioli, Rebekah Polcyn, Lucy Stone, and Jorgen Wu.

This year's National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students were selected based on their 2016 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.



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

The Fox Chapel Area High School 2018 National Merit Semifinalists.

## HARTWOOD TEAM CAPTURES BATTLE OF THE BOOKS TITLE

The 2017 Fox Chapel Area School District Battle of the Books winning team was the Super Smash Chapters from Hartwood Elementary School. The team members were fourth graders Quinn Carey, Sam Kieffer, Ethan Li, and Owen Wilson. The team managers were parents Mary Ellen Carey and Terri Kieffer.

Each year, the Fox Chapel Area elementary school librarians sponsor

the Battle of the Books tournament. Fourth and fifth grade students form teams and read and study books from a selected book list as part of the seven-week program and parent volunteers serve as team managers. During the competition rounds, the students answer questions about the books they have read. At the end of the competition, the winning team takes the Battle of the Books trophy back to their home school for a year.

## STUDENTS TO APPEAR ON "HOMETOWN HIGH Q"

Fox Chapel Area High School senior Claudia Simon, junior Daniel Andrud, and sophomore Rajeev Godse recorded their episode of KDKA's "Hometown High Q" in October where they faced teams from Deer Lakes and South Fayette high schools. Their Fox Chapel Area High School sponsor is gifted education teacher Lisa Gibson.

"Hometown High Q" is a Saturday-morning high school academic quiz show presented by KDKA-TV in partnership with Westfield Insurance. It is open to students from the entire KDKA-TV viewing area (Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, Northern West Virginia, and Northern Maryland) who compete in teams of three for academic grants and



recognition. The initial round includes 81 teams and winners advance to the playoff rounds. The show is hosted by KDKA-TV's Rick Dayton.

Tune in to see the students in action and to find out if the Fox Chapel Area High School team moves on to the playoffs when Hometown High Q airs on Saturday, December 23, at 11 a.m. on CBS.



On a recent tour of Kerr School, Doris Bauer Riethmiller found where her office was in the 1950s – it is currently a computer room on the second floor.

A school photo of Mrs. Riethmiller from the 1950s.

## LONG-TIME RESIDENT RECALLS KERR'S 90-YEAR HISTORY

Local history says that Kerr School opened in 1929. The building, located on Kittanning Pike in O'Hara Township, included eight grades. It was named after the Kerr family who donated the property on which it was built. It was located about halfway between the one-room Robinson School on Squaw Run and Dorseyville roads and the four-room Seitz School along Kittanning Pike, that were consolidated to make the new "modern" school. Anyone who walks through the school can see that there have been multiple additions and updates over the years.

Of course, the written history tells the story of Kerr School and how the building changed over the years, but it cannot convey the warmth and substance of the students and teachers who walked the building's halls for nearly 90 years. However, when discussions began last year about constructing a new Kerr on the same property, a family of three generations of Kerr School alumni stepped forward, whose presence at the current school spans nearly its entire history, to tell their story. Ninety-nine-year-old Doris Bauer Riethmiller remembers well – she

attended Kerr the year it opened as a fifth grader, later sent her own children to school there, worked there, and her grandson also attended there. Before there was a Fox Chapel Area School District, Mrs. Riethmiller can remember and tell the story of Kerr School in a way that no written history can!

Mrs. Riethmiller said she moved to the western part of O'Hara Township when she was a little girl. She had lived in Lawrenceville and moved with her parents to her grandpa's



A photo hangs on the wall at the current Kerr Elementary School featuring second graders from the 1936-37 school year.



dairy farm after her grandma passed away. She remembered that there was no indoor plumbing and that they went outside to pump their water. Although the house itself is no longer standing, the pump is still there on the family's former homestead today, she said.

### ***New Modern Kerr School Opens***

Mrs. Riethmiller attended the four-room Seitz School beginning in first grade in the mid-1920s. There were two grades per room and she remembers her teacher, Miss Landis. When Kerr School opened, she moved to the new school beginning in the fifth grade. "There was a lot more space with everything," and each grade had a classroom to itself, with each class having about 25-30 students. "This place was humongous as far as we were concerned," she said. She also remembers Miss Hodil, her former teacher, who had moved from Robinson School and then taught at Kerr. A book written on O'Hara Township's history, "Portrait of an American Community O'Hara Township, PA," says that Miss Hodil taught in the township's schools for 40 years. Mrs. Riethmiller also fondly remembers Miss Poppleton, another former teacher, who first taught at Seitz School and then moved to Kerr when it was opened.

