

FOX CHAPEL AREA

School News



Fox Chapel Area School District

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Community Members,

As I look at my fellow School Board members, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to live in the Fox Chapel Area School District. I serve with such an amazing group of individuals – a group that advocates for all students with every decision, every day.

During my time on the Board, I have come to see how much a great school district impacts and uplifts the entire community, yet I realize how fragile the success of any public school system can be. So much more goes into making an exceptional school district than people realize. Truly outstanding schools benefit not just the students, but even those without children in the district. All taxpayers benefit from the high real estate values that a good school district brings. A community without great schools is not somewhere any of us would choose to live.

I must admit, that before I joined the School Board, I took the fact that Fox Chapel Area was such a highly regarded district for granted. I didn't realize the true importance of having a good school district and a positive School Board. I also had no idea of all the hard work that making a great school district entails.

But, what exactly is the School Board's job? It is to have the right administrators in place and to oversee them. It's also important for School Board members to not have a specific agenda and to not be partial to a single issue. Additionally, School Board members must be open-minded. They must hear and represent all students, parents, and taxpayers in the district – and then make decisions based on what is best for the entire community.

I have realized that no school district can maintain excellence without effective leadership from its board, administrators, and professional and support staff. No school district can be exceptional without students who are fully invested in their educations and who try their very best. No school district can be high quality without dedicated parents and guardians who support their child's learning at home. No school district can be superior without dedicated community members who buy into the district's mission and vision, and who support the goals. We are fortunate to have the best combination of all of these.

The decisions that this School Board makes are even more meaningful to me, as I am a Fox Chapel Area High School graduate. My wife, Pam, and I have seven children who also went through the Fox Chapel Area School District. We specifically chose to raise our children here because of the superior schools. It continues to be my great honor to serve as a member of my community's School Board.

Sincerely,

Terry Wirginis
School Board President



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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you a few thoughts on our School Board. I think that the public may not know or realize what a phenomenal group of individuals we have leading our school district.

One of the things that impresses me most about our School Board members is that they recognize the importance of working together for the benefit of *all* students. As elected officials, they often must put aside their own thoughts and feelings, and do what is best for the majority of students. This isn't always easy, but this group always comes together for the good of the whole. It's wonderful to work with such cooperative leaders.

Another thing that impresses me about our Board members is that they understand their role. They know they are tasked with overseeing the inner workings of the district, but that their job is not to micromanage. This starts with the Board members having a great respect for our district administrators and the jobs that they do. This type of partnership does not happen in every school district. A school board attempting to take over the roles of the district administrators never leads to a positive outcome. We are so fortunate that our Board leaves the daily running of our district to those who know children and what is best for them. This does not mean that our School Board is not involved. In fact, just the opposite is true, and they are very knowledgeable about the daily workings of our district. However, they set the vision and expectations, and then, rightfully so, expect the district administration to get the work done.

Passing a yearly budget is one of the School Board's most important and difficult tasks. The Board must maintain a delicate balance of satisfying people with children in the schools, as well as our other taxpayers. I am incredibly proud of the way the School Board handles the financial aspects of the district. They lead with the thoughts of every taxpayer in mind. We have a great school district, and that reflects in higher property values.

The Board has also recognized the necessity of keeping our facilities up-to-date and implementing the latest technology to give our students every advantage. They know that the education we are providing is one that must serve the students, not just while they are here, but well into the future.

Over the last few years, the leadership of our School Board has enabled our district to move into the top 10 districts in the state, according to the Pittsburgh Business Times. This type of high ranking doesn't happen without a concerted effort of many individuals, chief among them, the School Board.

The leadership provided by our School Board cannot be understated. It's a symbiotic relationship of trust and integrity that has been developed over the years. When you see one of our School Board members, please be certain to thank them for their dedication, hard work, and all of the time they volunteer on behalf of our children.

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.
Superintendent



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BILINGUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

Spanish Immersion Program to Debut at Kerr

A brand-new school isn't the only thing that students at Kerr Elementary will be getting during the 2019-2020 school year. The district's Spanish Immersion pilot program will also be housed there.

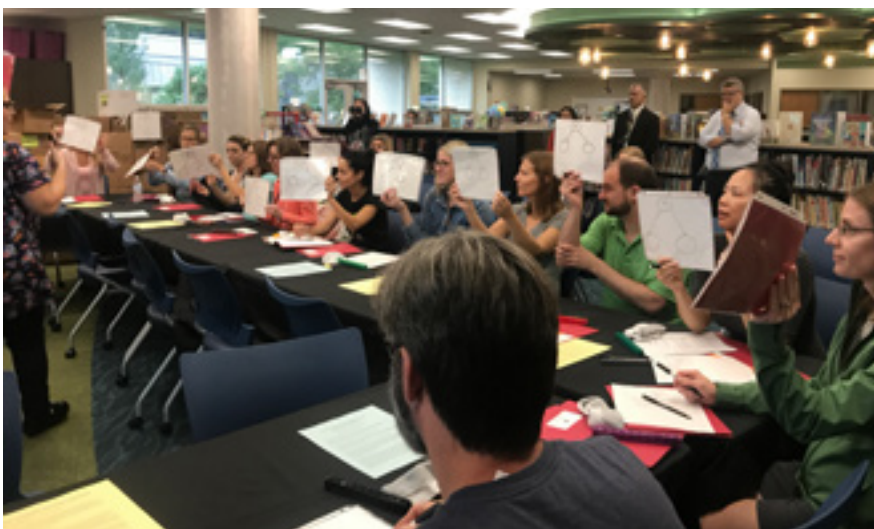
The program, which will be open to current kindergartners from all four elementary schools, will be limited to 25 students. Each school will receive a number of spaces in a random selection based on a ratio of the number of students enrolled in each building. Students who do not currently attend Kerr will be bused to the school.

