

IN

An IN Community Magazine

Fox Chapel Area



2024-2025 Fox Chapel Area School District State of the Schools

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FOX CHAPEL AREA

State of the Schools



Fox Chapel Area School District

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fox Chapel Area Community,

As we move through fall – a season of reflection and gratitude – I find myself especially thankful for this place we call home. Our school community is vibrant and growing, and it's filled with neighbors who care deeply about our schools and the children we serve. Every day, I see families, coaches, and community partners stepping up – organizing youth programs, volunteering time, and investing resources – to ensure our students have every opportunity to learn, compete, create, and serve.

I wish you could see what I see every day. Within our hallways and classrooms are caring adults who deeply believe in educating the whole student – helping each child thrive not only academically, but also socially and emotionally.

Our district's vision is rooted in belonging and the education of the whole child, and we live that vision through four pillars: purpose, passion, care, and community. The State of the Schools on the following pages highlights the many ways those pillars come to life, from scholarships and national recognitions to service projects, artistic achievements, STEM competitions, and excellence in athletics. Behind every accolade is a story of dedication: students setting goals and working hard, teachers designing rich learning experiences, staff members going the extra mile, and families and community members showing up with encouragement and pride.

As you read our annual report, I hope you share my gratitude for our students' resilience and character, for the professionalism of our faculty and staff, and for a community that believes in its public schools. Thank you for your continued partnership and your trust in us. Together, we will continue to lead with purpose, ignite passion, care for every learner, and support our community – both for today and for years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac
Superintendent



HIGHLIGHTS



• Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Ulyana Kubini** was named a winner of the Coolidge Scholarship. The full-ride presidential scholarship covers four years of tuition, room and board, and expenses at any accredited college or university in the United States. Ulyana was one of only five from throughout the country to be named a Coolidge Scholar in the 2024-2025 school year. Coolidge Scholars embody the principles and legacy of Calvin Coolidge by maintaining exemplary academic performance, exhibiting an interest in public policy and an appreciation of the values President Coolidge championed, and demonstrating humility and performing service to others.

• Juniors **Lily McLaughlin** and **Ayla Ojanen** were among the 10 U.S. finalists at the 2024 Junk Kouture World Final. As part of the sustainable fashion competition where students create an outfit from 100% recycled materials, Lily and Ayla used an old graduation gown, recycled plastic spoons, and ribbon to create a dress, titled "Unwrapped." The World Final event was held in Dublin in March 2025 and showcased the talent of students from the U.S., Ireland, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, and the United Arab Emirates.

• Seven seniors were designated as National Merit Finalists, and 23 were named Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. The Semifinalists were **David Black, Anna Delale-O'Connor, Benjamin Fiedler, Rayna Huang, Arnim Kuchhal, Zhana Neumann, and Rohit Velankar**. The Commended Students were **Omar Al-Bataineh, Murugan Ayyanar, Noelle Dick, Maya DiPasquale, Alaina Hershey, Owen Howell, Moonyoung Hwang, Etash Jhanji, Patton Johnson, Alex Kim, Evan Krieg, Nathan Mackey, Devon McDonald, Noah Miller, Pierce Osterholm, Rachel Pegher, Hyunoh Ro, Caleb Shirk, David Sorisio, Mya Wilson, Caterina Wu, JinLiang Zhang, and Yuqi Zhou**. All of these students were initially selected based on their 2023 PSAT scores.





• Senior **Gabriella Hample** was named a member of the 37th class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. She was one of 150 high school students from across the nation from more than 105,000 applicants based on academic excellence, leadership, and service demonstrated in school and community activities. Each winner receives a \$20,000 college scholarship.

• Junior **Victoria Pfendler** was honored by the United Nations Association of the USA and InnerView Technologies as part of the 2024-2025 National Community Service Awards. The program is open to students across the nation

and is designed to connect student community service activities, skill development, and commitment to sustainable development goals. Victoria was also the recipient of the Kroger Co. Zero Hero Zero Hunger Award, which is given to students for taking action to help create communities free of hunger.

• The Fox Chapel Area High School library was named the 2025 Outstanding Pennsylvania School Library by the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association. The honor recognized the library for exceeding the criteria of the six foundations that are part of the American Association of School Librarians National School Library Standards: inquire, include, collaborate, curate, explore, and engage.

• Fox Chapel Area School District students held their 35th annual telethon in December 2024 and raised \$90,228. This brings the money raised by Fox Chapel Area students and staff to more than \$1.2 million during the last 35 years for various local and regional charities. The telethon raised money for Backpack for Hunger, a local volunteer organization that provides weekend food for students in the school district.