During her teen years, Mrs. Riethmiller and several of her friends started an informal group called the JD (Junior Depression) Girls. She graduated in 1936 from Aspinwall High School since O'Hara Township did not have a high school of its own. In the meantime, Kerr School expanded to include ninth and tenth grades.

Mrs. Riethmiller went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Pitt and married Bob Riethmiller in 1941. World War II interrupted their new life, and their son, Bill, was born while her husband was overseas. She said it took six months for the news to catch up with him on whether he had a baby boy or girl! She also described how when he was shipped to the South Pacific in the final months of the war that he was not permitted to tell her where he was. So that she would have some peace of mind, he wrote the island where he was on

the envelope and by steaming off the stamp she could see where he was at the time he wrote each letter.

### ***Mrs. Riethmiller Gives a Hand, Stays for Years***

Right after Mr. Riethmiller came home from the war, they lived in a second-floor apartment of her parents' house in Aspinwall. They then bought land on Kittanning Pike



Mrs. Riethmiller and her friends from the early 1930s, the self-named JD (Junior Depression) Girls.



Mrs. Riethmiller's son, Bill, is pictured in 1955 with his Kerr School class taught by Miss Hodil.

and built their own home. Their children, Bill and Roberta (Bobby), then attended school at Kerr and she joined the parent-teacher group. It was then that Mrs. Riethmiller met Dr. John Cober, the Kerr School principal. She said that he asked her to give him a hand answering phones and typing for a few weeks after the school secretary eloped one weekend. "The couple of weeks lasted four years!" Mrs. Riethmiller said laughing.

It was inevitable that Mrs. Riethmiller would teach. Her first taste of teaching came when she was in fourth grade and a teacher had to leave for a doctor's appointment so they asked her to monitor the classroom for two hours. "I went and read them a story and I decided that was what I was going to do with my life." Her big opportunity came when "A man teaching social studies took off for New Jersey because of better wages." Dr. Cober, knowing she was a Latin and English major, but had a minor in social studies, had her teach seventh and eighth grade history and geography classes at Kerr.

Dr. Cober moved on after the merger that formed the Fox Chapel Area School District in 1958 and he became supervising principal (superintendent) of the new district. At that time, O'Hara Township didn't have a high school so those students went to five other schools until Fox Chapel Area High School opened in 1961. Mrs. Riethmiller recalled that her son Bill attended Etna High School, graduating in 1962, and Bobby graduated from Fox Chapel Area High School in 1964. Mrs. Riethmiller eventually moved to Aspinwall School to teach English and then to Dorseyville Junior High until her retirement in 1981.

Bobby got married to Dave Egelston and she and her husband also lived in the Fox Chapel Area School District. Their son, Brian, attended Kerr and Fairview elementaries and he graduated from Fox Chapel Area High School in 1997.

Brian has since moved away from the area ending the family's legacy at Kerr School. The final fifth grade class is expected to "graduate" from the current Kerr Elementary School in June of 2019. Construction on the new Kerr Elementary School is planned to begin in the spring of 2018 with the project scheduled to be substantially completed in the late summer or fall of 2019. The new school will be located on the present Kerr property.



## 2017 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

**F**ox Chapel Area High School held its annual National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony September 19.