Eighty to 100 percent of the instruction will be provided in Spanish. Special classes, such as art and music, will be in English, as will lunch and recess.

The Spanish Immersion program is the only one of its kind in Allegheny County, said Ashley Constantine, Ed.D., Fox Chapel Area's executive director of elementary education and instruction.

"We wanted to offer a program that was completely unique to Western Pennsylvania that would give our students an edge academically," Dr. Constantine said. "The goals of the Spanish Immersion program are to promote high levels of academic achievement, to develop age-appropriate language acquisition in both English and Spanish, and to cultivate cross-cultural competencies in our students."

The inaugural class will be taught by Alexis Bergau, who currently teaches second grade at Kerr. Mrs. Bergau brings an extensive background in Spanish immersion to the program. She studied in Mexico, was a student-teacher in a school that's 99 percent Spanish-speaking, and spent the bulk of her career as a teacher at the Ada



The Fox Chapel Area School District held two rounds of parent information sessions to discuss the implementation of the Spanish Immersion pilot program.

Vista Spanish Immersion School in Ada, Michigan. Since coming to the Pittsburgh area, she's taught Spanish at Pittsburgh Public Schools and at La Escuelita Arcoiris, an early childhood Spanish immersion school in Squirrel Hill.

"I have always loved language and teaching, but now more than ever I feel called to help create global learners. Imparting compassion, cultural sensitivity, and an awareness of the weight that language carries are charges I take very seriously," Mrs. Bergau said. "I can't wait for the day when parents start telling me that their child has been dreaming in Spanish."

Once the first-graders enrolled in the initial Spanish Immersion class become

second-graders, a new first-grade class will begin. Eventually, the program will be first grade through fifth grade.

To be eligible for admission into the Spanish Immersion program, students must meet Fox Chapel Area's readiness criteria. English also must be the primary language spoken in the student's home.

A random selection process to fill the seats in the Spanish Immersion program will be held on June 6, 2019.

Interested parents and guardians can find additional resources on the district's Spanish Immersion website at si.fcasd.edu, or e-mail Dr. Constantine at ashley_constantine@fcasd.edu.



The district's police officers are (from left to right) Dennis Lynch, Brittane Burkhardt, Kirk Vandenbord, Kevin Carney, Scott Bailey, and Eric Valentine, with Safety and Security Coordinator Joseph Kozarian.

DISTRICT RAMPS UP SAFETY INITIATIVES

To complement robust security measures already in place, the Fox Chapel Area School District is implementing a number of new safety initiatives during the 2018-2019 school year.

New Safety and Security Coordinator & Police Force

Joseph Kozarian assumed the newly created role of Fox Chapel Area's safety and security coordinator on October 15. Mr. Kozarian comes to the district from the Brentwood Borough School District, where he most recently was the director of security and facilities. Among Mr. Kozarian's responsibilities will be overseeing a school police force with an armed officer in each of the district's six buildings. All officers are retired federal agents; state, municipal or military police; or sheriffs.

Officer Scott Bailey is stationed at Kerr Elementary School. Mr. Bailey is a part-time officer for Aspinwall Borough and has also worked for Robert Morris University. Officer Eric Valentine is assigned to Fairview Elementary. Mr. Valentine, a retired Pennsylvania state trooper, formerly worked for the Gateway School District. Officer Dennis Lynch, a retired Penn Hills police officer, is at O'Hara Elementary. Mr. Lynch had been employed by Freeport Borough and the Freeport Area School District. The newest officer is Fox Chapel Area graduate Brittane Burkhardt, who is posted at Hartwood Elementary. Ms. Burkhardt is also an Indiana Township officer. Also on the force are officers Kirk Vandenbord, stationed at Dorseyville Middle School from the Indiana Township Police

Department, and Kevin Carney of the O'Hara Township Police Department, who is at the high school.

While keeping students and staff safe is the officers' main priority, they'll also help to foster a healthy school climate.

"They will build positive relationships in order to bridge the gap between law enforcement and students," Mr. Kozarian said. "They also can provide education on law-related subjects within the classroom."

Mr. Kozarian is a 15-year veteran of law enforcement. He is the only Basic and Advanced National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) instructor in Pennsylvania, and is an ALICE instructor. He's also a Certified Physical Security Specialist through the Department of Homeland Security and was just added to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency website as one of five people in the state qualified to perform security assessments on schools. Mr. Kozarian has a number of goals in mind for his first year on the job.

"First of all, I'd like to get to know the staff, students, and community members of the Fox Chapel Area School District," he said. "I'll also focus on getting together with law enforcement, emergency medical services, and fire departments to review emergency procedures, as well as conduct a vulnerability assessment on each building in the school district to determine any additional safety concerns."

Evacuation Drills to Boost Readiness

Evacuation drills are being held at district buildings throughout the school year. The drills are conducted under the leadership of local police departments and are being done so that students, staff, and first responders become even more familiar with the proper procedures in case of an emergency. During these drills, students and staff members evacuate to a host facility, just as they would in an emergency that would require a move to a different location. To further ensure the safety of the students and staff, local police departments always have ambulances and fire trucks on hand during the drills. Also, the teachers, staff, and school nurse are fully prepared, just as they would be in a true emergency.

