

Fox Tales

Quarterly



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Opportunities Fair Offers Career Insight, Exploration, and Education

By Maeve Beresford

The Opportunities Fair, held on April 25th during lunch periods, was a great platform for students to explore career paths, internships, volunteer positions, educational programs, and more. The fair displayed an arrangement of opportunities to benefit students looking at diverse post-high school programs that align with their interests and career goals.

For many students, especially juniors, the fair was a great introduction to colleges and universities that they might be interested in after high school. Locally, schools such as the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania State University, and Duquesne University had representatives to teach students about the majors and programs that they each had to offer. Did you know that the University of Pittsburgh offers over 100 undergraduate majors and Pennsylvania State University offers 275? They also both, like many other schools, offer a wide variety of sports and clubs for anyone and everyone! Other colleges and universities that were out-of-state were also present such as Michigan State University! This university has a very green (in terms of nature, sustainability, and the school's colors) campus, vibrant culture, and strong athletic traditions.

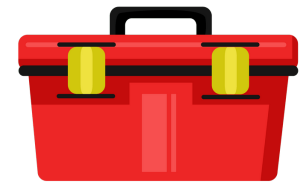
Opportunities were also available for students looking to become involved in the trades. Engineering and electrical unions were present in the fair; they taught about an alternative form of schooling instead of the traditional college route. Trade organizations often provide a more “hands-on” approach to working after high school. Also, another different route to traditional higher education that was featured at the fair was cosmetology programs. Students were able to interact with real cosmetology instruments and learn more about what studying the field would entail.

For those not yet directly looking for a schooling route, job opportunities were also displayed at the Opportunities Fair! Chick-fil-A had sign-up sheets at the fair for anyone looking to be employed there. Fox Chapel's Chick-fil-A franchise is a locally placed business, only a ten-minute drive from the school, and is located in the Fox Chapel Plaza shopping center. The business offers jobs for high-school students and high-school graduates. For those looking for a different route, companies such as the Pittsburgh Post Gazette advertised their opportunities at the fair. They provide internships

that often lead to jobs within the company itself.

Also diverting from a traditional higher education route, military-based options are available. Multiple branches of the military recruited at the event. The Army even had a pull-up bar for students to try out. The military is always looking for new members. Enlisting is a great way for graduates to serve their country. Also, many different colleges have Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs available for students that are interested in joining the military after college.

Overall, the annual Opportunities Fair is an amazing program to introduce students to what is available post-high school as well as current opportunities for them. The 2025 Opportunities Fair demonstrated a variety of different systems for students to become involved in or look into. Interviewed students described the fair as “educational” and “beneficial.”



Student Athletes Sign Off on Their Time at FC

By Joe Yoshikawa

Every year, Fox Chapel posts an impressive rate of students going on to pursue a secondary/college degree, with the Class of 2024 giving a rate of 88%. Even more impressive is the number of students who seek a higher education and to play their respective sports at the next level. The Class of 2025 not only has a similar rate of postsecondary education, but also has produced 23 high-quality student athletes playing at the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division 1, 2, and 3 levels. Though they receive tons of offers before the end of their senior year, their reasons for committing to their school are always personal to each of them. Here are a few athletes to spotlight from this year's commitments:

Margaret Rusche: a multi-year qualifier for the state



championships for the Foxes swim team, specializing in the butterfly and freestyle strokes. She and her teammates placed first in the women's 100 meter freestyle relay in the WPIAL Championships and 4th at PIAA Championships. In the fall,

she will further her academic and swimming career at Kenyon College. She chose Kenyon because of its strong academic opportunities and because the team made her feel at home from the very beginning.

Asher White: a guard for the boys' basketball team and consistently one of the top scorers on the team. He was part of the 2022 WPIAL Championship team. He chose Brandeis University because he thought it was a good fit for his game, a great academic school, and really liked the head coach.

Franco Pistella: a pitcher and outfielder for the baseball team and one of the best pitchers in Fox Chapel's rotation. The team made the playoffs for three straight seasons during his time. He picked Oberlin College because of the high standard of academic performance to help him invest in his future, as well as the high quality athletic facilities and coaches who are willing to help him reach his full potential in baseball.

Jonah Kline: an outside defender for the boys' soccer team. As a captain this year, he helped lead the team to a WPIAL Championship – the first since 1995. He committed to Franciscan University of Steubenville for men's soccer because of the welcoming community, quality curriculum, great facilities, growing program, and vibrant faith.

Grace Kovach: another impressive swimmer for the



Foxes, mainly specializing in freestyle strokes. She was also part of the women's 100 meter freestyle relay team that placed first at the WPIAL Championship and 4th in the PIAA Championships. She is committed to Franklin and

Marshall College because she loves the team culture and coaches, the great psychology program (her intended major), and the fact that the college is not too far from home.

Bella Urso: a two-sport athlete, playing for both the girls' soccer and basketball teams. She helped lead the soccer team to the WPIAL Championship, though they ultimately lost out 4-0, as well as a playoff berth for the girls' basketball team. She has chosen Franciscan University of Steubenville because it is a Catholic school, close to home, and gives her the opportunity to study Education while playing the two sports she loves.

Along with these six athletes who have contributed so much to the Fox Chapel Athletics program, here are the other seniors who will be moving on to play at a higher level of competition next year:

Youssef Abdelsalam - Seton Hill University, Wrestling

Kristofer Bandurski - California University of Pennsylvania, Football

Matthew Begg - Catholic University of America, Golf

Christian Dantey - The George Washington University, Swimming

Maya DiPasquale - Case Western Reserve University, Track & Field

Claire Feczko - University of Rochester, Volleyball

Landon Funk - Seton Hill University, Wrestling

Jackson Hagler - Bucknell University, Diving

Brianna Hnatow - Chatham University, Softball

Owen Howell - Emory University, Swimming

Carson Krushansky - St. Francis University, Soccer

Antonio LeDonne - Washington & Jefferson College, Baseball

Pablo Linzoain - Davidson College, Soccer

Victor Nernberg - Catholic University of America, Football

Sarah Pasquella - University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Swimming

Gianna Patterson - Washington & Jefferson College, Soccer

Maria Stiger - Penn State University, New Kensington, Softball

Jack Viti - Washington and Jefferson College, Wrestling

Congratulations to all of these amazing students!



Student Wins American Legion Essay Contest

Junior Ori Goldin was named the first-place winner of both the state and Allegheny County American Legion Essay Contest. The essay topic was "Why is the 1st Amendment Important in America?". Essays were judged on proper English structure, accuracy, the extent of the information, and originality.



Junior and 2025 American Legion Essay Contest winner Ori Goldin speaks at SNPJ Lodge 106 on April 13th.

Allegheny County Council 2025 Youth Achievement Awards dinner held at SNPJ Lodge 106 April 13th in Imperial, where he received a medal and a certificate.

Since the inception of the department of Pennsylvania state essay contest in 1935, the American Legion has awarded more than

As the state first-place winner, Ori has won \$3,500, along with a trip to the PA American Legion Convention in July 2025 where he will read his winning essay to the assembled delegates. Ori was also invited to the American Legion Allegheny County & the American Legion Auxiliary

\$500,000 in scholarships, while local American Legion posts, counties, districts, and sections have also offered awards and prizes to their respective best essay winners as well. The contest is open to students in grades 9-12 from across the state of Pennsylvania.

Students Recognized as Carson Scholars

Junior Ulyana Kubini was named a 2025 Carson Scholar, and junior Joanna Li had her status as a Carson Scholar renewed and was named a Recognized Carson Scholar. Both students were invited to attend the Carson Scholars Fund's Annual Pittsburgh Awards Banquet on April 6th at Acrisure Stadium where they were honored for their accomplishments. Thousands of students from across the nation are nominated each year by educators based on their high academic achievement and their commitment to their communities through community service. This year, 579 students from across the nation, and 79 from Pennsylvania, were named 2025 Carson Scholars. Additionally, 931 students (136 from Pennsylvania) had their Carson Scholar status renewed.



Joanna Li (left) and Ulyana Kubini (right)

Each year the fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships and the honor of being named a Carson Scholar to a select group of high-achieving students in grades 4-11 who not only demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, maintaining at least a 3.75 GPA, but also display strong humanitarian qualities. The students also receive an Olympic-sized medal.

Woolly Adelgid: How it Threatens Our Local Ecosystem

By Eliana Wellman

Have you ever taken a walk in a park and seen white clumps of ambiguous white mass growing on trees? Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) is an invasive species that attacks Hemlock trees, including the many right here in Fox Chapel. Originating in Asia, Woolly Adelgid feed on the starches in a Hemlock tree. They spend most of their time on the same branch of a tree. They spread due to factors such as wind and birds. The white masses on Hemlock trees are the species' eggs. Individual Woolly Adelgid are hard to see with the naked eye.



An example of how Woolly Adelgid on a Hemlock tree looks to the naked eye.

Woolly Adelgid feed off of nutrients that Hemlock trees need to survive. A Woolly Adelgid infested tree has the potential to lose its needles, experience a dieback, and eventually even die. This could lead to harmful environmental consequences. Hemlock trees are a



An individual Woolly Adelgid nymph on an Eastern Hemlock tree.

crucial part of our environment, both on land and in the water. They create dense canopies necessary for an ecosystem to survive, and they provide a home for many

organisms. Additionally, they prevent soil erosion along many streams as well as create shade and cooler temperatures for aquatic life. Our delicate ecosystem would change drastically if Hemlock trees died off. Other species would struggle to survive and would likely die off. Because of these numerous concerns, it is imperative that Woolly Adelgid infested Hemlocks are treated.

There are several common methods used to treat affected Hemlocks, both chemical and biological. The most popular method is injecting a herbicide into the base of a tree trunk. This option is safer than spraying the tree because the herbicide only goes in the tree, not on and around it. The herbicide travels through the vascular system in the tree to treat the affected area. The tree will stay Woolly Adelgid free for several years. Another option is introducing beetles to parks with Woolly Adelgid infested trees. The beetles will eat the Woolly Adelgid on the tree. None of these options, however, are effective in the long run. They are all temporary solutions to buy

researchers and scientists more time to find out how to get rid of the Woolly Adelgid permanently or create Hemlocks resistant to Woolly Adelgid.

