

# FOX CHAPEL AREA

## School News



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fox Chapel Area Community,

I look at every year as its own story. And, so far, we are writing a wonderful one for the 2023-2024 school year. In the following pages, you will see that our students and staff have experienced a great deal of success – including, most recently, Dorseyville Middle School being named among the Schools to Watch in Pennsylvania – and we still have many chapters ahead of us.

Our students are in our schools for only a short time, and what we are really doing is encouraging them to write their own stories, while also educating and preparing them for when they will leave our schools and go out into the world. Our goal is to educate students, encourage them to be critical thinkers, become contributors to the betterment of their communities, and leave here with lessons and friendships that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. We want them to be adaptable to change, be able to help those around them solve problems, learn how to use technology for good, and be emotionally and socially connected to themselves and the world around them.

This can be a difficult task as we look at the constantly changing world around us. However, we will be guided by the four pillars – purpose, passion, care, and community – of our new strategic vision, the theme of our story. You will see these four pillars woven into much of what we do, and they will become part of the fabric of who we are as a district. While they are here, we want our students to find

- Purpose: learning through challenging curriculums and instruction, infusing a sense of determination;
- Passion: authentic learning experiences that develop an enthusiasm for pursuing interests inside and outside of classrooms;
- Care: a concern for themselves, as individuals, and for the world around them, while finding joy in doing for and helping others; and
- Community: knowing that they help to create the school community, taking care of where they belong, and asking how they can help better the places where they “live,” both locally and globally.

These pillars look different for each and every student, and also for every one of us.

I hope you see some of these pillars demonstrated, not just in the stories in this magazine, but also reflected in our students and throughout our community. We invite you to follow along with our district story as we encourage each of our students to write their own.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac  
Superintendent



*Our students are in our schools for only a short time, and what we are really doing is encouraging them to write their own stories, while also educating and preparing them for when they will leave our schools and go out into the world.*



## DMS NAMED AMONG ‘SCHOOLS TO WATCH’

### *Third Such Recognition Since 2010*

**D**orseyville Middle School has been designated among the PA “Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch.” A total of 11 exemplary middle-grade schools in Pennsylvania are being recognized as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform.

This is the third time Dorseyville has received Schools to Watch recognition. Dorseyville was named among the Schools to Watch in 2010 and was then redesignated for 2013-2016. Schools to Watch state leaders selected each school for its academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures and processes. In addition, each school was recognized for having strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement.

According to Fox Chapel Area School District Superintendent Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac, this prestigious recognition is the result of a collaborative and thoughtful approach to education.

“We are so proud of the commitment that is demonstrated daily by our students, teachers, school board members, administrators, support staff members, parents and guardians, and our entire school community,” Dr. Reljac says. “Everyone works together to facilitate learning, teaching, and growth for our students, and that is reflected in this recognition.”

Since 2006-2007, a total of 62 schools across Pennsylvania have been honored as part of the program. The 11 schools designated in 2023 will be recognized at the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education’s state conference in February. Each of these schools will have a celebration at their building in the spring. They will also be recognized nationally in Washington, D.C., at the National Forum’s National Schools to Watch Conference in June.

“The Schools to Watch process yields two positive results for us as a school,” says Dorseyville Middle School Principal Jonathan Nauhaus. “We are thrilled to be recognized by an outside agency for creating an outstanding educational space for our students to learn, grow, and develop. Additionally, it serves as an assessment



tool that allows us to celebrate our identified strengths and make improvements where necessary. We are excited and proud to be recognized as a model middle school.”

According to Bruce Vosburgh, state Schools to Watch director, “We congratulate these schools for being places that do great things for all of their students. These schools demonstrate that high-performing middle-grade schools are places that focus on academic growth and achievement. They are also places that recognize the importance of meeting the needs of all of their students and ensure that every child has access to a challenging, high-quality education.”

The Schools to Watch selection process is based on a written application that requires schools to show how they met criteria developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Schools that met the criteria were then visited by a state team, which observed classrooms; interviewed administrators, teachers, students, and parents; and looked at achievement data, quality of lessons, student work, and other information. Each designation lasts for three years.

Dorseyville Middle School Program Principal Dr. Laura Miller worked with a committee of teachers to complete the application.

“Through the Schools to Watch continuous growth and improvement model, we, as a building, are able to highlight the phenomenal work our students and staff already do, and also glean recommendations as to how we can improve our practices moving forward,” she says.

# JUNIOR SCORES PERFECT ON AP EXAM

*One of Only Six Worldwide to Achieve Feat*

**F**ox Chapel Area High School junior Anna Delale-O'Connor wasn't expecting what she saw when she glanced at her email in the middle of her physics class. This was when she found out she had achieved a perfect score on the Advanced Placement (AP) World History: Modern Exam.

"I noticed a message from the College Board about my score, but I didn't realize it was a perfect score announcement until I opened it," Anna says. "I was surprised at first, and almost didn't believe it had happened, but once I processed the information, I felt really proud of myself."

And, rightfully so. Anna was among only six students worldwide to attain a perfect score on the exam out of approximately 300,000 students who took the test in the spring of 2023.

Social studies teacher Brandon Rios, who taught Anna's AP World History course during the 2022-2023 school year, says Anna is the first student in all his years of teaching AP classes to accomplish a perfect score. He describes the more than three-hour test as a "grinder" that includes multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.