District ALICE Certified

The Fox Chapel Area School District recently was named an ALICE Certified Organization, which means that the district “has successfully met the requirements of the ALICE Training Institute’s Certified Organization program, in active shooter response preparedness. ...” The district is one of only several dozen organizations in the nation to earn the certification. Fox Chapel Area has trained ALICE Certified Employees, participated in an Active Shooter Proactive Response Drill, and has a Proactive Response Outline in EOPs (Emergency Operations Plans). The certification is good for the 2018-2019 school year. ALICE, an active shooter response program, stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate.

Raptor® Visitor Management System

The district is in the process of implementing the Raptor Visitor Management System in all district buildings. Raptor offers instant sex offender screening; checks school visitors against databases to check for custody alerts and banned visitors; keeps accurate and reliable records for every visitor that enters a school; and offers districtwide reporting.

“Sadly, in this day and age, we have to take these precautions,” said David McCommons, Ed.D., deputy superintendent for the Fox Chapel Area School District. “Everyone is welcome in our buildings, but we have to be sure that those we’re welcoming are safe to be around our children.”

Ruvna Crisis Communication Tool

Fox Chapel Area will be implementing Ruvna, a crisis communication platform that faculty and staff members will use in the event of an emergency. A replacement for paper and clipboard rosters, Ruvna allows teachers to account for students during a crisis, facilitates faculty interaction during an emergency, and dispatches help immediately to students or staff who require assistance. It works directly with the district’s student information system.

Fox Chapel Area School Board member Eric Schmidt said the safety of students and staff is among the top priorities in the district. Mr. Schmidt serves as the School Board safety liaison and has a special interest in safety, as he not only works for the Allegheny Health Network, but also is a local paramedic.

“Though we already had a number of security measures in place at all of our buildings, we never stop thinking of how we can make our schools safer,” said Mr. Schmidt. “It’s a conversation we’ll keep having.”



Fairview Elementary School Principal Becky Stephan, Ed.D., talked with first responders prior to the evacuation drill at Fairview in November.



In November, Fairview Elementary students participated in an evacuation drill where they relocated to a host facility.



Officer Scott Bailey was greeted by a second-grade student at Kerttoberfest in October.



In September, Dorseyville Middle School and Hartwood Elementary students participated in an evacuation drill where they relocated to a host facility.



"I'm proud to be a part of Fox Chapel because my school empowers students to take initiative and change the world."
– **Amulya Garimella**, Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore

"What makes me #FCProud is the wonderful community our high school really is. We all work together to see our students succeed."
– **Erin Butkovic**, Fox Chapel Area High School teacher and director of student activities



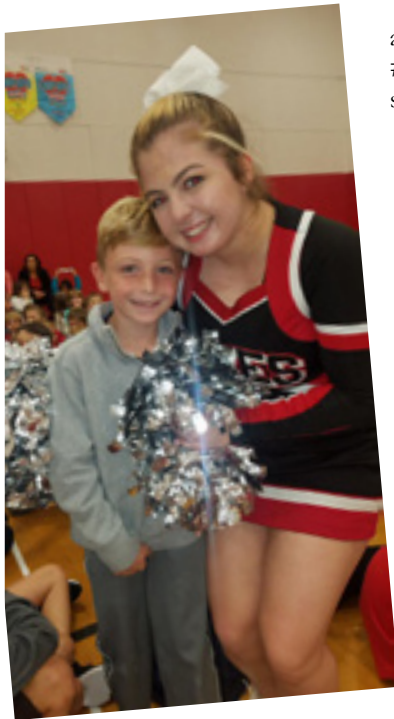
"I like my school because it makes me feel safe. I mostly know every teacher there."
– **Corbin Zeiner**, Kerr Elementary School second-grader

"What makes me #FCProud is how much brain power and creativity we have throughout the district, and the leadership and focus at every level. Decisions are implemented based upon what is in the best interest of students and staff."
– **Somer Obernauer**, School Board member

WHAT MAKES YOU #FCProud

The Fox Chapel Area School District has adopted a new campaign, #FCProud. We are continually impressed by the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and administrators. We are asking everyone to use the hashtag #FCProud when posting to social media accounts. We're so excited to spotlight our collective achievements!

"I'm #FCProud of EVERY one of you, past and present. My most beautiful students who make this world a better place. You are our hope, you are my joy."
– **Maria Brashear**, Fairview Elementary School third-grade teacher



"Everyone is really respectful at Fox Chapel, and Hartwood has great teachers."
– **Ishmael Conklin**, Hartwood Elementary School fourth-grader



"We do fun activities at my school, and I feel part of the school, and I'm included."
– **Maddie Acquaro**, Kerr Elementary School second-grader

"What makes me proud to be part of the Fox Chapel Area School District is the great learning environment. The teachers are friendly but challenging."
– **Nathan Mackey**, Dorseyville Middle School sixth-grader

"While there are many reasons to be proud to be a part of FCASD, I am most proud of the unrelenting focus on meeting the needs of our students and community, which is evidenced by students, staff, administration, families, and community members on a daily basis."
– **Kristy Batis**, O'Hara Elementary School principal



"I am proud to be a graduate of Fox Chapel because it offered great resources inside and outside of the classroom to succeed beyond high school, regardless of your chosen path."
– **Patrick Monteverde**, Class of 2016

26 SENIORS RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM

Eleven Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists are Justin Breen, Arnav Gupta, Theresa Heidenreich, Rachel Himmel, Elizabeth Kaslewicz, Zachary Lakkis, Mitchell Miles, Annika Urban, Gina Wang, Landon Williams, and Ziya Xu. 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 Scholarship® awards worth more than \$32 million to be offered in the spring of 2019.