There are several things you can do as a student to help this cause such as supporting the Fox Chapel Park Commission, volunteering to track the trees, and donating to the borough. For example, Victor White, a Fox Chapel Area High School

Student started a project of mapping Woolly Adelgid trees to help mitigate the effects of the species. For more information on the Woolly Adelgid, consider visiting Beechwood Farms or reaching out to the Fox Chapel Park Commission.



Teacher Retirement: Mr. Battista

By Paige Solomon

What is your favorite teaching moment? "It's tough to pick one but my top ten would be my cafeteria QRT, FoxFest and Busking Club, bike trips on the Greater Allegheny Path and Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, watching students accomplish challenging climbs on the climbing wall, the dancing unit in PE 9/10, watching students' faces when they first ride the "dipsy do" trail on the school mountain bike trails, caving field, the school musicals, playing random games in PE class, and hiding in a tree from my classes." That is quite the list Mr. Battista!



Why did you decide to become a teacher? "I spent every summer working in summer camp programs with kids of all ages and didn't want the fun to stop."

What are your plans for the future now that you are no longer tied to the school calendar? "This summer I will be cycling the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route traveling from Banff, Canada to Antelope Wells New Mexico (2700 miles). Beyond that I will be working search and rescue with the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group, adventure traveling, and pursuing music."

If you could go back and teach another class, what would you want to teach? "I would want to teach elementary-level PE; elementary kids are happy to do anything everyday. They are an awesome source of energy."



What was the most creative excuse you've ever heard from a student for why they didn't do their homework? "This is why I don't give homework."

What do you hope the future of education looks like? Are there any changes you'd like to see in the system? "This not going to be a popular answer but I think eliminating phones (for students and teachers alike) would be a step in the right direction. The distraction is too overwhelming."

What advice would you give to younger teachers just starting their careers? "Here are my 'three P's': 1. I pray every morning that everybody in our school makes great decisions. 2. Teach with passion. Participate in your students' lives e.g. sponsor a club, go to school events, etc. Bonus advice for students: be your own "influencer."

Favorite part of your day? "I really enjoy the whole day, but since breakfast is a great start to your day, I would have to say QRT."

Which other teacher's class would you like to be in? Why? "Without a doubt, Mr. Karavlan. Do I really need to give a reason?"

The Big List

Brandeis University:
Asher White



Elon University:
Ike Moser



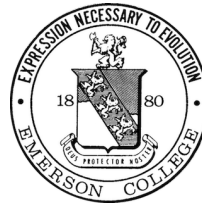
Haverford College:
Devon McDonald



Carnegie Mellon University:
Malik Choset
Alaina Hershey
Etash Jhanji
Arnim Kuchhal



Emerson College:
Colette Walter



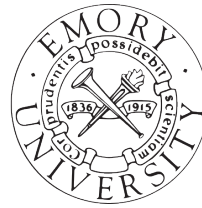
Hillsdale College:
Eleanor Dering



Catholic University of America:
Matthew Begg
Victor Nernberg



Emory University:
Owen Howell



Indiana University of Pennsylvania:
D'Angelo Hamilton
Amanda Sokol



Clark University:
Nico Dugan



Franciscan University of Steubenville:
Jonah Kline
Bella Urso



Indiana University - Bloomington:
Claire Auffenberg
Emma Donovan
Milan Golla
Ava Persichetti
Ezra Shensa



Community College of Allegheny County:
Kent Baker
William Marcussen
Meera Reddy



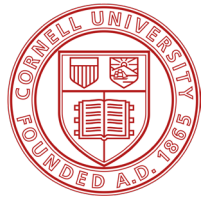
Gap Year:
Seamus Kelley



John Carroll University:
Sophia Berger



Cornell University:
Kai Edwards
Luca Zgurzynski



Geneva College:
Shane Browell



Kent State University:
Josie Giguere
Ryan Kaufman
Addy Kress
Rebecca Poole



Duquesne University:
Tyanne Binion
Lincoln Burgess
Maurena Clienti
Ethan Filter
Tiffany Nguyen



George Washington University:
Elena Curran
Christian Dantey
Nicole haeun Kong



Kenyon College:
Margaret Rusche



The Big List

Lafayette College:
Tyler Goldstein



Ohio State:
Natalie Patel
Noah Miller
Lily Massaro



Texas A&M University:
Benjamin Fiedler



Loyola University Chicago:
Ariana Kaiser



Penn State:
Jennifer Adamo
Ava Andraseik
Megan Delaney
Molly Delaney
Baustin Bitar
Lindsay Gould
Chase Hendren
Cooper Hendren
Francesca Iasella
Dylan Macaffrey

Pierce Osterholm
Joseph Kuhns
Riley Puklus
(Harrisburg)
Graeson Santucci
Natalia Schaffer
Ethan Vaughan
(Behrend)
Mya Wilson



University of California:
Rebecca Cheng (Los Angeles)
Kennedy Murton
(Santa Barbara)
Hyunoh Ro (San Diego)



Marietta College:
Marina Dunham



Purdue University:
Milo Chiu
Rayna Huang
Varad Sant



University of Delaware:
Adelyn Bursick
Mason Friday
Charles Larson



Miami University of Ohio:
Kellan Bleier
Parker Haberman
Altai Yumak



Seton Hill University:
Youssef Abdelsalam
Landon Funk



University of Michigan:
Sarah Pasquella
Melisa Pietz



New York University:
Alex Navas



Shippensburg University:
Timothy Fire



University of Maryland:
Ava Condron
Madeline Grimsley
Paige Solomon



Notre Dame:
Caleb Shirk



Syracuse University:
Adina Rosen



University of Pittsburgh:
Mikhail Bagrov
Alison Clark
Parker Biehl
Zoean Chittur
Emanuel DiNatale
Mary Ann Frauenholz
Owen George
Selin Geylani
Joshua Gunzenhauser
Shahed Hamada
Gabriella Hample
Natalie Hanlon
Justin Horne
Patton Johnson
Vanessa Perez
Varujah R. Kanagaraj
Addison Rossi

Sienna Siegel
Rohit Velankar
Michael Worsen
(Bradford)
Andrea Wang
Caterina Wu

Oberlin College:
Franco Pistella



Temple University:
Ayla Solomon
Cameron Swack
Augustin Passerello-Carnevali



The Big List

University of Miami:
Anna Kintner



University of Wisconsin - Madison:
Luke Tsai



Georgia Tech:
Brooke Fenton



United States Merchant Marine Academy:
Peter Mascilli



Wake Forest University:
Anna Mohn



Bucknell University:
Sophia Clouse
Jackson Hagler



University of Kentucky:
Isabella Cheatham
Sahara Kinderlehrer



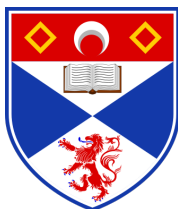
West Virginia University:
David Black
Nicholas Clump
Josiah Rivera



Florida Atlantic University:
Gabrielle DeVita



University of St. Andrews:
Ainsley Anderson
Finnigan Saunders



West Chester University:
Alaina Okunewick



Florida State University:
Aidan Ortiz



University of South Carolina:
Lilah Blyth



Washington and Jefferson College:
Davis Kittsley
Gianna Patterson
Raleigh Morgan



Case Western Reserve University:
Maya DiPasquale
Nathan Mackey



University of Rochester:
Claire Feczko



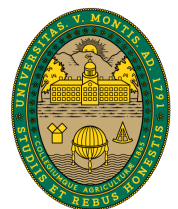
Washington University in St. Louis:
Gabrielle Generett



Colorado State University:
Sophia Rzeszotarski



University of Vermont:
Emilia Boleng
Wyatt Muller
Rachel Pegher



Virginia Tech:
Hannah Smith



George Mason University:
Joseph Seifried



The Big List

Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Sciences:
Caitlin Smith



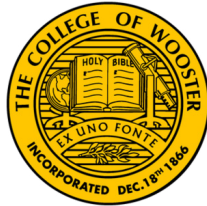
Workforce:
Kent Baker
Oliver Terrick



Vet Tech Institute:
Timothy Marks



The College of Wooster:
Vie Filar



Franklin and Marshall College:
Lilah Blyth



Chatham University:
Brianna Hnatow



Clarion University:
Harmony Zaccagini



Colorado University - Boulder:
William Ghaznavi



St. Francis University:
Carson
Krushansky



Students Place in State Science Competition

Eight Fox Chapel Area School District students won awards at the 2025 State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). Fox Chapel Area first-place state winners were seniors Omar Al-Bataineh, Anna Delale-O'Connor, and Etash Jhanji; sophomores Heidi Stiger and Param Thawani; and eighth-grader Rishabh Krishnamurthy. The second-place state winners were senior Rohit Velankar and sophomore and Rachel Kim. Additionally, Rishabh received a Perfect Score Award and a special award for Junior High Excellence in Earth/Space Science Research presented by the Pennsylvania Earth Science Teachers Association (PAESTA).



The PJAS award winners were (from left to right) Etash Jhanji, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Rohit Velankar, Omar Al-Bataineh, Param Thawani, Heidi Stiger, and Rachel Kim.

The participating Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students were among approximately 2,000 students in grades 7-12 from across Pennsylvania who qualified to participate in the state PJAS competition. The students researched their science projects for several months and were required to give an oral presentation in front of a panel of judges.

The state competition was held at Penn State University, Main Campus, May 18-20. All of the Fox Chapel Area students participating at the state level were named first-place winners at the annual Region 7 Meeting of the PJAS in February.

Junior Wins Luminari Award

Fox Chapel Area High School junior Mariana Ramirez has been named one of two winners of the 2025

Luminari Award. As a 2025 Luminari Award Scholar, Mariana will receive a scholarship, worth more than \$1,200, to attend Luminari's "I Want to be an Ambassador!" camp June 10-18 in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. The camp will welcome 20 students, two from the Pittsburgh area, and will allow participants to engage with diplomats, visit embassies, and tackle real-world challenges – all while learning innovative strategies to foster mutual respect and collaboration. Luminari Award Scholars are selected based on an annual essay competition that challenges teens in grades 7-11 to explore what diplomacy means to them. This year's essay competition highlighted the importance diplomacy plays in our daily lives, and, according to Luminari, the winners truly embody this spirit. "Every successful interaction, whether in government or daily life, starts with diplomacy," said Hilda Pang Fu, Luminari president and founder. "Our campers learn vital skills like effective communication and problem-solving, empowering them to bring positive change to their families, schools, and communities."