Fox Chapel Area High School junior Anna Delale-O'Connor was honored by the Fox Chapel Area School Board and by members of the Allegheny County Council in November for her perfect score on the AP World History: Modern Exam. Anna is pictured here with Allegheny County Council members Nicholas Futules and Anita Prizio.

*"What stood out, consistently throughout the year, was just her work ethic, her ability to perform extremely well on tasks ... She is just a wonderful, all-around great person. She did such a wonderful job in class, and her work ethic is amazing."*

*– Brandon Rios,  
Social Studies Teacher*



"What stood out, consistently throughout the year, was just her work ethic, her ability to perform extremely well on tasks ... She is just a wonderful, all-around great person," he says. "She did such a wonderful job in class, and her work ethic is amazing."

Anna prepared for the exam by attending study sessions hosted by Mr. Rios, as well as a weekend review. She also completed several practice tests covering all aspects of the exam. She says she is grateful to her family, teachers, and friends who all helped her prepare for the test.

Anna was honored at a November Fox Chapel Area School Board meeting, during which she was recognized by the district, as well as representatives from Allegheny County Council. County Council members Nicholas Futules and Anita Prizio presented Anna with a special proclamation commending her for her hard work and dedication.

Mr. Futules congratulated Anna, saying, "The world is at your hands. You can accomplish anything you want ... Your dreams are just unlimited."

Anna is a well-rounded student who enjoys reading, creative writing, participating in science competitions, and playing her violin. She plans to attend college to major in computer science and pursue a career as a software engineer.



## SEASONED EDUCATOR JOINS FCAHS

### *New Program Principal Focuses on Relationships, Safe Culture*

**D**r. Michelle Young, a seasoned educator with nearly 20 years of experience, hopes to serve as a role model in her new position as a Fox Chapel Area High School program principal and make a difference in the lives of students.

Dr. Young sees relationships as being at the core of providing a positive experience and safe culture.

"I believe in the importance and power of relationships. People do not care what you know until they know that you care about them," she says. "I have always been interested in the connections between positive relationships and their effect on school safety. I believe focusing more on the proactive side of having a positive culture and building relationships helps our overall safety as a school entity."

Dr. Young recalls one of her proudest moments in public education.

"The valedictorian in my last school district spoke about me during her speech at graduation, thanking me for being a positive role model for the student body and for showing grace under pressure, and teaching students appropriate ways of managing challenging situations. For me, her words exemplify why I do what I do."

Dr. Young began her career as a high school English teacher in Crawford County. She then worked as a high school English teacher in the Commodore Perry School District in Mercer County. She served as an elementary school principal in that same school district from 2012-2021, where she simultaneously served as the special education coordinator for the district. She then became the high school principal at Commodore Perry. Most recently, she was the high school principal in the Lakeview School District in Mercer County.

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*"People do not care what you know  
until they know that you  
care about them."*

*– Dr. Michelle Young,  
High School Program Principal*

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Dr. Young has a bachelor of arts degree in English and communications from John Carroll University, a master of education in curriculum and instruction from Gannon University, and a doctorate in instructional management and leadership from Robert Morris University.

Although Dr. Young grew up in Brookfield, Ohio, she has lived in Pennsylvania for many years. She has two children – a daughter in high school and a son in middle school. In addition to spending time with her family, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, and bicycling, as well as baking.

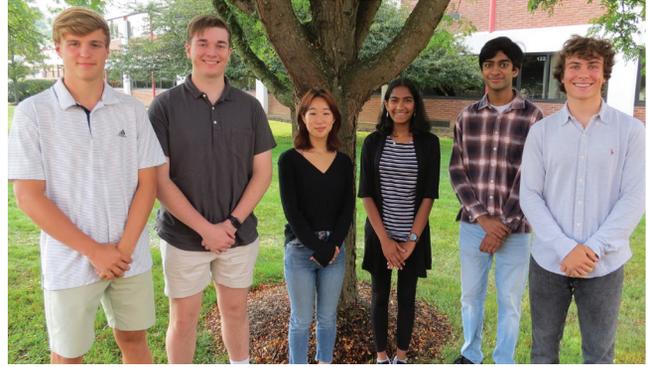
Dr. Young replaces Dr. Daniel Lentz, who retired in October after serving as a high school program principal for 14 years.

According to Dr. Young, she has felt welcome at Fox Chapel Area since her first interview, in addition to having heard positive things about the district and its high performance.

"Everything that I had heard made Fox Chapel Area a place to which I aspired to be. I am excited to be a part of such a wonderful place for students to learn and thrive."

# 28 SENIORS RECOGNIZED IN NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Six Fox Chapel Area High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Semifinalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program: Lucas Gravina, Chloe Kim, Shriya Krishnamurthy, Adhitya Thirumala, Abraham White, and Dylan Work. The Semifinalists represent less than 1% of the nation's high school seniors and have the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for more than 7,000 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million in the spring of 2024. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school staff member, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. Semifinalists must also participate in school and community activities, and demonstrate leadership abilities.



The Fox Chapel Area High School National Merit Semifinalists are, from left to right, Dylan Work, Abraham White, Chloe Kim, Shriya Krishnamurthy, Adhitya Thirumala, and Lucas Gravina.

