


# IN

An IN Community Magazine

# Fox Chapel Area

## ***Safety, Health & Wellness Event***

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 Fox Chapel Area School District  
2024-2025 Final Budget

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Special Section: Real Estate

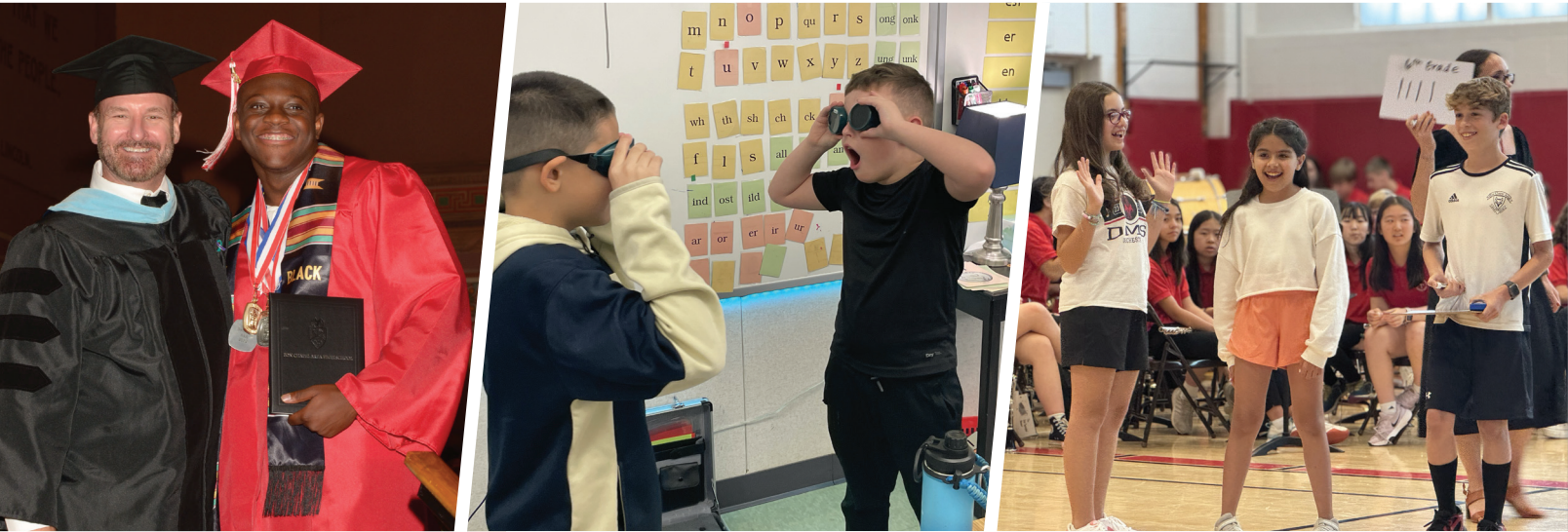
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SUMMER 2024  
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# FOX CHAPEL AREA

## School News



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fox Chapel Area Community,

As the 2023-2024 school year wound to a close, we received some exciting news: the Fox Chapel Area School District placed No. 1 in the region in the Pittsburgh Business Times' 2024 Guide to Southwestern Pennsylvania Schools. Fox Chapel Area was also the highest-scoring school district in all of Pennsylvania. The rankings incorporate multiple years of standardized test data and, of course, are only one measure of what happens in a school district.

We do not set out to receive rankings, recognitions, or rewards. We do, however, believe in excellence. We educate students with our best efforts. We adhere to our core values of respect, responsibility, and integrity. We focus on the core pillars of our strategic vision: purpose, passion, care, and community. We value belonging and the education of the whole student. We build relationships in our classrooms, schools, clubs, teams, region, and nationally. We hold our students and staff to a high standard. We continuously learn and try to approach the world with curiosity and wonder.

This recognition should be a source of pride for everyone in our school community. It represents years of work and the efforts of many (during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic) to help our students succeed, grow, and develop, both academically and personally.

While we are certainly proud of this accomplishment, we also take a great deal of pride in the successes that take place every day in our classrooms, on our athletic fields and stages, and in our communities. Whether those achievements are mastering a math concept for the first time, hitting a home run to win the game, or dazzling a crowded auditorium through song, we celebrate them all.

"Together we can" is not just a saying, because together, we do fantastic things for our students and the school community. The Fox Chapel Area School District is a very special place, and, as always, we are #FCProud!

As we end another school year, I want to take a moment to again congratulate each and every one of you on an outstanding year. From our hardworking students, to our dedicated teachers and staff, to our supportive parents and guardians, to our encouraging community members, it truly takes all of us to make a school year successful. We came together as a school community to support one another, and I am so proud of everything we have collectively accomplished.

As we look forward to the summer break and the opportunities that the new school year will bring, let's take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved. Thank you for your hard work, your passion for success and excellence, and your commitment to making our school community a great place to be. Best wishes for a restful and rejuvenating summer break!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac  
Superintendent



*From our hardworking  
students, to our dedicated  
teachers and staff,  
to our supportive parents and  
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year successful.*





# FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2024-2025 FINAL BUDGET

The Fox Chapel Area School Board adopted the 2024-2025 final budget at its regular business meeting June 10, 2024.

Total Revenues	\$118,859,765
Total Expenditures	\$119,178,185
Total Net Change	-\$318,420

The budget will be balanced via a tax increase and the utilization of available fund balance.

The final millage rate for 2024-2025 is 21.5128 mills, which represents a 3.75% millage increase from 20.7352 mills. The tax increase represents lost real estate revenues in relation to changes in assessment values, adjustment for inflation, and the funding of capital improvements.