Mariana's essay reflected on navigating cultural difference with empathy and understanding. "This program will give me the opportunity to gain new skills, expand my knowledge, and show that immigrants can succeed," shared Mariana. As a Colombian immigrant, she passionately described her journey to challenge stereotypes and inspire others to pursue their dreams. Mariana plans to use these lessons to grow as a leader and pursue a career in nursing. With a deep appreciation

for diverse perspectives, she hopes to use diplomacy to build connections, foster mutual respect, and honor her parents' sacrifices.



Junior Mariana Ramirez was named a 2025 Luminari Award Scholar.



Luminari is a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit organization founded in 2009 to foster activities that broaden minds, inspire innovations, and promote community engagement.

Mariana is already making a positive impact at Fox Chapel Area High School, according to her teachers. "Mariana approaches every challenge with perseverance, supports her peers with genuine compassion, and consistently puts in the effort to achieve her best," said English as a Second Language teacher Kathy Rombach. "Her dedication and positive attitude make her a joy to teach and an inspiration to those around her." Science teacher Jennell Wolfe said, "Mariana's genuine desire to learn, confidence, and leadership qualities have earned her this well-deserved award. Her dedication and resilience throughout high school have truly set her apart." "Mariana is a dedicated student who consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and a positive attitude," said math teacher Gail Hetu. "Her commitment goes beyond simply completing assignments – she shows a genuine drive to understand the concepts behind the math. Her determination and thoughtful approach to learning make her a standout in the classroom."

"The future of diplomacy starts here," said Debbie Casini Klein, I Want to be an Ambassador! director. "These teens are not just learning skills; they are becoming ambassadors of respect and change." Luminari is a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit organization founded in 2009 to foster activities that broaden minds, inspire innovations, and promote community engagement. The other Pittsburgh area winner was Mira Frawley, a first-year student at Winchester Thurston Upper School.

Fox Chapel A.W. Beattie Student Places at State Competition

An A.W. Beattie Career Center and Fox Chapel Area High School senior placed at the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania competition. Gretchen Shelestak won a third-place bronze medal. Gretchen competed in the cosmetology category and is enrolled in Beattie's cosmetology program.

Gretchen qualified for the state contest after placing first at the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania District 8 competition that was held February 17, 2025, at the Parkway West Career & Technology Center. The state

contest was held April 2-4, 2025, in Hershey, Pennsylvania.



Senior Gretchen Shelestak, was recognized for her talent in cosmetology at SkillUSA's Pennsylvania competition.

Farewell to the Singing Seniors!

By Sienna Siegel



For the many seniors that participated in choir during their high school career, the May 12th concert was their last major performance with the group. This concert was a touching experience. Despite bidding the seniors a warm farewell, their fellow underclassmen performers will certainly miss them.

On Monday, May 12, 2025, the Fox Chapel Area High School Choir put on its last show for the 2024-2025 school year. The evening began with the Madrigal singers' rendition of "Sarah," a playful and welcoming piece that set the tone for the night. The Madrigal Singers performed four more songs, a fan favorite being a piece titled "Ritmo," which was accompanied by the piano duo of Caterina Wu and James Mangus. "Ritmo," composed by Dan Davison is an energetic Latin piece that involves clapping, snapping, and other movements to keep the audience engaged and impressed. Madrigal Singers meet twice a week in the fall and three times a week in the spring; every member is also involved in the concert choir. This audition-based group is extremely devoted to excelling during their numerous yearly performances. Following the Madrigals' performance, the Vulpes Cantantes singers performed four songs. Vulpes Cantantes is an audition-based girl group. They practice on Monday nights and perform various songs consisting of different styles, languages, and paces. They ended their performance with the notable song, "Cups" from the movie Pitch Perfect. Avery Shapira, a senior member of Vulpes Cantantes said, "Vulpes has given me a whole new perspective on choir and I've gained a new appreciation for the choir as a whole. Join it if you're on the fence; it is so much fun!"

Next, the Men's Ensemble performed two songs, their most notable being an acapella rendition of "I Want It That Way," by the Backstreet Boys. The Men's Ensemble is composed of boys in grades 9-12, and they meet before school on Friday mornings. The passionate tenors and bases were overjoyed and confident while taking the stage. After the Men's ensemble, family and friends were welcomed to join the stage and sing "Lean on Me" with the concert choir. Every member of the concert choir was

encouraged to bring a parent, sibling, grandparent, or friend to sing with them on stage and enjoy the lasting memory of creating music. After that performance, the concert choir sang four additional songs. They sang an Italian piece, "Sogno Di Volare," "O' Love, Locus Iste," and "Great God Almighty." A heartfelt moment occurred towards the end of the concert when the seniors came together holding hands singing a rendition of "I Love You. What A Wonderful World." The moving song left many in tears as they soaked in their last concert. The concert concluded with the song, "Let the River Run," a piece that will be performed again at the graduation ceremony of Soldiers and Sailors. The song fully encapsulated the feeling of moving on positively, something Mr. Murray hopes his seniors will remember.

Ava Condon, a four-year senior choir member, said, "I joined the choir because I always loved to sing from a young age, and I had done choir throughout elementary and middle school. I'm glad that I stuck with it because I have made so many friends doing choir, and it is such an amazing community that supports and uplifts you." Gianna Tavorario, a three-year senior choir member said, "Singing is super important to me because it's taught me cooperation and the effort it takes to make a team. It also taught me that you are capable of anything you put your mind to, no matter how challenging a song is!" Alaina Okunewick is a four-year choir member, who placed first in the district chorus competition and tied for second in the regional chorus competition. She said, "I loved the region and district festivals because I got to see a lot of the people that I knew from other schools, and we got to do something we all enjoy!" It is evident that the seniors will always cherish their time with the choir, and that the memories they made will last a lifetime.

HOSA Invites Inspiring Medical Career Speakers

By Rachel Pegher

Over the past couple months, HOSA was able to bring in three guest speakers. On April 25th, Dr. Vyas, an orthopedic surgeon, came in to speak on his journey in his medical profession. Emphasizing the length of training required to become a surgeon, the reasons why one should go into medicine, and the opportunities to specialize within medicine; he answered student's questions with passion and concision. Additionally, he brought in some models – an artificial knee, femur, and pelvis – to help explain common procedures in the operating room. It must also be known that students learned the perks of being a doctor for the Pittsburgh Penguins, including front row seats for his family and thus being up close to the action. They get to see both pivotal shots and gnarly injuries on the ice!

Ms. Bobik joined HOSA members and students on April 29th. As a nurse anesthetist, she emphasized her specialty's lax work-life balance, the less rigorous yet rewarding training, and the independent work that is associated with her field. She also brought in many tools, including several sizes of airways, an oxygen bag, a trachea tube, and a laryngoscope. Then, she also shared

common myths about anesthesia, including the fact that she has never had anyone wake up during surgery.

Lastly, Dr. Hager, a vascular surgeon, was able to join HOSA on May 16th. Throughout his presentation and questionnaire, he spoke on how to deal with imposter

syndrome, how to manage/avoid student debt, the length of his training, and the availability of vascular surgeon positions throughout the country. His presentation had many real-life operating room pictures to show how "gross" yet beautiful and life-saving his specialty can be. Dr. Hager was our speaker with the highest turnout of students, which is

important when considering this country's deficit in the number of vascular surgeons. We need future surgeons, which could be YOU!

Thank you to our guest speakers for joining us, and thank you to Mrs. Miller and our HOSA officers, Michael Costello and Kalsey Thom, for taking the time and initiative of bringing them in. Our speakers all did a wonderful job with speaking on the reality of working in various medical careers; this experience was invaluable to many students.



Dr. Vyas (left) and Dr. Hager (right) spoke to students about orthopedic surgery and vascular surgery respectively. Ms. Bobik (not pictured) covered her experience as a nurse anesthetist.

Students Chosen For All-State Chorus And Orchestra

Eight Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Ensembles. The students chosen for the PMEA All-State Chorus are seniors Alaina OKunewick and Mya Wilson. The students selected for the PMEA All-State Orchestra are senior Marina Dunham (bassoon) and juniors Elliott Broyles (trombone), Michael Costello (bass), Charles Hahl (cello), Jack Murray-Krezan



The Fox Chapel Area High School students chosen to perform with the PMEA All-State Ensembles are (from left to right) Joshua Shah, Jack Murray-Krezan, Michael Costello, Mya Wilson, Charles Hahl, Marina Dunham, Elliott Broyles, and Alaina OKunewick.

(percussion), and Joshua Shah (flute). The PMEA All-State Ensembles bring together the top student-musicians from across Pennsylvania.

The PMEA All-State Festival is being held at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in the Poconos, in conjunction with the PMEA Annual In-Service Conference April 9-12, 2025. The Fox Chapel Area High School students performed with their prospective groups on April 11th (orchestra) and April 12th (chorus).

The Trump Administration's Battle on Higher Education

By Sabina Mantella

In recent months, Harvard University and the Trump Administration have been in a heated conflict. This turmoil first began in late March when the Department of Education called for a review of Harvard's federal contracts, including \$8.7 billion in grants, because of the University's shortcomings concerning maintaining its "civil rights responsibilities." This comes in response to the months of ongoing pro-Palestinian protests on campus that have had encampments for over a year



Current Harvard University president, Alan Garber, has denounced anti-semitism on the institution's campus.

now. Although over time these protests have been ensuing, the university itself has not once directly claimed they are in support of Hamas or the Palestinian effort. Former president of Harvard Claudine Gay said on the record that she both condemns Hamas and that the students have the right to speak. Many Jewish students on campus, political figures, and the current president himself, Alan Garber, have called into question Harvard's compliance with anti-Semitism. Does the continued allowance of pro-Palestinian encampments make the Harvard board susceptible to grant cuts?

In the few weeks following this call for review, the administration sent a letter to Harvard demanding a mask ban, DEI programs, and a thorough investigation of students engaged in protesting. In just a few days, Harvard responded by denying agreement to any of the previously listed items as they were perceived as unlawful authority. On April 16th, the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced that the administration will cancel \$2.7 million in grants while additionally threatening the future of international students. Last year, international students made up approximately 30%

of the student body at Harvard. In response to this recent disturbance at Harvard, many foreign universities are eager to take in these students. Perhaps most notably, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has publicly announced "open invitations" for students currently enrolled at Harvard.