Additionally, 22 high school seniors were named Commended Students: Jacob Anthikad, Annalese Bartolacci, Dylan Berman, Joshua Correnti, Amelia Costello, Nicholas Cusano, Eliza Davis, Logan Dressman, David Feder, Adam Ferris, Emmett Gillespie, Darren Jayaratnam, Clara Kelley, Henry Koloc, Rachel Milcheck, Eduardo Phelan-Vidal, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi, Liviya Rubin, Emily Torbert, Gloria Wen, Isabella White, and Bridget Yun. The Commended Students represent the top 5%

of the nation's high school seniors and are recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

This year's National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students were selected based on their 2022 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test scores. Each year, more than 1.3 million juniors complete the test and are automatically entered into the National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 advance to become Semifinalists, and about 34,000 are Commended.

## FCAHS RECERTIFIED AS NATIONAL UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOL

Fox Chapel Area High School has been recertified as a National Banner Unified Champion School by the international headquarters of Special Olympics. Fox Chapel Area first received this designation in 2019.

The honor is bestowed upon a small number of schools that demonstrate a commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence, developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community, that center around inclusion, acceptance, empowerment, and respect.

"We are so proud of the values that are embraced every day by the Fox Chapel Area school community," says Matthew Aaron, president and CEO of Special Olympics Pennsylvania. "Through the uplifting culture promoted by the students and staff at Fox Chapel Area, everyone is valued, everyone contributes meaningfully through their unique talents, and everyone is included."

According to Dr. Timothy Mahoney, the district's director of special education and pupil services, the recognition highlights the truly inclusive culture within the district and the commitment of staff, students, and community.

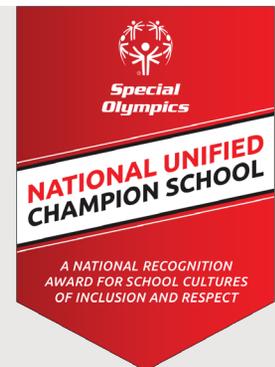
"The youth leadership and whole school engagement is student-driven and speaks to the peer relationships fostered in our elementary buildings that continue to grow in our middle and high schools," Dr. Mahoney says. "That level of interest

and support represents what Special Olympics and inclusion mean to our Fox Chapel Area community."

Fox Chapel Area is one of 146 high schools in the nation to be named a National Banner Unified Champion School for 2023-2024. It is the only high school in Western Pennsylvania to receive the recognition, and one of only two to be recertified in the state this year.

Of note, Fox Chapel Area is one of only 24 schools in Pennsylvania to ever receive the National Unified Champion Banner School designation and was the first school in Allegheny County to do so. Fox Chapel Area also was the first school in Allegheny County to have a Unified Track team, which was established during the 2018-2019 school year. The high school also has had a Unified Bocce team since the 2017-2018 school year. These teams include students with and without disabilities, and these athletes work side by side in both training and competition.

Fox Chapel Area High School will receive its Unified Champion School national banner later this school year.





# HOMECOMING 2023

Students, families, alumni, and Fox Chapel Area community members came together for the district's annual homecoming celebration in late September.

A community carnival was held prior to the football game and included student- and community-run booths with games, activities, and fundraisers, as well as food trucks. Live music from the students and faculty was also featured during the carnival.

Fox Chapel Area High School seniors Benedetta Pacini and Alexander Kaufmann were crowned homecoming queen and king during halftime festivities. The other senior members of the homecoming court were Alyssa Berardi, Fiona Brown, Dylan Byersdorfer, Isabella Marcos, Jack O'Brien, and Elliott Stephany. This year's crown bearers were homecoming princess Celeste Hastings and prince Elijah Jones. The underclassmen on the court were sophomores Nora Kelley and Adison Rimer, and freshmen Torrin Gniewkowski and Sofia Melani.

All homecoming activities were coordinated and sponsored by the Fox Chapel Area High School student activities department and the Fox Leadership Council.





## 2023 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

**F**ox Chapel Area High School held its annual National Honor Society (NHS) induction ceremony in September. Speakers included the four NHS officers, seniors Annalese Bartolacci (president), Gloria Wen (vice president), Mia Costello (secretary), and Owen Levy (treasurer), who spoke about the four pillars of the NHS – scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Superintendent Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac and Lead Principal Dr. Michael Hower also spoke as part of the ceremony.

This year, 138 students were inducted into the Fox Chapel Area High School NHS. Those inducted were seniors Alyssa Berardi, Sophia Carvelli, Mia Dunleavy, Kyra Gdovichin, Sage Good, Maisy Hanley, Claire Kinst, Massimo Lagazzi, Angela Ngo, Caitlyn Novak, Thomas Patterson, Connor Scanlon, Kieu Uyen Tong, Benjamin Werner, and Jude Willison. Juniors inducted were Jennifer Adamo, Caleb Adams, Omar Al-Bataineh, Ainsley Anderson, Claire Auffenberg, Murugan Ayyanar, Katherine Banyas, Baustin Bitar, David Black, Ridgley Boychuk, Adelyn Bursick, Rebecca Chang, Isabella Cheatham, Milo Chiu, Malik Choset, Nicholas Clump, Ava Condrion, Elena Curran, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Megan Delaney, Eleanor Dering, Noelle Dick, Emanuel DiNatale, Maya DiPasquale, Emma Donovan, Marina Dunham, Kai Edwards, Claire Feczko, Brooke Fenton, Benjamin Fiedler, Liam Foley, Mason Friday, Gabrielle Generett, Selin Geylani, Josephine Giguere, Robert Goehring, Caden Goodworth, Lindsay Gould, Madeline Grimsley, Jackson Hagler, Shahed Hamada, Natalie Hanlon, Chase Hendren, Alaina Hershey, Brianna Hnatow, Justin Horne, Owen Howell, Rayna Huang, Moonyoung Hwang, Nicholas Ingramm, Etash Jhanji, Patton Johnson, Madeleine Jones, Nicole Kang, Anna Kintner, Jonah Kline, Liam Koffler, Grace Kovach, Arnim Kuchhal, Joseph Kuhns, Charles Larsen, Weidi Li, Pablo Linzoain, Joshua Lowe, Nathan Mackey, Peter Mascilli, Lily Massaro, Devon McDonald, Alina Minturn, Stella Minturn, Anna Mohn, Wyatt Muller, Kennedy Murton, Avanti Muvvala, Salome Navas Grijalva, Victor Nernberg, Tiffany Nguyen, Kyle Ong, Aidan Ortz, Pierce Osterholm, Amirah Owonikoko, Sangyon Park, Hannah Parker, Natalie Patel, Nicholas Pate,



