IN
An IN Community Magazine

Fox Chapel Area



Arts & Bots Unite in Computer Science

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FOX CHAPEL AREA

School News







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A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Community Members,

So many wonderful things happen in our school district every day, and I'd like to focus on two of those areas in this message – school safety and our students' talents in the arts.

Our district has come a long way in the last few years in the area of safety. Our School Board has worked along with our district administration to do everything we can to enhance safety and security. Students must feel that their schools are safe places in order to learn at the highest levels. Staff must feel that schools are safe in order to teach at the highest levels.

One of our best decisions was appointing Joe Kozarian as our school safety and security coordinator. Under his leadership, we have also developed a school district police force and now have an officer in every school.

Hiring Mr. Kozarian has enabled our district to form an even closer relationship with all of the local chiefs of police and their officers. We are working closer than ever with our six municipal police departments, and we are very happy with the relationships that we are continuing to build.

I have also taken the time to tour our schools, and I am very impressed with the many improvements in security that have occurred during the past several months. This includes implementing the Ruvna and Raptor systems, and the many safety drills that have been conducted.

On a different topic, I must say that our school district and its students continuously amaze me. I am always impressed by the academic talents that our students demonstrate. But I am also equally awestruck by their talents in the arts.

In December, our Board had the opportunity to hear a song, "Mi Shebeirach" by Debbie Friedman, performed by the Fox Chapel Area High School Ambassador Orchestra and the combined choirs. This particular rendition was arranged by Fox Chapel Area High School junior Noah Hertzman. The song, meant to be one of healing, was performed in honor of the victims of the Tree of Life tragedy in Pittsburgh in October. I can honestly say that this performance was one of the most moving and beautiful things I've ever witnessed.

Our Board has also had the privilege of hearing some of our other musical groups at our meetings this school year, including a middle school violin ensemble and elementary percussionists and a choir.

And, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the students' artwork that I see when I visit our schools. The hallways are covered with magnificent drawings and paintings, and the display cases are filled with ceramic pieces and other incredible artwork – all created by our students!

My main point is that, while our district's academic scores continue to rank among the highest in the state and region, so much learning occurs in the arts as well. I know I can speak for our entire board when I say that it is essential that our district educates the whole child in a safe environment. None of this well-rounded education would be possible without the direction and relationship our School Board has with our extraordinary staff who work with our talented and dedicated students and parents. That's how we continue our district's tradition of excellence in all areas.

Sincerely,

Terry Wirginis
School Board President

...While our district's academic scores continue to rank among the highest in the state and region, so much learning occurs in the arts as well.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

One of my greatest sources of pride is that the Fox Chapel Area School District continues to be one of the top-performing districts in Pennsylvania. In fact, for the first time in history, the school district was ranked in the top 10 in the state, placing eighth in the 2018 Pittsburgh Business Times rankings. This kind of achievement can only happen through the support of the many people and groups that make the Fox Chapel Area School District stand out. This includes the School Board, the administration, the teaching and support staffs, parents, taxpayers, and, of course, our amazing students.

One of the things our faculty is specially trained to do is utilize effective instructional practices to meet the academic and extracurricular needs of our students. This is no easy task, as all students come to school every day with a variety of learning needs and strengths.

One of the fundamental elements of the success of the school district is our use of student benchmarking data as part of a comprehensive process for instructional planning. We implemented this process across the district in an effort to maximize student growth and achievement. All students in kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as some students at the high school, engage in benchmark assessments three or four times a year that provide teachers and the administration with a variety of data that are analyzed and used for instructional planning. The materials we use for assessment are closely aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards. These are standards to which all school districts in the state must adhere.

Fox Chapel Area School District's use of data to drive instruction is grounded in the tenet that all students have the ability to grow academically. Additionally, our use of instructional differentiation for students promotes continued growth and achievement to support them to reach their highest potentials. These beliefs are shared by staff members, and we work tirelessly to ensure that students are afforded the very best instructional opportunities for learning each and every day.

Benefits of a standardized, comprehensive benchmarking process include the use of current data to determine student needs. This is important, because relying solely on state assessment data would only provide a yearly snapshot of student progress. In order to more accurately assess our students, we need more. Collecting data approximately every two months allows teachers to identify areas of need and opportunities for further enrichment for students. In addition, the standardized nature of Fox Chapel Area's process has resulted in a common language and protocols that are consistent throughout the districts' six schools.



This process requires open dialogue between teachers and administrators as they analyze data and design instruction to meet the needs of a wide range of students. The process encourages collaboration in planning and the sharing of ideas and resources among staff and serves to cultivate learning communities across grade levels and departments.

Because of these efforts, we have observed the positive results for students through state and national rankings, and by analysis of local data that indicate that our students are starting each year at a higher academic level than the prior year. In fact, I attribute a great deal of our eighth-place Pittsburgh Business Times state ranking to our use of benchmark assessments.

While we reflect on the successes of the past, know that we are also steadfast in working toward continued growth and achievement for students, offering new and innovative learning opportunities, and ensuring that our graduates are prepared to leave the school district with the skills and knowledge to be successful in whatever postsecondary pathway they choose. The district's mission states, "The Fox Chapel Area School District exists to maximize student learning, achievement, and development." Starting with the leadership of the School Board, we are able to continue to serve that mission each day.

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.
Superintendent

2019 EARLY GRADS GET DIPLOMAS



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

Eighteen Fox Chapel Area High School early graduates celebrated their major milestone as part of a special ceremony at the school on January 17.

The January early graduation ceremony is unique to Fox Chapel Area and is less formal than the June commencement. Each graduate is able to speak and share their plans for the future. This year's early graduates plan to further their education, work, and travel.

During the ceremony, Lead Principal Michael Hower told the graduates he is looking forward to hearing about what they do with their futures. "We are here for you," he told them. "The entire room is here to celebrate *you*."

Program Principal Dan Lentz, Ph.D., pointed out that the early graduates are still invited to attend events such as the prom and can also participate in the more formal June graduation ceremony with their classmates.

Some graduates thanked their teachers and school counselors during the ceremony. Jeremiah Wright, who plans to pursue an electrical engineering trade, thanked counselor Tara DeComo and said that she often checked in with him. "She has pushed me to this point. I literally would not be here without her," he said. Jeremiah also thanked his high school English teacher, Christopher Bandurski, and said that, even though he only had him as a teacher for a short time, that he was very influential in shaping his thoughts about the future. "He taught me that even if you are not in the best environment, you can always make it better," Jeremiah shared.