On April 22nd, following the pressure that the Trump Administration has been putting on Harvard, college presidents across 170 universities, including other Ivy League institutions, came together to create a signed letter to speak up against government overreach. At the beginning of May, Harvard University lost its tax-exempt status and its ability to be eligible for new federal research grants. In an almost petty fashion, for 2025, Harvard is set to make 122 free online courses, 40 of which are classes about the government.

The rising tensions between the Trump administration and Harvard reflect a shift in higher education. As high school students are looking into universities, families and students need to keep up with current events to see how these conflicts will impact their school of choice. Although Trump is in conflict with Harvard University, the individuals being impacted the most are the students. It is easy to forget all the international students who have had their education uprooted. These students, who have worked tremendously throughout their entire academic careers, have been used as collateral damage for a political game.



The Department of Homeland Security has become increasingly aggressive towards higher education through cutting grants and targeting international students.



Premier institutions of higher education in the United States have many well-qualified international applicants every admissions cycle.

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2025 Spring Comedy: More Than Just Comedic

By Sabina Mantella

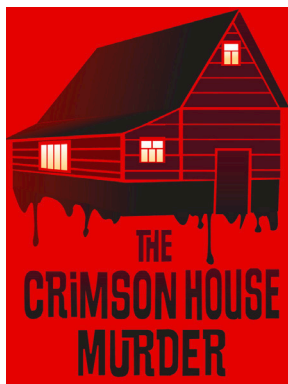
This past May, I had the pleasure of viewing the Drama Club's Spring Comedy, *The Crimson House Murder*. Written originally by Tim Kelly and directed by Lincoln Marshal and Joseph Weber, *The Crimson House Murder* is a dark and charming murder mystery. The comedy follows the residents of the Crimson house, owned by the cold and judgmental Rebecca Fitzwilliam, who was portrayed by Marina Dunham. As murders occur within the dwelling, the surviving members must come together and figure out the identity of the murderer. As the overarching plot revealed itself, the characters' unique qualities and hilarious dialogue made for a delightful viewing experience.

Unofficially on the case is investigator Hercules Porridge, played by Joseph Seifried, a strange man who accidentally pieces information together in a comedic fashion. Porridge is often at odds with Detective Bobby, Benjamin Shuttleworth, and his partner, Officer Mulligan, Faye Muller, creating tension when the comedic twist of the true murder is unveiled. The diverse cast of characters each yields their quirks, and when interacting, interesting and humorous scenes would unfold each time. For example, Fay Strange's desperation and Anguish Crispie's pretentious attitude

led to witty dialogues between actors Colette Walter and Natile Hanlon. Another charming aspect of the comedy was the simplistic set design created by Riley Puklus and managed by Lily Cannon and Artistia Laing. The characters were able to utilize the same design while conveying the idea that time is progressing. One character who interacted with the props in an especially comedic manner was the forgetful housekeeper Jeeves, depicted by Jack Bergman. A recurring bit of Jeeves was his walking in the wrong direction in the house, giving the audience a convincing performance of an old man.

The Spring Comedy is able to maintain production thanks to the club's dedicated sponsor, Ms. Dixon, and all the help that goes on behind the scenes. The magic of the hair and makeup that was used to capture the time period of the play was done by Christiane Giguere and Maisy Hays. The

costumes designed by Adele Grady transformed our Fox Chapel students into Tim Kelly's characters. Let's not forget the other members of this project who made this project a possibility, including the stage crew, sound team, and the parents who donated their time and support to our young actors!



The Drama Club put on this year's Spring Comedy from May 21st to May 23rd.



Teacher Retirement: Mr. Massack

By Emilia Sutkowski

While gym class may not be everyone's favorite, for some it can be the teacher that makes it worthwhile. When I was told that I was going to have a first period gym class three days a week my sophomore year, all I thought about was how terrible my semester would be. I imagined dragging myself out of bed only to run laps at 8 a.m., not even half-awake. But what I didn't expect was to walk into a class led by a teacher who brought energy, encouragement, and humor to every early morning.

Mr. Massack started off the semester by making jokes about how we would be in the pool, running laps, and sweating first thing in the morning (so essentially everyone's nightmare) the first week of class. It turns out that none of that was as terrible as I thought it would be; it ended up being a great and relaxing time. Mr. Massack empathized with my class and understood each student's circumstances whether that be an injury or just having a bad day. He figured out a way each person could find their niche and enjoy physical activity without feeling as if they had left their comfort zone. Mr. Massack made gym fun, educational, and motivating.

There was never a day where I felt like I had been drained in gym class and couldn't continue on with my day. Around finals season, when everyone was stressed out, he took that into account and gave us time to sit down and work on material for other classes.

Fox Chapel and its students are incredibly fortunate to have had a teacher like Mr. Massack. He will always be known as someone who goes beyond the role of instructor and truly cares about each student's well-being in the district. His focus on individual progress and support has left a lasting impact on the Fox Chapel community.



1) What was your favorite memory of teaching in the physical education department here at FC?

Helping to develop a physical education program that offers a variety of activities so each student can find success. Also, being able to wear shorts and tennis shoes to work every day.



2) What will you miss the most about Fox Chapel?

My co-workers, all the students, and the coffee bar.

3) What advice would you give to the next generation of teachers or students at Fox Chapel?

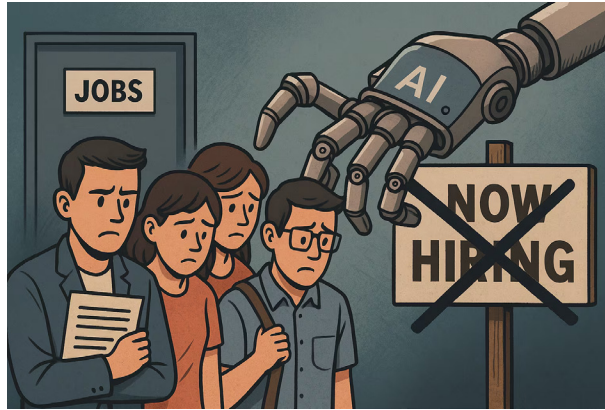
Make the most out of every opportunity because time goes by fast.

Artificial Intelligence's Impact on Jobs

By Arman Alborzi

In a remarkably short time, AI has shifted from the edge of innovation to the center of economic change as it redefines the job market. Because AI can do repetitive jobs quicker and more precisely than humans can, it has significant employment loss in several fields. At the same time, AI is opening the door to entirely new fields of work and innovation. While AI enhances operational efficiency, it also raises concerns about AI causing unemployment. According to The Future of Jobs Report 2025, employers expect that 39% of core job skills will change by the year 2030. Demands for roles, such as big data specialists, fintech engineers, and machine learning specialists are driven by technological advancements like AI.

Sectors most at risk include customer service, which uses AI chatbots to alleviate customer concerns; banking and insurance, where AI is automating paperwork and speeding up issue resolution; and transportation, as autonomous driving, such as self-driving trucks, provides faster deliveries and lower costs by eliminating the human aspect. Although humans are needed for complex programming, simpler programming tasks can be automated with AI and eliminating thousands of jobs. Jobs that can not be replaced by AI are teachers, nurses, social workers, therapists, lawyers, etc, because of the inherent need for a human personality in each of these jobs. However, AI is also generating completely new job categories. For instance, machine learning engineers



The ever-increasing popularity of AI technology has sparked concerns pertaining to employment.

are in charge of creating and perfecting the algorithms that enable AI to advance over time. The need for experts who can create, oversee, and direct intelligent systems is increasing along with the demand for these systems.

As technology continues to evolve, so does the nature of employment. A key factor in this transition is adaptability. Workers who can learn to work alongside AI — not against it

— will remain relevant. For instance, marketing analysts now rely heavily on AI tools to gather consumer data more efficiently, yet they still interpret the emotional and cultural aspects of campaigns that AI cannot grasp. Similarly, healthcare professionals are using AI for diagnostics, but the decision-making and patient interaction remain deeply human responsibilities. The transformation is not just about job loss or creation; it's about job evolution. Traditional roles are being redefined. A journalist may use AI to sift through data and detect trends, yet the storytelling—the human voice—still lies with the writer. This integration of human and AI will be the future of a hybrid job market.

Ultimately, AI brings with it both promise and disruption. The burden of equipping workers with new skills falls not solely on them, but also on the organizations (public and private) that shape our systems. Building an adaptable workforce is key to making sure innovation includes everyone, not just the technology that drives it.

Fox Chapel Area Named One of Best Communities For Music Education

The Fox Chapel Area School District has been named among the 2025 Best Communities for Music Education. This is the 14th year that the district has received this designation. Fox Chapel Area is one of 131 in the state of Pennsylvania and one of 935 school districts in the nation chosen for this honor. It recognizes districts that demonstrate outstanding music achievement and that provide an exceptionally high commitment and access to all students to music education.

The districts were selected through a program sponsored by the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Foundation which recognizes and



celebrates outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education for all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities for Music Education designation, Fox Chapel Area music teachers responded to a detailed survey with questions pertaining to funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit that celebrates and promotes the intrinsic value of music education.

Unified Best Buddies Cafe Opens

By Zehra Ozkaya

The Fox Chapel Coffee Company is open for business! On May 13th, the cafe opened and sold its products during all lunches. The Unified Best Buddies club at Fox Chapel Area High School is the managing entity behind the cafe. With products such as popcorn, tea, and coffee, students in the club work during their lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Stop by whenever you can to come check out the cafe centered at the beginning of D hallway. There are food and drink options available for affordable prices. Come in and grab whatever you would like during any of the lunches as there is always someone from Unified Best Buddies working the cafe to ensure all students get what they want.

The Unified Best Buddies club serves as the proprietor of this cafe to support teaching life skills to students at the high school. The opportunity to learn how to properly serve and interact with customers are valuable life skills that will aid the members of the Unified Best Buddies club in their future endeavors.



The Fox Chapel Cafe, located between the cafeteria and lower Blue Wing, offers opportunities for students of all abilities.

Interacting with others and learning good communication skills as well as organizational skills that the cafe offers provides the chance to learn in interactive manners outside of the classroom.