This year, 143 students were accepted. Those inducted included: seniors Georgia Bordean, Luke Brown, Jhair Colan, Sally Dean, Jakob Dunn, Margeaux Essey, Nicholas Fennell, Jonathan Folkerts, Annamaria Fort, Sarah Fownes, Mark Hagan, Khalid Husain, Molly Kelly, Cameron Krally, Shane Krhovsky, Matthew Ling, Cassandra Oliva, Jacob Orban, Anna Paviglianiti, Abigail Pitcairn, Jessica Schwartz, Charles Smith, Elizabeth Sodini, Matthew Treadwell, Kathryn Way, Jacob Wecht, Ryan Weinberger, and Kacie Zakin. Juniors inducted included: Vaishavi Agrawal, Mattias Ahlers, Morgan Anderson, Daniel Andrud, Elyse Armstrong, Anna Aupke, Abigail Baldauf, Emily Ben, Madison Borkovich, John Michael Bozzone, Justin Breen, Victoria Brokaw, Avery Bursick, Jonah Cagley, Kate Carnevale, Billie Caruso, Ian Chang, Shannon Coleman, Sydney Condron, Diana Crookston, Ashley Cynkar, Leah Fetting, Hannah Flanders, Anna Folkerts, Margaret Fox, Wesley Fravel, Kristen Friday, Noah Fritsch, Gabriel Fynsk, Nicole Garcia-Tunon, Flora Gladwin, Matthew Good, Jonah Green, Arnav Gupta, Eric Gurklis, Marissa Hardiman, Sanjana Harish, Theresa Heidenreich, Alana Herceg, Hannah Higgins, Cara Himmel, Rachel Himmel, Olivia Hourvitz, Mia Hursh, Oscar Izenson, Jane Jacobs, Paige Johnson, Eui Il Jung, Jayanth Kashyap, Elizabeth Kaslewicz, Courtney Kennedy, Meredith Kenney, Ryan Kerr, Sarah Khanzada, Michael Kilmer, Hannah Kim, Trevor Klatt, Alaina Kotchey, Zachary Lakkis, Sadie Lorence, Maria Luciana, Elizabeth Mautino, Connor McAtee, Tristan McClelland, Margaret



McCoy, Catherine McDonough, Owen McManus, Sabrina McQuarrie, Alexandra Meinert, Alyssa Melani, Mitchell Miles, Makenzie Miller, Nishika Mohnot, Eric Moore, Danielle Moretti, Brian Mulhern, Adina Munin, Vy Nguyen, Michela Nicholas, Jared Nord, Jessica Paper, Hannah Perry, Olivia Pistella, Sofia Porter Bacon, Sara Rabbitt, Madeline Richards, Nathaniel Roe, Emily Rosen, Demi Rymer, Julie Scheffler, Kathryn Schwartzman, Ryan Setzenfand, Reed Seybolt, Robert Shymansky, Jonathan Simon, Sarah Sinnott, Grace Stasolla, Chelsea Taylor, Michael Trageser, Annika Urban, Glenna Van Dyke, Kaitlyn Veltri, Kyle Wagner, Christina Wang, Gina Wang, Brandon Wei, Kenyon Weis, Landon Williams, Kayla Wise, Margaret Woodwell, Ziya Xu, Erasmia Yager, Chloe Yofan, Zachary Yonas, and Hosoo Yoo.



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 and/or 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.



## NEW DMS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SEEKS TO HELP STUDENTS SUCCEED

**A**s Cassandra Pencek walked away from her interview for the assistant principal position at Dorseyville Middle School, she said she was so excited about the job, she found herself saying, “I *have* to be a part of the Fox Chapel Area School District.” She impressed the district’s interview team as well and she was selected as the new DMS assistant principal, replacing Timothy Mahoney who is now the district’s director of special education and pupil services.

Prior to her interview, Mrs. Pencek said she already knew about the district’s reputation for student growth and innovation, and she was impressed with the overall positive impact the district has on student success. But, during her interview, Mrs. Pencek said she was especially impressed by the district’s team of leaders and their “consistent focus and support toward reaching the district’s goals.” That’s when she knew that Fox Chapel Area would be a great professional fit.

Mrs. Pencek, who started her job at DMS in mid-October, stated, “What I like best about the district is the use of data to drive decisions and the shared ownership toward the common goal. In order to make decisions about instruction, curriculum, assessment, and professional development, we have to know the data inside and out. This deep level of data analysis ultimately results in student growth.”

