

# IN

An IN Community Magazine

# Fox Chapel Area



## FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018-2019 PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow Residents,

One of the most important jobs of the School Board is approving an annual budget (please see pages 10-14). As a businessman, I look at the bottom line; as a parent, I look at the importance of providing the highest quality education possible. One of the most challenging tasks is the balancing act it takes to consider the tax burden for all residents, while still supporting high standards for our students. I believe that this year's budget has taken both of these priorities into account.

Crafting a budget is not a perfect, nor easy process. School districts continue to receive unfunded mandates from the federal and state governments and the district must contribute more and more to the state employees' retirement system. However, we never want to sacrifice our own educational programs due to budget constraints.

Fortunately, the district has a tradition of high expectations and careful budget planning. Let me assure you, the administration and School Board are very aware of the delicate balance that must be struck. We know it is in the best interests of the entire community to support a high-quality education because that value is priceless. I am very proud of this budget and the programs it supports.

Sincerely,

Terry Wirginis

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Friends,

This is my favorite time of the year. Certainly we welcome the warmer weather – especially after this particularly long winter. But I also look forward to all that the end of the school year brings, including graduation and the anticipation of what comes next for all of our students. I am proud of our students for what they have accomplished this year. I am also pleased that our district continues to receive recognition for our academic programs.

In the most recent Pittsburgh Business Times rankings, our district, as a whole, moved up from number 7 in 2017 to number 4 in 2018 among Western Pennsylvania school districts. Among the state's public schools, the district moved from number 13 to number 8. Our third graders, districtwide, went from being number 3 in 2017 to being number 1 in 2018 in Western Pennsylvania. These are some really great numbers!

Of course, test scores are not the only way we measure student success. As you read these pages, please note all of the ways that our students demonstrate skills that will last a lifetime.

One article I want to bring to your attention is the safety story. Our district, in partnership with the local police departments, have developed a comprehensive safety plan (see pages 18 and 19).

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer, but please know that we are already gearing up for the next exciting school year.

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2018-2019 PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET

The 2018-2019 Fox Chapel Area School District proposed final budget calls for budgetary expenditures of \$98,713,819. The increase in expenditures over the 2017-2018 budget is projected at \$1,907,816 or two percent. The proposed final millage rate for 2018-2019 is 19.5750 mills. This will be an increase of 0.2321 mills, or a 1.2 percent increase in millage rate. The allowable increase under Act 1, the Taxpayer Relief Act, for 2018-2019 is 2.4 percent. It is estimated that this increase will generate an additional \$808,000 to fund the district. One mill will equal approximately \$3.4 million.

The School Board approved the 2018-2019 proposed final budget at its public meeting May 7, 2018. The Board will discuss the proposed final budget at its meetings June 4 (in the O'Hara Elementary School auditorium) and June 11 (in the high school large group instruction room). The Board is expected to pass the final 2018-2019 budget at its June 11 meeting and residents are invited to attend all Board meetings which begin at 7 p.m.

The 2018-2019 proposed final budget reflects the following:

- Salary line items are expected to decrease by 1.3 percent from last year's final budget. This is due primarily to the beginning of the early retirement incentive that was offered to the Fox Chapel Educators Association. There are 10 teachers confirmed to retire effective July 1, 2018, and three are being replaced. One new elementary position is budgeted due to a potential enrollment increase at Hartwood Elementary. Please note, there are 54 teachers who have accepted the early retirement incentive and will retire over the next two years. Not all of the 54 teachers are scheduled to be replaced. Positions that will be filled will bring a savings to the district due to the lower salary of a newer teacher. Despite this reduction in staff, the district will make every effort to ensure that students continue to receive the highest quality education.
- Premium rate costs for medical insurance will increase by 1.9 percent. There are no premium rate increases for dental or vision insurance for 2018-2019. Overall costs for medical, dental, and vision insurance are projected to decrease by 2.5 percent compared to the 2017-2018 budget.
- The school district's contribution rate paid to the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) will increase from 32.57 percent to 33.43 percent. The school district will be contributing \$15,281,092 to PSERS in 2018-2019, compared to \$14,762,367 in 2017-2018 – a 3.5 percent increase in cost to the district. The PSERS trustees determine the contribution rate increase annually.
- The first scheduled repayment of the district's 2017 general obligation bond will occur in the 2018-2019 school year.
- New computer equipment purchases for the district will cost \$654,351 which keeps pace with the current plan to replace aging laptops for staff and students in all buildings.
- The district budgeted \$655,000 in costs related to technology, security cameras, and playground equipment for the new Kerr Elementary School.\*

The 2018-2019 proposed final budget is endorsed by the district's Resource Planning Committee, a group of residents with financial and management backgrounds that provide additional expertise to the School Board on financial matters.

### *PSERS and Major Budgetary Matters*

All school districts continue to face budget constraints. It is estimated that under the current rate structure proposed for funding the state retirement system (PSERS), Fox Chapel Area will pay out nearly \$55 million over the next five years. These increases – combined with the limitations on increasing tax rates imposed under Act 1 – have necessitated the district to prepare for shortfalls in the budget.

The district currently has committed fund balance reserves of \$9.5 million to cover the anticipated PSERS increases. The district utilized \$500,000 of these funds in 2017-2018 to "bridge" the gap in funding for PSERS and will continue to use committed fund balance reserves until the tax rates can keep pace and fund these costs. The district continues to reduce payroll costs through attrition and by implementing new instructional and administrative strategies to make the district more efficient and cost effective.

### TAXPAYER ESTIMATED REAL ESTATE TAX LIABILITY

The median home in the Fox Chapel Area School District in 2018 is assessed at \$212,200. The chart below depicts the estimated tax liability based on the school district millage rate of 19.5750 for the 2018 tax year using a home assessed at \$100,000; \$212,200 (median home); and \$400,000. The homestead exclusion is calculated in the change in tax liability.

		Median Home	
2017 Assessed Value	\$100,000.00	\$212,200.00	\$400,000.00
2017 Homestead Exclusion	(\$9,787.00)	(\$9,787.00)	(\$9,787.00)
2017 Net Assessed Value	\$90,213.00	\$202,413.00	\$390,213.00
2017 Millage Rate	19.3429	19.3429	19.3429
2017 Tax Liability	\$1,744.98	\$3,915.25	\$7,547.85
2018 Assessed Value	\$100,000.00	\$212,200.00	\$400,000.00
2018 Homestead Exclusion <sup>†</sup>	(\$9,655.61)	(\$9,655.61)	(\$9,655.61)
2018 Net Assessed Value <sup>†</sup>	\$90,344.39	\$202,544.39	\$390,344.39
2018 Millage Rate	19.5750	19.5750	19.5750
2018 Tax Liability <sup>†</sup>	\$1,768.49	\$3,964.81	\$7,640.99
Annual Increase	\$23.51	\$49.56	\$93.14
% Increase	1.35%	1.27%	1.23%
Monthly Increase	\$1.96	\$4.13	\$7.76

<sup>†</sup>This number is based upon the estimated distribution of gaming funds provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on May 2, 2018.