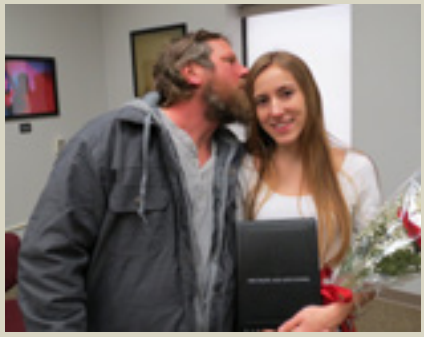




Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

Program Principal John McGee, Ph.D., told the graduates, "We are very proud of you. You helped enhance the culture of the school district. And, if you ever need anything, we will be here, and we always will."

The members of Fox Chapel Area's 2019 early graduation class are Catherine Balanquet, Chynnah Bennett, Jacalyn Braun, Jose Caraballo, Brandon Cartlidge, Billie Caruso, Lindsey Cupps, Gabriella DiMatteo, Jaden Gross, Brooke Huber, Megu Kataoka, Brandon Labonte, Alexander Madden, Derek Marasco, Connor Martin, Rachel Perlebach, Gavin Thomas, and Jeremiah Wright.

SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH

Kerr Students Honor School Board



On January 7, Kerr Elementary School fourth- and fifth-grade student council members honored the Fox Chapel Area School Board. The group paid tribute to the Board using the acronym "KERR THANKS YOU."

K is for KERRIFIC. We thank you for keeping Kerr Elementary a 'Kerrific' place for students to learn.

E is for EFFORT. We thank you for putting in the effort to make every day at Kerr Elementary so excellent.

R is for RESPECT. We respect all the work and effort you put in to making our school safe.

R is for RESPONSIBILITY. We thank you for showing all the staff and students of Kerr Elementary how to exercise responsibility.

T is for THANKFUL. We are thankful for the time and resources you have put into our new, amazing school.

H is for HELPING. We thank you for helping us learn and grow as students.

A is for AWESOME. We thank you for being an awesome group of leaders and making Kerr an awesome place to learn.

N is for NEEDED. We want you to know you are very much needed. Without you, we would not have the education we have today.

K is for KIND. We think it is very kind of you to build the staff and students of Kerr a new school.

S is for SUCCESS. We thank you for helping to make Kerr Elementary a success.

Y is for YEARNING. We thank you for yearning to keep Kerr Elementary running and making it a great place to learn every day.

O is for OUTSTANDING. We thank you for being outstanding directors and role models for the staff and students of Kerr Elementary.

U is for UNITING. We thank you for uniting with Kerr staff, families, architects, builders, and many more to build a new and improved Kerr Elementary School.

The Kerr Elementary students gave up their recess time to prepare for the presentation, and learned a lot about what the School Board does. Student Avery Malloy is thankful for the support the Board gives to the community and that the Board ensures that the school runs smoothly. "I didn't realize it, but they have my food made for lunch, provide books for me, and educate me," the fourth-grader said. According to fifth-grader Aavree Hill, "A school board member's job is to make important decisions for schools, create a great education for students, and make a good environment for teachers, students, and administrators."

Additionally, the Dorseyville Middle School violin ensemble played "The Star-Spangled Banner" to kick off the meeting.



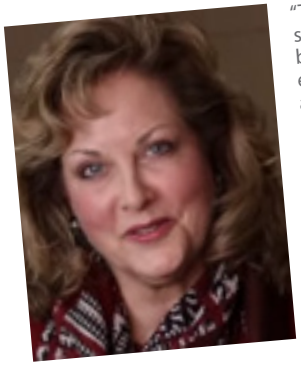


COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRAISE BOARD'S EFFORTS IN VIDEO

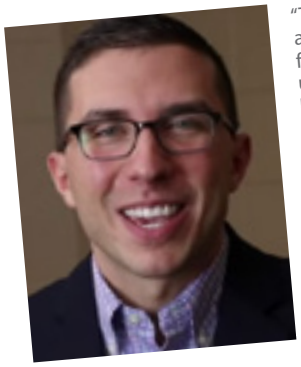
A group of community members shared their thoughts on the School Board for a video that was released in January in honor of School Director Recognition Month.



"I have noticed the awards that the school district has won and their continual excellence in actually improving in the rankings since I have left the School Board. So, it's my great pleasure to thank the School Board during School Board Recognition Month and also to congratulate them on all their success with the district." – **Chip Burke**, Grable Foundation chairman and former Fox Chapel Area School Board member



"The School Board … supports the students by continuing to endorse the updating and renovating of our school buildings, equipment, technology, curriculum, and athletic facilities throughout the district." – **Mary Jo Dunlap**, parent and girls' tennis booster club president



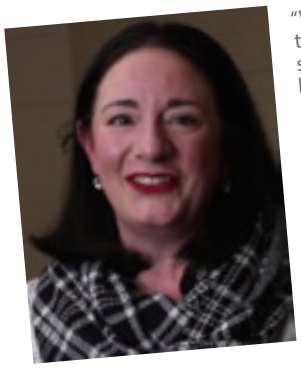
"The School Board, administration, and Kerr faculty have shown an unending commitment to Kerr and to Sharpsburg students. We all have a duty to cultivate young minds, and I'm grateful for the attention and resources the district and its School Board dedicate to Kerr, our students, and our future." – **Matthew Rudzki**, Sharpsburg mayor



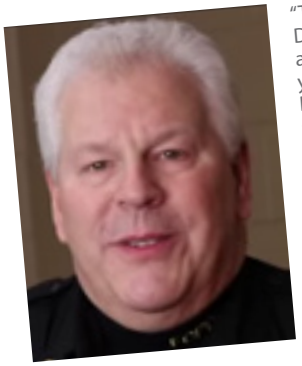
"Thank you for the time you have so freely given to support our efforts with our students. You have been an integral part in what makes Fox Chapel stand out and stand above the rest." – **Lisa Lang**, teacher and FCEA president



"They are in it for the good of the school district, and they're always looking to see, 'Hey, how can we take this and improve it, and how can I support all these different programs in the community?'" – **Justin Breen**, FCAHS senior and student body president



"We look forward to the amazing school that is being built right next door for us. In the words of my son, the School Board has ensured that Kerr Elementary is a 'Kerrific' place for students to learn." – **Windy Neff**, Kerr PTO president



"The Fox Chapel Area School District has bolstered security in a number of ways this school year, including installing the Raptor Visitor Management system, implementing the Ruvna emergency communication tool, and creating a police force. These initiatives wouldn't be possible without the unwavering support of the Fox Chapel Area School Board." – **David Laux**, Fox Chapel Chief of Police



"We're fortunate in this district to have a School Board that supports the type of interactions and the type of partnerships that I've been exposed to." – **Keith Fenton**, executive director of the Lauri Ann West Community Center

»The full video can be viewed on Fox Chapel Area School District's YouTube channel.