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*“We will work together to ensure that all of our students are making growth and striving to do their best.”*

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With much of her experience being in teacher professional development and instruction, she said she plans to be in the classrooms helping to guide and support teachers. “I operate with three core values guiding my leadership: student-focused, data-driven decision-making, and shared ownership,” she explained. Her main goal is helping students succeed. “It’s important that as a team, we know our areas of strength and our areas of concern in terms of student achievement and growth. We will work together to ensure that all of our students are making growth and striving to do their best.”

Mrs. Pencek shared that although she began her career as a kindergarten teacher in the Ft. LeBoeuf School District near Erie, her path into educational administration is unique as she spent more than a decade working with Step By Step Learning, LLC, an educational-consulting company based

in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. Her work there as a senior educational consultant afforded her the opportunity to work with many school districts across Pennsylvania and Ohio and to learn from experts in the field of reading and data analysis. She was also instrumental in literacy improvement projects in school districts

and provided professional development and coaching to administrators and teachers. “I worked with many amazing leaders who inspired me to become a principal,” Mrs. Pencek said.

She is particularly proud of her part in designing and implementing a pre-kindergarten summit in the Seneca Valley School District, where she worked as an elementary assistant principal prior to her job at DMS. The summit was held for pre-kindergarten providers in the school’s attendance area and helped the district develop a relationship with the pre-K providers. She also is especially interested in language arts and, specifically, reading. She said she is “fascinated” by the history of language, reading, and writing and is fortunate to have been able to learn and grow from many experts in the field of reading.

Mrs. Pencek was recently accepted to the doctoral program at Gannon University and will begin her studies next fall. She holds a principal certification from California University of Pennsylvania, as well as a master of reading with a reading specialist certification and a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and early childhood from Slippery Rock University.

Mrs. Pencek grew up in a small town about two hours north of Pittsburgh called Linesville, Pennsylvania, where the town has one traffic light and is best known for the “Spillway, Where the Ducks Walk on the Fish.” She and her husband, Jarrad, now live in Cranberry Township, and the couple has two young children. She said that she and Jarrad are interested in “all things that their two young boys enjoy” and they often spend time watching their sons’ sporting events. In addition to spending time with family and friends, Mrs. Pencek also enjoys running, bike riding, and vacationing at the beach and is an avid reader.



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio



Some Photos Courtesy Hill's Studio

## HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING A FAMILY EVENT

Over the last several years, Fox Chapel Area High School's Homecoming has become a family event. This year's October 6 celebration featured a pregame community carnival that included bouncy houses, a petting zoo, food trucks, pony rides, live music, and games. The theme was "Decades" and the members of each high school class performed their annual skits prior to the game. The king and queen were crowned during halftime. The band performed and the teachers' association also held a food collection to benefit the district's Backpacks for Hunger program and the All of Us Care program. The weather was beautiful and the event was well-attended. As an added bonus, the Foxes won their game!

All homecoming activities were coordinated and sponsored by the Fox Chapel Area High School Student Government.











The entire ensemble performed during the major works concert.

## ANNUAL MAJOR WORKS CONCERT

### *Students Collaborate with Outside Music Ensembles*

The Fox Chapel Area High School choirs and the ambassador orchestra presented their annual major works concert in October for an audience of 600 people at the Syria Shrine. The program included a collaboration with intergenerational women's choir Belle Voci of Pittsburgh, the Seton Hill University Setonia (women's chorale), and the Giambelli String Quartet.

The concert featured the Fox Chapel Area High School Concert Choir performing "Frostiana: Seven Country Songs" by Robert Frost, set to music by Randall Thompson. According to Fox Chapel Area High School Choir Director Benjamin Murray, "Frostiana" is a wonderful work that captures the deceptive simplicity of Robert Frost's poetry and created the opportunity

for the students to connect musical structure with poetry.

The combined women of the Fox Chapel Area High School choirs, as well as the ambassador orchestra and the college, community, and professional music ensembles, also presented a full performance of Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater." The performance featured professional vocalists soprano Meghan DeWald Althouse and contralto Daphne Alderson.

"In my opinion, no composer has been able to create such a beautiful contrast with two vocal lines more than Pergolesi in his 'Stabat Mater,'" Mr. Murray stated. "While not intended for a large mass choir, the power and beauty of the work when performed by 180 women and instrumentalists is incredible."