- 1.) These amounts can be reduced by two percent if paid in full during the discount period.
- 2.) Senior citizens may qualify for a property tax rebate program available through the state.
- 3.) The market value/assessed value will be reduced by \$9,655.61 for those homeowners in the Fox Chapel Area School District with an approved homestead exclusion.

In addition, the district maintains funds reserved for capital projects. The district had issued bonds during 2017 for capital improvement projects at Dorseyville Middle School and the Fairview, Kerr, and O'Hara elementary buildings. The district was able to issue those bonds at a savings due to lower market interest rates. In 2018-2019, the district will be drawing down \$655,000 from the capital projects' assigned fund balance to cover a portion of the costs (see \* on page 10) associated with the new Kerr Elementary building construction.

By implementing sound financial strategies to manage expenditures and anticipate possible revenue shortfalls, the district's future financial health continues to be stronger than many in the commonwealth.

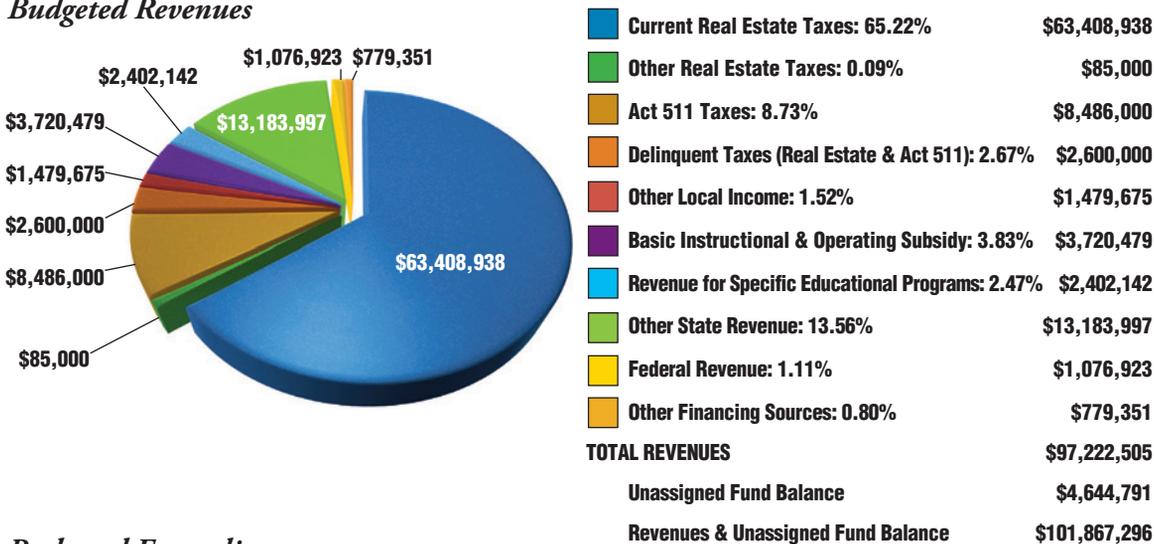
**Gaming Funds Distribution\*\***

On May 2, 2018, the Pennsylvania Department of Education provided the Fox Chapel Area School District with the amount of the district's share of gaming funds available for distribution. The proposed final budget includes a distribution of \$1,476,655. The method of distributing these funds, as prescribed by Act 1, the Taxpayer Relief Act, will be via the implementation of the homestead exclusion. Under this provision, any property in the school district that was approved by Allegheny County as a homestead will have the lesser of its taxable value, or an estimated \$9,655.61 of its taxable value, excluded for the purpose of calculating current school district real estate taxes for the 2018 tax year. The owners of the 7,827 properties in the district that qualified for the homestead exclusion will receive the equivalent of a \$188.66 reduction in their property taxes. Property owners who currently do not have an approved homestead exclusion will have the opportunity to apply again when the district sends out letters to those homeowners in December 2018.

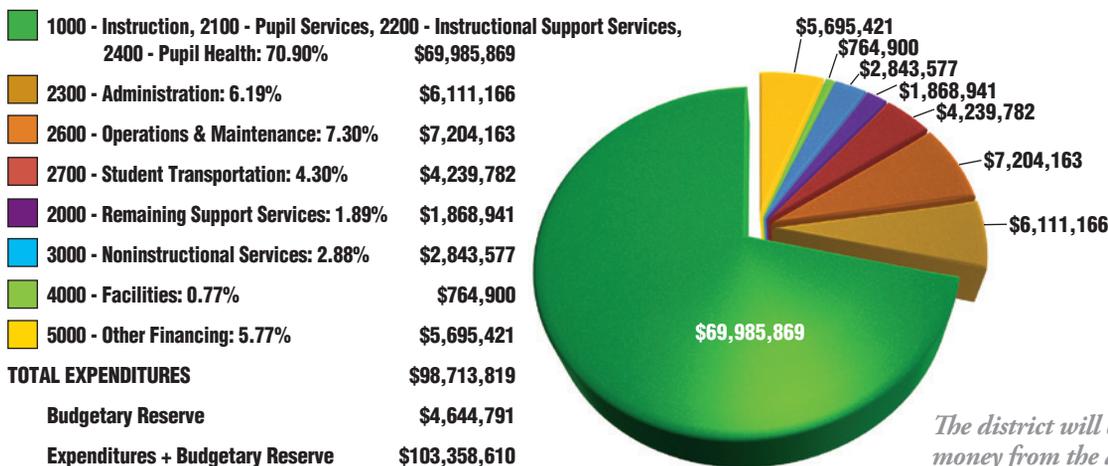
*\*\*Allegheny County has certified that there are 7,827 properties in the Fox Chapel Area School District that qualify for the homestead exclusion. If that number is adjusted by the county to include more or less properties, it could affect the amount of the final reduction.*

**2018-2019 PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET REVENUES & EXPENDITURES**

**Budgeted Revenues**



**Budgeted Expenditures**



*The district will balance the budget by utilizing money from the available fund balance.*



## PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET INSIGHT



### REGULAR INSTRUCTION 1100

2018-2019.....	\$46,960,880
2017-2018.....	\$46,354,846
Increase of .....	\$606,034
% of change .....	1.31%
Cost per student.....	\$11,796
% of budget .....	47.57%

**Includes:**

Regular instructional program salaries and fringe benefits for teachers in addition to textbooks, district program contracts, supplies, and equipment. Also includes other post-employment benefits costs.

**Comments:**

1. Includes salary and fringe benefit increases for professional staff members.
2. Includes increase due to retiree payouts for the first year of the early retirement incentive.
3. Includes increase in costs for substitute staffing.



### SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS 1200

2018-2019.....	\$11,958,700
2017-2018.....	\$11,598,361
Increase of.....	\$360,339
% of change.....	3.11%
Cost per student.....	\$3,004
% of budget.....	12.11%

**Includes:**

Salaries and fringe benefits for special education and gifted teachers and paraprofessionals. Services are mandated for life skills and learning, emotional, autistic, hearing, vision, orthopedic, and speech/language support, as well as gifted education. Also includes occupational and physical therapies, specialized materials, technology, purchased services, and tuition.

**Comments:**

1. The cost for services requested from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) is increasing based on anticipated needs of students.
2. There are increased costs for professional services that are provided by outside agencies for our students.



### ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION 1300, 1400 & 1500

2018-2019.....	\$1,603,494
2017-2018.....	\$1,808,883
Decrease of.....	(-\$205,389)
% of change.....	(-11.35%)
Cost per student.....	\$403
% of budget.....	1.62%

**Includes:**

Vo-tech, homebound, Title I services, summer and Saturday classes, and support to nonpublic schools through federal grants.

**Comments:**

1. Costs fluctuate annually based on the number of students who require services.
2. Newer summer programs, including the STEAM camp, are funded by tuition payments.



### PUPIL PERSONNEL 2100

2018-2019.....	\$3,789,347
2017-2018.....	\$3,772,178
Increase of.....	\$17,169
% of change.....	0.46%
Cost per student.....	\$952
% of budget.....	3.84%

**Includes:**

Salaries and fringe benefits for school counselors, district psychologists, a share of the administrative staff in charge of the program, and support staff. Supplies, services, and equipment to operate the program are also included.

**Comments:**

1. Includes budgeted amounts for outside educational programs/professional services.



### INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES 2200

2018-2019.....	\$4,797,441
2017-2018.....	\$4,493,025
Increase of.....	\$304,416
% of change.....	6.78%
Cost per student.....	\$1,205
% of budget.....	4.86%

**Includes:**

Salaries and fringe benefits for school librarians, curriculum coordinators, and support staff. Supplies, equipment, and purchased services for curriculum development, audio visual, library, educational television, technology, and computer-assisted instruction, as well as funds to support safety and security, are also included.

**Comments:**

1. Includes continued purchase of technology equipment, software, and supplies, as well as replacement costs for classroom and staff equipment that is obsolete.



**ADMINISTRATION  
2300**

2018-2019.....	\$6,111,166
2017-2018.....	\$6,923,112
Decrease of .....	(-\$811,946)
% of change.....	(-11.73%)
Cost per student.....	\$1,535
% of budget.....	6.19%

**Includes:**

Salaries and fringe benefits for district office staff, school principals, and clerical support staff. Expenditures for tax collection and legal services are also included. Also includes payouts for retirement/resignations of administrative personnel.

**Comments:**

1. Includes cost of supplies and software related to the administrative offices, and additional staff development for administrative staff.
2. Includes costs for advertising and printing services.
3. Prior years included a number of employees who received severance payments. This is not anticipated as part of the 2018-2019 budget.
4. The Pennsylvania Department of Education Chart of Account changes resulted in some budget items being reallocated to other areas.



**PUPIL HEALTH  
2400**

2018-2019.....	\$876,007
2017-2018.....	\$944,716
Decrease of .....	(-\$68,709)
% of change.....	(-7.27%)
Cost per student.....	\$220
% of budget.....	0.89%

**Includes:**

Salaries and fringe benefits for the nursing staff and a clerk. Also includes the fees for doctor and dental exams and nursing services the district must provide for private and parochial schools. Supplies and equipment to operate the program are also included.

**Comments:**

1. Includes the decrease of salary and benefit costs related to staffing changes.



**BUSINESS/DATA SERVICES  
2500 & 2800**

2018-2019.....	\$1,751,791
2017-2018.....	\$1,913,243
Decrease of .....	(-\$161,452)
% of change .....	(-8.44%)
Cost per student.....	\$440
% of budget .....	1.77%

**Includes:**

Salaries and fringe benefits of business/data office staff along with supplies, expenses, and purchased services to conduct the business and data processing functions of the district. Also includes expenditures for video, voice, and data-networking equipment and districtwide duplicating equipment.

**Comments:**

1. Decrease due to staffing changes and reductions in costs.
2. District printing and copying charges are allocated within this area.



**OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE  
2600**

2018-2019.....	\$7,204,163
2017-2018.....	\$7,241,172
Decrease of .....	(-\$37,009)
% of change.....	(-0.51%)
Cost per student.....	\$1,810
% of budget.....	7.30%

**Includes:**

Salaries and fringe benefits for the custodial and maintenance staff plus utility costs, custodial supplies, and equipment. Services needed to maintain the district's physical plant are included, plus salaries and fringe benefits for those responsible for the coordination of the operation and maintenance of the district's facilities.

**Comments:**

1. There is an increase in utility costs for electricity.
2. There is a decrease for supplies required to maintain buildings and grounds.



**STUDENT  
TRANSPORTATION  
2700**

2018-2019.....	\$4,239,782
2017-2018.....	\$4,078,844
Increase of.....	\$160,938
% of change.....	3.95%
Cost per student.....	\$1,065
% of budget.....	4.30%

**Includes:**

The transportation contract with the bus contractor for all of the district's regular transportation including private, parochial, and special needs schools. Also includes transportation for state-mandated early intervention programs for prekindergarten-age children (this transportation is also provided throughout the summer months, as well as during the school year).

**Comments:**

1. This budget reflects a four percent estimated increase in contracted costs.



**OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES  
2900**

2018-2019.....	\$117,150
2017-2018.....	\$117,150
Increase of.....	\$0
% of change.....	0.00%
Cost per student.....	\$29
% of budget.....	0.12%

**Includes:**

The district's share of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) administrative budget and funds for districtwide safety services.

**Comments:**

1. The cost is budgeted at the same rate as the prior year.
2. Even though rates for programs are increasing with the AIU, enrollment is not as high in these programs as prior years.



**NONINSTRUCTIONAL  
SERVICES  
3000**

2018-2019.....	\$2,843,577
2017-2018.....	\$2,818,985
Increase of.....	\$24,591
% of change.....	0.87%
Cost per student.....	\$714
% of budget.....	2.88%

**Includes:**

Salaries and supplies for student activities and athletic programs, in addition to transportation and event management for these programs. Costs for community service expenses, including school resource officers, D.A.R.E. programs, etc., are budgeted here.

**Comments:**

1. The costs of supplemental contracts and officials' fees are increasing.
2. The costs for supplies, transportation services, new uniforms, and field/facility maintenance for interscholastic events are increasing.



**FACILITIES  
4000**

2018-2019.....	\$764,900
2017-2018.....	\$123,982
Increase of.....	\$640,918
% of change.....	516.94%
Cost per student.....	\$192
% of budget.....	0.77%

**Includes:**

Funds for site and building improvements.