Many of the aspiring students who have come together to help make this initiative possible are Marin Cusano, J.J. Jarvis, Mark Farah, Zach Work, Xander Chopek, and Taylor Roles. They diligently work in the cafe on the days it is open and help serve the line of customers who are always rushing into this new establishment. Their contributions helped the cafe grow into a bustling area of the school during lunches that many admire and love visiting!

It is inspiring to see how students get new opportunities every day at Fox Chapel. The cafe opening brought great joy to the student body who were not involved in its opening and it brings joy to those who are! The ability to be immersed in an environment where students can gain job experience and connections to one another is an amazing aspect of the cafe's existence.

Students Named 2024-2025 All-American Strength and Conditioning Athletes of the Year

Fox Chapel Area High School senior Luca Poli and junior Laila Golla were named 2024-2025 High School All-American Strength and Conditioning Athletes of the Year by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA). The honor recognizes high school athletes whose accomplishments reflect their dedication to strength and conditioning. The athletes are also recognized for their academic accomplishments, as well as their integrity as student-athletes and for being role models for their peers. Luca was recognized for football, but also participates on the Unified Bocce and Track teams. Laila was recognized as a multi-sport athlete and she participates on the girls tennis and crew teams.

Luca and Laila were nominated by Fox Chapel Area High School social studies teacher and interscholastic strength and conditioning head coach Brandon Peifer. According to Peifer, Luca and Laila are both team leaders who are well-respected by others.

"Luca embodies all the qualities that we look for in our student-athletes. Over the years, he has won numerous



Junior Laila Golla (left) and senior Luca Poli (right)

awards for football, and his dedication to physical preparation throughout his high school career has been exceptional," Peifer said. "In addition to being a scholar-athlete, Laila has a strong passion for community service. She also has a commitment to public health and she serves as a Youth Advisory Council Member

for the Pennsylvania Department of Health and she contributes to youth-centered health policies at Penn State University."

Founded in 1978, the NSCA is a nonprofit association dedicated to advancing the strength and conditioning and related sport science professions around the world. The NSCA, now with over 60,000 members, exists to empower a community of professionals to maximize their impact through disseminating evidence-based knowledge and its practical application by offering industry-leading certifications, research journals, career development services, networking opportunities, and continuing education.

MOMENTUM SHIFTS FOR FOXES SOFTBALL

BY ELI OLIFSON

In 2022, the Fox Chapel Softball team unknowingly entered their first of 2 seasons that would not go their way. In the 2022-23 season, it was a constant struggle for wins, and a 3 game stint to end the season put the Foxes at 7-10. Not much changed going into last year, as wins still did not come easy. Fox Chapel struggled to pick up any real momentum and had their second 7-10 season in a row. Both seasons, the softball team managed to reach the playoffs, however that was the extent of their accomplishments. All signs pointed to another similar year for the team, but at the time of writing they are sitting at 14-5, and advancing to the quarterfinals of the playoffs after a 4-0 upset over the 5-seeded Franklin Regional Panthers. How was there so much change in one season? Leadoff hitter and center fielder, senior Adina Rosen, believes it is all thanks to a new attitude. "This season, everyone played as a team and supported each other very well. Our team saying is, '22 strong,' whether you are starting or not, we are one team and everyone plays a crucial role in every game," said Rosen. Whether this new mindset truly is driving the change in the program, nobody knows, but it is easy to see that the Foxes are looking stronger than ever.

During the offseason, a new head coach arrived to the softball program. Larry Troutman brought a new energy to the squad, building up a team that would have great success in the season. This staffing change could have played a serious role in what made the team blow expectations out of the water this year. Rosen believes that having a fresh set of eyes on the team is just what was needed to craft the best possible team to win games. She says that Troutman has brought "excitement" and "a chance for a fresh start." "The coaches only knew a few players coming in, so it gave everyone a chance to compete for a spot to put the best nine out on the field". The first-year coach definitely succeeded in putting the best players on the field, more specifically on the pitcher's mound. Out of their 14 regular season wins and one playoff win this season, Fox Chapel pitchers have allowed two or less runs in 11 of them, however, saying "pitchers" may be the wrong word choice. Sophomore Jillian Haigh

has been the better part of the Foxes' pitching staff this year. Haigh has made a pitching appearance in every single game this season, starting most of them. Her incredible success on the mound has rewarded her by helping her get nominated to the first team all section along with three other Foxes, Adina Rosen, Ella Eisner, and Bri Hnatow. However for Jillian, much like the rest of her team, pitching is not the extent of her skills.



The Foxes softball team, pictured above, has seen immense success this season.

In addition to shutting down opponents on the defensive side of the ball, Fox Chapel has mercilessly hit and scored off of opposing pitchers. Over the course of the season stretching into the first round of playoffs, the team accumulated 190 runs scored. That, coupled with only 80 runs allowed, has given the Foxes an absolutely dominant +110 run differential. Though the whole team has been hitting this season, three players stand out as the most consistent and impactful batters on the squad. Senior Adina Rosen, and Sophomores Ella Eisner and Jillian Haigh have been the battery powering the machine that is the Fox Chapel offense. The three typically bat in the one, three, and four spot, respectively, in a top of the lineup that is guaranteed to put runs on the board. Seeing as two of the top three batters on the team are only sophomores, it raises the point that this team may continue to improve. Though they are losing a strong senior class, Adina Rosen, who plans on attending Syracuse University next year, has hope that the underclassmen will continue to bring pride to this program. "The underclassmen are all eager to learn and get better. A lot of them came to most of the open gyms and put the work in during the off-season. They also bring a lot of energy and excitement to the dugout," says Adina. The hard work of the lower classes will hopefully set a new precedent for the Foxes' Softball team and for new coach Larry Troutman. Additionally, the energy and excitement that Rosen talks about is no exaggeration. On any given day after school during the spring sports season, the softball team can be heard cheering from around the campus. Whether you are watching a baseball game, practicing lacrosse, or playing in a tennis match, the

cheers coming from the softball stadium are impossible to avoid. This energy is part of what makes the team so dominant, and once they pick up momentum, there's no stopping them.

For Adina Rosen, this senior season has been something special. Two years ago, the softball program team's future didn't look too positive. Rosen's sophomore and junior seasons were a struggle and a true fight for every win, however in her senior season, everything changed at the right time. She said, "The girls that we have on the team this year have made my senior season very special. This season, I approached everything



Senior and seasoned Foxes softball player Adina Rosen has seen the team's ups and downs over her time with the group.

with an open mind and gave it my all. You never know when it is going to be the last time you step on the field, so I tried to do whatever I could to bring myself and my team success." The team morale this year, in addition to upperclassmen like Rosen's mindset about making every moment count, helped the team do a complete 180. Fox Chapel should be proud of this season. The dedication from each of the 22 rostered players and the influence of a new head coach have brought light back to the softball program, and the future only looks better despite the disadvantages they faced.

FOXES BASEBALL FACES ROUGH SEASON

BY JOE YOSHIKAWA

The Fox Chapel Foxes' 2025 baseball campaign could be seen as a step forward in a lot of ways, but to some coaches and players, it may have been a step backwards.

Let's start off with the many positives. Head coach Jim Hastings expressed many times this year that the team was the most talented one he has ever coached. The roster consisted of numerous players who had won all-section honors before, whether first or second team. Even more impressive was the amount of college commits; highlighted by Jeremy Haigh, a 4-year starter who committed to Wagner College, they also had the likes of Franco Pistella (Oberlin College), Antonio LeDonne (Washington and Jefferson College), and Blake Krushinski (West Virginia University). Though the lineup was formidable, they were set up to face many other intimidating players throughout the year; the WPIAL 5A class was filled with many talent-rich teams, and it did not help that Fox Chapel was in the hardest section (Pine-Richland, Shaler, Mars, West Allegheny, and New Castle). In fact, Shaler and Pine-Richland ended up facing off in the WPIAL Championship and both punched their ticket to the state playoffs.

Though they started off rough, the Foxes were able to beat the cold streak and end with a total record of 15-6. In March, the team got swept by Shaler in their first taste of section play. They ended March with another loss to rival Pine-Richland before righting the ship. The boys were filled with determination, knowing that any more section



The Foxes baseball team faced unfortunate setbacks this season.

losses would mean that they could be eliminated from the playoffs, even six games into the season. Throughout April, they went 9-1 and made a strong showing by beating teams like North Allegheny and Mars. The success would continue into May, where they finished the regular season strong with four wins and one loss. On May 9th, the Foxes

pulled off a 6-1 win against the Shady Side Academy Bulldogs and celebrated head coach Jim Hastings' 100th career win. For someone who has spent eight years with the program, the milestone was a long time coming and well deserved; the team celebrated accordingly with the traditional Gatorade bath and cheers.

Unfortunately, heartbreak came in the first round of the playoffs. The Greater Latrobe Wildcats had played in a scrappy fashion all year, and they continued to do just that. Through a few clutch hits, they drove in two runs in the fourth inning and were able to hold Fox Chapel to just one run, ending their playoff hopes and aspirations. Lately, the team has been disappointed with these performances. Though they have done well in the seasons past and qualified for the playoffs in the last three seasons, they have only won one game in that span. It's especially unfortunate for this senior class who led this talented team, as they knew this feeling of losing all too well when everything was at stake. The Fox Chapel Foxes have high hopes for next year to potentially make a run and wipe away the past.

ELI YOFAN CONTINUES LEGACY

BY GRANT FENTON

On the otherwise normal Tuesday evening of February 8th, 2022, the Fox Chapel boys varsity basketball team held a 20-13 lead over section opponent Norwin en route to an easy victory. Jake DeMotte threw an alley-oop pass to Eli Yofan, who elevated to score the basket. Such a play was not an unusual event for the senior, who averaged 19.3 points during the 2021-2022 season, but this particular basket was different. Yofan had just eclipsed the all time Fox Chapel scoring record of 1437 previously set in 2014 by Matt D'Amico, who came to the game to celebrate the achievement. "It was really cool that Matt D'Amico was there, too," says Yofan, "It says a lot about him as a person for him to be there". The game was halted as Yofan received congratulations from his teammates and coaches for achieving the milestone. "It was a pretty surreal moment. I knew I was two points away so after that it was almost kind of a relief because now everything was focused on the team. There wasn't anything else to think about anymore except us." The team cruised to a 71-34 victory. They would then go on to win the Class 6A WPIAL Championship as well as the Section 3 Championship, finishing 27-2, after falling to Archbishop Wood in the PIAA semifinals, 56-54.