Gianna Patterson, Rachel Pegher, Vanessa Perez Milano, Ava Persichetti, Melisa Pietz, Francesco Pistella, Luca Poli, Rebecca Poole, Alyssa Quackenbush, Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj, Hyunoh Ro, Adina Rosen, Addison Rossi, Varad Sant, Avery Schapira, Gretchen Shelestak, Ezra Shensa, Caleb Shirk, Sienna Siegel, Hannah Smith, Paige Solomon, Henry Stallings, Ariana Stevenson, Jane Stone, Cameron Swack, Gianna Tavolario, Samuel Ummer, Bella Urso, Rohit Velankar, Colette Walter, Andrea Wang, Asher White, Mya Wilson, Caterina Wu, Altai Yumak, Luca Zgurzynski, JinLiang Zhang, and Yuqi Zhou.

Students in their sophomore year who have an unweighted cumulative quality point average (QPA) of 3.7 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, they must maintain their QPA and continue their community service work through NHS-sponsored projects and other organizations.

# GIRLS SOCCER EARNS WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Title First in 38 Years*

The Foxes girls soccer team fought through a lot of tough games this season, but their gritty perseverance during the 2023 WPIAL Class 4A championship game earned them something no other team in the program had been able to achieve in 38 years – a WPIAL championship. That feat sent the Foxes to the PIAA playoffs for the first time in seven years, where they advanced to the quarterfinals.

The entire season had been one where the team was vastly underestimated, but the Foxes proved their doubters wrong, knocking off the No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 teams in the WPIAL playoffs. Still motivated from not making the playoffs last year, one of the first things this year's team did was to create a team-first mentality in which the upperclassmen mentored a talented group of underclassmen, including freshmen, who graced the starting lineup for the first time. They also drew upon their speed and strengths on both offense and defense, especially in the playoffs.

## The Big Win

In the WPIAL finals, the sixth-ranked Foxes faced top-ranked North Allegheny, a team that had defeated Fox Chapel Area twice during the regular season. After going neck-and-neck the entire game, senior all-WPIAL pick Kate Friday blasted a kick into the top right corner of the net in overtime to win the game, 1-0.

Kate, a Xavier University recruit, recalled her thoughts at that moment: "I couldn't believe my shot hit the back of the net, and when it did, I felt pure excitement, joy, and most importantly, I felt a rush and wave of pride. It just feels so amazing to work so hard at something for so long and for it to finally show in just the time span of 10 seconds."

She continued, "I never felt so close to my team. I could not have scored without every single one of those girls standing on the field,



standing by the bench, or even the fans in the stands cheering for us."

It was speedy and agile junior midfielder Alyssa Quackenbush – who had eight goals and 19 assists going into the WPIAL championship game – who fed Kate that final ball amid a tense overtime atmosphere.

"In the very beginning of overtime, we were very anxious but got ourselves under control and were able to string passes together," recalled Alyssa. "(Freshman forward) Emily McKee (who was also voted all-WPIAL) was able to give me a perfect through ball to break their defensive line, so I was then able to find Kate wide open in the midfield to finish it off."

"It was one of the nicest goals I have ever seen," commented second-year coach Carlo Prati, who was named the WPIAL Class 4A Section 1 coach of the year. "North Allegheny did a really good job stopping us from going outside to our wingers, so we had to make some adjustments to get those girls on the ball more because they have been dangerous all year. We knew we had to be a lot more patient and pick our moments to attack."

Senior captain and all-WPIAL player Anna Troutman added, "It feels so surreal to know we are WPIAL champs. We got all the puzzle pieces to click at the right time and took advantage of our opportunities. I'm so grateful to be a part of this team and make a memory that will last for life."

The other members of the WPIAL championship soccer team were seniors Sage Good, Addison Jump, Megan Mulhern, Sydney Schutzman, Madeleine Stone, and Lila Valkanas; juniors Maya DiPasquale, Madeline Grimsley, Gianna Patterson, Paige Solomon, and Bella Urso; sophomores Cassie Classen, Summer Hill, Emily Korczynski, and Lily McLaughlin; and freshmen Antonia Linzoain, Lia Pizzella, Caylie Wilkinson, and Taylor Wilkinson.





# FALL 2023 ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

## CHEERLEADING



Last year, it took the Foxes cheerleaders two tries to generate a first-ever invitation to the prestigious National High School Cheerleading Championship at Walt Disney World. Now, one year later, they have done it again.