**Comments:**

1. Includes painting, athletic facilities improvements, emergency light installation, and ceiling tile replacements.
2. While most building improvement costs are paid through the construction fund, there is \$655,000 in costs related to the Kerr project that will be paid out of the general fund. Those funds will be drawn down from the fund balance that is assigned for capital projects.



**OTHER FINANCING  
5000**

2018-2019.....	\$5,695,421
2017-2018.....	\$4,617,506
Increase of.....	\$1,077,915
% of change.....	23.34%
Cost per student.....	\$1,431
% of budget.....	5.77%

**Includes:**

Debt service (mortgage) payments on building renovations, refunds of tax payments received in previous years, and financing for capital leases on computer equipment.

**Comments:**

1. Includes first payment of the 2017 general obligation bond that was taken out for renovation and construction projects.

*Salary and fringe benefit costs represent 75.42% of total budget.*

*The 2017-2018 budget figures reflect the adjusted budget as a result of transfers that occurred throughout the school year.*

# ROTARY DISTRIBUTES DICTIONARIES

**H**ow do you get third graders excited about the dictionary? Show them what's in it!

That's what the members of the Sharpsburg-Aspinwall Rotary did when they passed out a dictionary to each and every third grader who attends school in the district, including students in private and parochial schools. Part dictionary, part reference book, the dictionary is made to appeal specifically to younger students. In April, Rotary dictionary chair John Arch and two of his fellow Rotarians distributed the dictionaries to third graders at Fairview Elementary School. As part of his presentation to the students, Mr. Arch pointed out the reference section which includes science and math concepts, American Sign Language, and a Braille key, as well as information about U.S. history. Mr. Arch, a practicing attorney, referenced the section that includes pictures of all of the U.S. presidents and asked if the students knew which president came from Pennsylvania. It's James Buchanan, the 15<sup>th</sup> president. "I am hoping that someday someone we give a dictionary to will become president so he or she can be added to this dictionary," Mr. Arch stated.

The students were excited. As they looked through the dictionary, one of the things they discovered is that the



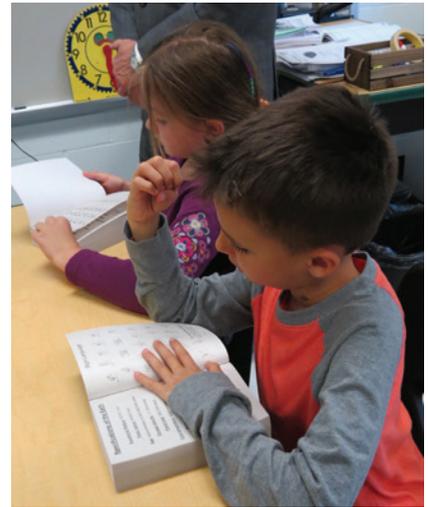
Rotarian John Arch asked the students in Kyle Adams's class questions about their new dictionaries.



A student was surprised when he found out about the longest word in his new dictionary. The word has 1,909 letters!

longest word has 1,909 letters – too long to include on this page – and is an enzyme that is made up of 267 amino acids!

Sonny Galanty, a Rotarian for 60 years and the former owner of a Sharpsburg hardware and carpeting store, said he looks forward to visiting the schools on dictionary distribution days. "It's



A third grader practiced his new skill using the American Sign Language key from his dictionary.

fabulous! The students love these books. There's so much information in them."

The Rotary is a service organization that participates in local, national, and international projects. The local Rotary raises the money to buy the dictionaries through their food booth at Sharpsburg's annual Guyasuta Days. Over the last 11 years, the Rotary has distributed 5,000 dictionaries, and according to Mr. Arch, they pick third grade because, "That is when students transition from learning how to read, to reading to learn."

Rotarian Kerry Schenker, a retired owner of an internet management company, said he particularly enjoys when he sees students a few years later at dictionary distribution day who tell him, "Hey! I know you. You gave me my dictionary," he said with a smile. "The kids really appreciate it."



The Sharpsburg-Aspinwall Rotarians who visited Fairview to distribute the dictionaries are (left to right) Kerry Schenker, John Arch, and Sonny Galanty.



O'Hara Elementary School invited School Resource Officer David Harajda to read to students during their lunchtime. The other school resource officer is Kirk Vandembord. The district's two school resource officers get to know students on a more personal level as a part of their jobs.

## RELATIONSHIPS KEY TO STUDENT SAFETY

### *School Safety Measures Discussed with Community*

**B**uilding relationships is one of the most important ways to ensure safety and prevent violence in our schools, according to Superintendent Gene Freeman, Ed.D. Parents and interested district residents were invited to attend a school safety presentation by Fox Chapel Area school officials and representatives from the local police departments on April 16. "Adults with relationships with kids are probably the greatest tool to preventing this kind of violence," Dr. Freeman stated.

Research has shown that maintaining a supportive school climate in which students experience positive relationships with adults and feel comfortable sharing when they see or hear something is key to stopping tragedies like the recent school shootings. Additionally, cooperative relationships between the school district and local police departments have combined in the

development of a safety plan that puts the school district community "ahead of the curve," said Fox Chapel Borough Police Chief David Laux. School district officials have held regular meetings for many years with the chiefs of police from Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel, Indiana, O'Hara, and Sharpsburg and they all attended the safety presentation.

During the meeting, Chief Laux told the audience that the local police departments and the school district have many resources available.

"We are not working in a vacuum," he said. He also pointed out that while many people might think that adding metal detectors, bulletproof glass, and enhanced locks may seem like the solution to protecting students and staff, the first two measures "have serious limitations." He did say that local police and school administrators are looking at enhancing locks. "We believe that would be one of the best ways to protect students and staff



Fox Chapel Borough Police Chief David Laux addressed the public at the school district's safety meeting on April 16.

during an incident.” He also reiterated the importance of relationships and said that the best way to prevent a tragic situation is to provide students with safety nets, and that students tell trusted adults what they are thinking.

An important way to ensure that happens is the presence of specially-trained school resource officers. Currently, the district has two – Kirk Vandembord, stationed at Dorseyville Middle School from the Indiana Township Police Department, and David Harajda, stationed at the high school from the O’Hara Township Police Department. Among other things, they greet students each morning, patrol the hallways, and make themselves familiar with the buildings they are assigned to work, all while developing positive relationships with the students and staff. The two district resource officers do travel to the elementary buildings any time, including to teach D.A.R.E. classes and visit with the students.

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*“Adults with relationships with kids are probably the greatest tool to preventing this kind of violence.” – Gene Freeman, Ed.D.*

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Additional safety nets available for students include school counselors, the MAPS (the University of Pittsburgh’s Maximizing Adolescent Potentials) program employees who also serve as home-school liaisons; behavior specialists; and programs that offer support to students who may be struggling with social or emotional issues.