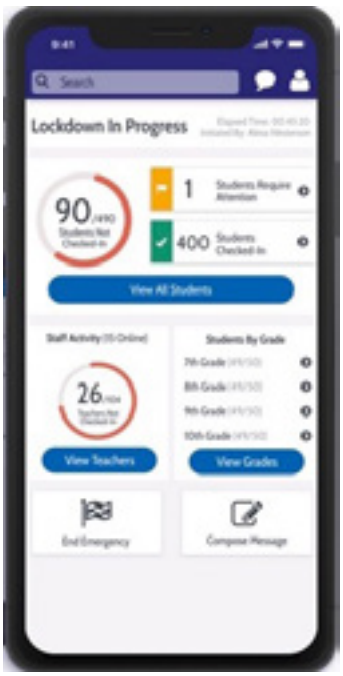
Fox Chapel Area School Board member Eric Schmidt reviewed a Raptor manual with Joe Kozarian, the district's school safety and security coordinator.

SECURITY UPGRADES CONTINUE AT FCASD

Ruvna

The Ruvna crisis communication tool is now in place in the Fox Chapel Area School District.

A replacement for paper and clipboard rosters, Ruvna allows teachers to account for students in the event of a drill or actual emergency, facilitates faculty interaction, and dispatches help immediately to students or staff members who require assistance. It also provides messaging capability and allows faculty and staff members to access resources such as the district's safety plan and floor plans of the district's buildings. Ruvna works in conjunction with Fox Chapel Area's student information system to enable staff members to account for each and every student.



"We're grateful that with $25,000 in grant support from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, we were able to purchase Ruvna to help us more easily ensure the safety of Fox Chapel Area students and staff during drills and emergencies," said Megan Collett, Ed.D., the district's executive director of instructional and innovative leadership. "From a technology perspective, the app allows seamless communication within our administration, faculty, and local law enforcement agencies."

Raptor

The Raptor Visitor Management system continues to be in place at all six buildings in the district.

In addition to offering instant sex offender screenings, checking school visitors against databases for custody alerts and banned visitors, and keeping accurate records for every visitor who enters a school, the district's clearances for volunteers now are being run through the Raptor system.

SAFETY CONFERENCE

The Fox Chapel Area School District will host a daylong safety conference on August 15, 2019. The speaker will be Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, who will present a talk titled "Safe Schools and Healthy Students." Grossman is one of the nation's leading trainers for military, law enforcement, mental health providers, and school safety organizations. He is a former U.S. Army ranger and taught psychology at West Point. For more information on the event, please visit the district's website at *www.fcasd.edu.*

RAPTOR® TECHNOLOGIES
THE GOLD STANDARD IN SCHOOL SAFETY

According to Joe Kozarian, school safety and security coordinator, nearly 3,700 visitors and volunteers have been scanned through the district's Raptor system since January 2, 2019. Additionally, Fox Chapel Area school volunteers registered more than 1,600 hours during the month of February.

TELETHON NETS $45,400 FOR MAKE-A-WISH

Fox Chapel Area School District students held their 29th annual telethon December 21 and raised $45,438. This brings the money raised by Fox Chapel Area students and staff to more than $854,000 over the last 29 years for various local and regional charities.

For the second year, the telethon raised money for Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and involved students and staff from all six schools in the district. The telethon was planned and produced by the high school student government and advanced digital media students.

Make-A-Wish is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fulfilling the wishes of children between the ages of 2½ and 18 who are living with critical illnesses.



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

Students from all six schools made donations on air during the fundraiser for Make-A-Wish.



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

Multimedia teacher Ryan Devlin and his students coordinated the live video feed during the telethon.



Photo Courtesy Hill's Studio

The high school principals got into the holiday spirit for one of the fundraisers.



School Board members Somer Obernauer and Eric Schmidt supported a student fundraiser for Make-A-Wish.



High school teachers Scott Karavlan and Mark Earley participated in the pie-in-the-face fundraiser.

ONLINE LEARNING CONSTANTLY EVOLVING

FCAO Gets New Director, Drop-In Center

Stephanie Reilly is the new online learning coordinator for the Fox Chapel Area School District, but that's not the only change for students enrolled in Fox Chapel Area Online (FCAO).

Fox Chapel Area's online learners now have access to a brand-new drop-in center at the high school, which opened in January.

"The drop-in center will be a great help for FCAO students," Mrs. Reilly said. "We designed the room to be relaxing and inviting, with comfortable chairs and interesting lighting, all to create a welcoming space for students to settle in and work on their classes."

One major advantage for FCAO students is that when they visit the drop-in center, they'll be able to work directly with their teachers. Fox Chapel Area High School faculty members are available in the drop-in center all day Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as every day during QRT (Quality Resource Time).



Science teacher Jessica Papariello and the district's online learning coordinator, Stephanie Reilly, work with a Fox Chapel Area Online student.

"That just isn't possible with outside cyber charter schools," Mrs. Reilly said. "It takes away the mystery of the online teacher who seems to live in cyberspace."

Students enrolled in FCAO can choose from a wide range of classes, including all core courses, business law, personal finance, SAT prep, psychology, environmental science, college and career essentials, art history, physical education, health, world languages, keyboarding, and more.

Another reason that FCAO stands apart from brick-and-mortar charter schools and other online programs is that FCAO students retain all the benefits of being Fox Chapel Area students, such as the ability to participate in the clubs, activities, and sports teams at both Dorseyville Middle School and the high school, Mrs. Reilly said.

In addition, FCAO offers "full flexibility" for its students, allowing them to create a schedule that suits them best. That includes coming to school late or leaving early, if they have an after-school job, for example.

"We have a lot of students who are 'Fifth Period Flex' students, which means they have a full course load in school plus take an additional class online," Mrs. Reilly said. "The choice is up to the student and their family."

"The best thing is being able to do it on your own time," echoed senior Anna Folkerts, who took gym and personal finance through FCAO. "It's definitely very helpful for people who have tight schedules."

Mrs. Reilly, who began working at Fox Chapel Area in January, hopes that students will benefit from her diverse background. She started her career as a nuclear engineer before returning to school to get her teaching certificate. Prior to arriving at Fox Chapel Area, she taught in the Norwin and Plum school districts.



Fox Chapel Area Online students can visit the drop-in center to meet with their teachers and interact with other online learners.

Among Mrs. Reilly's goals for her first year leading FCAO are to get to know the students and families who participate in the program and to help her online learners find a niche.

"I want to reach out and make sure the online students, particularly the students who are not in the building, know of all of the amazing things going on in the district, so they take advantage of everything available to them," she said. "The high school has over 95 clubs and I know there is something for everyone."