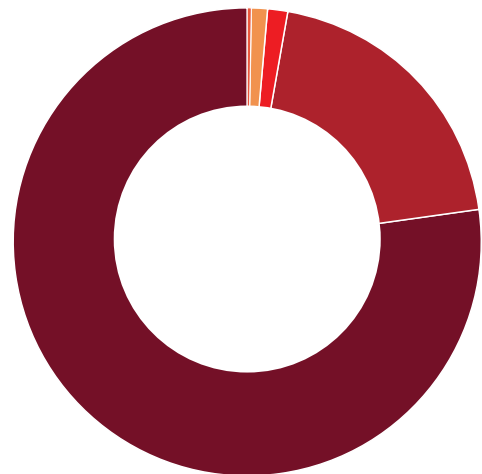
The 3.75% millage increase falls below the 5.3% Act 1 index allowed by the state. Each mill generates approximately \$3.7 million for the school district. Properties that have approved homestead/farmstead exemptions will see an increase below 3.75% due to an increase in property tax relief funds from the state.

The 2024-2025 final budget reflects the following:

- Increased expenses for facility improvements/upgrades
  - Water/sewer line repairs
  - HVAC improvements
  - Building safety upgrades
  - Funds transfer into the Capital Reserves Fund to be used toward the school board's multiphase capital projects plan
- Insurance premium increases
  - 9% for medical
  - 5% for dental
  - 3% for vision
- Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) employer contribution rate of 33.9% for 2024-2025
  - This accounts for 15% of the overall budget. The state reimburses the district 50% of the costs.
- Final utilization of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, required to be spent by September 30, 2024

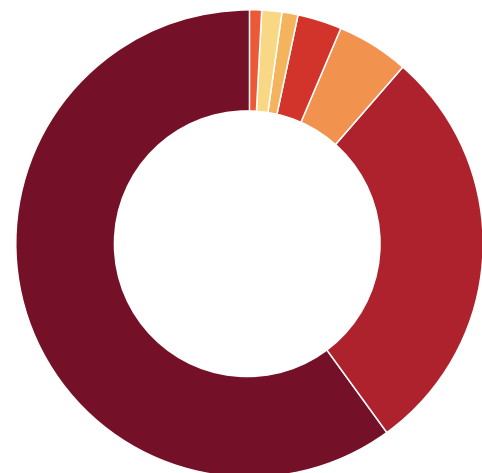
## Breakdown of Revenues

Local Revenue (78.04%)	\$92,761,918
State Revenue (19.81%)	\$23,547,457
Unassigned Fund Balance (1.26%)	\$1,500,000
Federal Revenue (0.83%)	\$990,390
Other Revenue (0.05%)	\$60,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$118,859,765</b>



## Breakdown of Expenditures

Instruction (59.95%)	\$71,452,415
Support Services (28.52%)	\$33,992,454
Debt Service (5.12%)	\$6,102,823
Non-Instruction (2.88%)	\$3,429,568
Fund Transfer (1.28%)	\$1,525,000
Budgetary Reserve (1.26%)	\$1,500,000
Facilities (0.99%)	\$1,175,925
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$119,178,185</b>



*Percentages are approximate due to rounding*



### Gaming Funds Distribution

On May 1, 2024, the Pennsylvania Department of Education provided the Fox Chapel Area School District with the amount of the district's share of gaming funds available for distribution. The final budget includes a distribution of \$2,270,532. The method of distributing these funds, as prescribed by Act 1, the Taxpayer Relief Act, will be via the implementation of the homestead exclusion. Under this provision, any property in the school district that was approved by Allegheny County as a homestead will have the lesser of its taxable value, or an estimated \$13,524.44, excluded for the purpose of calculating school district real estate taxes for the 2024 tax year. Based on the final budget, the owners of the

7,826\* properties in the district that qualified for the homestead exclusion will receive the equivalent of an approximate \$290 reduction in their property taxes. This is about \$52 more than last year.

Property owners who currently do not have an approved homestead exclusion will have the opportunity to apply again when the district sends out letters to those homeowners in December 2024.

*\*Allegheny County has certified that there are 7,826 approved homestead properties in the district. If that number is adjusted by the county to include fewer or more properties, it could affect the amount of the final reduction.*

### Estimated Real Estate Tax Liability

	Without Homestead Exclusion	With Homestead Exclusion	Without Homestead Exclusion	With Homestead Exclusion
2023 Assessed Value	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
2023 Homestead Exclusion*		-\$11,703.33		-\$11,703.33
2023 Net Assessed Value	\$50,000	\$38,296.67	\$100,000	\$88,296.67
2023 Millage Rate	<u>20.7352</u>	<u>20.7352</u>	<u>20.7352</u>	<u>20.7352</u>
2023 Tax Liability	<u>\$1,036.76</u>	<u>\$794.09</u>	<u>\$2,073.52</u>	<u>\$1,830.85</u>
2024 Assessed Value	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
2024 Homestead Exclusion*		-\$13,524.44		-\$13,524.44
2024 Net Assessed Value	\$50,000	\$36,475.56	\$100,000	\$86,475.56
2024 Millage Rate	<u>21.5128</u>	<u>21.5128</u>	<u>21.5128</u>	<u>21.5128</u>
2024 Tax Liability	<u>\$1,075.64</u>	<u>\$784.69</u>	<u>\$2,151.28</u>	<u>\$1,860.33</u>
Annual Increase/Decrease	\$38.88	-\$9.40	\$77.76	\$29.48
% Increase/Decrease	3.75%	-1.2%	3.75%	1.61%
Monthly Increase	\$3.24	-\$0.78	\$6.48	\$2.46

*\*The homestead exclusion amount is more this year due to an increase in the allocation of state funds. More information about the homestead exclusion can be found on the state's Department of Community & Economic Development website.*

- These amounts can be reduced by 2% if paid in full during the discount period.
- Senior citizens may qualify for a property tax rebate program available through the state.