The team will compete in a small varsity division non-tumbling group along with teams from across the country. The event will be held Feb. 9-12, 2024.

Relying on the

experience and knowledge they gained last year, and qualifying two months earlier this year, has given the team extra time to perfect more difficult performances that will draw higher scores.

“A competition routine is made up of different sections – jumps, stunts, dance, and pyramid,” explains senior captain Mia Pietropaolo, who is making her second trip to Orlando. “Last year, we used a different order where we performed jumps before individual stunts. This year, we started off with individual stunts, then jumps, and then more stunting – all of which have combined to create more action,

and it’s made a huge difference over last year.”

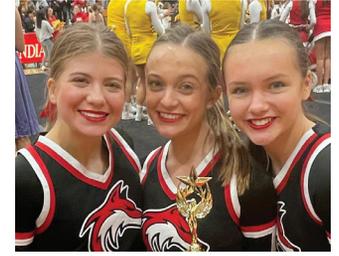
“As with any stunt progressions, you work your way up to the elite ones,” says coach Aleta Balcer. “Now that we have the bid, we will take some time to rework the stunt sequences and pyramids to make them even more difficult and more advanced for nationals. We have our work cut out for us, and the girls are so excited and ready to get back at it.”

In addition to the actual routines, the girls also are focusing more on fitness and health.

“I can see how it has helped all of us,” says Mia. “We worked out in the fall in the weight room with (assistant football) coach (Anthony) Griggs, who pushed us and always wanted to learn more about cheer and our competitions. We now work out with one of our coaches, Krista. She gives us different workouts specifically for our individual stunting positions. She makes sure all of us rotate with cardio, as well. It has been very helpful.”

“It feels amazing to be able to do this all over again,” says junior Alexandra Vita. “I know that all the girls and I have worked really hard to reach this opportunity, and it feels great to see our hard work pay off.”

Members of the 2023-2024 cheerleading squad are seniors Fiona Brown, Mia Pietropaolo, and Sophia River; juniors Maurena Cilenti, Mary Ann Frauenholz, Gretchen Shelestak, and Alexandra Vita; sophomores Catherine Conway, Lillian Fontenot, Trista Jackson, and Emma Kurtz; and freshmen Ainsley Goode and Evie Rosen.



## BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY



The Foxes boys and girls cross country teams won section titles with identical 7-0 records. It was the boys’ fifth consecutive title and fifth consecutive undefeated season.

The season got off to a fast start at the teams’ traditional season opener, the Gateway Invitational. Both teams placed first, and so did junior Ethan Vaughan as an individual runner. It was the seventh consecutive time the girls won that event, and the fifth consecutive title for the boys. Later in the season at the Kiski Invitational, both teams again took top honors and, once again, Ethan placed first. The boys team went on to have impressive results at the regional Tri-State Track Coaches Association meet, during which senior Rowan Gwin finished third.

Additionally, Rowan was the individual first-place winner at section championships for the second consecutive year. At the WPIAL Class 3A championships, the team earned a bronze medal, narrowly missing a ticket to the state meet. Rowan placed third and qualified for the PIAA championships, where he placed 16th and was among the top three of all WPIAL contestants. He was the school’s first cross country racer to medal at states since 2019. Junior David Black also qualified for states after placing ninth at WPIALs.

Overall, coach Tom Moul was pleased with the season. He says, “Winning sections was big, especially for the girls team since they hadn’t done so since 2018. Getting a state medal was also a big win for the boys program, with Rowan battling back from a serious injury. Having two state qualifiers in a very competitive field was a great accomplishment.”



## FIELD HOCKEY

After narrowly missing the playoffs last year, Fox Chapel Area field hockey players maintained a comeback state of mind this season and fought hard to redeem themselves. They succeeded.

Not only did the program have its best season in five years, the team advanced to the WPIAL Class 2A championship game, where it finished the season as the runner-up.

Getting to that point required a lot of factors coming together at the right time. A strong defense produced 10 shutouts, and the team was able to be creative on offense because a number of girls could assist or score goals.

Not that it was all easy. There were some injuries and challenges throughout the season, but senior defender Madelyn Jones says team members found a silver lining.



She explains, “The team took this adversity as something to motivate us to work harder and learn from our mistakes.”

The girls also had a selfless attitude and recognized it would take all 11 players playing together to win.

“This is what set us apart, even from our competition,” says coach Emily Humiston. “Every single player showed up daily with the mentality of improving some aspect of their game.”

Coach Humiston had a philosophical outlook on the season.

“Overall, the successes and positives we can take away from this season far outweigh the negatives,” says the coach, now in her fifth year at the helm. “We’re moving forward focusing on the highs and using the lows as learning experiences. We will only lose three players from our starting lineup, so I feel confident that the girls will be able to put in the extra offseason work and come back even stronger next year.”

Three Fox Chapel Area High School students were named to the WPIAL Class 2A field hockey all-star team: sophomores Kathryn Siddons and Emma Srodes, and senior Annalese Bartolacci (honorable mention).



## FOOTBALL

Many injuries to key players throughout the 2023 season made rebuilding the Foxes football program a tough challenge for first-year coach David Leasure, but he knew from the start that it would take some time. Despite the hardships, multiple players were recognized by the WPIAL and Big 56 for their position skills and efforts.