TIES TO FOX CHAPEL AREA REMAIN STRONG

Graduates Continue Legacy

Fox Chapel Area elementary Spanish teacher Jessica Taylor didn't necessarily plan to return to her alma mater to teach, but she wouldn't change a thing about the way it worked out. Ms. Taylor (Class of 2004) is just one of dozens of Fox Chapel Area alumni who have returned to work for the district.

"I think there's a comfort in coming back to what you know, but also in knowing that you'll be working for a district with strong values, high standards, and with the resources to help you do your job well," she said. "Over the years, it's become familiar in a new way, though I will never lose the memories of a childhood spent here."

Ms. Taylor attended Hartwood Elementary School, where she teaches Spanish once a week. Over the years, she's worked with a number of her former teachers, but one particular encounter stands out.

"One teacher recognized my name the moment she heard that a Jessica Taylor was hired to be the new Spanish teacher," she said. "When she saw me for the first time at O'Hara, she came up and said, 'I was wondering if it was you!' and hugged me. That moment has meant a lot to me, and I cherish being able to work with her for these first 10 years of my career."

While Terry Wirginis (Class of 1970) doesn't work for the school district, he often attends meetings and events in his role as the president of the Fox Chapel Area School Board.

In addition to the quality of schools, he credits his family's strong roots in the area in his decision to send his children through the district.

"It was never a question of where my wife and I would live," Mr. Wirginis said. "I have many memories of those that walked here before me, and I feel that I have a responsibility to do the best that I can for my family's community."

The decision to return to the district also was an easy one for Lisa (Balkovec) Gibson (Class of 1992), who chairs the gifted education department at the high school and is director of the Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy.



Lisa (Balkovec) Gibson (Class of 1992) and her daughters





Jessica Taylor (Class of 2004)

"I knew I wanted my daughters to be educated in a district that pushes them to reach their highest potential. As I watch my girls grow both intellectually and personally, I know I made the right decision," she said. "They have made strong bonds with their teachers, their interests and talents are nurtured, they have positive role models, a diverse group of peers, and they are happy to go to school every day."

Mrs. Gibson echoed the sentiment that while the look of the district's buildings has changed over the years, the superior academic experience has not.

"Fox Chapel Area has always provided a quality education, but now I am witness to the unlimited opportunities provided to the student body. There is an abundance of Advanced Placement courses; a multitude of creative outlets through our arts and music programs; appealing electives in business, technology, and physical education; online learning options that provide new types of educational flexibility; and engaging summer programs that keep the students learning when school is not in session."





Terry Wirginis (Class of 1970)

ELEMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS

Kerr Elementary Construction Continues

The Kerr Elementary School construction remains on schedule and on budget. Current work includes interior framing, as well as mechanical and electrical installations. The roof deck has also been constructed on the entire building, and underground utilities have been completed. The concrete floor deck has also been poured.



Computer Science Curriculum Advances



Elementary students in Fox Chapel Area schools begin computer programming in kindergarten. At first, the students use hands-on manipulatives to understand the various aspects of programming. They then move to Scratch, where they program their own interactive stories, games, and animations. As they progress, grade by grade, they start to see just how powerful computer science can be.

Fifth-grade students at all Fox Chapel Area schools have transferred from programming in Scratch to using Ardublock – another graphical programming language. This programming language provides students the freedom to program Hummingbird Robots and display them untethered from their computers. The project is a collaboration between the art and computer science departments, ensuring that design, aesthetics, engineering, and computer science skills are connected in a cohesive and engaging project.

O'Hara Elementary art teacher Jennifer Armenis likes that the projects fuse art and technology, and encourage cross-curricular connections. "Students are eagerly engaging in a lesson that produces artistic and engineering independence that challenges them to think about how art changes throughout time and culture," she said.

According to Kerr Elementary computer science teacher Stan Strzempek, the students' projects are showcased in the school's annual art show, and they are always proud of their creations. "The robots also created a buzz with the younger students, who got a glimpse of what they'll create in the future."

Expansion of World Language Exposure in Elementary Schools

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, the Fox Chapel Area School District will expand its elementary world language program. Elementary students in kindergarten through fifth grade currently have Spanish lessons, but next year, they will have increased exposure to other world languages. The main goals of the program will be to introduce students to world language learning early, build an awareness and understanding of other cultures, develop an appreciation for learning another language, and increase student motivation for future language study.

The program will include an emphasis on developing cross-cultural competencies in the youngest students, and the district will also be hiring an additional world language teacher so there will be two at the elementary level.

According to Ashley Constantine, Ed.D., the district's executive director of elementary education and instruction, there are very few districts who offer this kind of exposure to world languages at such a young age.

"This program will give our students the opportunity to explore various languages and the cultures of people who speak them," Dr. Constantine said. "This expansion will give our students an academic advantage and create a very unique learning opportunity."



Hartwood Elementary third-graders studied a Spanish restaurant menu.

SECONDARY HIGHLIGHTS

High School Quarterly Magazine A Staple Since the 1970s

Fox Chapel Area High School's student news magazine, Fox Tales Quarterly, has evolved dramatically in the past few years. Dating to the early 1970s, Fox Tales began as a school newspaper. In 2015, the students revamped the layout and design to create a full-color magazine that spotlights student achievements, events, and topics of local interest.

"I like writing for Fox Tales because we are given the creative freedom to make our magazine whatever we want it to be," said junior Claire Fenton, who has been a staff writer since her freshman year.

Teacher Lisa Gibson, who has sponsored the Fox Tales club for more than a decade, said she is very proud of her student writers. "They have an intrinsic enthusiasm for highlighting the achievements of their peers and covering topics they feel are relevant to the student body."

The publication is distributed in hard copy throughout the high school and is available to the public electronically on the high school website.



The Fox Tales staff



Students Take the Plunge for Special Olympics



On February 22, 40 Fox Chapel Area High School students participated in the Special Olympics Cool Schools Pittsburgh Polar Plunge at Heinz Field. The students raised $2,995 to help support Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Interscholastic Unified Sports programs. A portion of the money raised will support Fox Chapel Area High School adding a second Unified Sports Team, Unified Track. The school added bocce as a Unified Sport last school year.

According to sophomore Ben Friedman, who plays bocce and also plans to compete on the new track team, "It is important for everyone to keep exercising. I am proud to represent my school."

The Cool Schools Polar Plunge brings together students from throughout the Pittsburgh area to celebrate inclusion and to promote acceptance and respect for all students with and without disabilities.

Prior to taking the "plunge," freshman Jeff Robitaille said, "This is going to be awesome to jump in the freezing cold water with my friends!"