Additionally, 15 high school seniors were named Commended Students. They

are: Vaishavi Agrawal, Abigail Baldauf, Benjamin Cagan, Steven Cano, Kristen Friday, Marissa Hardiman, Sanjana Harish, Cara Himmel, Jayanth Kashyap, Trevor Klatt, Eric Moore, Jared Nord, Robert Shymansky, Benjamin Weiss, and Chloe Yofan. The Commended Students represent the top five percent of the nation's high school seniors.

This year's National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students were selected based on their 2017 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 2019 National Merit Semifinalists.

STUDENTS PRESENT AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS YOUTH SUMMIT

Four Fox Chapel Area High School seniors, Wesley Fravel, Carly Shelestak, Lexie Schutzman, and Zachary Yonas, were invited to present at the Special Olympics Annual Inclusive Youth Summit at Slippery Rock University in October. The high school was recognized for providing inclusive leadership opportunities for youths with and without disabilities through its Unified Sports program and Best Buddies social activities.

The summit's interactive training brought students with and without intellectual disabilities, as well as school staff, from 43 high schools together to learn about collaborative leadership and promoting inclusion within their schools. The goal of the summit is for participants to improve their leadership, communication, and organizational skills, and to help lead their schools' inclusive youth leadership clubs. By collaborating with their peers, they plan activities that promote inclusion and improve their schools. The Fox Chapel Area students were available to facilitate discussions on inclusive athletics, social events, and strategies for inclusive school practices.



O'HARA TEAM CAPTURES BATTLE OF THE BOOKS TITLE

The 2018 Fox Chapel Area School District Battle of the Books winning team was the Rainbow Flying Narwhals from O'Hara Elementary School. The team members were fifth-graders Atia DiGioia, Avery Jones, Nora Kelley, GiGi Mettenburg, and Ayla Ojanen. The team manager was parent Nancy Kelley.

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 tournament, the winning team takes the Battle of the Books trophy back to their home school for a year.



Photo Courtesy Heidi Freund Stanczak



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY A PRIORITY

Assembling a budget is one of the most time-consuming and detailed tasks a school district administration and school board undertake each year. It's no different for the Fox Chapel Area School District.

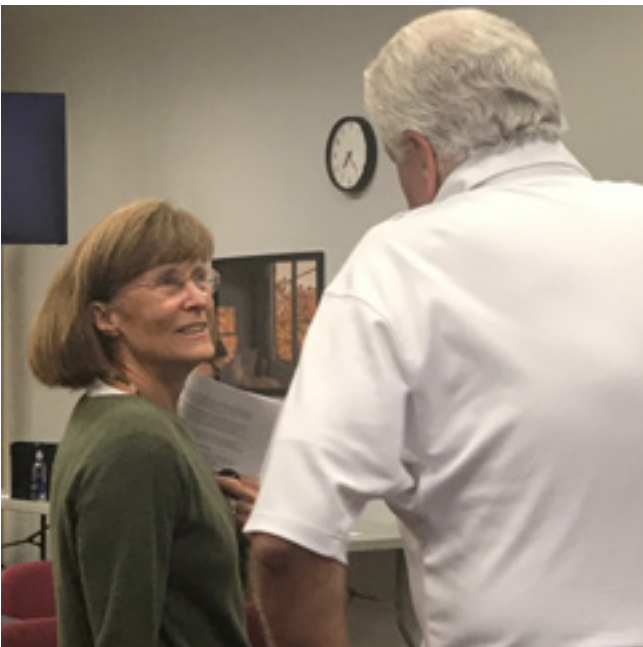
According to Kimberly Pawlishak, the district's business manager, Fox Chapel Area takes a conservative approach in crafting each spending plan. For the 2018-2019 school year, the district took a number of steps to cut costs, including offering an early retirement incentive to professional staff members.

"We have a number of top-earning teachers that are retiring over the next two years, making way to either save by attrition or by hiring new teachers that will earn a lower starting wage," Ms. Pawlishak said.

Coming up with a preliminary budget isn't a task that Ms. Pawlishak undertakes alone.

"The district utilizes an advisory group made up of community members, School Board representatives, administrators, and a member of the Fox Chapel Educators Association to go over the budget and discuss millage prior to the budget itself going in front of the full School Board for approval," she said.

A member of that group is School Board Vice President Nancy Foster, who brings an extensive background in finance to the budget process. Mrs. Foster, a longtime district resident, graduated with a degree in economics from Duke University and worked in the insurance industry for nearly 20 years before taking a job with Guyasuta Investment Advisors in O'Hara Township. She currently serves as its president and chief operating officer, and is also a partner.



Mrs. Foster talked with Fox Chapel Borough Police Chief David Laux during a school district safety meeting.



Fox Chapel Area School Board members Nancy Foster and Lisa Rutkowski greeted students during a recent School Board meeting.

"We need to be very sensitive to those taxpayers who are on a fixed income. We also have to keep in mind that we are a very economically diverse community."

— Nancy Foster, School Board Vice President

With her financial acumen, Mrs. Foster helps to ensure the district is able to cover its liabilities and successfully helps the administration and the Resource Planning Committee navigate the lending environment, such as the issuing of bonds.

The conservative financial approach advocated by Mrs. Foster helps the district handle unanticipated expenditures, such as the cost of the Kerr Elementary mold remediation, which was more than \$300,000.