Big 56 Class 5A all-conference teams included senior Tyrese Samuels (first team offense). Second-team all-conference



honors went to seniors Troy Susnak (defense) and D’Angelo Hamilton (defense). Senior Andrew Shepard (offense) and junior Mason Miles (defense) were named honorable mentions.



## BOYS GOLF



The Foxes finished as the WPIAL Class 3A Section 8 co-section team champions and advanced to the WPIAL championships, where they placed third. This is the third consecutive year that the team won the section championship. Senior David Fuhrer won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 8 individual golf title in September. Players who moved on to the WPIAL individual championships, in addition to David Fuhrer, were junior Davis Kittsley, sophomore David DiGregory, and freshman Carson Kittsley. Davis placed fourth at WPIALs, and David Fuhrer finished fifth. Both advanced to PIAA individual competition, and Carson qualified as an alternate for PIAAs. At states, David Fuhrer finished his high school career in the top 10 and was third among all WPIAL players.

David Fuhrer also made school history by breaking the single-season scoring record with an average score of 71, one shot better than the former record set in 2007 by Adam Hoffman. David acknowledged how much that accomplishment meant to him.

“Going into the season, breaking the scoring average was one of my personal goals, and breaking it was a big thing for me,” David says. “It is something that I will always remember.”

The team will lose four seniors, but a talented group remains, including one state qualifier, three WPIAL championship participants, and some promising sophomores.



## GIRLS GOLF



This season, the Foxes girls golf team was undefeated in its section to uphold a six-year tradition of winning the WPIAL Class 3A Section 4 team championship and advanced to the WPIAL team playoffs. Senior Lucy Rygelski, juniors Baustin Bitar and Gabrielle DeVita, sophomore Ava Calandra, and freshman Clara Koteski participated in the WPIAL team event in October.

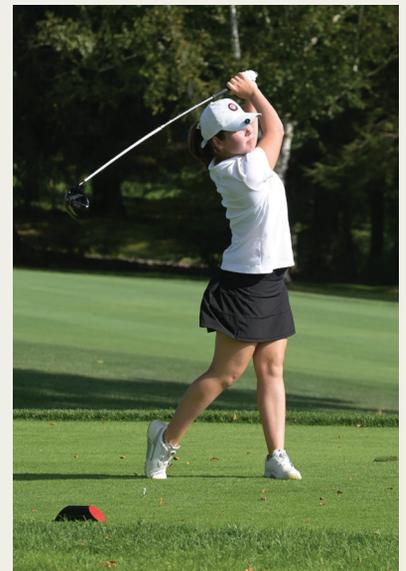
On the individual level, Fox Chapel Area hosted the WPIAL Class 3A Section 4 qualifier at the Pittsburgh Field Club in September. Out of 21 participants, Clara won the event, shooting a 91, and Lucy was the section runner-up, turning in a 93. Both qualified to attend the WPIAL individual championship.

“It is quite an accomplishment for both girls to get to that level,” says second-year coach Christine Smith. “I’m proud of what all of the girls were able to achieve this season.”

Additionally, this year the team piloted a junior varsity girls golf team, giving

more student-athletes the opportunity to play the game.

“The varsity team will lose two seniors, but, overall, we will remain quite strong and should remain competitive next year,” coach Smith says.



## BOYS SOCCER

Following a regular season in which the Foxes already had competed against some of the top contenders in WPIAL Class 4A, the team advanced to the WPIAL semifinals for the 10th time in 23 years. Their season wrapped up at that game, but there was some solace in knowing they barely missed advancing to the finals, losing 2-1 to Norwin, the eventual WPIAL Class 4A champion.

Coach Erik Ingram was pleased with the team's performance and how his players fought through injuries to finish the season with a 12-5-2 overall record.

"We had a great season based on how competitive our schedule was," says coach Ingram. "The team showed great resilience battling through several injuries and playing in a very strong section."



Although the team will lose nine seniors – all of whom the coach calls "quality players" – a good number of starters will return, including juniors Pablo Linzoain and Carson Krushansky, the year's top scorers. Pablo was selected to the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team.

Three team members were named all-WPIAL Class 4A selections: Pablo, senior Colin Lazzara, and junior Milo Chiu.

## GIRLS TENNIS

The Foxes girls tennis team had another great season, finishing with an 11-3 overall record, and 7-1 in section play. The squad advanced to the quarterfinals of the WPIAL Class 3A team championships.

Juniors Sienna Siegel, the top singles player on the team, and Anna Kintner, who played doubles most of the year, paired up to play at the WPIAL doubles championships.

"I could not be happier that Anna was my partner," says Sienna, who received an honorable mention for the Class 3A Western Pennsylvania Girls' Tennis Sportsmanship Award. "Because she started off playing doubles, she was able to contribute net skills and doubles experience. This was our first year teaming up as doubles partners, but we played singles together for most of the summer, so we were aware of each other's strengths and playing styles."

Veteran coach Alex Slezak was pleased with his players' efforts.

"The 2023 season was a success," coach Slezak says. "Too often, high school sports are only concerned with winning. I look at the team as a way for young people to grow in their character, communication skills, and teamwork. We did that on all fronts this season."



## VOLLEYBALL



For the first time in seven years, the girls volleyball team advanced to the WPIAL Class 3A playoffs after posting their best season in as many years. In fact, they won more games this season than they had in the last two combined.