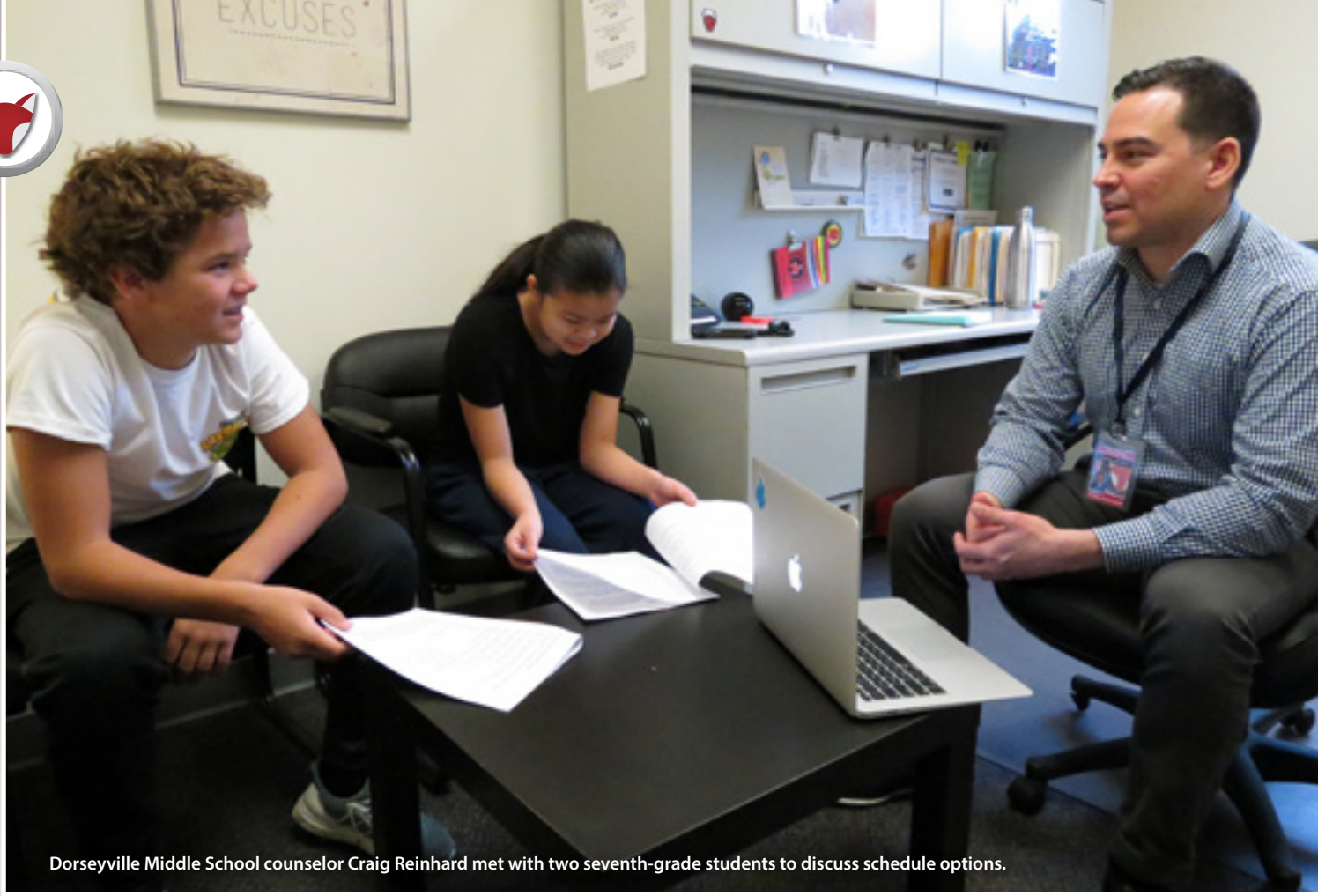
Monster Science Lesson at DMS

Mixing monsters and science is never scary! Dorseyville Middle School sixth-grade students explored topics of heredity through designing and making imaginary monsters. The lesson involved the students learning about traits and characteristics that were passed from monster parents to their offspring through reproduction. By utilizing and applying the important concepts of genetics, the students brought their work to life in the innovation lab by creating 3-D models of the offspring. The lab further encouraged hands-on creations through collaboration, group work, and creativity.

Student Francesca Iasella enjoys learning in the innovation lab. "I come to the makerspace almost every day for lunch. It was so much fun to use it to show what I learned in science class."

Student Matthan Ricci enjoyed working collaboratively while learning and making a project. "I liked it because it gave us a chance to be creative and work together."





Dorseyville Middle School counselor Craig Reinhard met with two seventh-grade students to discuss schedule options.

NEW SCHEDULE ON WAY FOR DMS

Starting in the 2019-2020 school year, Dorseyville Middle School students will spend more instructional time in the core subject areas.

According to Dorseyville Middle School Principal Jonathan Nauhaus, the middle school schedule had not changed in many years, and an upgrade was necessary to give students the best education possible.

"The change was imperative for several reasons, including increased rigor in the Pennsylvania Core Standards and students needing more experience with skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, and creative thinking," he said. "But we knew that it was important for students to continue to be exposed to the arts and other elective offerings that they have become accustomed to experiencing."

According to Matthew Harris, Ed.D., the district's executive director of secondary education and instruction, today's learning must go beyond simple memorization and needs to delve into the understanding of complex systems.

"The new DMS schedule responds to an instructional and curricular landscape that has changed to respond to the needs of the PA Core Standards and a modern workforce," he said.

The process of changing the schedule was collaborative and involved parents, administrators, and teachers. The district enlisted the help of The Hill Group Management Consultants, who conducted a parent survey to ensure that all stakeholders voices were heard. Following input from the survey, the DMS teachers and administrators developed model schedules. The district also held public meetings about the schedule throughout the process to keep parents and guardians informed. The final schedule was the consensus of all stakeholder groups.

Several priorities were set for the development of the new schedule. It was understood that the program must be unique to the needs of the middle school learner and the middle school philosophy, including built-in academic and emotional supports, an increase in class time for core subjects, and maintaining strong connections between students and staff. Additionally, the schedule needed to preserve a wide exposure to the arts and also offer other experiences to help students develop additional academic interests.

The schedule will run on a quarterly six-day cycle and includes a 34-minute morning homebase and 60 minutes each for the core classes of English language arts/literacy, math, science, and social studies. It also includes time for physical education, music, world languages, art, technology education, computer science, health, and family and consumer sciences. Eighth-graders also have the opportunity to further study electives, and classes were added in computer science and music. Additionally, the schedule allows for later lunch periods, the study of four languages (Spanish, French, German, and Latin) in sixth grade, and a Level I world language option in grade seven.