"That's why you have a rainy-day fund," Mrs. Foster said. "Every year, there is going to be some kind of unexpected expense."

Another budget constraint that has affected all school districts in the state is the contributions to the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). Each year, that cost has risen, and, in 2018-2019 alone, Fox Chapel Area budgeted \$15,281,092 that it must contribute to PSERS. The PSERS trustees determine the contribution rate increase annually.

"We have no say as a district over that expense," Mrs. Foster said. "It's the elephant in the room."

Mrs. Foster also emphasized that being a responsible steward of the district's money means keeping in mind that 80 percent of the district's tax base does not have children who attend the district's schools.

"We need to be very sensitive to those taxpayers who are on a fixed income," Mrs. Foster said. "We also have to keep in mind that we are a very economically diverse community."

SCHOOL DISTRICT ATTRACTIVE TO HOMEBUYERS

Fox Chapel Area Ranked Among the Best

In its October issue, "Ranking Suburbia," Pittsburgh Magazine handed out a number of awards. Fox Chapel Area School District was one of the recipients, receiving the "Best Schools" distinction.

"A high ranking such as this one does not happen by chance," said Superintendent Gene Freeman, Ed.D. "It's due to the hard work and collective efforts of many people, including our School Board, faculty and staff, administrators, parents, and, most importantly, our students."

Blawnox, one of the communities that the Fox Chapel Area School District serves, was named "Most Affordable Suburb," and the "Best Safety" nod went to Fox Chapel Borough.

The accolades are no surprise to Fox Chapel Area School Board member Lisa Rutkowski. Mrs. Rutkowski, a Realtor for Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, set her sights on the school district long before she was a School Board member and became a parent.

"My husband and I are perfect examples of how school rankings impact a buyer's opinion of a

community. We knew the reputation of the Fox Chapel Area School District and moved into the area soon

after we started our family so that our children would have the benefit of being Fox Chapel Area graduates," Mrs. Rutkowski said. "Top-ranking districts create demand for homes. This is proven in our community as our real estate market continues to be strong. A school's ranking greatly impacts property values and is a major driving factor for homebuyers."

The awards from Pittsburgh Magazine are the most recent, but they're far from the only ones for the district. Fox Chapel Area has received both state and national recognitions. The Pittsburgh Business Times Honor Roll recently ranked the district as number four in the Pittsburgh area and number eight in the state of Pennsylvania. It's the first time the district ranked in the top 10 in the state. All six district schools have been named National Blue Ribbon



Fox Chapel Area School Board member and local Realtor, Lisa Rutkowski, worked a booth at the homecoming carnival.

Schools. These are only a few of the district's recognitions.

None of these accolades would be possible without the teamwork of the many stakeholders in the district, Mrs. Rutkowski said.

"As a parent, I am grateful for the leadership, administration, teachers, and staff who have committed themselves to working with our students on every level. As a School Board member, I feel fortunate to be immersed in the day-to-day business of creating such a successful environment, but also the long-range planning to ensure that our district continues to evolve with changing times to remain on top," she said. "I am grateful to the members of this School Board who collectively and collaboratively work toward the common goal of success for every student."

KERR ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Despite an unusually rainy summer and fall, the construction of the new Kerr Elementary School remains on schedule and on budget, according to Dan Breitreutz, the district's director of ancillary services. The foundation and floors have been poured. The structural steel is being erected, and the underground utilities have been installed. In December, the building began to take shape, and framing is scheduled to begin in late December or early January. In February, it will begin to be closed in, and inside work will start.

Since the project is currently on time, the district hopes that the students can be in their new school by the start of the 2019-2020 school year. "The first week of July will be our date to see if we are ready for our August 15 opening, for substantial completion. If we are not, that's going to push the opening of the building back either to the November break or the December break," Mr. Breitreutz said. "But, as of right now, we are on schedule."





ELEMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS

Elementary Math Parent Night a Success



Fox Chapel Area elementary teachers and administrators held a math parent night in October to teach parents more about the district's Eureka

math program. "The purpose of the evening was to provide families with information associated with our elementary math curriculum and provide them with materials and resources to use at home," according to Ashley Constantine, Ed.D., the district's executive director of elementary education and instruction. "Partnerships with parents are essential to provide the best education possible for our students." The next math parent night will be held January 31, 2019, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Fox Chapel Area High School large group instruction room. The evening will include a basic introduction to the Eureka math program and an overview by the teachers. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yav42u4a>.

The district has also launched a new elementary math parent website with resources for parents. The site is <https://www.fcasd.edu/academics/elementary-program/math-program.html>.

Elementary Students Become Published Authors



Elementary students are eagerly exploring creative writing and experiencing the process of becoming a published author. In a collaborative

effort with the Cooper-Siegel Library children's department, students in second through fifth grades were presented with the opportunity to help build up the young authors section of the library by adding their own published stories.

"Working with the local librarians brings a sense of authenticity to the unit that really sparks student engagement and motivation," said Susan Kreit, a gifted support teacher at Kerr and Fairview Elementary schools.

The project is part of the Creative Connections Capstone, one of three capstone experiences that are included in the elementary gifted curriculum. This cross-curricular, project-based approach to learning is designed to enrich the studies

of both gifted and high-achieving English Language Arts learners. Students engage in a series of writing mini lessons focusing on topics such as planning, story structure, voice, audience, word choice, revising, and public speaking.