After high school, Yofan went on to attend Miami University in Ohio, where he is currently majoring in finance and is a scholarship member of the basketball team. Outside of basketball, Eli said he is "most focused on doing well in school and setting myself up for life after college basketball." Basketball still remains a vital part of Yofan's college experience, and it helped ease his transition to Miami as he found continuity within the game. "In high school we won a lot. All that matters is winning so I was used to that. I do all the little things to put us in the best position to win. It's all about what you can do in your role to win," he explains. However, Yofan says that he has learned a great deal and grown as a player since arriving at Miami. "High school and college basketball are so different. I've learned so much more about it that I never really knew there was. I've been fortunate to have an unbelievable staff at Miami who have taught me so much and been so great as coaches and people." The Redhawks made the MAC championship this past season, losing to Akron 76-74 at the buzzer. With Yofan entering



Foxes basketball success story Eli Yofan continues to sport red and white at the D1 level.

his fourth and final year of college hoops, he and the team will look to advance even further.

At Fox Chapel, Eli was a gifted athlete as he excelled in multiple sports, earning varsity letters in basketball, soccer, golf, and volleyball. He earned All WPIAL and state honors in basketball, volleyball, and soccer. He excelled the most in basketball, where he received 6A Player of the Year and WPIAL Fab 5 honors twice. His high level of play also helped result in team success, with Yofan winning WPIAL championships in both golf and basketball his senior year.

These accomplishments are just some of many reasons why Eli looks back fondly at his time playing sports at Fox Chapel. "Sports have helped me so much throughout my life mainly because of all the people I've met and relationships I've gained. All my coaches, friends, and family have put me in the best possible position to succeed and I'm so thankful for that." Even with all the successes in his decorated career, one moment stands out in his mind. "My favorite memory was the buzzer going off at the [Petersen Events Center] after winning the WPIAL," he reminisces, "It was unbelievable." In spite of Eli's many individual accomplishments, celebrating with his teammates after the championship victory was most meaningful to him, as he was always a team centric player. "There haven't been many teams who have done what we did at Fox Chapel," he says. "The coolest thing about all of it was most of us have been playing together since third grade. It was always a dream to win a WPIAL championship and it came true. That run will be something we never forget."

While he has many athletic memories to look back on, Eli is preparing for the end of his long and successful basketball career with his senior year on the horizon. "Basketball has been the biggest part of my life for the past eight years and unfortunately it's coming to an end. I've had the privilege to be introduced to some of the best people in my life." Even though Eli is entering the twilight of his playing days, he looks forward to applying his finance degree to carry over his athletic success into a professional environment. "I want to graduate from Miami with a finance degree. [From there] I hope to enter into the business world and start a new chapter in my life after basketball."

PROM



International Travel Spots Over the Summer

The school year is finally wrapping up. With summer wide open, it's the perfect time to get out, go somewhere new, and enjoy yourself. If you are looking for a change of scenery, now's the time to make it happen. Here are some noteworthy scenic summer vacation spots:

→ Italy: The **Amalfi Coast**, one popular travel destination, contains stunning seaside cliffs, colorful towns, and exceptional seafood. Another place to go is the **Colosseum** in Rome, an iconic ancient amphitheater full of history and grandeur.

→ Japan: The **Furano Lavender Fields**, gorgeous purple fields that bloom in July, see about one million tourists per year. A charming historic town, the **Otaru Canal** has a very romantic vibe and is known for its beautiful glassworks.



The Furano Lavender Fields in full bloom

→ Greece: **Santorini's Oia Village** is famous for its white buildings, blue domes, and sunsets, where **Acropolis (Athens)** is known for ancient ruins (of the Parthenon) and panoramic views of the city.

→ Canada: In **Banff National Park**, you can find stunning storybook-like turquoise lakes like Lake Louise and areas perfect for hiking, if that's your thing. Another scenic place, **Capilano Suspension Bridge** in Vancouver serves as a unique way to walk through lush forests, above them.



The Capilano Suspension Bridge

→ Iceland: The **Golden Circle Route**, a tourist route, contains three major attractions – a national park, waterfall, and the geothermal area. The **Blue Lagoon** is a different geothermal spa, home to milky-blue waters.

Compiled by William Kelly

Tapestry Hosts Publication Celebration

By Logan Rapp

On May 17th, Fox Chapel's Literary Magazine "Tapestry" held the publication event for their annual magazine at Ketchup City Creative, an art gallery located in Sharpsburg. Tapestry, Fox Chapel's long-standing literary magazine, serves as a platform for students to share original poetry, short stories, and visual art. The magazine showcases the creativity of students, and is a symbol of the unique minds of Fox Chapel. Each year, it compiles submissions from anyone that is willing to submit, offering a diverse snapshot of the school's creative voice. This celebration lasted an hour and a half. The event highlighted the artistic creativity and excellence in Fox Chapel's student community. It was both an exhibition of the book and a showcase of the behind-the-scenes of Tapestry. This event not only gave guests an opportunity to view the final product, but also to appreciate the work and energy put into the magazine from the staff members behind it.

The event began in a relatively structured manner



with Vie Filar, the Head of Manuscript, introducing the publication. Following this, each individual senior staff member introduced themselves. After a brief intermission, the open mic portion began. An open mic is when any attendee can freely go up to the microphone and recite poetry, sing music, or perform any spoken pieces. Many guests chose to read, with some selecting pieces from the book and others sharing work from outside sources. Each piece of writing reflected the individual styles of the student, from how it was written to how it was read.



The open mic was only one of many aspects of the event. In addition to the performances, the space featured refreshments, a trifold explaining the review process through "round tables," and a small exhibit of various pieces of artwork

shown in the magazine. After several students shared their works, the event ended. However, everyone still got the magazine, which has seventy-four pages of unique art and writing from students.

New License Plates and Welcome Signs Better Represent Pennsylvania

By Karsten Buchert

This spring, the Pennsylvania Department of Motor Vehicles has made a new design of license plates available for state residents to order. The plan is for this



Pennsylvania's new license plate features a completely new design.

rendition to eventually become standard fare. The updated plate features the liberty bell as well as the fitting slogan "Let Freedom Ring." Compared to the outgoing plate, which was

very much function over form, the new design better represents Pennsylvania's history and, according to Governor Josh Shapiro, existence as "the birthplace of American democracy." The new colors — an off-white background, navy blue characters for the registration number, and red for the state and slogan — are also quite tasteful.

Alongside the new license plates, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has also been installing new welcome signs along the major routes into the state. These new signs resemble the new license plates' design

featuring the liberty bell and "Let Freedom Ring" slogan. In addition, the signs note the state's founding year, 1681. In that year, Quaker William Penn asked King Charles the II to grant the land between the existing provinces of Maryland and New York. The King approved and signed on the Charter of Pennsylvania on March 4th with the province being officially proclaimed on April 2nd. Penn had high hopes for Pennsylvania to become a place of peace and religious toleration, inviting individuals from all sects to live in the province.

Both of these changes, the license plate and welcome signs, are intended to highlight the state's leading role in celebrating the United States' upcoming semiquincentennial (250th Anniversary) in 2026.



In addition the the license plates, state welcome signs also received a redesign.

References:

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Wellness Day Helps Students De-Stress

By Prachi Behal

On Wednesday, May 28th, a wide variety of activities were offered for Fox Chapel Area High School's Wellness Day. Each period, many clubs hosted events to promote the physical



Basketball was available in the auxiliary gym during the first and second periods of Wellness Day.

and the emotional well-being of students. For physical movement, pickleball was offered every period in the main gym, sponsored by the Pickleball Club; basketball was offered during the first and second periods in the auxiliary gym, sponsored by the physical education department; skating was offered during

the third and fourth periods in the auxiliary gym, sponsored by the Skating Club; workouts on your own were available in the fitness center; strength and conditioning workouts were held in the Iron Den; bocce was offered during periods one and two near the auditorium entrance, sponsored by the Unified Best Buddies Club; lawn games—including bocce, cornhole, washers, ladder toss, and Kan Jam—were offered during periods three and four near



In the library, students could learn or test their chess skills.

the auditorium entrance; and lastly, there was an option to walk or run the indoor track due to the rain outside. There were also arts and crafts opportunities offered throughout the day, including making bracelets to donate to patients at UPMC Children's Hospital, sponsored by the Community Outreach and Jewelry Club; coloring and music in the Diversity Den, offered by the Diversity Council; board and card games, along

with coloring books, in the cafeteria, sponsored by the Foxes Leadership Council and the Art Club; and music boomwhackers in the choir room, sponsored by the Music Department. Students also had the opportunity to learn how to play chess in the library, which was available throughout the day.

In the commons area, every student received a raffle ticket to place into a gift basket of their choosing. Many great prizes were available, such as stress-relieving toys, books, and more. Additional raffle tickets could be earned by participating in various activities throughout the day. These included Sensory Sanctuary—a session on practical ways to reboot your brain and feel more in control—sponsored by MAPS; a Stretching Fundamentals session sponsored by Students 4 Success; and a Wellness Dimensions session sponsored by HSAO. Each of these sessions awarded up to three raffle tickets.

On a final note, a Kona Ice truck was stationed outside the cafeteria, giving out free shaved ice to all students. Overall, Wellness Day was a great experience for everyone and did an excellent job of providing students with a much-needed break during the hectic finals season.



Each student was given a raffle ticket to have a chance at winning a goodie basket of their choice.



Students could play games in the cafeteria.



A Kona Ice truck was hired for students to purchase shaved ice from as a treat.

Riding Through the Years: Bus Driver Violet Vergerio's Story

By Rishi Krishnamurthy

Every school day, bus drivers take on the vital responsibility of transporting students safely and efficiently to six different school buildings, regardless of difficult weather conditions or road construction challenges. Among these very hardworking individuals is Ms. Violet Vergerio, driver of Bus #27 for over thirty years, whose commitment to her role goes beyond simply driving a bus. Ms. Violet has been my bus driver for nine years and my sister's bus driver for five years prior. She always has the best interests of students in mind, greeting them as they enter her bus and waiting for them if they are running late. Through this interview with Ms. Violet, I hope to shine a light on the invaluable contributions of bus drivers to our school community.