The players say they felt renewed energy going into the season after they put in a lot of effort over the summer to prepare. More players took advantage of the school's strength and conditioning program, and that, combined with experience and a strong bond among the players, helped them develop confidence and a positive identity that led to success.

"Getting to the playoffs after being out for so many years felt incredible," says junior middle hitter Vanessa Perez Milano. "Being part of this team was amazing; the people in it made everything better. To replicate the success next year, we'll continue working hard, maintaining our teamwork, and building on the lessons learned this season."





## SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZES

The Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors held its annual reorganization meeting December 4. Marybeth Dadd (president), Ronald Frank (vice president), and Vanessa Lynch (assistant secretary) were all re-elected to their offices.

The board will meet on the following dates in 2024:

- January 8 (Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- February 5 (Agenda Study Session) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- February 12 (Regular Business Meeting) – Hartwood Elementary School
- March 4 (Agenda Study Session) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- March 11 (Regular Business Meeting) – Fairview Elementary School
- April 8 (Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- May 6 (Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting) – Dorseyville Middle School
- June 3 (Agenda Study Session) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- June 10 (Regular Business Meeting) – O’Hara Elementary School

- August 12 (Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- September 9 (Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- October 7 (Agenda Study Session) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- October 14 (Regular Business Meeting) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- November 4 (Agenda Study Session) – Fox Chapel Area High School
- November 11 (Regular Business Meeting) – Kerr Elementary School
- December 3 (Tuesday) (Reorganization Meeting and Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting) – Fox Chapel Area High School

All meetings are held on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) and begin at 7 p.m.

Additionally, as part of the reorganization meeting, re-elected board members Ms. Dadd, Mr. Frank, Mrs. Lynch, Treasurer Eric Hamilton, and Katie Findley were all sworn in by the Honorable Kevin G. Sasinoski, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas judge.

Kimberly Joi Andrews, Amy Cooper, Adam Goode, and Ariel Zych are also members of the Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors.



Marybeth Dadd



Ronald Frank



Vanessa Lynch



Eric Hamilton



Katie Findley



WISHING YOU AND YOURS THE JOY AND PEACE  
THE HOLIDAY SEASON BRINGS.

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HOLIDAY CARD 2023  
DELPHINA CHEN AND LENA DUGHRI – GRADE 5  
O'HARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



# 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**

### **Child Find**

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 their 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 3 to school age) may be in need of early intervention, screening and evaluation processes designed to assess the need of the child and their eligibility are available to you at no cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, regardless of whether 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 and Pupil Services Department, Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road,

Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Requests for children ages 3 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 that 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 3 years of age but before they have 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% 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.



### **22 Pa. Code Chapter 14**

The Fox Chapel Area School District provides a free, appropriate, public education to eligible students. To qualify as an eligible student, the child must be of school age, in need of specially designed instruction, and meet eligibility criteria for one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities, as set forth in Pennsylvania state regulations:

- Autism
- Deafness
- Visual Impairment, Including Blindness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Disability

- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury

The district engages in identification procedures to ensure that eligible students receive an appropriate educational program consisting of special education and related services, individualized to meet student needs. At no cost to the parents, these services are provided in compliance with state and federal laws, and are reasonably calculated to yield meaningful educational benefit and student progress.

To identify students who may be eligible for special education, various screening activities are conducted on an ongoing basis. These screening activities include: review of group-based data (cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards, ability, and achievement test scores); hearing, vision, physical, and speech/language screening; and review by a Child Study Team, MTSS Team, or (Elementary) Student Assistance Program ([E]SAP) Team. When screening results suggest that the student may be eligible for special education services, the district seeks parental consent to conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation.

Parents who suspect that their child is eligible for special education services may request a multidisciplinary evaluation at any time through a written request to the director of special education and pupil services.

Services designed to meet the needs of eligible students include the annual development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), biannual or triannual multidisciplinary re-evaluation, and a full continuum of services, which include itinerant, supplemental, or full-time levels of support. The extent of special education services and the location for the delivery of such services are determined by the IEP team and are based on the student's identified needs and abilities, chronological age, and the level of intensity of the specified intervention. The district also provides related services required for the student to benefit from the special education program.

Parents may obtain additional information regarding special education services and programs and parental due process rights by contacting the director of special education and pupil services at 412-967-2435, or at Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

### 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 that 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 that 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, regardless of whether your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to: Special Education and 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 their eligibility are available to you at no cost, upon written request. You may request screening and evaluation at any time, regardless of whether your child is enrolled in the district's public school program. Requests for evaluation and screening are to be made in writing to: Special Education and 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: Special Education and Pupil Services Department, Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

### FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA (20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a federal law that is administered by the Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) in the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA protects "education records," which are generally defined as records that are directly related to a student and maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution. FERPA applies to all schools that receive funding under any program administered by the Department of Education.





FERPA provides certain rights for parents regarding their children's education records. When a student reaches 18 years of age or attends an institution of postsecondary education at any age, the student becomes an "eligible student," and all rights under FERPA transfer from the parent to the student.