Ava deBruyn, a fifth-grader at Kerr Elementary, said, "I've always written my own stories at home, but it's been really cool to get to publish one for other people to see." Ava wrote a picture book for young children called "A Gerbil's Adventures," a fantastical account of the funny adventures that a pair of gerbil sisters face upon moving to a new home.

In December, student authors at each of the elementary buildings read an excerpt of their soon-to-be-published book to an audience of peers and families at a special Authors Share and book signing event. The finished products will be on display in a special Young Authors section at Cooper-Siegel Library and in the Fox Chapel Area school libraries for friends and community members to browse and enjoy.

Elementary STEAMs Ahead



Fox Chapel Area School District's integrated Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) curriculum cultivates a learning environment that fosters creativity and ingenuity. Students solve problems by conducting investigations guided by teachers, partnering with peers, and even creating their own experiments. In addition to using state

standards to guide instructional choices, the team uses Habits of Mind (problem-solving, life-related skills) to frame inquiries.

Michelle Ulanowicz, a kindergarten teacher at O'Hara Elementary, said that Habits of Mind enables students to learn to think flexibly while listening with understanding and empathy. "Integrating Habits of Mind into our STEAM curriculum allows students the opportunity to use these skills through the excitement of inquiry and deeper learning."

Megan Collett, Ed.D., executive director of instructional and innovative leadership, stated, "Curricular revisions occur yearly, and this year we are thrilled to dig into the Habits of Mind with fervor at every grade level."

Other exciting revisions include building and piloting a first-grade Mobile Fab Lab experience and bolstering the engineering focus. The district's STEAM curriculum has been showcased at Digital Promise's League of Innovative Schools and in regional news outlets.

SECONDARY HIGHLIGHTS

Math Lab Gives Students Practical Experience



Students may be using everyday objects in Fox Chapel Area High School's Math Lab, but the skills that students are gaining are anything but ordinary. It's not unusual to see students using objects such as pingpong balls, picture frames, holiday lights, and boxes of cereal to enhance their practical math skills.

This is the third year for the math lab at the high school, and the class is held every fall semester for all freshman Algebra I students. The lab was started by math teacher Justin Guadagni, who also developed the curriculum for the unique program. The students take Algebra I five days a week, and, much like science, have a math lab two days a week to support and supplement what they are learning in class.

According to Mr. Guadagni, "Math lab is a space that puts algebra skills into action. Students rely on current and previous Algebra I material to complete a new task each lab day. These daily tasks in math lab bring typical real-life application problems to life with hands-on objects while requiring visible work that can fill an entire board."

Mr. Guadagni also said that the class requires a significant amount of critical thinking, strategic planning, and perseverance. "Students are given the freedom to explore new approaches to problems, as well as sharpen their number sense as they make connections between different strategies."

Students begin the semester by working in groups of four and then gradually make the transition into working through tasks individually. With this progressive approach, students are able to improve upon their ability to think mathematically, as well as gain a deeper understanding of the Algebra I content.

"Math lab is beneficial to the students as they learn to handle common anxieties that arise when faced with multi-level problems that require a high level of thinking and rigor. These improvements have started to show positive results on the constructed-response questions that appear on the state Keystone Exam," Mr. Guadagni said. "As students learn to collaborate and become more accountable for their individual responsibilities, we believe that math lab prepares them to become a more well-rounded thinker and student."

DMS Digital Citizenship Days

Dorseyville Middle School sixth-grade students participated in Digital Citizenship Days. The three days each included a 35-minute overview of digital topics.

According to DMS mobile device teacher Cathie Gillner, digital citizenship skills enable students to make smart choices online and in life. "Tablets and computers are an integral component to learning, so we wanted all students to have an understanding of how their iPad will impact their learning environment," she said.

In sixth grade, all Dorseyville students participate in an extensive unit on digital citizenship as part of the mobile device course. However, the new Digital Citizenship Days helped DMS students start their year off with the basics. The days included a review of the district's acceptable use policy; student responsibilities and their pledge to use electronics responsibly; how to take proper care of their district-owned iPad; how to log in to various applications such as Schoology and PowerSchool; how to create safe and strong passwords; the importance of locking their iPad; privacy and security; and how and when to use the school's technology help desk.



The students also received information on the DMS Agenda App, which has bell schedules, lunch menus, and the school calendar. Additionally, topics such as establishing a positive and healthy online digital footprint and the importance of asking permission before taking and posting a photo of another person were also discussed.



2018 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Fox Chapel Area High School held its annual National Honor Society (NHS) induction ceremony August 29. The keynote speaker was former NFL player and sports analyst, author, and cancer survivor Merrill Hoge. Mr. Hoge gave an inspirational speech about his slogan, “Find a Way,” which inspires others to persevere in the face of adversity, while achieving success.

This year, 116 students were accepted in the Fox Chapel Area High School NHS. Those inducted were: seniors Isabella Boleng, Benjamin Cagan, Dante DeBaldo, Kate Feczko, Margaret Fletcher, Samuel Gilmore, Jacob Gruden, Megan Hayes, Noah Marks, Grace Elizabeth Ritter, David Rubel, and Ferd Jes Sauereisen.