NEW COURSES AHEAD FOR DMS STUDENTS

Along with an updated bell schedule, students at Dorseyville Middle School will have a number of new courses to choose from for the 2019-2020 school year.

Computer Science

Eighth-grade students interested in computer science will be able to take Intro to Python or Python. In both courses, students will explore the Python programming language. The curriculum will allow them to enhance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and build on concepts they learned in the newly renamed CS Game Design, a unified arts course for all seventh-graders, currently called Computer Science 7.

The three courses will join the Mobile Device class required for all sixth-graders. This course provides an introduction to digital learning and teaches students how to properly use their district-provided iPads.

"Additional computer science courses will help continue to develop problem-solvers and innovators, as well as teach computational thinking, organization, and group-based collaboration, all of which could potentially improve student achievements in other subject areas," said Season Gigliotti, who will teach the Intro to Python course. "Today, computer science is embedded into all areas of careers fields, including marketing, journalism, finance, medicine, and education. Giving our students the opportunity to explore various courses in this area will open more doors for their futures."

According to Fox Chapel Area School Board member Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D., these types of courses are part of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) curriculum and are a valuable part of promoting an interdisciplinary approach to learning. They also expose children to the unique advantages of each discipline and develop more well-rounded students capable of complex problem-solving skills, he said.

"It is imperative that we maintain our high standards of educating our children by staying on the cutting edge of educational reform for the evolving global platform, while also maintaining our already successful core educational values," Dr. Vyas said.

Music

Music Production and Careers 8 is a new course that will be offered to eighth-graders at DMS. It will introduce students to music technology and production, as well as expose them to other non-performance career options.

According to middle school choral director Amy Beresik, this new course will round out the middle school complement of general music courses and will provide a technical and creative outlet for students to engage with music using technology as the primary teaching and learning tool. The purpose of general music courses at DMS are to engage students who don't play an instrument or sing in an ensemble.

"We want them to enjoy music and to learn more about its role in society, history, and entertainment," Mrs. Beresik said.

In the music production unit of this new course, students will analyze the use, intentions, and effectiveness of music in various media and ultimately create their own project to present. These projects will utilize iPads as students create movie clips, compose original soundtracks, and insert voice-overs and sound effects. In the music careers unit, students will explore current employment opportunities that draw upon a wide variety of academic skills, as well as interest in music.

"Middle school is such an important time for holistic exposure to a wide range of activities, interests, subject areas, and skills as many students are still figuring out their unique talents and gifts. Many students at this age aren't necessarily settled on a particular job or career path, and this course gives us an exciting opportunity to broaden students' horizons and see the practical, and potentially lucrative, ways that they can develop and apply their love of music in many ways," Mrs. Beresik said. "Additionally, this course will provide continuity between the middle school and high school general music program strands."



Dorseyville Middle School computer science teacher Season Gigliotti worked with a student in Computer Science 7. Next school year, the course name will change to CS Game Design.

DISTRICT'S SUMMER CAMPS ENRICH LEARNING

The Fox Chapel Area School District will, once again, be offering a number of summer programs for students.

Secondary Programs

The Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy will continue its many summer programs that are offered at the high school. All of the programs are offered to Fox Chapel Area students, as well as students from other school districts, unless indicated.

EMPOWER2019 Comprehensive Leadership Program – Thirteen days of leadership training and eight full Dale Carnegie Training™ sessions with two college credits for rising 10-12 graders. June 11, 13, 17-27 & July 1 and 2 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

EMPOWER2019 Emerging Leadership Program – Five days of leadership training, including four modified Dale Carnegie Training™ sessions for rising 10-12 graders. June 17-21 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Blossom and Flourish Leadership Program – A leadership training and confidence-building program for rising seventh- through ninth-grade girls. July 8-12 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

FIRST STEP – This program is for incoming Fox Chapel Area High School freshmen only, and the goal is to help students with the transition from middle to high school. June 17-21 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Transportation is provided, if needed.

Future Filmmakers Academy – Students entering grades seven through nine will be introduced to the skills of filmmaking. July 8-12 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

CSI Summer Seminar – Rising eighth- and ninth-graders will be introduced to career pathways in the field of forensic science by exploring various disciplines associated with forensic investigations. July 9-11 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



FIERCE (Fortitude, Integrity, Empowerment, Rights, Courage, Equality) – Students entering grades 9-12 will participate in a three-day intensive study of issues in the LGBTQ community. August 5-7 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Theater Arts Camp – Rising sixth- through eighth-graders will learn more about musical theater stage production. August 5-7 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Study Skills Boot Camp – Students in grades nine through 12 will learn how to get organized and gain the tools for academic success. August 24 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mastering the College Essay – Beginning in August and running through November, high school seniors can get one-on-one guidance on producing a stellar college application.

Prices for the courses vary and scholarships are available for eligible students. More information about the programs can be found by visiting *www.wpalearning.com*, contacting teacher Lisa Gibson at 412/967-2479, or emailing her at *lisa_gibson@fcasd.edu*.

STEAM Camps



STEAM Summer Camps – The district's third annual STEAM Summer Camps will be offered to rising first- through ninth-graders from any school district. This is a series of interdisciplinary camps focusing on topics such as drones, coding, escape rooms, rocket science, engineering design, digital art, and more.

The camps will be held at Hartwood Elementary June 17-21 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday, with an open house on Friday with a noon dismissal.

Spots are limited. Register at *https://fcasdsteamcamp2019.eventbrite.com*.

DISTRICT TO LAUNCH PRE-K PROGRAM

The Fox Chapel Area School District will welcome its youngest group of learners ever when the brand-new Pre-Kindergarten program debuts in August at Kerr Elementary School.

In addition to turning 4 years old by Sept. 1, Pre-Kindergarten students also must be toilet-trained, and their family's income must not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Fox Chapel Area began the program in an effort to curb the population of students who enter the district lacking the readiness skills needed for success, said Dr. Ashley Constantine, Ed.D., executive director of elementary education and instruction.



Kerr Elementary School kindergarten teacher Katy Wygant works with two of her kindergarten students. Mrs. Wygant will be teaching the district's new Pre-Kindergarten class next school year.

"Children who may not have the same advantages as others can have trouble catching up," she said. "As a district, we want to be proactive and allocate resources to early identification and support."

The Pre-Kindergarten program, which will be offered at no charge, will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and will follow the district's calendar. The five-day-a-week schedule is designed to promote positive approaches to learning, Dr. Constantine said.

"These areas include designing a supportive classroom environment; strengthening social, emotional, and behavioral skills in students; and working collaboratively with families," she said. "Our approach is also aligned to the outcomes set by the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards and is designed to maximize students' academic learning, achievement, and growth."