### Future Challenges

- Value reductions from Allegheny County assessment appeals
  - 2023-2024 assessment value reductions resulting in a revenue loss of approximately \$800,000 (equates to a 1.11% tax increase)
  - 2023-2024 expenditures increased by more than \$750,000 relating to prior year refunds paid as a result of the assessment value reductions
- PSERS contributions continue to be a challenge for school districts in Pennsylvania
  - The employer contribution rate is set by PSERS trustees, not by the district
  - The district anticipates paying more than \$47 million in PSERS contributions during the next five years
- Projected multiphase capital projects plan
  - Projects address repair, replacement, and upgrades of equipment and infrastructure of aging district facilities
    - The current phase includes an overhaul of the Hartwood Elementary HVAC system and interior lighting
  - The current version of the plan includes an outstanding projected total cost of more than \$32 million spread over eight years
    - The district plans to utilize reserve funds for a portion of this work
    - The district is looking into additional alternative funding opportunities, including grants, as well as possibly increasing the district's debt service profile

*Additional information about the 2024-2025 final budget can be found at [www.fcasd.edu/about-us/budget](http://www.fcasd.edu/about-us/budget).*





## DMS CELEBRATES SCHOOLS TO WATCH RECOGNITION

**D**orseyville Middle School students, staff, and administrators, as well as school board members and others, recently celebrated the school's designation among the Pennsylvania 2023-2024 Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch.

As part of an all-school assembly, the Dorseyville Schools to Watch Team was honored, and the school received a banner from Bruce Vosburgh, the director of the Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch Program, and Bill Kuban from award sponsor Horace Mann Insurance.

Mr. Vosburgh described Dorseyville as a “great school” and stressed that there can be preconceptions about middle school students that aren’t always correct.

“This school allows students to stretch and grow, and make mistakes,” he said. “These students have the potential to do anything.”

Only 11 exemplary middle-grade schools in Pennsylvania were recognized for 2023-2024 as part of a program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. As a Schools to Watch school, Dorseyville joins a very select group of 62 schools in Pennsylvania, and more than 600 across the nation, that have qualified as Schools to Watch since the program’s inception. This is the third time Dorseyville has received Schools to Watch recognition.

According to Mr. Vosburgh, the award is an acknowledgment of demonstrated growth and success.

“This recognition is about continuous improvement, and it provides a process for schools to re-evaluate themselves and keep moving forward.”

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 has strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability.



Sixth-graders celebrate winning the “So You Think You Know DMS” competition during the assembly.