Juniors inducted were: Abigail Alexander, Ethan Alfery, Paige Asbury, Macey Balk, Scott Bitar, Dahlia Black, Amelia Bothe, Jackson Boychuk, Marilyn Brach, William Carnevale, Alyssa Carnevali, Hanna Chen, J. Oliver Choo, Hazel Cline, Jacob Correnti, Gwendolyn Cullen, Gwendolyn Davison, Joanna Delaney, Claudia DeMartino, Samantha Dockey, Isabelle Doerr, Sean Doherty, Hannah Drum, Blair Echnat, Jasmine Eng, Tobias Fennell, Claire Fenton, Rachel Ferris, Christian Fitch, Jack Flanagan, Grace Gackenbach, Alayne Gaghan, Elizabeth Gay, Bryn Gerlach, Elizabeth Giuffre, Annika Gleason, Rajeev Godse, Hannah Gordon, Evan Gu, Gabriella Guerrieri, Grace Han, Madilyn Harajda, Jeffrey Hertzberg, Noah Hertzman, Gavin Hitchens, Charlotte James, Claire Katz, Abigail Kieffer, Madolyn Kieffer, Patrick Kiszka, John Klamut, Jessica Klein, Kyra Kost, Brooke Krally, Isabella Lagazzi, Ian Lowe, Emma Lusk, Jasmine Macdonald, Elise Markel, Megan Matthis, Michael Mendelson, Abigail Miller, Molly Mozurak, Shando Naini, Zeynep Ozkaya, Navjot Pabla, Christiana Paljug, Leda Perdriel-Arons, Benjamin Peterson, Karl Pil, Emily Pollock, Michael Prato, Jacob Rendall, Sloan Rost, Mario Rotunno, Preston Rowe, Aaron Santilli, Emily Scheffler, Benjamin Schwartz, Anzu Sekikawa, Sina Shaikh, Sydne Shelvey, David Shin, Jesunifemi Shodipo, Grace Sisson,

Charles Smith, Jake Sperry, Shane Susnak, Robert Tabor, Olivia Tang, Kaylyn Toomey, Helene Tracey, Thomas Tsai, Sydney Ulanowicz, Ameya Velankar, Arnold Vento, Felix Vesper, Alexis Vivino, William Wang, Alexander Wecht, Sophia Williams, Aaron Wu, and Keara Yasko.



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.

One of the more prominent offerings of NHS is the group’s tutoring service project. Senior Daniel Andrud has tutored students in math, his favorite subject, and said that the tutoring is not only a rewarding activity for the students who may need a little extra help, but also for the NHS members themselves. He said he “enjoyed contributing to their progress, and it’s extremely fulfilling seeing a student become proficient in a subject they once didn’t like.” Tutoring is an activity he plans to continue in college, and his background with the NHS has been an inspiration for that. “I hope to continue using my knowledge to help other students tackle subjects that they may just need a slight brush-up on, or a full semester of hands-on help in order to become confident in the subject. I hope to join organizations that are based in service, and promote a collaborative community that reaches out and participates in the community.”

Members of the group are available to tutor students of all ages in a variety of subject areas and offer their services at little or no cost. Anyone interested in the NHS tutoring service should contact high school QUEST teacher Lisa Gibson at Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu.



2018 HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING

Fox Chapel Area High School's community homecoming event was held September 28 and included the annual carnival prior to the football game. The theme was "A Night at the Movies." All homecoming activities were coordinated and sponsored by the Fox Chapel Area High School Student Government.



Some Photos Courtesy Hill's Studio



FALL 2018 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

Team Finishes the Season Strong

It was a muddy, rainy, slippery, and windy day in Hershey when the Foxes' girls' cross country team competed at the PIAA Class AAA championships for the third consecutive year. This year, they placed fifth.

"The competition and talent this year were unbelievable," said senior Sarena Seeger, who placed fifth individually, was designated as first-team all-state, and was the Foxes' top runner all season.



Grace Sisson, a junior who achieved second-team all-state status, placed ninth, which was pretty impressive considering she ran most of the race without a shoe.

"A girl stepped on my heel right after the first mile, so I just kicked it off," she said. "It wasn't too terrible running without it, other than it was really muddy and rocky, and going across the gravel and down the slippery slope was a little difficult. It felt a little weird, but I made it through, and I'm incredibly happy with my finish."



The other members of the medal-winning team were seniors Anna Folkerts and Annika Urban, junior Brooke Krally, and freshmen Gabby Klein and Riley McIntyre. Another freshman, Rachel Grimsley, made the trip as an alternate.

The trip to Hershey came after the girls placed third at WPIALs and finished the season undefeated in their section. Last year, the team won its first-ever PIAA championship. Two of the girls who have been instrumental in the team's strength over the last four years are Sarena and Annika, who will be graduating in 2019. They both qualified for states all four years of high school.

"We are going to miss them because they are great girls, great runners, and our program has grown, largely because of them," said Coach Tom Moul. "But Grace and Brooke will be back, and we'll see who else steps up next year."

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

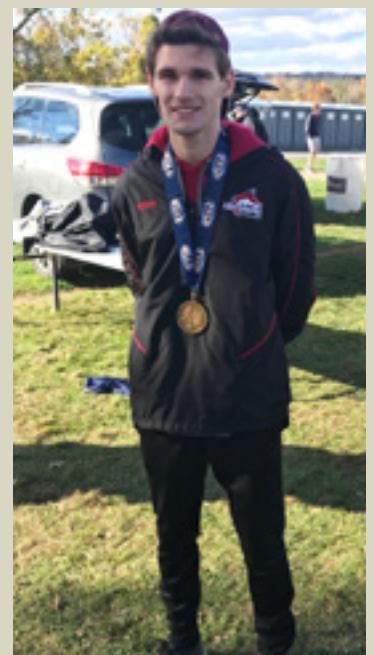
Runner Happy with His Big Finish

Last year at the PIAA Class AAA Boys' Cross Country Championships, Christian Fitch finished 30th. Frustrated and far from satisfied with those results, he worked even harder over the past year, began lifting weights, and motivated himself by setting lofty goals.