Although the district’s comprehensive safety plan was discussed in general at the meeting, Chief Laux stated, “I cannot and will not tell you what the tactical plan is.” However, he wanted residents to be assured, “We are not here to fail you.” He equated describing the school district safety plan in detail to the offensive coordinator of a football team writing out plays so that the opposition could be prepared for them. Sharing specific details publicly could greatly compromise student, staff, and police safety.

School district Solicitor Paul Giuffre added, that although the public may want to know details of threats or incidents, federal law protects both the victim and perpetrator in incidents and that, under the law, the district cannot disclose “protected” information.

### Staff Trained to Keep Students Safe

School principals also discussed some details of the staff training and the school safety plan, as well as student supports and safety nets that are all in place to help prevent a crisis. The district uses the ALICE® method to train all staff for active shooter response. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. This program teaches how to best deal with an intruder based on the information that a person has at the time and the methods can include evacuating, barricading, or confronting. The Fox Chapel Area staff has had training and presentations on this method, as

well as follow-up drills. Additionally, students participate in age-appropriate training.

Eric Schmidt, the School Board safety liaison, stated when referring to district staff members, “I would never ever question... the dedication and professionalism and the intelligence that these people bring to work every single day and to make sure that your kids are safe.”

Mr. Schmidt also passed out information on the Sandy Hook Promise, a series of programs that targets adults and students that was developed following the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The group provides programs and practices that protect children from gun violence and also includes the Say Something app which is an anonymous reporting system.

When asked how parents and guardians could help support the district’s safety training, Dr. Freeman noted that it is important that parents share with their children that, in any crisis situation, the students should listen to an adult. “There’s no script, because every situation is going to be different. I think... what I would say... is that if you’re with an adult, listen to that adult. Listen to that adult and what they’re telling you to do.”

In addition, the district has established confidential telephone, email, and website tip lines so that students and parents can report safety issues. The entire safety meeting is also posted on the district’s YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/KVLPEXYxprQ> and the link can be found on the district’s website.

## Fox Chapel Area School District CONFIDENTIAL SAFETY TIP LINE

CALL

**412-696-1420**

EMAIL

**tip@fcasd.edu**



[www.fcasd.edu/contact/tip-line](http://www.fcasd.edu/contact/tip-line)

If you have a concern about someone or something, please let us know. Include as much information as possible, including the associated school, so that concerns may properly be addressed.



Photo Courtesy, Alex Jones Photography

at various career positions as a paramedic. Through all of these roles and working with other public safety professionals in police, fire, and emergency communications areas, I have built relationships that translate well to my current Board position. Lastly, although there are many people that do a great job of focusing on our district's safety policies and practices, my viewpoint is from a different perspective.

## KNOW YOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

### Eric Schmidt Safety Liaison on Board

**S**chool Board member Eric Schmidt and his wife, Beth Ann (Scalise) Schmidt, are both graduates of Fox Chapel Area High School and chose to raise their own family in the district. They own the home where he grew up in O'Hara Township, and they have three grown children, Deric and twins Abbie and Tori. Mr. Schmidt and his children all attended Kerr Elementary School.

Mr. Schmidt has a special interest and concern for the safety and well-being of students and families in the district, so it is fitting that he would become involved in the schools – as a former member of the high school site-based management team and then as a member of the School Board since 2012. “I decided to run because our schools are probably the most important public asset that we have and affect our collective future, positively or negatively, by how they shape our children,” Mr. Schmidt said. “With Fox Chapel Area, it’s always been incredibly positive, and a chance to be part of that is a big honor.”

Mr. Schmidt has devoted his life to serving the community. He has been working for the Allegheny Health Network (AHN) for 16 years and is currently manager of the prehospital business development for LifeFlight and prehospital care services.

#### Why did you choose to live in the Fox Chapel area?

Family is very important to Beth Ann and me and that’s the primary reason. We were living in Philadelphia when we were expecting our first child and I applied for a position at what was then Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh. The timing worked out perfectly, allowing us to return to the area with my parents in O’Hara Township and Beth Ann’s in Sharpsburg. I can’t imagine the family experiences that my kids would have missed if we hadn’t moved home.

#### Why is school safety of particular interest to you?

First, students have to feel safe to learn and the staff has to feel safe to do each of their respective jobs. I have been a paramedic for 36 years, joining Parkview VFD during my senior year at Fox Chapel Area. As I progressed in that career, I became the volunteer chief of Parkview EMS, while working

#### Why is school safety important?

Both Fox Chapel Area School District and the Allegheny Health Network/LifeFlight serve vital public functions, although they are very different – but there is one very significant similarity – and that is at the end of the day if we can’t send everyone safely home to their families, we have failed in our basic mission. In the school setting this includes all of our students of course, but as importantly, all of our staff.

#### What do you see as some of the other issues School Boards and school districts face?

We are very fortunate at Fox Chapel Area that through a combination of resources and a smart and dedicated administration, we are in a good position from all perspectives. This does not mean that we are without our challenges though. Although school districts are largely locally governed, it seems to me the areas where we hear the most concerns or that cause our district the largest challenges, come from the state or federal governments, including the PSSAs and retirement expenses through PSERS. Additionally, the federal government provides only a very small portion of our annual budget, approximately 1.1 percent, but promulgates significant regulations that we must meet. Lastly, we are in the midst of an early retirement incentive and have so many fine educators taking advantage of it. Although the financial benefits will help to keep taxes down, we must strike a balance between ensuring a high-quality education (and yes, I’ve heard the many comments about classroom size not increasing) and managing a very significant budget.

#### How would you describe your experience on the School Board?

I feel lucky to be part of an effective Board of Directors, but it’s very important to note that we are not the educational experts. The expertise comes from literally everyone else who works in our district. It’s common and appropriate to mention our teachers first, but it really goes to everyone. In the six years that I have served on the Board, and as importantly, the many years my kids attended Fox Chapel Area, I have met so many amazing people that serve a wide variety of functions that I can be nothing but appreciative and impressed.

# SENIORS PART OF WINNING TRADITION

**F**ox Chapel Area High School student athletes recently signed and/or committed to Division I, II, and III colleges and universities. The students are: Harley Beckey – Crew – Robert Morris University, Seth Bowman – Football – Mercyhurst University, Luke Brown – Football – John Carroll University, Krystyna Burdelski – Softball – Westminster College, Reed Bursic – Baseball – University of Pittsburgh-Bradford, Carson Cohen – Basketball – Tufts University, Jesse Cohen – Football – Bryant University, Jakob Dunn – Soccer – Case Western Reserve University, Joslyn Filo – Swimming – Florida Gulf Coast University, Jonathan Folkerts – Cross Country – Slippery Rock University, Andrew Friend – Golf – Central Alabama Community College,

Nick Gizzo – Football – John Carroll University, Kate Goodwin – Lacrosse – Lehigh University, Scott Hastings – Football – Grove City College, Tawnya Holben – Softball – Mount Aloysius College, Andrew Jeffrey – Track & Field – Seton Hill University, Grace Knepshield – Field Hockey – Saint Francis University, Ben Kronman – Track – Emory University, Greta Lazzara – Soccer – Case Western Reserve University, Katie Livingston – Soccer – Denison University, Alex Miles – Baseball – University of Pittsburgh-Bradford, Caelan Miller – Cross Country – University of Pittsburgh, Micah Morris – Football – Ithaca College, Amanda Nord – Tennis – James Madison University, Anna Paviglianiti – Crew – The Catholic University of America, Abby Pitcairn – Field Hockey – University of North Carolina, Paige Ryan – Field Hockey – Michigan State University, Ray Tarasi – Volleyball – Marymount University, and Brayden Thomas – Football – John Carroll University.