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- Dorseyville Middle School eighth-grader **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** was named one of the Top 300 Junior Innovators in the 2025 Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (Thermo Fisher JIC) for the third consecutive year. Thermo Fisher JIC is the nation's premier science, technology, engineering, and math

(STEM) competition for middle school students. The Top 300 Junior Innovators (including six from Pennsylvania) were selected from nearly 2,000 entrants from 48 states, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico. Rishabh was chosen based on his project "Robots: Filling the Human Void," for which he was awarded a first place at the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair in April 2025.



- High school junior **Mariana Ramirez** was named one of two winners of the 2025 Luminari Award. As a Luminari Award Scholar, Mariana received a scholarship to attend Luminari's "I Want to be an Ambassador!" camp in June in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. The camp welcomed 20 students,

two from the Pittsburgh area, and participants engaged with diplomats, visited embassies, and tackled real-world challenges.

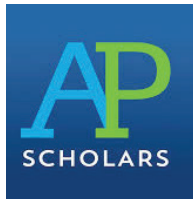
Luminari Award Scholars are selected based on an annual essay competition. Mariana's essay reflected on navigating cultural differences with empathy and understanding. As a Colombian immigrant, she described her journey to challenge stereotypes and inspire others to pursue their dreams.

- Fox Chapel Area High School was named to the Advanced Placement (AP) School Honor Roll, earning a Silver distinction. The AP School Honor Roll, selected by the College Board, recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access. Schools can earn this recognition annually by reflecting a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.



- A group of high school and middle school students raised the most money in Pennsylvania in the 2025 Cool Schools Polar Plunge in February. The Fox Chapel Area team raised \$44,807 to support the schools' Special Olympics Unified Sports teams and others across Pennsylvania. The teams promote inclusion through competitive experiences. This is the third consecutive year that the Fox Chapel Area team raised the most money in Pennsylvania. During the past three years, the Fox Chapel Area Polar Plunge team has raised \$122,007.

STUDENT HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS



- A total of 206 Fox Chapel Area High School students were named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the

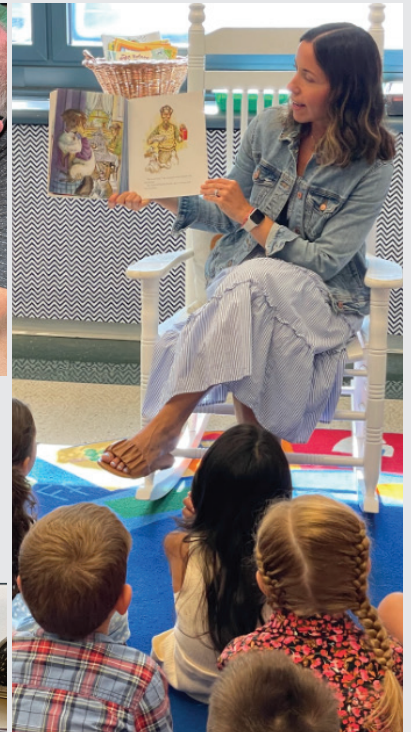
College Board for demonstrating college-level achievement on AP examinations taken in May 2025. The top level of achievement is AP Scholar with Distinction for students earning an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. The students were seniors **Omar Al-bataineh,**

Ainsley Anderson, Murugan Ayyanar, Mikhail Bagrov, Katherine Banyas, David Black, Adelyn Bursick, Rebecca Chang, Isabella Cheatham, Milo Chiu, Malik Choset, Nicholas Clump, Ava Condron, Anna Delale O'Connor, Noelle Dick, Maya DiPasquale, Olivia Dugan, Reed Echnat, Claire Feczko, Brooke Fenton, Benjamin Fiedler, Gabrielle Generett, Tyler Goldstein, Gabriella Hample, Chase Hendren, Alaina Hershey, Owen Howell, Rayna Huang, Moonyoung Hwang, Etash Jhanji, Patton Johnson, Madeleine Jones, Nicole Kang, Alex Kim, Anna Kintner, Jonah Kline, Grace Kovach,