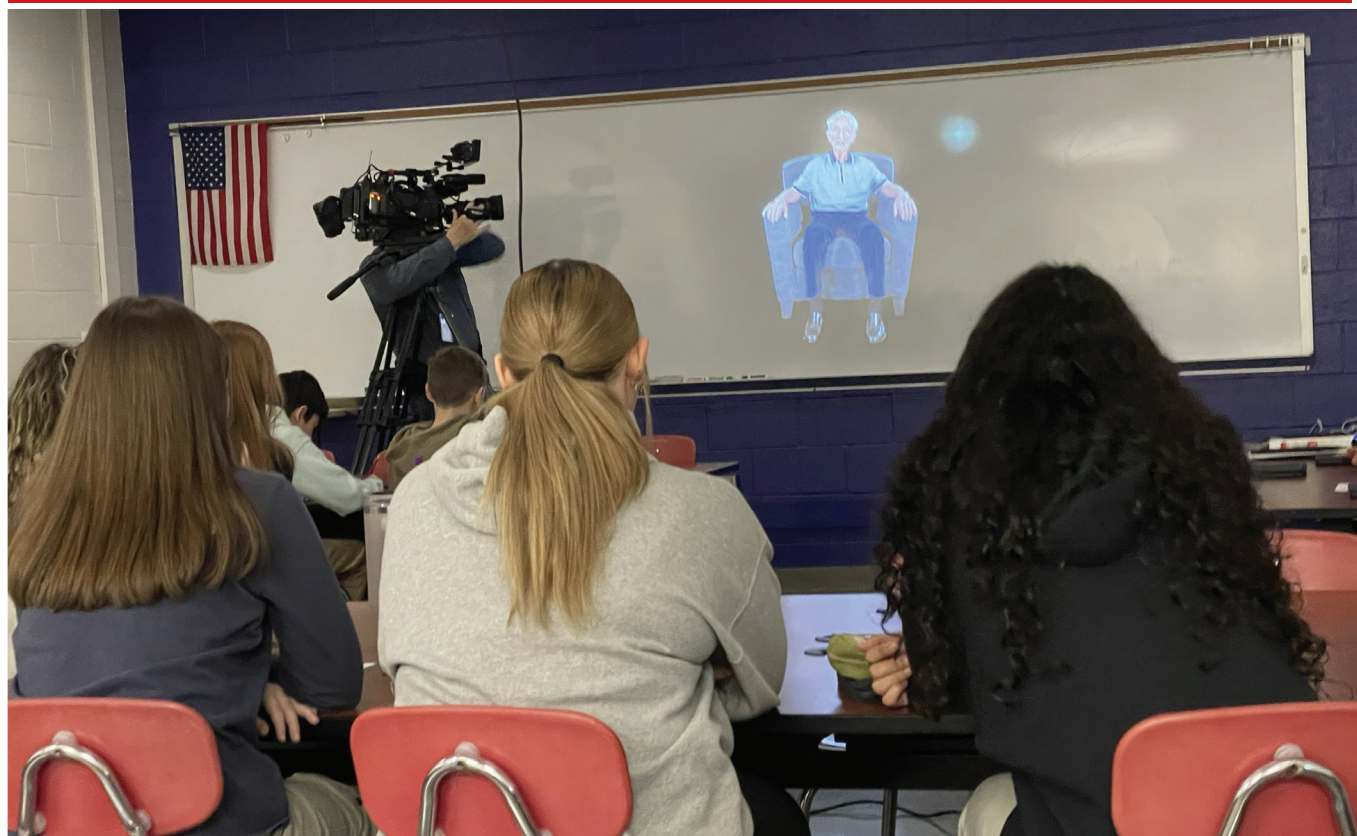


Dorseyville Program Principal Dr. Laura Miller thanks students, staff, and the entire DMS community for their contributions to the Schools to Watch recognition.

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education, Kutztown University, and the Horace Mann Service Corporation, Pennsylvania Schools to Watch has been recognizing schools since 2006-2007.



## TECHNOLOGY KEEPS HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR'S STORY ALIVE



Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grade students were given a rare opportunity to interact with a unique technology. English language arts students in two of Scott Vensel's classes were the first in the area to have a conversation with Holocaust survivor Edward Mosberg via a hologram.

The presentation is part of the University of Southern California's Shoah Foundation's Dimensions in Testimony program, in partnership with the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University. It allows students to ask questions and receive responses from pre-recorded interviews of Holocaust survivors. One by one, the Dorseyville students were able to ask their questions and "meet" Mr. Mosberg.

Holocaust scholar Irvin Moreno-Rodriguez, the interim director of the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, led the DMS visit. Mr. Moreno-Rodriguez is also a member of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.



*Photo courtesy of USC Shoah Foundation*

According to Mr. Moreno-Rodriguez, "We all share a part in the Holocaust because it affected the entire world." He also explained to the students that, so far, Mr. Mosberg has only been asked about 10% of what he knows.

Student Isabella Gray described the visit as "an amazing honor."

"It's a unique way of learning," Isabella said. "We get the information first-hand from an actual Holocaust survivor. It's more powerful and an incredible opportunity."

Mr. Mosberg was born on January 6, 1926, in Krakow, Poland. He and his family were sent to a concentration camp on the outskirts of Krakow in 1943, where he witnessed many atrocities and lost every member of his family. Mr. Mosberg remained active in Holocaust commemoration until his death in September 2022. His interview for the hologram was

conducted in June 2018.

Mr. Mosberg left the students with this important piece of advice.

"Remember what happened and do anything to prevent a future Holocaust."



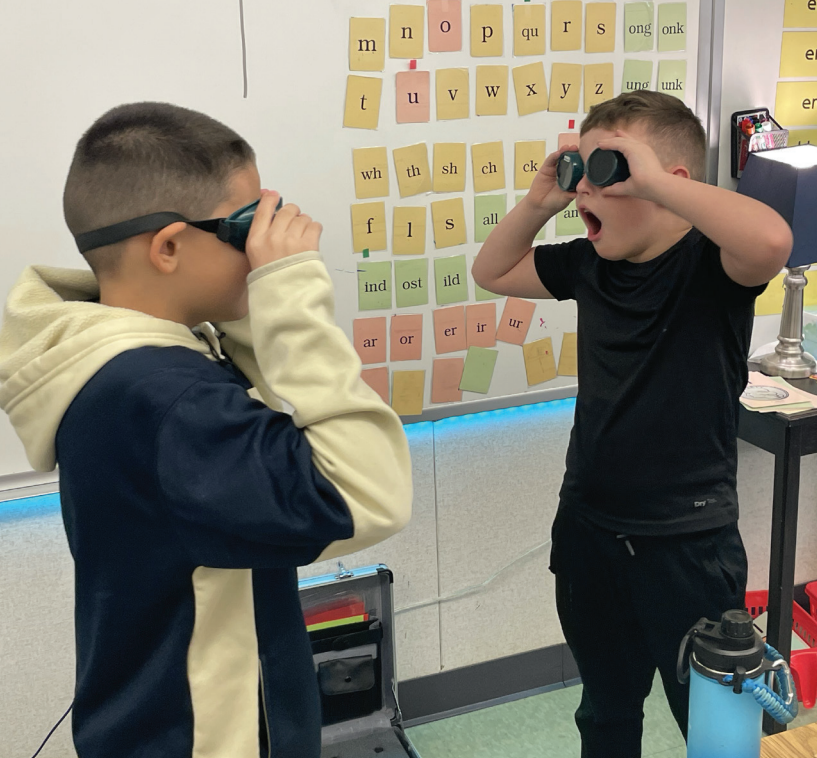


## LEARNING OPPORTUNITY TEACHES EMPATHY, UNDERSTANDING

As the second-grade students in teacher Katie Ziegler's class began learning about Helen Keller, a blind author and disability rights advocate, as part of one of their reading lessons, they had lots of questions. Among other things, they wanted to know more about Braille. So, the class set out to learn more, and they began by studying the Braille signs next to all the doors at Hartwood Elementary School. According to Mrs. Ziegler, during their impromptu in-school field trip, "we saw Ms. Bridget (Mayhan) working with a student. After a brief conversation with her, she offered to come in for a visit to answer more questions."