Mr. Murray was enthusiastic about his student choirs having the opportunity to work with the college, community, and professional musicians. "Collaborative performances are always exciting and beneficial to our high school students who see and hear how they can participate in music in the future. This performance brought together a high school, college, and community chorus of women; our high school orchestra; and a professional string quartet. For everyone involved, it was a really rewarding experience."



Belle Voci and the Seton Hill Setonia joined the combined women of the Fox Chapel Area High School choirs.



The Fox Chapel Area High School Concert Choir performed during the major works concert.



Members of the Giambelli String Quartet joined Fox Chapel Area High School's Ambassador Orchestra for the performance.



The cover artwork from the program was created by Fox Chapel Area High School choral music student senior Sydnee Pilarski. The students also created other artwork and poetry as part of their study to connect musical structure with other art forms.



## FALL ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

Fox Chapel Area High School sponsors 10 fall interscholastic sports teams each year and, once again, the district was well represented at the WPIAL and PIAA championships. The girls' doubles tennis program won a third consecutive state title and a fourth consecutive WPIAL championship, and the

girls' cross country team won the PIAA crown for the first time in school history. In addition, nine out of 10 teams advanced to the WPIAL playoffs, five were section champions, and four teams went undefeated in their sections.

## AMANDA NORD & CHARLOTTE JAMES WIN PIAA TENNIS DOUBLES TITLE

Tennis partners Amanda Nord and Charlotte James spent the first weekend in November together in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and arrived home with a lot more than a pocketful of chocolate. Even sweeter, they returned to the Fox Chapel Area as repeat PIAA Class AAA doubles tennis champions, and with Amanda's third state gold medal in three years. Amanda is now the most decorated athlete in Fox Chapel Area High School history.

While this is the second go-around for senior Amanda and sophomore Charlotte as a duo, Amanda has made the trip to Hershey Racquet Club twice before. As a freshman, she and Laurel Shymansky were the PIAA runner-up, and then the following year they won the title outright.

Only one other female doubles player with more state titles is Moon High School's Kelly Deep, who won four times between 1983 and 1986. Kelly also was the WPIAL's first four-time doubles champion, but after 34 years of going unchallenged, Amanda matched her record this season.

"I never thought I would have accomplished everything that I have done over the past four years," Amanda says. "A lot of hard work and dedication have contributed to that and it is truly an honor to be recognized as someone under that category. It's been crazy and fun and I am so grateful for all of it!"

While Amanda, a James Madison recruit, and Charlotte felt some pressure this year because of what was at stake, they overcame those jitters early. Coach Alex Slezak simply says, "They just did what they were trained to do, executed perfectly, and had a lot of fun doing it. It is something they will remember and cherish their entire lifetime."

"It didn't really hit me until a couple minutes before going on the court that this was my final high school match ever," Amanda says when recalling her thoughts right before the PIAA finale. "I was very sad that everything was officially coming to an end. Charlotte is one of my best friends and to think that was the last time we were playing together was a very hard thing to take in. We came out of that match with nothing but smiles on our faces and I couldn't have asked for a better way to end my senior year."

Amanda concludes her years at Fox Chapel Area High School with a doubles career record of 47-1. Her only loss came in the PIAA finals in her freshman year. She is 74-15 in singles and ranked fourth among all senior girls' tennis players in Pennsylvania. Charlotte has an undefeated two-year career record in doubles of 24-0, and is 40-6 in singles. She is ranked third among all sophomore girls' tennis players in the state.



Coach Slezak says Charlotte and his tennis team will have a great future. "Charlotte has had the privilege to be mentored by Amanda for the past two years. Next season it will be her turn to lead the team in the number one singles spot through her work ethic and character."

The girls' varsity tennis team won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 team title. The team was undefeated in section play with a record of 9-0. Additionally, Amanda and Charlotte were also crowned the WPIAL Class AAA doubles champions and the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 doubles champions. Amanda also tied a WPIAL record and set a school record winning the WPIAL title all four years of her high school tennis career. Additionally, Amanda was the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 singles champion.





# ANOTHER ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS: CROSS COUNTRY GIRLS WIN GOLD

Coach Tom Moul could barely contain his excitement when reliving the highlights of the 2017 PIAA Girls' Cross Country Championships. And, with good reason.