Arnim Kuchhal, Joseph Kuhns, Charles Larsen, Weidi Li, Nathan Mackey, Devon McDonald, Noah Miller, Wyatt Muller, Zhana Neumann, Kyle Ong, Aidan Ortiz, Pierce Osterholm, Sangyon Park, Hannah Parker, Rachel Pegher, Ava Persichetti, Francesco Pistella, Varnujah Rengaramanujam Kanagaraj, Josiah Rivera, Hyunoh Ro, Addison Rossi, Margaret Rusche, Varad Sant, Keegan Scanlon, Ezra Shensa, Caroline Slember, Paige Solomon, Sophie Thorne, Samuel Ummer, Rohit Velankar, Colette Walter, Mya Wilson, Caterina Wu, Timothy Ye, Owen Zaremby, Luca Zgurzynski, JinLiang Zhang, and Yuqi Zhou; and juniors **Maya Agarwal, Marin Airik, Arman Alborzi, Prachi Behal, Karsten Buchert, Xing Carlough, Catherine Conway, Michael Costello, Atia DiGioia, Laila Golla, Charles Hahl, Priscila Hayetian, Riley Hemingray, Aavree Hill, Vesta Homayoun, Zinta Jacob, Alan Jiang, Eloise Johnson, Ulyana Kubini, Joanna Li, Steven Li, Korra Littwin, Max Melocchi, Zehra Ozkaya, Joshua Shah, Mason Shelkey-Bray, Joseph Shin, Rodrigo Silva, Lorenzo Smiraglio, Theodore Tedesco, Nikolaj Vavpetic, Ryan Wang, Ian Wellman, Michael Winter, and Helen Xu.** Advanced Placement exams are graded on a five-point scale, with 5 being the highest. Most of the nation's four-year colleges and universities award credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores.

PURPOSE IN FOCUS

Our purpose is our foundational building block, as it defines the most important element of our district – learning and teaching.



- Senior **Hannah Parker** was awarded an Advanced Placement International Diploma (APID). The APID is a globally recognized certificate awarded to students who display exceptional achievement across a variety of disciplines. The award is available to international students attending secondary schools outside the U.S. and to high school students applying to universities outside the country. The APID certifies outstanding academic excellence with a global perspective. Students receiving an APID must score a 3 or higher on five or more AP exams.

Continued on next page



• Three students were named national Silver Medal winners in the 2025 Scholastic Writing Awards: freshman **Eliana Wellman** and eighth-graders **Kai Galyardt** and **Celestial Hou**. Other students qualifying for national judging were senior **Gabriella Hample**, sophomore **HanYing Zhang**, and eighth-graders **Brooke Nalevanko** and **Carly Phatak**. Additionally, Gabriella was named an American Voices nominee for the Pittsburgh region, the highest award that can be given in the competition.



• Junior **Ulyana Kubini** was named a 2025 Carson Scholar, and junior **Joanna Li** had her status as a Carson Scholar renewed. 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.



• Several students placed at the 2025 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference. Senior **Gabriella Hample**; junior **Mikayla Feder**; sophomores **Aiden Drucker**, **Noelle Fournon**, and **Ainsley Goode**; and eighth-graders **Dyutit Patro** and **Anaia Shehzad** won first place. Junior **Michael Costello** and eighth-graders **Zoey Liu** and **Maya Vyas** won second place. Junior **Joanna Li** and eighth-graders **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** and **Chloe Pick** won third place. Juniors **Zelia Herald**, **Zinta Jacob**, and **Joshua Shah** and sophomore **Braxton Bielawski** all won fourth place. All 17 of these students qualified to participate in the FBLA National Leadership Conference. The Dorseyville Middle School first-place state winner in an open event (not eligible for the national competition) was eighth-grader **Micah Ramirez**.



• Fox Chapel Area High School junior **Karsten Buchert** was named a national winner in the Congressional Essay Contest for high school students run by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Karsten was one of approximately 50 winners from across the nation and one of only three from Pennsylvania.

• Two high school students won first-place awards at Model United Nations (UN) Conferences: senior **Benjamin Fiedler** and junior **Ori Goldin**.

• Two high school students qualified for the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament in Chicago: juniors **Joanna Li** and **Zachary Rubin**.



- Fox Chapel Area High School junior **Ori Goldin** was named the first-place winner of both the state and Allegheny County American Legion Essay Contest. As the state first-place winner, Ori won \$3,500, along with a trip to the Pennsylvania American Legion Convention.

- Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center senior **Gretchen Shelestak** won a bronze medal at the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania competition. Gretchen competed in the cosmetology category.

- A team of Hartwood Elementary School students placed first at the 2025 Children's Choice Awards competition. The team was fifth-graders **McKenna Anderson** and **Elizabeth Moudry**, and fourth-graders **Eli Holmes** and **Henry Smith**. Students were asked to read novels and then participated in a trivia event.



- Junior **Nicholas Krist** was inducted into the FBLA National Business Honor Society.