Mrs. Mayhan, known to the students as Ms. Bridget, is a teacher of the visually impaired and an orientation and mobility specialist for the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children. For her visit to Mrs. Ziegler's classroom, she brought with her vision simulator goggles that mimic various levels of visual impairment, and the students could try various activities, such as writing their names and solving puzzles. She also brought Braille Legos, a Braille typewriter, mobility canes with an obstacle course, Braille books, both high-tech and low-tech magnification devices, and other tools used by those who are visually impaired. Students were also assigned name tags in Braille (not their own names) and had to utilize the provided "cheat sheet" containing the printed Braille alphabet to read the name and correctly distribute the tag to the appropriate peer.





According to Mrs. Mayhan, the purpose of the hands-on activity was to enable students to gain a deeper understanding of those who are visually impaired.

“Enhanced comprehension often leads to reduced apprehension and increased compassion,” she said. “While teaching about a topic is valuable, immersion in the situation can significantly amplify the learning experience and make a stronger and more memorable impact.”

Second-grader Patrick Bressler was excited to go home and tell his family about what he had learned. “My favorite activity was using the canes. I liked to feel the difference between the carpet and the normal floor using the cane. I also never knew there were Braille Legos!”

His classmate, Laura Couto, was surprised to learn that some people aren’t completely blind but have very blurry vision. She enjoyed learning about Braille by using the special typewriter and looking through the special goggles.

“It made me feel like I was actually blind,” she said. “I feel bad for blind people, because now I know what it feels like.”

Mrs. Ziegler was grateful for the hands-on lesson that instilled empathy and understanding.

“Being able to experience some of the difficulties Helen Keller faced as we traveled the school made a deep impact,” she said. “Ms. Bridget’s activities then built upon those experiences in a way I could never have given the students. They were able to put themselves in the shoes of someone with a visual impairment and experience those difficulties firsthand.

“I love that we were able to take a teachable moment and turn it into so much more. So much of our day is busy following a schedule. Sometimes breaking away and diving deeper is just as valuable.”







## NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ENERGIZED TO SERVE COMMUNITY

A longtime educator, Dr. Jessica Haselkorn says she was interested in applying for a vacant seat on the Fox Chapel Area School Board because of her affinity for the community and desire to serve her neighbors.

“I saw it as an opportunity to step up,” Dr. Haselkorn says. “The Fox Chapel Area School District has always been well-known for achieving at very high levels, not just in academics, but in the arts and athletics as well. It is a priority for me to ensure that these successes are experienced by all of our students and that they feel included and supported during their time with us.”

A five-year resident of the district, Dr. Haselkorn, of Fox Chapel, is currently an independent educational consultant. She has worked as a teacher, assistant principal, curriculum director, and managing director in education. She was raised in Fresno, California, and lived and worked in Los Angeles and New York City before arriving in Western Pennsylvania.

“We have lived in Pittsburgh for more than 10 years and love it so much that we can’t imagine living anywhere else,” she says.

One of Dr. Haselkorn’s goals during her time on the board is to be accessible to her constituents.

“I want folks to know they can always reach out to me when they have a concern or questions about the school board’s work,” she says.

In her spare time, Dr. Haselkorn enjoys being with her family and gardening. She and her husband, Lee, have two children, Lily and Jacob. She is an active PTO volunteer at O’Hara Elementary School and is a Girl Scout leader. Additionally, Dr. Haselkorn served on the school district’s strategic planning committee during the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Haselkorn holds a Ph.D. in instruction and learning from the University of Pittsburgh, a master’s degree in secondary education from Loyola Marymount University, and a bachelor’s degree in political science from UCLA.

She was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Kimberly Andrews in Region III during a special meeting April 29, 2024. 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.

Dr. Haselkorn will serve until December 2025, as the seat will be on the 2025 municipal election cycle.

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# KERR STUDENT-TURNED-PRINCIPAL RETIRES



Dr. Noro listens to remarks during his retirement ceremony. He has been the principal at Kerr since 2005, and, before that, was an art teacher in the district.



Hartwood Principal Dr. Rachel Fischbaugh presents Dr. Noro with a gift.

When Paul Noro walked into Kerr Elementary School as a kindergartner in 1969, he had no idea what a pivotal role the school would play in his life. Dr. Noro recently retired as the principal of the same school where he began his education all those years ago.

In early June, Kerr's staff and students threw their principal a surprise "Up"-themed retirement ceremony, in honor of one of his favorite movies. The celebration included remarks from some of Dr. Noro's colleagues, a video compilation of students answering questions about Dr. Noro, and even a song inspired by a parody featured on the sitcom "The Office" (another one of Dr. Noro's favorites) performed by the school's chorus. (One of the lines: "9,963,000 minutes ... that's how many minutes that you worked here.") Additionally, everyone in attendance wore a button with a picture of Dr. Noro at various stages of his life.

"I've had a lot of mixed emotions over these few months," Dr. Noro told the crowd of students, staff, and administrators, pointing out that even principals cry sometimes. "I'm going to miss you all a great deal. If I could take anything back, I would not."



Mrs. Katelyn Toth, the new Kerr principal, greets Dr. Noro.



Students wore buttons featuring Dr. Noro at various stages of his life.



In attendance for the ceremony were Dr. Noro's wife, Meghan, and his children, Mario and Gianna.