This year, on a swamp-like, rocky course that was more like a Slip 'N Slide® in places, Christian earned the about-face he wanted – the junior placed fifth (qualifying him for first team all-state status), with a time that was six seconds better than where he ended up in 2017.

"Last year was a perfect day, but I still ran better this year during awful conditions," said the junior. "Until now, I've always felt that I've underperformed at big races and faltered at states. I was just so happy that I finally had my best performance at the biggest race of the year. To be able to finish the year with a succession of strong races really made me happy."

This was the third year that Christian advanced to the state's most difficult race. Prior to qualifying this year, he ran some impressive races, including winning the Gateway Invitational and the WPIAL Class AAA Section 4 individual title, and he placed third as an individual qualifier at WPIALs.



BOYS' GOLF



The boys' golf team finished the season as the WPIAL Class AAA Section 4 co-champions and, for the sixth consecutive year, they advanced to the WPIAL Class AAA finals. After a very close competition, and even after breaking the Tom's Run Golf Course record, they finished as the runner-up to the eventual PIAA champs, Central Catholic High School.

Other accomplishments included setting a new school record for the largest number of individual golfers advancing to the WPIAL Class AAA finals. The qualifying players were seniors Gregor Meyer and Grant Thiele, juniors Scott Bitar and Matthew Mattioli, and sophomore Aidan Oehrle. Gregor, Scott, and Aidan then advanced to the PIAA Western Region tournament. Gregor's score earned him a trip to the PIAA AAA Boys' Golf Individual Championship, where he placed fifth, the highest finish for an individual Foxes boys player since 1999. Gregor ended his high school career as one of the program's most decorated golfers and with an all-state designation.

GIRLS' GOLF

The girls' team won the WPIAL Class AAA Section 4 championship, and they did it with an undefeated regular season record. The squad then advanced to the WPIAL AAA team semifinals. Freshmen Nina Busch and Erin Drahnak advanced to the WPIAL championships. "We had a good team this year, largely due to strong senior leadership," said John Broderick, who celebrated his 25th year coaching girls' golf. "It's a tremendous accomplishment for two ninth-graders to get that far so early in their careers. I look forward to seeing how they mature in the future."



BOYS' SOCCER

For the sixth consecutive year, the team advanced to the WPIAL Class 4A playoffs, but it took a lot of determination to get there. Coach Erik Ingram explains, "We finished 11-7-1 with the most competitive schedule in program history. There were no easy section games. I was very proud of how we competed."

Coach Ingram was named the WPIAL 4A Section 1 Coach of the Year by the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association for the eighth time in his 13-year tenure with the Foxes. Additionally, the Big 56 also named him its coach of the year.



GIRLS' TENNIS

This year the girls' tennis team once again advanced to the WPIAL Class AAA team playoffs. Senior singles player Kristen Friday moved on to the WPIAL individual playoffs, and so did two of the Foxes' doubles teams – freshmen Baylin Bitar and Katie Voigt, and sophomore Alexis Quackenbush and freshman Carissa Shepard. Additionally, Kristen, a role model for the team, earned a prestigious U.S. Congressional Award for public service, self-reliance, physical fitness, and personal development.





Fox Chapel Area School District
Holiday Card 2018



*Wishing you joy and peace
this holiday season.*

Fox Chapel Area School District



School Board President Terry Wirginis
with the creators of the
district's 2018 holiday card.

Lilah Rivera & HanYing Zhang
Grade 4 ~ Hartwood Elementary School

#FCProud

FCASD is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube!

Visit us at

-  Facebook – facebook.com/foxchapelarea
-  Twitter – @FCASD
-  Instagram – foxchapelareasd
-  YouTube: youtube.com/user/fcasdweb



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.

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 DIRECTORY

District Administration

611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/963-9600
www.fcasd.edu
Superintendent: Gene Freeman, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent: David McCommons, Ed.D.
Business Manager: Kimberly Pawlishak

District Resource Staff

Executive Director of Elementary Education and Instruction: Ashley Constantine, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Secondary Education and Instruction: Matthew Harris, Ed.D.
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services: Timothy Mahoney
Executive Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership: Megan Collett, Ed.D.
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
School Safety and Security Coordinator: Joseph Kozarian
Director of Athletics: Michael O'Brien
Coordinator of Communications: Bonnie Berzonski
Community Engagement Specialist: Jill Leonard

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOLS

Fairview Elementary School

738 Dorseyville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/963-9315
Principal: Rebecca Stephan, Ed.D.

Hartwood Elementary School

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

Kerr Elementary School

341 Kittanning Pike
Pittsburgh, PA 15215
412/781-4105
Principal: Paul Noro, Ed.D.

O'Hara Elementary School

115 Cabin Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/963-0333
Principal: Kristy Batis
Assistant Principal: Stephen Edwards

Dorseyville Middle School

3732 Saxonburg Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/767-5343
Principal: Jonathan Nauhaus
Assistant Principal: Cassandra Pencek

Fox Chapel Area High School

611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/967-2430
Lead Principal: Michael Hower
Program Principal (A-L): Daniel Lentz, Ph.D.
Program Principal (M-Z): John McGee, Ph.D.

For the latest information on school activities and weather-related delays and cancellations, visit the Fox Chapel Area School District website at www.fcasd.edu.
The athletic events calendar can be found on the Fox Chapel Area School District athletic website at www.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



First 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 Obernauer 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.