According to Athletic Director Mike O'Brien, "This senior class has been part of a winning tradition since their freshmen year. They have worked diligently both in the classroom and on the field or court and accomplished great things." He added that people often think that athletic directors only define success in wins and losses. "But I define success in multiple ways. Beyond all the wins and titles, these seniors are, first and foremost, really good people."

All of the students were honored at a special reception for them and their families at the high school April 27.



Student athletes from the Class of 2018 who signed to play sports in college.

## Final Numbers – At a Glance

The Class of 2018 racked up some impressive statistics.\*

- Over four years, there have been 14 teams with perfect section records, including boys' cross country (two), girls' cross country, field hockey (three), boys' golf, girls' soccer, girls' tennis (two), girls' swimming, girls' lacrosse, and boys' tennis (two).
- 23 teams were named section champions.
- The seniors participated in 1,051 total athletic games. The teams won 709 of those contests. The seniors participated in 827 section games with 554 wins.
- Five were WPIAL team champs – boys' tennis (two), field hockey (two), and boys' volleyball.
- The girls' cross country team won a PIAA championship.
- Amanda Nord won three section, WPIAL, and PIAA titles in doubles tennis.
- Abby Pitcairn has played on a U.S. national women's field hockey team since she was a sophomore.

*\*The spring 2018 athletic season is not included since the season has not yet concluded.*



A rendering of the main entrance at Kerr Elementary School.

## CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON NEW KERR SCHOOL THIS SUMMER

Plans are taking shape for the new Kerr Elementary School, and construction of the new facility is slated to begin this summer. The new building will be on the same property as the current Kerr School.

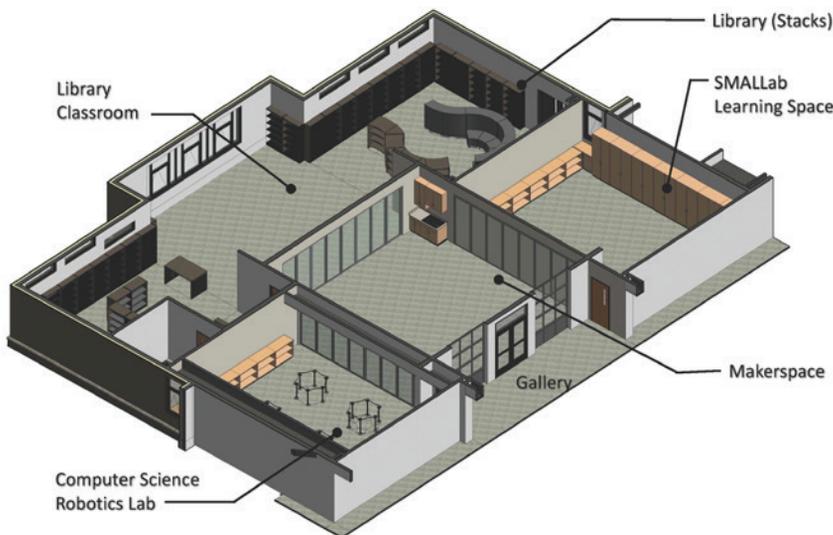
“Kerr Elementary School has a very long and proud history of serving our community for more than 90 years,” said Principal Paul Noro, Ed.D. “While this remarkable educational structure has given our students, parents, staff, and community

countless precious and cherished moments over those years, the new Kerr will bring our students innovative educational opportunities and memories for generations to come.”

In recent months, the Board of School Directors hired the architectural firm of Canzian/Johnston Associates, LLC, to work with district officials to design and plan for the construction. Thomas & Williamson Program Management is serving as the project manager.

The Board of School Directors authorized the district to advertise for bids for the project, which are slated to be awarded in June. The bids that will be awarded include general contractor and roofing, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, food service equipment, telephone data communications, fire protection, casework, landscape, and demolition contractors.

District officials anticipate that the project will officially start in mid-June with site work on the lower field (the current playground). By the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, foundations and footers should be complete and the structure will begin to take shape. Construction will continue throughout the school year.



The collaboratory area in the new Kerr.



The new construction will provide critical updates to Kerr, and will include several innovative features. Centrally located in the new building will be a collaboratory space that includes a large, central area where students will gather to work on projects, conduct research, collaborate, and plan. There will be a makerspace, a SMALLab learning space, and a computer science robotics lab, in addition to a “traditional” library. The new Kerr will include space for a language immersion program in which classes will be taught in both English and Spanish and will be open to students across the district. There will also be space for a prekindergarten classroom, along with the Creativity and Literacy Program.

“We are excited to provide our students with a new and innovative space to learn and grow,” said Ashley Nestor, the district’s executive director of elementary education and instruction. “The entire learning community is going to benefit from the design and development of our new school.”

It is anticipated the cost of the new Kerr Elementary School will be approximately \$21 million, and its completion is scheduled for the fall of 2019.



The site plan for the new Kerr Elementary School.



An O'Hara Elementary fifth grade safety patrol helped her kindergarten students at dismissal time. The safety patrols at O'Hara work several positions during the school year.

## STUDENTS TAKE ON LEADERSHIP ROLES

*Elementary Students Serve School & Community, Model Positive Behavior*

**K**err Elementary School computer literacy teacher Stan Strzempek knows from personal experience the value of student council. "From the time I was in fourth grade until I graduated, I was involved in student government. It helped shape me into the person I am today," he said. That's why he "jumped at the opportunity to start student council at Kerr and give kids that same life experience."

Kerr's student council is organized so that as many students as possible benefit from the experience. Two representatives from each third, fourth, and fifth grade class are elected and they serve for half-year terms. Fourth and fifth graders can be elected as officers. Mr. Strzempek said that on average, 44 students participate on student council during the school year.

The goal of the student council is to allow students the opportunity to become responsible leaders within the school and the community while promoting schoolwide positive behavior and modeling the ideals of respect, responsibility, and integrity. Kerr's student council meets at least three times a month during lunchtime and recess.

Mr. Strzempek conducts six lessons with each new group of student council representatives, covering topics such as setting goals, listening skills, leadership and what makes a good leader, and public speaking.