Katy Wygant, who is currently a kindergarten teacher at Kerr, will be the lead teacher. The class also will have a full-time assistant or two part-time assistants. A typical day will involve story time, small group instruction, gross motor activities, and special classes, such as art, music, and gym. Students will receive breakfast, a mid-morning snack, and lunch.

Registration for the program closed at the end of February. A random selection process to fill the classroom's 20 seats was held on March 8.

SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors held its annual reorganization meeting December 3, 2018. Terry Wirginis was re-elected president, Nancy Foster was re-elected vice president, and Sandra Garbisch was re-elected assistant secretary.

The Board set the meeting schedule and will meet on the following dates for the remainder of 2019:

Agenda Study Sessions

April 8* (Fox Chapel Area High School); May 6* (Dorseyville Middle School); June 3 (O'Hara Elementary School); August 12* (Fox Chapel Area High School); September 9* (Fox Chapel Area High School); October 7 (Fox Chapel Area High School); November 4 (Kerr Elementary School); and December 3* (Tuesday) (Fox Chapel Area High School).

Regular Business Meetings

April 8*; May 6* (Dorseyville Middle School); June 10; August 12*; September 9*; October 14; November 11; and December 3* (Tuesday). All regular business meetings and combined meetings are held at Fox Chapel Area High School unless otherwise indicated.

The School Board's annual reorganization meeting will be held December 3, immediately following the December combined agenda study session and regular business meeting.

All Board meetings are held on Mondays (unless otherwise indicated) at 7 p.m.

Other members of the Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors are: Robert Mauro, Treasurer; Edith Cook, Ph.D.; Somer Obernauer Jr.; Lisa Rutkowski; Eric Schmidt; and Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D.

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

FRESHMAN SWIMMER IS RECORD-BREAKER



Freshman swimmer Zoe Skirboll already has made a name for herself as a record-setter on the national scene. She's ranked as the fastest girl in the country in her age group in the 100 breaststroke, and the third fastest in that race in USA Swimming history. Nobody has beaten the national records she set when she was 10 years old in the 50 free and 100 free, and she also holds the 50 breaststroke long- and short-course records for the 11-12 age group.

Now, the bubbly student-athlete is applying her success to high school sports where, as a member of the Fox Chapel Area High School Swim Team, she now competes against girls as much as four years older than her. That hasn't seemed to break her stride. Most recently, Zoe placed first in the 100 breaststroke at the WPIAL championships February 28 and March 1, and set a WPIAL record in the process, with a time of 1:00.96. Prior to PIAAs, she was ranked as the fastest swimmer in the state in that event. The state championships were held March 15 and 16 at Bucknell University.

In her maiden year with the group, Zoe broke four school records (50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 200 individual medley [IM], and 100 breaststroke), qualified for the WPIAL Class AAA championships in eight events, and, while she personally doesn't like to think too far ahead, was a strong favorite to win gold at PIAAs.

The High School Experience

"I love being part of a team where every race matters, every point counts, and the outcome can come down to the last point," she says.

The support of her teammates means the world to her, and it's not hard to see why, as she recalls the scenario when she broke her first school record.

"When I hit the pool wall (when she broke the 200 IM time), my teammates were right there and all along the sidelines screaming, 'You broke the record! You broke the record!'" says the driven swimmer. "They were happy and excited for me, and it was such a great feeling."



She explains her decision of which races she wanted to enter at WPIALs: "My best time is in the 100 breast, and I wanted to see what I could do in the 200 IM. We thought these events would give me the best shot for the possibility of getting to states."

Considering how Zoe is such a natural in the water, it's hard to believe that when she was younger, she disliked swimming. "I did *not* like it for about the first three years. My parents were OK with that, but then I didn't really have anything else to do, so I just kept going. But I've really fallen in love with the sport."

And, even though she practices six days a week and about 340 days a year, she says, "It never gets old, especially when I'm around my friends, because the routine is different every day."

Recent WPIAL Accolades

At the WPIAL Class AAA Championships February 28 and March 1, in addition to placing first in the 100 breaststroke, she came in second in the 200 IM, and she and the first-place finisher both broke the WPIAL record. Zoe qualified for states in both events, as well as in the 200 IM relay and the 400 freestyle relay with her teammates in those events, juniors Grace Gackenbach and Leia Ross, and sophomore Vivian Shao.

(At press time, the 2019 PIAA Swimming and Diving Championships had not yet been held.)

ANOTHER GOLDEN DAY FOR JONAH CAGLEY

Jonah Cagley captured his third consecutive WPIAL gold medal at the Class AAA Diving Championships with a school record of 588.95 points for 11 dives. His score was 31.30 points higher than his nearest competitor, and more than 52 points higher than his own total from last year.

Jonah says the improvement in his scores aren't due to adding more or harder dives, but because he is paying more attention to the little things.

"I've just been focusing on cleaning up my dives," says the Duke University recruit. "It's all in the details, like pointing my toes, making sure my legs are perfectly straight in pike position, and cleaning up my entry."

Foxes' diving Coach Vernon Yenick says that Jonah's diving at WPIALs was possibly the best he'd ever seen him dive. "He was confident and just looked very polished. I've coached some amazing divers over the years, but I do believe that Jonah is probably the most prolific, talented, and strongest of them all," the coach says.

Jonah's top-rated performance came after what he describes as his biggest setback in his diving career.

"In December, I fractured my sternum and then developed back problems," says Jonah, who was sidelined from practicing his difficult WPIAL dives for nearly a month. "But during that time, I learned that I'm mentally stronger than I thought I was. I now know I can bounce back from challenges, and that my will is strong."

(At press time, the 2019 PIAA Swimming and Diving Championships had not yet been held.)



Jonah Cagley on the WPIAL medal stand with his teammates, sophomore David Manelis and senior Magnus Loeffler, who also placed.

SHE'S NOT A GIRL, SHE'S A WRESTLER

Jordana Matamoros didn't set out to be a trailblazer when she decided to wrestle. Rather, she saw it as a natural extension of her jujitsu training, a martial art that shares similarities with wrestling.

Now, five years later and as a member of the Fox Chapel Area High School Wrestling Team, Jordana's choice to follow a less-traveled road has paid off for her. The senior and three-year letter winner recently became the first female in the 18-year history of the Allegheny County Wrestling Championships to earn all-county status.

Her performances over the years have earned her the respect of her teammates and coaches, and it's not hard to see why. From her sophomore year on, Jordana has been a top point-earner for the Foxes, and this season alone, she scored 12 pins and 21 wins. In addition to the hardware she earned at the all-county tournament, she also medaled at the Steve DeAugustino Holiday Classic, where she scored a fall in the second period of her final match.