For the first time in the 39-year history of the program, the girls' team won it all. They not only came home with a gold medal for the school's showcase, but also with the satisfaction of knowing that what they had dreamed about and worked so hard for in the past years had actually come to pass.

"These girls have been unbelievably focused, starting with summer practices that began last June right after school ended," says Coach Moul. "They have been a special group since they were freshmen and have always been self-driven to set and reach their goals."

Under a partly sunny sky and a perfect temperature for running, the Foxes group collectively outpaced a total field of 212 runners. Junior Sarena Seeger crossed the finish line first for the team in 11<sup>th</sup> place overall with a time of 19:09. Junior Annika Urban was the second finisher for the Foxes, senior Caelan Miller was third for the team, and sophomore Grace Sisson was fourth. Sophomore Brooke Krally finished in the team's fifth place slot, and junior Anna Folkerts and sophomore Isabelle Doerr followed her to contribute to the win.

While none of the girls finished individually in the top-10, it was a testament to their strength and balance as a team that won them the gold medal with 104 points, 19 points better than Manheim Township High School and local rival Oakland Catholic, who tied for second place.

The win was especially satisfying because the team had battled Manheim



all season for the state's top ranking, and had been disappointed with their second-place finish behind Oakland Catholic at the WPIAL championships in October. After that race, Annika said being the runner-up only served to motivate them even more. "We knew we could win it," she said.

At the end of PIAAs, Coach Moul said he was checking his iPhone and refreshing the race site several times to see how his team did. "I was standing beside Grace's mom, and when the results were finally posted, I turned to her and quietly said, 'We did it.'"

It was a moment that the recently-named Pennsylvania Track & Field Coaches Association Female Cross Country Coach of the Year won't forget, nor what led up to that monumental day.

"I remember when Sarena and Annika were freshmen and they were the only two girls on the team that qualified for

states that season," says the coach. "They really set the pace for the team at that point, and since then they've been joined by some really great other runners who also want to do well."

Of Sarena, he says, "She just seems to own the course in Hershey. The runners all say it's the toughest course they face all year because of the really steep hills and curves, but Sarena loves it."

It also helps that Sarena has a great pace on the uphill and a very strong kick at the end, but her thoughts while she's running have a tremendous influence on her performance too. "The whole time I just kept thinking about how well I wanted to do, and how much we wanted to win, and how hard we've worked as a team." She continued, "We had such a great season and when we actually won, it was amazing. All of us were crying because we were so happy."

One runner the team will miss next year is Caelan, who has committed to run cross country and track for the University of Pittsburgh. However, Caelan and her teammates had the opportunity to lace up their running shoes one more time after states as they were invited to participate in the Nike Cross Regionals Northeast qualifier November 25, where the team placed third.

## BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

For the first time in school history, the boys' and girls' teams both won their respective section championships at the same time and both teams were undefeated. Junior Ian Brown and sophomore Christian Fitch both advanced as individuals to the PIAA Class AAA championships. It was Christian's second trip to the state meet.





## PLAYERS PROVE CRITICS WRONG

The Foxes' football team surprised just about everyone but themselves this season when they produced the program's best record in 15 years, advanced to the WPIAL Class 5A playoffs, and crushed about every offensive statistic in recent school history.

Their hard-nosed, aggressive style of play also got them noticed around the league and they became known as "the most physical in the conference," "one of the toughest teams we faced all year," and as deserving of "better than a number-eight ranking in the WPIAL 5A playoffs."

While the team was defeated in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs, 28-21, after being paired with the number one seeded Penn-Trafford High School, they put up nothing short of a Herculean fight. Up until the final minutes of the game, the Foxes led or were tied with the heavily-favored Penn-Trafford. It was a tough emotional loss, especially because this group of seniors was the first to come full circle with third-year head coach Tom Loughran and his staff.