"The biggest lesson I try to promote is to take pride in helping others in school, at home, and in the community," he stated. "The reward is within your actions. At the end of the day a

smile and a thank you should be the only thing you need."

The Kerr Student Council promotes school fundraisers and activities throughout the year. Fifth grader Taylor Aluise discussed two fundraisers that student council sponsored while she served as her class representative, including the turkey feather fundraiser to collect money and gifts for needy area families, and a dog biscuit collection for service dogs. Taylor also described the end-of-the-day buddies program in which the fifth-grade representatives help kindergartners at dismissal time. "We sharpen pencils, zip up jackets, do lunch count – and anything teachers ask us to do."

Fifth grader Joe Seifried, who ran and won his election bid for president of student council, said his mother suggested he think of a problem that he wanted to fix at school. Joe decided he wanted to change the policy that students at Kerr sit at



Hartwood fifth graders help the first graders, one-on-one, to reinforce their reading skills. The reading buddies program is very popular at Hartwood Elementary.



Kerr teacher and student council advisor Stan Strzemppek discussed the concept of leadership with the student council.

assigned seats during lunchtime. He thought it would be a good idea to let students sit with their friends. “I have friends in other classes that I don’t get to talk to, and some kids might have the same problem,” Joe said. So he and two of his fellow officers, Nicky Clump and Gina Fitzsimmons, prepared a proposal that they presented to Principal Paul Noro, Ed.D., who heard them out. Dr. Noro then agreed to allow the fifth graders to sit where they wanted in the cafeteria every Friday. It’s worked out well, Joe reported.

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*“The reward is within your actions. At the end of the day a smile and a thank you should be the only thing you need.” – Stan Strzemppek*

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At Fairview Elementary School there is a student government that provides a voice for all students, made up of two representatives from each class in third, fourth, and fifth grades. According to Principal Becky Stephan, Ed.D., “We formed our student government to provide a voice for all of our students and to develop leadership, organizational, and time-management skills – working together as a team.”

To that end, representatives are paired with classes in kindergarten through second grade and meet with their buddy class once a month to share suggestions, comments, and ideas. Representatives also serve as role models for the younger students and address building-level concerns. Additionally, they maintain a student government bulletin board and a “Fox Box” suggestion box, and they communicate student concerns and ideas with faculty sponsors. The Fairview Student Government also facilitates schoolwide fundraising efforts and is currently working on a fundraiser that will benefit a school in Puerto Rico.

“Our student government representatives have said that working together for their school and community has widened their knowledge about how to ‘work around’ a problem,” Dr. Stephan shared.



The Kerr Student Council conducts fundraising activities at their school. For example, the students coordinate an annual turkey feather fundraiser and gift drive. Student council members sell turkey feathers at lunchtime to raise money for needy families in the area.

Hartwood and O’Hara students also have opportunities to take on leadership roles.

At the beginning of the school year, O’Hara Elementary fifth grade safety patrols attend two days of training and learn about being role models for younger students, as well as interacting with teachers and staff. During the school year, they are placed in various positions, and safety patrols act as guides, safety monitors, and helpers for the younger students.

According to fifth grader Nathan Yeske, being on the safety patrol is a “privilege” he has looked forward to since he came to O’Hara Elementary in second grade. “I always looked up to the safety patrols, and that’s me right now,” he said.

At Hartwood Elementary, students experience leadership and community service through several programs, including reading buddies, library helpers, morning announcers, and the safety patrol program. In addition to helping serve their school community, Hartwood principal Rachel Fischbaugh, Ed.D., said, “Leadership opportunities nurture collaboration, empowerment, and personal growth that enable students to demonstrate success in their everyday lives. I am proud that our students take the initiative to become involved in our school community.” Dr. Fischbaugh’s colleagues at each of the elementary buildings share her enthusiasm.



The members of the Fairview Elementary Student Government.



Sanjay and Arvind Seshan, students at Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School, were named champions at the FIRST LEGO World Festival held in Detroit. Inset: The Seshan brothers at a 2017 Maker Faire.

## SESHAN BROTHERS WIN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

*Share Passion for Robotics with the Community & World*

It was love at first sight... Sanjay and Arvind Seshan were introduced to LEGO® MINDSTORMS® robots at a Carnegie Science Center summer camp. Following that first encounter, the two brothers built a basic robot from a kit and, from then on, they designed and built their own robots from scratch. They watched their initial FIRST LEGO League tournament in 2010 and formed a team the next year with eight other students. The two brothers – then only six- and eight-years-old – were hooked!



Photo Courtesy Nanci Goldberg

Since then, their passion for robotics has led them to compete at FIRST LEGO League tournaments, where each team of students, ages 9-16, design, build, and program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology, then compete on a table-top playing field. FIRST is an acronym – For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. The Seshan brothers won awards at local competitions each of seven years and have represented Pennsylvania at international competitions five times. For the 2017 FIRST LEGO

Arvind Seshan presented a robotics workshop at Volunteers of America/ All of Us Care in Sharpsburg.



The Seshan brothers demonstrated their autonomous robot at a practice table at World Festival in April.



The Seshan brothers met the owner of LEGO, Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, in February 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Photo Courtesy: Lee Magpili

League competition, Sanjay and Arvind were asked to team up as coaches for another robotics team, and that year they won the Coach Award at the international competition for their dedication to their team.

Once again they excelled in international competition when, on April 28, 2018, the two won the Champion's Award at World Festival held in Detroit. The highest award in the tournament, it is given to the team that embodies the FIRST LEGO League mission and it honors the top team in each of the three judging categories that include core values/ teamwork, robot game, and research project. The Seshan brothers competed against 108 teams from 90 countries at the international level who were selected out of 35,226 teams from around the world. This year teams were challenged to research and design robots that improve the human water cycle.

Even with all of their awards, Dorseyville Middle School seventh grader Arvind says that their greatest accomplishment was their creation of *EV3Lessons.com*. "It single-handedly changed who we are and impacted others globally. We managed to bring people and teams together from all over the world."

*EV3Lessons.com* is internet-based programming lessons for LEGO MINDSTORMS robots founded by the Seshan brothers. When Sanjay and Arvind, then 12 and 10, were asked to teach a camp for another Pittsburgh-based robotics team in 2014, they discovered there were no free, high-quality lessons available on programming, so they decided to write programs themselves. "We wrote one lesson every week and published them online," Arvind stated. *EV3Lessons.com* has become a resource guide for everything related to youth robotics competitions. Currently, the website serves more than 250,000 users in 175 countries.

In addition to competing in FIRST LEGO League and writing lessons for *EV3Lessons.com*, the brothers mentor hundreds of teams locally and globally and teach programming and FIRST LEGO League workshops and camps in several states. In 2017, Sanjay and Arvind were named MINDSTORMS Community Partners by the LEGO Group.