## 3RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY, HEALTH & WELLNESS EVENT

The Fox Chapel Area School District hosted its third annual free Community Safety, Health & Wellness Event in May in Aspinwall. This year's expanded event featured vendor booths, a touch-a-truck area, wellness screenings, free bike helmets for children and other giveaways, a bike rodeo with police, car seat checks, and food.

The event was sponsored by the Fox Chapel Area school resource officers, in conjunction with the district's municipalities and their police departments. Local fire and EMS crews also participated.

According to Joe Kozarian, Fox Chapel Area School District's chief of school police, the event is a way for community members to meet the school resource officers who work closely with students, as well as other first responders. It was also a day to emphasize the importance of health and wellness.

"This event brings our school community together in a fun environment. Additionally, it enables all of us to celebrate the common goals of safety, health, and wellness," Mr. Kozarian said.





# 10,000 TEAM UP FOR DESIGN CHALLENGE

**D**iscoverED, held at the beginning of each May, serves as the annual kickoff to the Remake Learning Days festival throughout Pennsylvania. Again this year, the Fox Chapel Area School District led the effort, with support from the Grable Foundation, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, and the Avonworth School District.

A record-breaking 10,000 students from across the state – including Fox Chapel Area’s first- and second-grade classes – participated in the Crafty Catapult collaborative design challenge, during which they planned, created, and built

catapults. Classrooms were paired with others from across the state that differed from them demographically, and students worked on their catapults virtually with their peers.

“The goal of discoverED is to show how STEAM and maker practices positively affect children,” said Dr. Megan Collett, executive director of instructional and innovative leadership for the Fox Chapel Area School District. “DiscoverED’s virtual collaboration opportunities help to create unique and meaningful connections between teachers and students for years to come.”







## CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION

**F**ox Chapel Area High School graduated approximately 300 students on June 9 in a ceremony at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum in Oakland. The student speakers were Clara Kelley and Henry Koloc, and this year's address to the senior class by the faculty was given by FCAHS math teacher Kristine Yacamelli. Colin Lazzara, Lakshanya Rajaganapathi, and Madeleine Stone received Principals' Leadership Awards, given to students who have demonstrated leadership and have acted as positive role models for all students throughout their high school careers. Best of luck to the Class of 2024!









# Fox Chapel Area

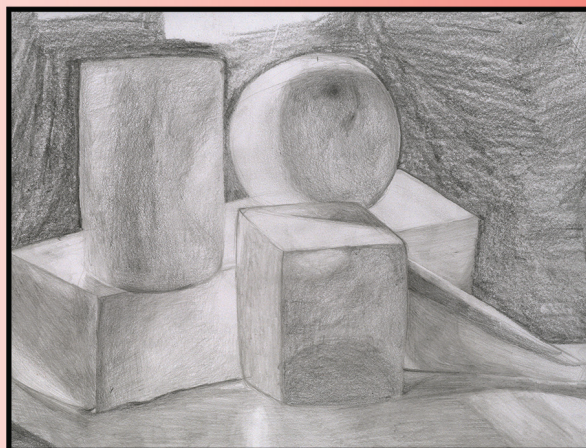
Pages 22-29 feature an art gallery with student work from the 2023-2024 school year.