The coaching team's first year was a bitter disappointment after they went 1-8 playing one of the toughest schedules in the WPIAL. Last year's move to WPIAL Class 5A was much better, although the opponents were no less competitive. This season, the team

finally played like the coaches knew they could all along. As a result, they were more confident than ever, stronger, faster, smarter, and proved capable of going head-to-head with some of the best teams in WPIAL 5A. For his role in the team's metamorphosis, Coach Loughran was named by his peers as the WPIAL 5A Allegheny Nine Coach of the Year and was also selected as a Steelers' Coach of the Week.

Their progress, says senior Jesse Cohen, a 6'5, 245-pound offensive and defensive lineman, came partly as a result of a change in attitude. "We were just tired of being known as the school that wasn't any good, and I think it helped that we had a chip on our shoulders. That was very motivating."

As a part of their tremendous success, for the first time since 1997, two players, seniors Nick Gizzo and Micah Morris, each rushed for more than 1,000 yards in a single season. Micah has interest from Brown University, among others, and this season, he broke his own school rushing record with 1,322 yards. Nick, the team's quarterback, also broke school records that go back at least 15 years by scoring 18 touchdowns for 108 points. As a team the Foxes outrushed their opponents 3,017 yards to 1,305 yards.

But one of the most jaw-dropping performances that surely beats anything since the program began in the fall

of 1961, had to be the defense's utterly remarkable feat of holding one opponent to one-yard rushing. "We've had some games over the course of my time that have been close to that, but certainly not that dominant," says Coach Loughran, who has coached for 35 years.

Also on the strength of the defense, the Foxes scored another program first when they defeated Woodland Hills High School, a perennial powerhouse that owns a vast collection of WPIAL and PIAA gold medals.

Junior receiver Cole Waxter said the senior-heavy team and coaches made something perfectly clear to the underclassmen before they cleared the Penn-Trafford locker room: "They told us that next year we have to finish what we weren't able to do this year, and we plan on doing that."

Did you know ... in 2017, Niche, a website that ranks schools and districts across the state and nation, ranked Fox Chapel Area #7 out of 73 among the best districts for athletes in the Pittsburgh area. The district also ranked #27 out of 470 in Pennsylvania.



# REMAINING FALL SPORTS WRAP UP



## Girls' Golf

The Fox Chapel Area High School Girls' Golf Team advanced to the PIAA finals for the first time since 2010, finishing fourth at the state championship. They qualified after being named the runner-up at the WPIAL Class 4A championship. It was the highest WPIAL finish for the program since the 2010 team won the championship. They competed in one of the toughest conferences in the WPIAL, which included the 2015, 2016, and 2017 state champions and several other schools that have an historic reputation for their highly-skilled players.

Additionally, senior Hannah Conroy carded the second lowest score during the team portion of the state championship. She also qualified for the WPIAL individual championship all four years of her high school career. According to Coach John Broderick, "Hannah had a great performance and it was a fitting way for her to end a great high school golfing career."

In addition to Hannah, the Fox Chapel Area PIAA girls' golf team participants included senior Cara Levicoff, juniors Nicole Garcia-Tunon and Jessica Paper, and sophomore Emily Scheffler.

## Boys' Golf

For the fifth consecutive year, the boys' golf team advanced to the WPIAL Class AAA finals. Additionally,

junior Gregor Meyer and sophomore Amani D'Ambrosio qualified for the PIAA Class AAA West Region Golf Championships. Coach Bryan Deal sees only great things ahead for the team. "We are very optimistic heading into the 2018 boys' golf season. It will be an exciting year as we return eight lettermen."

## Field Hockey

With a perfect regular season record and the WPIAL Class 3A Section 2 champions' title in hand, the girls' field hockey team went into the playoffs as the top seed and favored to win their third consecutive WPIAL championship. Things didn't quite turn out as planned, and the team's season ended prematurely after a tough and

surprising loss to eventual WPIAL runner-up North Allegheny.

The most overwhelming challenge was adjusting to the loss of key players who suffered injuries, including senior Abby Pitcairn, the most accomplished field hockey player in Fox Chapel Area High School history, and a University of North Carolina-recruit.

## Boys' Soccer

Continuing a long-held tradition, the boys' soccer team qualified for the WPIAL playoffs again this year. According to Coach Erik Ingram, "The players were in every game, including their loss to Peters Township in the first round of the playoffs."