- Under FERPA, a school or state educational agency (SEA) must provide an eligible student with an opportunity to inspect and review their education records within a reasonable period of time, but not more than 45 calendar days following the receipt of a request.
- FERPA's access provisions apply to education records maintained by educational agencies or institutions, including documents such as academic transcripts. While eligible students have a right to inspect and review their education records, including academic transcripts maintained by their schools, eligible students do not necessarily have a right to obtain a copy of such records under FERPA.
- Under FERPA, an eligible student has the right to seek amendment or correction of their education records that the eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their rights of privacy. However, while a school is not required to amend an education record in accordance with an eligible student's request, a school is required to consider the request for amendment, to inform the student of its decision, and, if the request is denied, to advise the student of their right to a hearing on the matter. If, as a result of the hearing, a school decides not to amend the education records, then the eligible student has the right to insert a statement in the record commenting on the contested information or stating why they disagree with the decision, or both. That statement must remain with the contested part of the education record for as long as the record is maintained and be included whenever the contested part is disclosed.
- Under FERPA, a school generally may not disclose personally identifiable information from an eligible student's education records to a third party unless the eligible student has provided prior written consent. There are several exceptions to FERPA's general consent requirement, some of which are described below.
  - School officials, including faculty and staff, with legitimate educational interest. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility;
  - Other schools to which a student seeks or intends to enroll;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;

- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law.

FERPA also permits a school to disclose information from an eligible student's education records, without consent, when such information has been appropriately designated as "directory information," and the eligible student has not opted out of the disclosure of such designated information. The FERPA regulations define "directory information" as information in a student's education record that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. Directory information may include information such as the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time), dates of attendance (i.e., the period of time during which the student attends or attended the school), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent school attended. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, district website or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

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.

### Complaints of Alleged Violations of FERPA

Eligible students who believe that their FERPA rights may have been violated may file a complaint with SPPO at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>.



SPPO will review the complaint to ensure that the complaint:

- Is filed, in writing, by an eligible student who maintains FERPA rights over the education records that are the subject of the complaint;
- Is submitted to SPPO within 180 days of the date of the alleged violation or of the date that the eligible student knew or reasonably should have known of the alleged violation; and
- Contains specific allegations of fact giving reasonable cause to believe that a violation of FERPA has occurred.

SPPO will then make a case-by-case determination of the best mechanism for resolving the complaint. Sometimes the action will be an investigation, while for other complaints, consistent with the statute and applicable regulations, SPPO will take other appropriate actions, such as acting as an intermediary or providing resolution assistance. More information regarding the complaint process is available at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint>.

**FUTURE READY PA INDEX**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Future Ready PA Index is a comprehensive progress report that provides parents and community members with easy-to-understand information about Pennsylvania schools and student success. For more information and to view the Future Ready PA Index and all Pennsylvania school results, visit <http://futurereadypa.org>.

**ARMED FORCES/MILITARY RECRUITERS/  
MILITARY SCHOOLS**

Both federal public law 107-110, section 9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and state laws require that school districts provide military recruiters access to secondary school



students. The Every Student Succeeds Act, 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 postsecondary 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 younger than 18 years of age. Students 18 and older may sign for themselves. For further information, parents/students should contact the Fox Chapel Area 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 July 2023, 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 schools are public buildings, and our students, educational programs, school events, and community-oriented activities are sometimes made the subject of recording by video,



audio, photography, livestreaming, and the like for use as instructional and informational tools. In addition, our students’ work is sometimes published in print and/or electronic media. The district will allow students to be recorded, interviewed, livestreamed, and/or photographed and students’ work to be published for legitimate public purposes. Additionally, our students and their work may be featured on social media.

Throughout the school year, students may be recorded, interviewed, livestreamed, 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 in 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 and extracurricular activities, increases the likelihood of publication of stories and images of those students. Additionally, please note that the written objection does not preclude a child’s voice from being livestreamed for instructional purposes.

Written objections must be filed at the beginning of each school year addressed to the Coordinator of Communications, Fox Chapel Area School District, 611 Field Club Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238, or via email at [bonnie\\_berzonski@fcasd.edu](mailto:bonnie_berzonski@fcasd.edu). If a written objection has been filed in the past, a new letter of objection still must 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: Mary Catherine Reljac, 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, Ed.D.  
 Executive Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership: Megan Collett, Ed.D.  
 Director of Literacy: Dana Simile, Ed.D.  
 Director of Student Achievement and Instructional Verification: Stephen Edwards, Ed.D.  
 Director of Ancillary Services: Daniel Breitreutz  
 Chief of School Police/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: Susan Kreit

### 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, Ed.D.  
 Program Principal: Katelyn Toth

### Dorseyville Middle School

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

Laura Miller, Ed.D.

### Fox Chapel Area High School

611 Field Club Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
 412/967-2430  
 Lead Principal:

Michael Hower, Ed.D.

Program Principal (A-L):

Michelle Young, Ph.D.

Program Principal (M-Z):

John McGee, Ph.D.

## FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL BOARD



Front row, left to right: Adam G. Goode (2025 – Region III); Eric G. Hamilton, Treasurer (2027 – Region I); Marybeth Dadd, President (2027 – Region III); Ronald P. Frank, Vice President (2027 – Region II); Vanessa K. Lynch, Assistant Secretary (2027 – Region II); and Ariel Zych (2025 – Region II). Back row, left to right: Amy B. Cooper (2025 – Region I); Katie Findley (2027 – Region I); Paul Giuffre, Solicitor; Dr. David P. McCommons, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac, Superintendent; Kathleen Anuszek, Board Secretary; and Kimberly Joi Andrews (2025 – Region III).

For more information, visit [www.fcasd.edu/schoolboard](http://www.fcasd.edu/schoolboard).

## 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, Ed.D.  
 (412/967-2435)

Address: Fox Chapel Area School District  
 611 Field Club Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15238