*high school*



Michael Shin - Grade 12

Evelyn Owens - Grade 9



Spencer Goehring - Grade 10



Mary Lynch - Grade 10



Alex Navas Grijalva - Grade 11

Caroline Grimsley  
Grade 10



Shahed Hamada - Grade 11



Sadie Stephenson - Grade 9



Josie Giguere - Grade 11



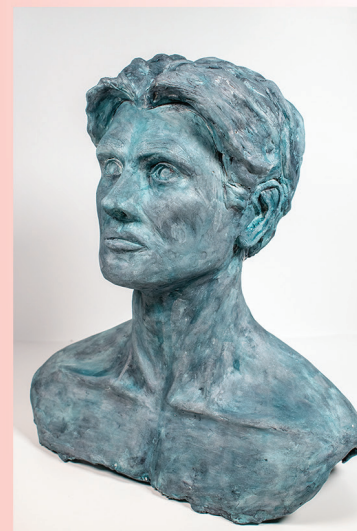


Emma Kim - Grade 12



Rowan Gwin - Grade 12

Lucas Gravina - Grade 12

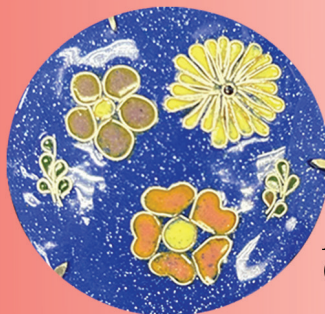


Mya Wilson - Grade 11

Priscila Hayetian - Grade 10



Leroy Regan - Grade 10

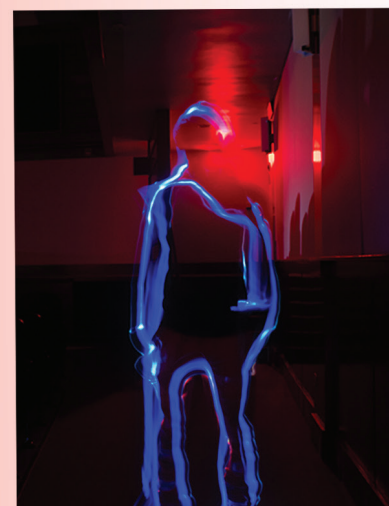


Addison Rossi  
Grade 11

Ryan Napolitan - Grade 12



Justin Horne - Grade 11

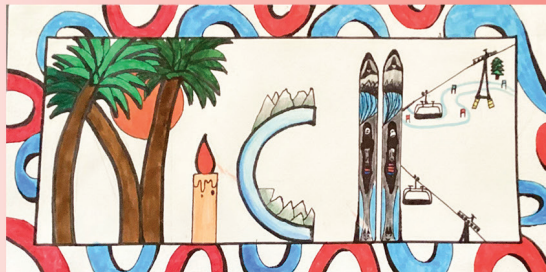


Jacob McMillan - Grade 10

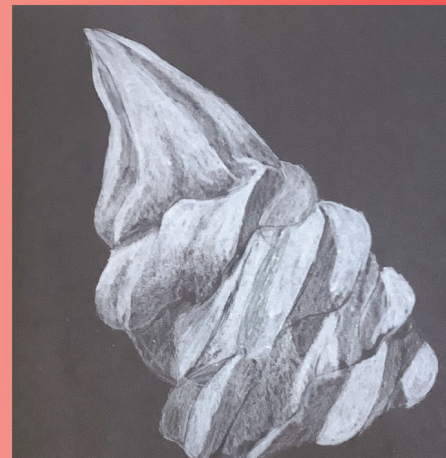


# Dorseyville *middle school*

Isabella Sroufe - Grade 8



Nicholas Scholz - Grade 6



Ruby Rowley - Grade 8



Bodhi Bhimireddy - Grade 6



Glenn Story  
Grade 7

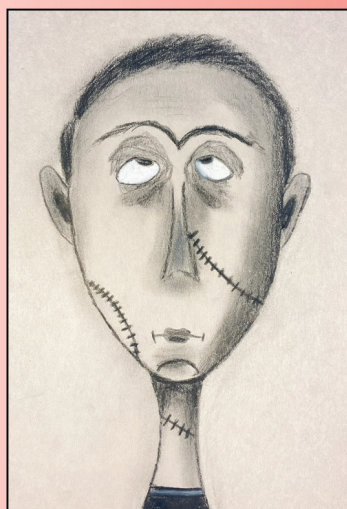


Karlyanne Kushon - Grade 7



Wyatt Fabian  
Grade 7

Mackenzie Minton - Grade 8



Max Davis - Grade 7



Elijah Burkard Dunn - Grade 7





Oscar Pearlman - Grade 6

Kaileigh Barclay  
Grade 8



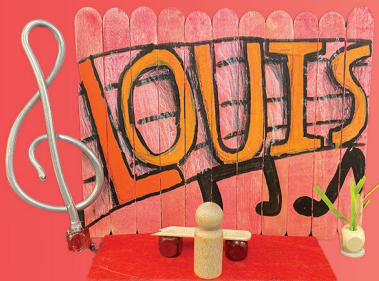
Corrine Sample - Grade 8



Lauren Dominik- Grade 6



Aubrey Jersey - Grade 6



Louis Vandapel - Grade 6

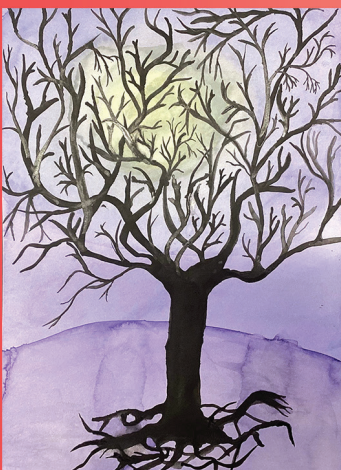
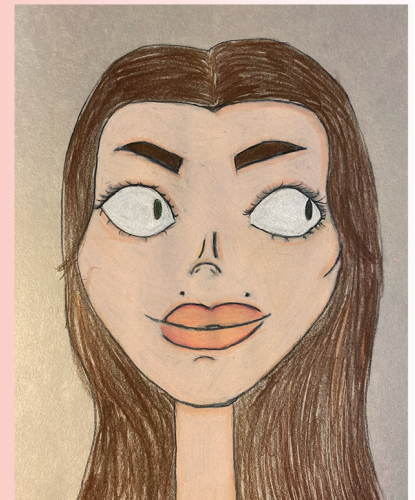