## Girls' Soccer

Girls' soccer won its third consecutive section title and qualified for the WPIAL Class 4A playoffs for the 10th consecutive season. In the first round of the playoffs they beat Butler Area Senior High School in a close 2-1 victory that was determined only after two overtime periods and a shootout. The Lady Foxes' season concluded in the WPIAL quarterfinals when they came up short against number one seed and eventual WPIAL champions Penn-Trafford High School. Their coach, Peter Torres, was named the section coach of the year.



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio





Fox Chapel Area  
School District  
*Holiday Card 2017*

May your  
holiday  
be filled  
with sweet  
memories  
of the season.

*Fox Chapel Area  
School District*

Brandon Tilstra - Grade 1 &  
Darshen Jayaratnam - Grade 3  
O'Hara Elementary School



# FAIRVIEW STUDENTS LEARN WHAT MAKES PITTSBURGH SPECIAL

**R**epresentatives from VisitPITTSBURGH came to Fairview Elementary School November 22 to present a brand-new outreach program to the school's fourth and fifth graders. Entitled "Why is Pittsburgh Special," it is aimed at showing students that Pittsburgh is unique due to the differences of its people and that those differences are very important to our past, present, and future.

Fairview students were the first-ever to experience the new program which was coordinated by Tom Loftus, a lifelong Pittsburgh resident and now the chief marketing officer for VisitPITTSBURGH, the official tourism promotion



agency for Allegheny County. Ed Kress, Allegheny County council member, spoke with the students about Pittsburgh's unique dialect and colloquialisms. When he asked who used the word "yinz," nearly every hand in the room shot up! Kennywood's Director of Public Relations and Social Media, Nick Paradise, talked with the students about Kennywood as an historic landmark and showed an old

black-and-white video of the Jack Rabbit roller coaster. The speakers also touched upon Pittsburgh's many neighborhoods and bridges – all things that make the city special.

Although the history of Pittsburgh was included, the main message of the visit was, "Just be kind to everyone because our differences make us special."

## 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 Deputy 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 post-secondary 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.  
Deputy Superintendent:  
David P. McCommons, Ed.D.  
Business Manager: Kimberly M. Pawlishak

## District Resource Staff

Executive Director of Elementary Education and Instruction: Ashley L. Nestor, Ed.D.  
Executive Director of Secondary Education and Instruction: Matthew J. Harris, Ed.D.  
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services: Timothy A. Mahoney  
Executive Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership: Megan Cicconi  
Director of Literacy: Sari Brecosky  
Director of Student Achievement and Instructional Verification: G. Daniel DiDesiderio III, Ed.D.  
Coordinator of English Language Arts: Dana Simile  
Director of Ancillary Services: Daniel Breitreutz  
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, Ed.D.

### Hartwood Elementary School

3730 Saxonburg Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
412/767-5396  
Principal: Rachel K. Fischbaugh, Ed.D.

### 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:  
Cassandra L. Pencek  
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](http://www.fcasd.edu).  
The athletic events calendar can be found on the Fox Chapel Area School District athletic website at [www.fcasathletics.org](http://www.fcasathletics.org).

## FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Edith L. Cook, Ph.D. (2021 - Region III); Nancy B. Foster, Vice President (2019 - Region III); Sandra M. Garbisch, Assistant Secretary (2019 - Region II); Robert Mauro, Treasurer (2021 - Region III); Somer Obernauer Jr. (2021 - Region I); Lisa M. Rutkowski (2019 - Region I); Eric C. Schmidt (2019 - Region I); Terry L. Wirginis, President (2019 - Region II); Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D. (2021 - Region II); Paul J. Giuffre, Esq., Solicitor; and Kathleen Anuszek, Board Secretary.

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

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

## 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: Timothy A. Mahoney  
(412/967-2435)  
Address: Fox Chapel Area School District  
611 Field Club Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238



## THE FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, AND INSTAGRAM!

### VISIT US AT

Facebook – [facebook.com/foxchapelarea](https://facebook.com/foxchapelarea)  
Twitter – [twitter.com/fcasd](https://twitter.com/fcasd)  
Instagram – [foxchapelareasd](https://foxchapelareasd)