Ms. Violet first discovered her passion for working with children while raising her own. "Watching my children grow and learn was very satisfying," she said. "This might have 'driven' me to be a school bus driver." Throughout her time as a bus driver, she has found great joy in her work, explaining, "It is very rewarding knowing I am helping children safely get from home to school and back. Seeing many smiling faces every day is also a perk."

The routine of a school bus driver is far from predictable. In addition to transporting students between elementary, middle, and high schools each morning and afternoon, bus drivers' responsibilities extend beyond these daily routes. "We also cover when drivers are off work or for sports activities," Ms. Violet explained. "There are also regular charters between and after school. Everyday is different."

While the core of the job remains unchanged, advancements in technology have introduced new tools. Buses are now equipped with cameras that help drivers ensure safety and monitor student behavior. "There should be no teasing or bullying," Ms. Violet emphasized, noting how cameras can be used to enforce a respectful environment. While cameras help keep a safe environment on the bus, technology has also shaped the way students interact in and outside of school, a shift that Ms. Violet has experienced firsthand. "Technology has changed the way they communicate and learn," Ms. Violet



Violet Vergerio is one of the many well-loved school bus drivers that drive for the Fox Chapel Area School District.

said. She admits that she often turns to younger family members for help: "I find myself asking my grandchildren to teach me how to use my phone and computer." Traffic delays, unpredictable weather, and road construction pose daily challenges for bus drivers, often disrupting schedules and affecting students' arrival and departure times. "This affects everyone's day," Ms. Violet said.

Additionally, maintaining order among a large group of students can sometimes be difficult. "Everyone has rules to follow, including the drivers, so having a big group of students follow the rules can be a challenge." To help keep students safe and organized, school bus drivers undergo regular training to ensure they stay equipped to handle changing concerns on the road and in student behavior. "Bus drivers go through recertification classes every four years," Ms. Violet explains.

Ms. Violet remains committed to making each ride a pleasant experience. She believes that maintaining open communication between students and drivers is key. "Let us know if there are problems that we could help with." She also encourages students to be kind to one another and to listen to their teachers and parents. "My advice for the children is to be kind to everyone and do the best you can," she said. "Always listen to your teachers and parents. They will help you become the best adult you can possibly be."

Perhaps the most fulfilling part of her job is the full-circle moments. Ms. Violet arrived for the first day of school and was greeted by a parent with a surprise: "Ms. Violet, you were my bus driver!" Ms. Violet realized the incredible impact of her work—not just on students but on generations of families. "Just being a bus driver for so long, I have enjoyed watching so many students go from kindergarten to graduation. In that moment, I truly realized that I came full circle," she said. With no plans for changing jobs, Ms. Violet continues to drive for what is dubbed as "one of the best possible districts to drive for." Ms. Violet celebrated 30 years with ABC Transit, Fox Chapel's student transportation contractor, this past March.



Seniors Honored By Local Rotary Club

By Logan Rapp

Each year, the Fox Chapel Area Rotary recognizes 10 FCAHS students for their outstanding ability and willingness to help others. The teachers of each department work together to select one student for the award. This year's selectees were:

ART - Tessa Allan

The FC Art Department recognized Tessa Allan for the Rotary Award this year. She has received their Renaissance Award for enrolling in all six areas of Visual Arts Instruction: Ceramics/Fibers, Computer Art, Drawing/Painting, Jewelry/Glass, Photography and Art History. Tessa is a dedicated and persistent artist with a unique and original approach to her work. She eagerly embraces new challenges, always seeking opportunities to expand her creative abilities and deepen her understanding of artistic processes and complex problem-solving. Tessa actively collaborates with the Art teachers, bringing enthusiasm and energy that helps elevate the standards in all of the art classrooms. Her talent, motivation, and ability to develop a distinct artistic voice are evident in the body of work she produces. A steady and valuable presence in the art wing, Tessa not only contributes her innovative ideas and dedication to her own projects but also fosters a supportive and encouraging environment for her fellow artists. Next year, Tessa will begin her journey towards an art-related career at the Community College of Allegheny County.



BUSINESS - Jonah Kline

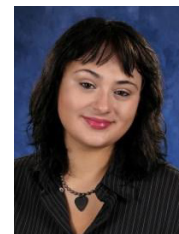
Jonah's unwavering work ethic, desire to learn, maturity, and attention to detail are some of the best that has been seen by the teachers of the Business department. He develops a plan of action for each piece of work, follows through with precise execution and then re-evaluates himself. Jonah challenges himself with each project, activity and assignment. Simply put, he produces the highest quality outcome he can, every time. As a high school student, Jonah has proven himself to be academically accomplished. As a young man, he continues to display a level headedness and maturity well above his peers. His calm, yet persistent demeanor has been very beneficial to his success. Jonah's focus and integrity has granted him the innate ability to take on significant responsibility in the face of adversity. He is able to lead while being humble, and take on initiatives



while being balanced. Next year, Jonah plans to study finance and play soccer at Franciscan University.

ENGLISH - Vie Filar

The English department recognized Vie Filar for her contribution to their programs. Vie is part of Tapestry Senior Staff and has been published three years in a row in the literary document. She has taken and excelled in Creative Composition, belongs to Book Club, and Shelf Care Club. Vie is also a regular participant in Open Mic sessions. Most importantly, Vie loves all things English and plans to major in it at college. She does it all for the love of learning, not for the grade. Next year, Vie plans to study English and art history at the College of Wooster.



MATH - Etash Jhanji

The members of the math department collectively agreed that Etash is an outstanding student and individual. He possesses the qualities needed to excel academically in college, along with the character strengths that will drive his future success. In class, he demonstrates a strong ability to develop and apply various problem-solving strategies. He effectively communicates mathematical concepts both orally and in writing and applies mathematical thinking across disciplines. Additionally, he excels in modeling real-world situations using functions, differential equations, and integrals. Beyond his academic abilities, Etash is highly personable, with a caring nature, patience, and empathy that draw others to him. His combination of intellect, determination, and interpersonal skills positions him for great success. Next year, Etash plans to attend Carnegie Mellon University to study Computer Science.



MUSIC - Wyatt Muller

Wyatt is a true music enthusiast, having participated in the music department's orchestra, jazz band, rock orchestra and pit orchestra for the musical. Beyond that, Wyatt has brought music into every corner of the school through his involvement and leadership in the Busking Club. He is a passionate and talented musician who has used his talent and passion to bring joy to our school. Next year, Wyatt plans to attend the University of Vermont to study History and minor in music.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Nathan Yeske

The Health and Physical Education department happily to recognized Nate Yeske as the Rotary Student of the Year. Nate has consistently demonstrated outstanding engagement and leadership in a variety of courses within our department. He enthusiastically engaged in classes and was a leader in the gym. Nate is also an accomplished student-athlete in our building which was another source of pride in our department. They have no doubts that Nate's energy, enthusiasm, and dedication will serve him well in his future endeavors. They wish him the best as he takes his next steps to pursue a degree in athletic training at Duquesne University.



SOCIAL STUDIES – Paige Solomon

The Social Studies Department selected Paige Solomon as their Rotary Award Recipient. What sets Paige apart is her outstanding effort and work. She embraces academic challenges head on, tirelessly produces great work, and works hard to develop the knowledge and skills needed to excel in her classes. Lastly, she is always engaged in the learning, not afraid to be a class leader, and is a wonderful student to have in class. Paige has the skills, drive, and dedication which are the keys to success at any level. Her involvement in a multitude of diverse activities and commitment to maintaining very high academic standards puts Paige in a class well above her classmates. She is truly a talent to be recognized on so many levels. Next year, Paige will attend the University of Maryland to study Psychology/ Neuroscience.



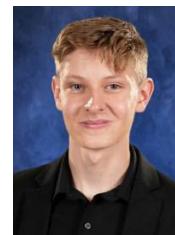
SCIENCE – Ainsley Anderson

Ainsley was selected by the science department because she consistently leads by example, demonstrates strong leadership skills and has a warm, approachable nature. She is generous with her time and supportive of others. Ainsley always conducts herself with integrity and poise. She has taken a wide range of science courses and excelled in each one. Teachers frequently praise her scientific aptitude, intellectual curiosity, and the positive impact she has on her peers. Ainsley is deeply involved in all areas of the school's science community and brings enthusiasm and insight to every class. The science department wishes Ainsley the best of luck next year as she pursues a degree in neuroscience at St. Andrews University in Scotland.



WORLD LANGUAGE – Benjamin Fiedler

Ben Fiedler is the World Language Department's choice for our 2025 Rotary Scholar. Ben is an amazing young person, who they believe is going to do great things. He has proven himself as an outstanding student, not only in German, but in every class he has taken. Ben's travels to Africa and China have given him a perspective on the world not every student is able to gain. In addition, he is able to draw on those experiences to enrich class discussions and show himself to be a reflective, thoughtful individual. He is a fluent German speaker and his outgoing, tremendously likable personality has been an asset in school and will surely help him in whatever he endeavors to do. Ben knows when it is time to be serious, as proven by his academic record, but also knows when it is time to let loose, like on the frisbee pitch or among his friends. Next year, Ben plans to attend Texas A&M to study Astrophysics.



The FC Rotarians also honored **Luca Zgurzynski** as this year's Service Above Self Scholarship recipient. Luca is a very worthy winner because he is a superb student, highly active individual, and a strong leader. In the classroom, Luca has been a consistent high performer in a very rigorous curriculum and demanding extracurriculars. His teachers have been impressed with his aptitude, preparedness, and classroom involvement. Luca has been involved in many extracurricular activities during his four years at the high school. He is the marching band drum major, NHS president, the Junior Varsity Fencing Team Captain, and the Gratitude and Compassion Club's founder, to name a few. Not only does Luca participate in many activities, but he typically takes a leadership role when the opportunity presents itself. Finally, one of the main reasons for Luca winning the Service Above Self Scholarship is his commitment to helping others. As an Eagle Scout, Luca has dedicated over 750 hours to community service. Luca has also volunteered at St. Joseph and St. Mary's Parishes, worked for Chapel Gate Swim Club, and was an instrumental part of the staff at Country Barn Farm. In all of these activities, Luca has been able to connect with people, help do good, and lead by example. Luca is an impressive young adult who will surely make a positive impact at Cornell University where he plans to study animal science as part of a pre-veterinary program. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and congratulate him for being the 2025 Service Above Self Rotary Scholarship winner.