Their mother, Asha, said the boys "have a deep sense of community and have come to the realization that they can and should pass on their knowledge and lift others up with them." They have taught locally at Volunteers of America/All of Us Care in Sharpsburg, at public libraries, and at the Sarah Heinz House. They have also made presentations in Ohio, North Carolina, and Virginia to robotics groups.

Their passion for robotics has brought some amazing opportunities, not often experienced by students so young. Their teaching has led to trips to World Maker Faires in New York and the Bay Area, World Robot Olympiads in India and Costa Rica, FIRST Innovation Faires in St. Louis and Detroit, and LEGO World in Denmark. They have also met and consulted with experts and leaders all over the world in the field of robotics.

"Getting to go to Denmark and meeting both the owner of LEGO and the chairman of LEGO has probably been the most exciting experience so far," Arvind said.

*"It single-handedly changed who we are and impacted others globally. We managed to bring people and teams together from all over the world."*

— Arvind Seshan

"Another exciting moment," according to Fox Chapel Area High School ninth grader Sanjay, "was being asked by the FIRST organization to give a speech. We were deeply honored to be on stage with Dean Kamen (inventor of the Segway),

Will.i.am, the governor general of Canada, and the governor of Michigan."

With all of their travels, the boys manage to keep up with their schoolwork, their mother said, who travels with them as their chaperone. "The faculty at Fox Chapel Area schools are immensely supportive of their passion. Yes, they have a lot of catch-up work when they return from a long trip, but teachers give them the help they need."

What does the future hold for the Seshan brothers? The two boys intend to continue their work with robotics and collaborating with others who have a passion for robots. Sanjay said, "I would love to pursue a career in robotics and engineering after I leave Fox Chapel Area High School." Arvind said he is also interested in engineering, but is still undecided on his specific career choice. "Whatever I end up doing, I am sure I will still be teaching others and doing something creative."



Students from the business practicum experience displayed merchandise in the Foxes Den.

## YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS OPEN SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS

### *Class Offers Real-World Experience*

Juniors and seniors with a keen interest in directly applying what they have learned from business courses are gaining real-world experience in a new course that is centered around a practical lab concept, the new Foxes Den. Fans of the Foxes like the selection and quality of the merchandise they can purchase in the new store. High school business education teacher Brian Yanizeski, who oversees the business practicum experience class, said, “The students have done a fantastic job researching current trends, selecting specific products, and marketing them very well.”

The class, offered at Fox Chapel Area High School for the first time this year, allows students who have already completed at least three business courses to “step further in their exploration of business,” Mr. Yanizeski said. The business education department encourages students to participate in internships, but it can be difficult for high school students to acquire a real, hands-on experience. The business experience practicum offers the opportunity for students to directly apply what they learned from their business courses to a real-world concept, while also providing a service to the community.



The Foxes Den serves not just high school students, but has a website where people can order online. The students have also done a satellite store at Dorseyville Middle School.

Depending on students’ schedules, it is offered either as a three-day- or five-day-a-week class.

By setting up their own small business operation, students are able to learn what it will be like to actually work in a business and what skills they will need as they make real business decisions with clear outcomes. Students select their area of interest which is primarily based on previous coursework and experiences in the areas of operations, marketing, and finance. The students manage everything in the store from inventory to payments to designing products and working with vendors, while also advertising the business through various channels, including social media.

“First and foremost, students learn about cooperative teamwork and communication. Everyone in the class



High school students can shop at the Foxes Den during the school day.



contributes to the overall business in their own area of concentration in a way that supports the goals and objectives,” according to Mr. Yanizeski. “Another key learning experience is the opportunity for students to connect these efforts to those outside of the high school. We work with a variety of other businesses, community members, and alumni so it allows students to learn how all stakeholders play a role.”

In addition to the shop being open during the school day, the Foxes Den has been open during special events at the high school and operates a successful online store. The students have even taken the store on the road providing students in the class the opportunity to set up and manage a satellite shop as a “pop-up” Foxes Den at Dorseyville Middle School.

Senior Benjamin Kronman, who will attend Emory University and major in health innovation and the business of real estate in the fall, took the class the first semester and concentrated on the aspect of marketing. “I liked working with my fellow classmates in a setting different than a classroom, and seeing the quick results of my work,” he said. “I really enjoyed and was surprised by the amount of independence we had in the decision-making process.”

Senior Zachary Goreczny, who plans to study business administration, said, “What I like best about the class is seeing how quickly an idea can become a product. It’s amazing to see how you can draw up a design for a new product and see it on a shirt or hat in just a few weeks.”

There were some surprises, however, even with all of the behind-the-scenes research and planning, Senior Katherine Chomko said, “As a class we have dealt with last-minute products thrown at us to be made, advertised, and sold within two days; products not turning out as we expected; and certain products that we were sure would sell, but ended up not selling at all.” But Katherine, who plans to major in accounting and minor in international business and music performance at Penn State, said that’s what makes the experience all the more valuable. “All the surprises and everything not always running smoothly is what makes this class a true real-life experience of what can happen when running a business. I would 100 percent recommend this class to the upcoming upperclassmen because of its practicality and the skills that you learn in this class that can help you in the future.”

Students agreed that they enjoyed the success of the Foxes Den. “I think it is great how much positive feedback we got from customers in the school and people in the Fox Chapel area community at large,” Benjamin said.

Visit the Foxes Den online at [foxesden.fcasd.edu](http://foxesden.fcasd.edu). Domestic shipping is always free!



Two students from the finance team took inventory at the Foxes Den. The finance team focuses on point-of-sales software, controls all inventory and product pricing, tracks payments and purchases, and develops numerous ratios and statistics to help diagnose the health of the business.



A student worked on the online store. The operations team develops store plans, works with vendors, controls online orders, and creates work schedules and procedures. They also help with product selection and implementing satellite store opportunities.



Teacher Brian Yanizeski helped students from the marketing team create an ad. The marketing team designs and implements all local and community advertising, social media, and public relations. They also aid in creating the storefront presence, window displays, and establishing the brand image.



# FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORY

## 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

### 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.fcasdathletics.org](http://www.fcasdathletics.org).

## 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

## FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL BOARD



Photo Courtesy: Hill's Studio

Front Row (left to right): Robert Mauro, Treasurer (2021 - Region III); Nancy B. Foster, Vice President (2019 - Region III); Gene Freeman, Ed.D., Superintendent; Terry L. Wirginis, President (2019 - Region II); and Sandra M. Garbisch, Assistant Secretary (2019 - Region II)

Second Row (left to right): Lisa M. Rutkowski (2019 - Region I); Edith L. Cook, Ph.D. (2021 - Region III); Somer Oberbauer Jr. (2021 - Region I); Eric C. Schmidt (2019 - Region I); and Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D. (2021 - Region II)

Third Row (left to right): David P. McCommons, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent; Kathleen Anuszek, Board Secretary; and Paul J. Giuffre, Esq., Solicitor

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.