Jordana has also participated in state and national tournaments with USA Girls Wrestling and other organizations. She placed third at female Pennsylvania state competitions for two years, fourth for one year, and, most recently, placed second to a nationally-ranked wrestler.



"It's been an honor and a great experience for her," says head wrestling Coach Ron Frank, "and as coaches, we are most proud that she stands unafraid of challenges."

Coach Frank is always on the hunt for athletes to join his team, and their gender doesn't concern him at all; he's actually coached three females in his four-plus decades of coaching. He first heard about Jordana while she was still in middle school.

"When I was in ninth grade, Coach Frank started asking me to wrestle," Jordana says, recalling the story. "He would come to my ceramics class every day trying to convince me. I had no intention of joining the team, but he was so persistent, and after a while, I was so sick of him coming to my class that I just gave in."

While Jordana has dared to be different, she doesn't consider herself a pioneer. "I just want to be seen as a competitor," she says.

According to Coach Frank, "She's not a girl to us, she's a wrestler, a member of the team, and she wins."

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2018-2019 FACTS & FIGURES

2018-2019 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (K-GRADE 5)

Fairview Elementary School	359
Hartwood Elementary School	367
Kerr Elementary School	382
O'Hara Elementary School	677
Total Elementary Enrollment	1,785

SECONDARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 6-12)

Dorseyville Middle School (6-8)	896
Fox Chapel Area High School (9-12)	1,336
Total Secondary Enrollment	2,232
Total District Enrollment	4,017

CLASS OF 2018

The total number of graduates in the Fox Chapel Area High School Class of 2018 was 345. The percentages of 2018 graduates entering some type of postsecondary education were as follows:

Four-Year Colleges	268 or 78%
Two-Year Colleges/Other	37 or 11%
Total Continuing Education	305 or 89%

AVERAGE SAT SCORES

	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	Math
Class of 2018	604	600
Class of 2017	611	606

	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Class of 2016	563	572	557
Class of 2015	562	574	561
Class or 2014	568	583	569

A total of 270 members (78 percent) of the Class of 2018 took the SAT during their junior or senior year. The national average scores for all 2018 graduates taking the test were 533 in evidence-based reading and writing and 527 in math.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF STATISTICS

NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Elementary	168
Secondary	206
Total	374

MASTER'S OR DOCTORATE DEGREE OR EQUIVALENT

Elementary	74%
Secondary	81%

AVERAGE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Elementary	18 Years
Secondary	20 Years

THE COMMUNITY

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

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

VISION

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

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

CORE VALUES

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Integrity

Fox Chapel Area SCHOOL NEWS

2019-2020 Fox Chapel Area School District Calendar

August 2019				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
I 12	*I* 13	*I* 14	*P* 15	*FC* 16
P/C 19	*P* 20	*FC* 21	22	*(2)* 23
26	27	28	29	*(7)* 30

September 2019				
X 2	3	4	5	*(11)* 6
9	10	11	12	*(16)* 13
16	17	18	19	*(21)* 20
23	24	25	26	*(26)* 27
X 30				

October 2019				
	1	2	3	*(30)* 4
7	8	*X* 9	10	*(34)* 11
14	15	*E/+* 16	17	*(39)* 18
21	22	23	24	*E/C(44)* 25
28	29	30	31	

November 2019				
				R(49) 1
E/CONF 4	*CONF+* 5	6	7	*(53)* 8
11	12	13	14	*(58)* 15
18	19	20	21	*(63)* 22
25	26	*E/+(66)* 27	*X* 28	*X* 29

December 2019				
X 2	3	4	5	*(70)* 6
9	10	11	12	*(75)* 13
16	17	18	19	*(80)* 20
X 23	*X* 24	*X* 25	*X* 26	*X* 27
X 30	*X* 31			

January 2020				
		X 1	2	*(82)* 3
6	7	8	9	*(87)* 10
13	14	15	*(91)* 16	*FC* 17
P 20	21	22	23	*R(95)* 24
27	28	29	30	*(100)* 31

February 2020				
3	4	5	6	*(105)* 7
10	11	12	*(109)* 13	*P* 14
X 17	18	19	20	*(113)* 21
24	25	26	27	*(118)* 28

March 2020				
2	3	4	5	*(123)* 6
9	10	11	12	*(128)* 13
16	17	18	19	*E/C(133)* 20
23	24	25	26	*R(138)* 27
30	31			

April 2020				
		1	2	*E/C(143)* 3
X 6	*X* 7	*X* 8	*X* 9	*X* 10
13	14	15	16	*(148)* 17
20	21	22	23	*(153)* 24
27	28	29	30	

May 2020				
				(158) 1
4	5	6	7	*(163)* 8
11	12	13	14	*(168)* 15
18	19	20	21	*(173)* 22
X 25	26	*K/E* 27	28	*(177)* 29

June 2020				
1	2	3	4	*E/C(182)* 5
P 8	*P* 9	*FC* 10	*P/C* 11	*R* 12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

First Semester

8/12-14	New Teacher Induction Days
8/15 & 20	Professional Development Days
8/16 & 21	Full Clerical Days
8/19	Professional Development/Clerical Day
8/22	First Day for Students
9/2	Labor Day
9/30 & 10/9	Fall Break
10/16	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
10/25	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
11/4	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Parent Teacher Conference Day
11/5	Parent Teacher Conference Day
11/27	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
11/28-12/2	Thanksgiving Break
12/23-1/1	Winter Break

Second Semester

1/17	Full Clerical Day
1/20	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday & Professional Development Day
2/14	Professional Development Day
2/17	Presidents' Day
3/20	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
4/3	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
4/6-10	Spring Break
5/25	Memorial Day
5/27	Kennywood Day & Early Dismissal
6/5	Last Day for Students Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
6/7	Commencement
6/8 & 9	Professional Development Days
6/10	Full Clerical Day
6/11	Professional Development/Clerical Day

1st Grading Period – October 25 – 44 days
2nd Grading Period – January 16 – 47 days
3rd Grading Period – March 20 – 42 days
4th Grading Period – June 5 – 49 days

November 4 – Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Parent Teacher Conference Day
November 5 – Parent Teacher Conference Day (No School for Students)
June 5 – Last Day for Students = 182 Days
(unless make up days are required)
June 11 – Last Day for Professional Staff = 195 Days
(unless make up days are required)

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

April 20-May 8 shaded areas indicate PSSA testing windows. January 6-17 and May 11-22 shaded areas indicate Keystone Exams testing windows. Refer to the FCASD website (www.fcasd.edu) for specific grades tested in each time frame.

Make up days (if necessary): June 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2020

Please consult building, website, and the district's art and activities calendar for building-level early dismissal dates, school activities, and other special events.

APPROVED 3/11/19

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 Breitkreutz
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.