Congratulations to all the worthy award recipients!



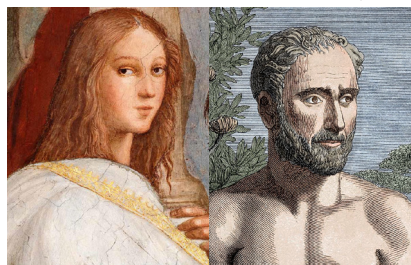
Math Minute: A Quarterly Report About Numbers and Mathematics

Today's Topic: The Great Minds of Mathematics: Part II of III

By Rishi Krishnamurthy

Mathematics has long been shaped by the visionary minds that saw the universe through the lens of numbers and patterns. In a past issue, I started a series of articles by delving into the lives of Euclid, Noether, and Gauss. Today, we will uncover the stories of more remarkable individuals who changed the mathematical landscape forever. My name is Rishi Krishnamurthy, and I am an eighth grader at Dorseyville Middle School. Every quarter, I write a piece about numbers and mathematics. My plan is to continue this till I am a senior. So, make sure to check out A Math Minute every issue! In the last issue, I discussed the practical applications of logarithms and their ability to simplify complex calculations. By transforming multiplication into addition, logarithms played a crucial role in tools such as slide rules. Logarithms also form the foundation of scientific scales like pH, decibels, and the Richter scale, making exponential values more manageable. Finally, logarithms enable linear regression, helping analyze data trends, such as planetary distances and orbital periods. In this issue, I will continue my series, examining the mathematics of Hypatia and Pythagoras, Lagrange, and Turing.

Hypatia of Alexandria (370–415 CE) and Pythagoras of Samos (569–500 BCE) were two impressive figures in the history of mathematics. Hypatia, the first well-known female mathematician, refined and expanded mathematical texts, including commentaries on



*Hypatia of Alexandria (left) and
Pythagoras of Samos (right)*

Apollonius's Conics and Diophantus's Arithmetica. She also contributed to the astrolabe and hydrometer and led the Neoplatonist school in Alexandria. Hypatia was violently murdered by an

enraged zealous Christian mob driven by religious and political tensions. Her death marked a turning point in Alexandria's decline as a center of intellectual and scientific inquiry. Pythagoras made lasting contributions

to number theory and geometry, most notably the Pythagorean theorem, which defines the relationship between the sides of a right-angled triangle. His secretive group, the Pythagoreans, viewed numbers as mystical and explored concepts like perfect numbers and musical harmony. Their beliefs extended beyond mathematics: they refrained from consuming animal products, avoided wearing wool, and even abstained from eating beans, possibly due to a belief that human souls could transmigrate into animals and even plants. Due to their secrecy, it remains unclear which mathematical discoveries originated with Pythagoras himself, but the group is thought to have proven the irrationality of $\sqrt{2}$.

Joseph-Louis Lagrange (1736–1813) was an Italian-French mathematician whose work shaped analysis, number theory, and mechanics. His book *Mécanique analytique* refined classical mechanics, and his contributions to the calculus of variations led to the Euler-Lagrange equations, widely used in physics and engineering. He introduced Lagrange multipliers for optimization and studied the three-body problem, discovering Lagrangian points, crucial in celestial mechanics. Lagrange made significant advances in number theory, proving that every number can be expressed as the sum of four squares. France honored him with a postage stamp in 1958. Despite his brilliance, he endured financial struggles due to his father's mismanagement, suffered depression, especially during his isolated years in Berlin, and navigated political upheaval during the French Revolution. He was later recognized by Napoleon for his achievements. Lagrange passed away in Paris in 1813, leaving behind a legacy that continues to shape modern mathematical thought.



*Joseph-Louis
Lagrange*

Alan Turing (1912–1954) was a British mathematician and computer scientist who shaped modern computing. His Turing machine provided a formal model for computation, proving that a simple mechanism could solve any



Alan Turing

computable problem. It follows a set of mathematical rules, breaking problems into fundamental logical



Turing helped crack the German military's Enigma Code during WWII.

steps using an infinite tape and a moving read-write head to process symbols. He also helped break the German Enigma Code during World War II, significantly aiding the Allied war effort. Beyond computing, he explored morphogenesis, explaining biological pattern formation through mathematics. Turing faced persecution for his homosexuality, criminalized in Britain at the time. He died in 1954 from cyanide poisoning, ruled a suicide but still debated. Recognized only decades later, he is now honored as a pioneer in mathematics and computing.

While I strive to highlight the most influential

mathematicians in history and their contributions, countless others from many cultures played equally, if not more, significant roles in shaping the mathematics we use today. Therefore, for this issue, I will be recommending *The Secret Lives of Numbers*. Written by Kate Kitagawa and Timothy Revell, this compelling book explores the overlooked stories and contributions of a myriad of mathematicians from various backgrounds, including women such as Hypatia, who have significantly contributed to the field of mathematics throughout history. The book offers an alternative perspective to the traditional Eurocentric narrative of mathematics by describing the achievements of scholars from different cultures, such as India and China.

Finally, as always, I will end with a math joke: Why did nobody ever trust an obtuse angle? Because it was never right.

Students Place in State FBLA Competition Plus 17 Qualify for Nationals

Several Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students placed at the 2025 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference. Senior Gabriella Hample; junior Mikayla Feder; sophomores Aiden Drucker, Noelle Fouron, and Ainsley Goode; and eighth-graders Dyutit Patro and Anaia Shehzad won first places. Junior Michael Costello and eighth graders Zoey Liu and Maya Vyas won second places. Junior Joanna Li and eighth-graders Rishabh Krishnamurthy and Chloe Pick won third places. Juniors Zelia Herald, Zinta Jacob, and Joshua Shah and sophomore Braxton Bielawski all won fourth places. All 17 of these students qualified to participate in the FBLA National Leadership Conference that will be held in Anaheim, California, June 29-July 2.

High school and middle school state place winners in open events (not eligible for the national competition) were seniors Kai Edwards (sixth place) and Milan Golla (eighth place); junior Michael Costello (second, sixth, and seventh places); sophomore Sienna Mort (10th place); freshman Purv Patel (fourth and sixth places); eighth-graders Brooke Nalevanko (second place), Micah Ramirez (first place), and Zhiqing Hou (second place); seventh-grader Matthew Bartolacci (second place); and sixth-grader Sang Nguyen (fourth place).

Other state place winners included seniors Zoean Chittur (sixth place), Kai Edwards (sixth place), Milan Golla (seventh place), and Rachel Pegher (sixth place); sophomores Jolie Cessna (sixth place), Max Choset (fifth place), Paige Dugan (sixth place), Ella Golomb



Sophomores Noelle Fouron (left) and Ainsley Goode (right) pose with their awards.

(sixth place), Joseph McGivney (fifth place), and Dashed Wilson (ninth place); freshmen Filamena LeDonne (10th place), Ava Stackhouse (10th place), Easton Ritz (10th place), Henry Sun (10th place), and Ayden Wang (10th place); seventh-graders Annon Edwards (fifth place), Charles McLaughlin (fifth place), Tucker Patsey (fifth place), and

Shiva Subramanian (fifth place); and sixth-graders Oskar Guttridge (fifth place) and Sang Nguyen (fourth place).

Additionally, as part of the state leadership conference, several other awards were also given. Junior Nicholas Krist was inducted into the National Business Honor Society. Big 33 Community Service Awards went to juniors Samantha Dinh, Nicholas Krist, and Kalsey Thom; sophomores Aiden Drucker, Sera Filar, and Ella Golomb; freshmen Andrew Dinh, Sydney Gibel, and Purv Patel; eighth-grader Rishabh Krishnamurthy; and seventh-grader Russell Gardner. Business Achievement Awards were given to seniors Caleb Shirk and Gabriella Hample; junior Ross Calig; and sophomores Aiden Drucker, Sera Filar, Ella Golomb, and Ainsley Goode.

The Fox Chapel Area High School chapter of the FBLA also received ninth place in the Local Chapter Membership award with a total of 148 students. There are 260 active high school chapters in Pennsylvania. The Dorseyville Middle School chapter of the FBLA won third place in the Local Chapter Membership award with 37 members. There are approximately 35 middle school chapters in the state. The FBLA State Leadership Conference was held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, April 8th and 9th.

A Standing Ovation for the Class of 2025's Orchestra Students

By Eloise Johnson

The Fox Chapel orchestra performed their spring concert on May 13th. Dedicated to the senior class, the concert's goal was to feature senior players and to finish the year with a great performance! With senior orchestra members given a solo or duet throughout the concert, the Class of 2025's musical talents were highlighted in many different pieces. The senior class also chose the pieces played in the concert, including "Red Rhythmico," which featured multiple violin and cello solos. Additionally, "Phantom Tangos" and the soundtrack to Pirates of the Caribbean were also performed. In keeping with a cherished orchestra tradition, this year's performance of "Remember Me" from the Coco soundtrack, accompanied



The senior orchestra students are (from left to right) Francesca lasella, Gina Fitzsimmons, Brody Helsel, Nicole Kang, Caroline Slember, Wyatt Muller, Caterina Wu, Ainsley Anderson, Sophie Thorne, Devon McDonald, Hannah Parker, Noelle Dick, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Mya Wilson, and Selin Geylani.

by a slideshow of senior photos, was an emotional tribute to the Class of 2025. The concert ended in a standing ovation for the seniors!

The graduating students from the orchestra are violinists Ainsley Anderson, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Selin Geylani, Brody Helsel, Nicole Kang, Devon McDonald, Hannah Parker, Sophie Thorne, and

Caterina Wu; Viola players Gina Fitzsimmons, Francesca lasella, Caroline Slember, and Mya Wilson; celloist Noelle Dick; and bass player Wyatt Muller.

Some of the seniors' favorite orchestra memories include "the trip to Nashville" (Devon McDonald) and "the fall retreats" (Caterina Wu).

BACK TO SCHOOL

BOOTCAMP

Saturday, September 6th, 10a.m. to 1 p.m.
-or-
Sunday, September 14th, 1pm to 4pm

Registration forms available in room 168!

\$100

Fox Tales : Meet The Staff

Quarterly

2024 - 2025



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Sienna
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Arman
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Writer



Laila
Golla
Head Sports Writer



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