Ianna Kabagambe - Grade 8



America Sakoian - Grade 8

Adella Boy - Grade 7



Jonathan Mayer - Grade 6



Christine Meskel - Grade 6



# Fairview

*elementary*



Leonora DiNardo  
Kindergarten



Victoria Ryan - Grade 1



Jett Spangler  
Kindergarten



Isabel Drappatz - Grade 4



Grady Magrish - Grade 4

Rebecca Bier - Grade 2



Cora Ettinger - Grade 3



Liviana Hofmann  
Grade 3



Brock Leasure  
Grade 2

Eleanor Scott - Grade 5



William White - Grade 1



Thomas Kurdziolek - Grade 5



# Hartwood *elementary*



Jaxon Stabile  
Kindergarten



Luca Desko - Grade 1



Sophie Phillips - Grade 1

Jason Viehland  
Grade 4



Cullen Hill  
Grade 3



Isabel Herbst - Kindergarten



Alessandra Farrell - Grade 2



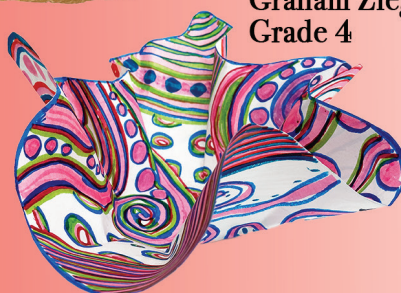
Ryan Chiquelin - Grade 5

Cici Xu - Grade 5



Vivien Munro  
Grade 4

Graham Ziegler  
Grade 4



Granth Patel - Grade 3



# Kerr *elementary*



Finn Martin  
Grade 2



Lucia Tarin  
Grade 2



Evelyn Castelli - Grade 1

Charlotte Turbiner - Grade 3



Grace Wheeler  
Grade 3



Stefan Kocnev - Pre-K



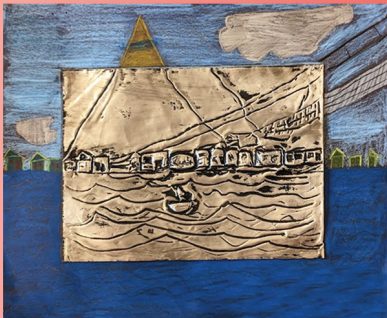
Declan Laue - Kindergarten

Morgan Lovett



Tristan Sayre

Blake Beal



Raymond Ren - Grade 5

Harper Henderson

Olivia Welch  
Grade 5





# O'Hara *elementary*



Aurellia Henderson - Grade 2



Hugo George - Grade 4



Derek Radomski - Grade 3



Tinley Wong - Grade 4



Max Batis - Grade 3



Penley Hayman - Kindergarten

Eva Spagiare  
Grade 3



Blake Stadlander  
Grade 4



Neil Chrisman - Kindergarten

May Shan - Grade 1



Maximus Tuminella  
Grade 5



Everett Haden - Grade 1



Vanessa McGinley  
Grade 3







## STUDENT-ATHLETES TO CONTINUE CAREERS AT NEXT LEVEL

**E**ighteen recent Fox Chapel Area High School graduates who signed and/or committed to further their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level were honored at a special recognition ceremony in May.

Some of the Class of 2024's accomplishments are:

- During the last four years, the class collectively participated in more than 1,100 athletic contests, winning more than 700 of them.
- Seventeen out of 27 teams qualified for the WPIAL and/or the PIAA playoffs during the 2023-2024 school year.
- The girls soccer team won the WPIAL championship for the first time since the mid-1980s.
- The girls swimming and diving team was the WPIAL runner-up.
- Nine teams were named section champions, and five had undefeated records in their sections during the 2023-2024 school year.
- The boys wrestling team won its first section title since 1971.
- The girls golf team was six-peat section champions.
- The boys golf team was three-peat section champions.
- The girls swimming and diving team were five-peat undefeated section champions for the first time in school history.

- The boys swimming and diving team were four-peat undefeated section champions for the first time in school history.



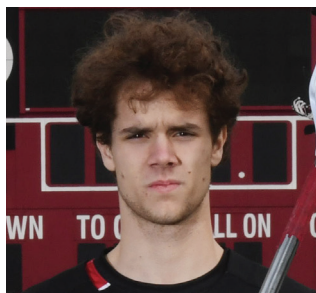
- The boys cross country team was undefeated and became five-peat section champions.
- The boys tennis team was the undefeated section champion for the second consecutive year.
- The girls cross country team was undefeated section champions.
- The baseball team won a share of section title.
- The Fox Chapel Area High School cheerleading squad qualified for nationals for the second consecutive year.
- Team QPA awards went to the girls tennis team with a 4.03 QPA, and to the boys swimming and diving team with a 4.06 QPA.
- The cumulative QPA this year for all of the varsity teams was 3.79.







Josh Alexander – Wrestling  
Ohio University



Nolan Childs – Lacrosse  
DePauw University



Mia Dunleavy – Softball  
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford



Kate Friday – Soccer  
Xavier University



David Fuhrer – Golf  
George Mason University



Rowan Gwin – Cross Country/Track  
Appalachian State University



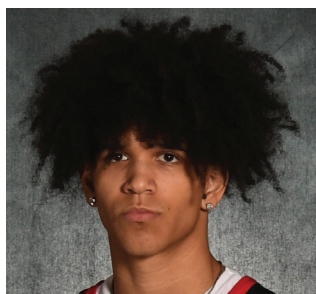
Isaac Jacobs – Football and Lacrosse  
John Carroll University



Alex Kaufmann – Wrestling  
New York University



Isabella Marcos – Swimming  
Providence College



Jefferson Moorefield-Brown –  
Basketball  
La Roche University



Kaeden Pekarcik – Lacrosse  
Florida Southern College



Tyrese Samuels – Football  
Marietta College



Andrew Shepard – Volleyball  
Chatham University



Sarah Slember – Crew  
Colgate University



CJ Smith – Swimming  
Chapman University



Anna Troutman – Track and Field  
Lehigh University



Christian Wilkinson – Baseball  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania



Zachary Zornan Ferguson – Swimming  
West Virginia University





# FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORY

## District Administration

611 Field Club Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15238

412/963-9600

[www.fcasd.edu](http://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 Breitzkreutz

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: Katelyn Toth

### O'Hara Elementary School

115 Cabin Lane

Pittsburgh, PA 15238

412/963-0333

Principal: Kristy Batis, Ed.D.

Program Principal: TBD

### 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

Amy B. Cooper (2025 – Region I); Marybeth Dadd, President (2027 – Region III); Katie Findley (2027 – Region I); Ronald P. Frank, Vice President (2027 – Region II); Adam G. Goode (2025 – Region III); Eric G. Hamilton, Treasurer (2027 – Region I); Dr. Jessica Haselkorn (2025 – Region III); Vanessa K. Lynch, Assistant Secretary (2027 – Region II); and Ariel Zych (2025 – Region II)

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 typically scheduled for the first and second Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For more information and meeting locations, visit [www.fcasd.edu](http://www.fcasd.edu).

## 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