- Three Fox Chapel Area School District students were named first-place winners in the 2025 WQED Writers Contest. Fairview Elementary School second-grader **Theresa Zigler** was named a first-place winner for her story, "The Case of the Missing Guitar"; Kerr Elementary School first-grader **Ameena Searight** won first place for her story, "Ameena's Silly Future in Paris"; and Hartwood Elementary School kindergartner **Laura Phillips** won first place for her story, "Doggy Dreams."

- Eight Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society: seniors **Derrick Clements**, **Brianna Hnatow**, **Cecily Sarra**, **Gretchen Shelestak**, and **Nathan Yeske**, and juniors **Jackson Biehl**, **Casey Byrne**, and **Gracen Patterson**.

- Several high school and middle school students were inducted into National German Honor Societies: seniors **Jack Bergmann**, **Noelle Dick**, **Benjamin Fiedler**, **Lindsay Gould**, **Patton Johnson**, **Weidi Li**, **Devon McDonald**, **Alaina OKunewick**, **Hannah Parker**, and **Rebecca Poole**; juniors **Charles Hahl** and **Ian Wellman**; and eighth-graders **Charlotte Coutu**, **Rebecca Dorneich**, **Kai Galyardt**, **Peter "PJ" Hart**, **Sidera Kingman-Graves**, **Rishabh Krishnamurthy**, **Holden Link**, **Audrey Seiler**, **Rebecca Smith**, and **Oren Wehler**.



BY THE NUMBERS

Niche Rankings

In Niche's 2025 "Best Schools" rankings, the Fox Chapel Area School District earned an A+ overall grade for the eighth consecutive year, and for the fifth year in a row, all six schools earned an A+ mark. Only the top 2.5% of schools earn an A+ grade from Niche. The district was ranked in the top 1% of all public school districts in the nation.

In addition, all schools ranked in the top 3% of public schools in the nation in their respective category, with Dorseyville Middle School and Fairview, Hartwood, Kerr, and O'Hara elementary schools ranking in the top 1% of schools in their categories.

2025 Overall Niche Grade



Among the district's top marks are:

✓ Academics	A+
✓ Teachers	A+
✓ Clubs & Activities	A
✓ Administration	A
✓ Food	A-
✓ College Prep	A+
✓ Sports	A-

Best School Districts in Nation

116
(out of 10,561)

By the Building

Fox Chapel Area High School

2025 Overall Niche Grade – A+
Academics – A
Teachers – A+
Clubs & Activities – A

Hartwood Elementary School

2025 Overall Niche Grade – A+
Academics – A+
Teachers – A+

Kerr Elementary School

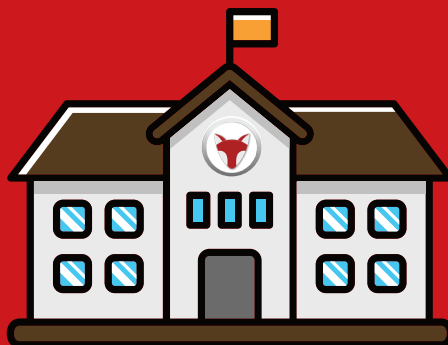
2025 Overall Niche Grade – A+
Academics – A
Teachers – A+

Dorseyville Middle School

2025 Overall Niche Grade – A+
Academics – A+
Teachers – A+

Fairview Elementary School

2025 Overall Niche Grade – A+
Academics – A+
Teachers – A+



O'Hara Elementary School

2025 Overall Niche Grade – A+
Academics – A+
Teachers – A+

Pittsburgh Business Times

For the second consecutive year, the Pittsburgh Business Times ranked the Fox Chapel Area School District as the No. 1 school district in both Southwestern Pennsylvania and the state.

The rankings are based on how students performed on standardized Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSAs) administered to students in grades three through eight and Keystone Exams that high school students were given in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

All the district's tested grade levels ranked in either the No. 1 or No. 2 spot in the region as follows:



U.S. News & World Report

U.S. News & World Report publishes rankings of schools each year. Fox Chapel Area High School was named among the top 3% of high schools in the nation. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation rates, and how well they prepare students for college. Dorseyville Middle School placed in the top 1.5% of middle schools in the nation, and all elementary schools ranked in the top 7% of elementary schools in the nation.

Fox Chapel Area High School

95.76/100 Overall Score

Top **3%** in nation

Keystone Exams Scores – Well Above Expectations

Graduation Rate – **97%** (well above state median)

Dorseyville Middle School

#12 Among Pennsylvania Middle Schools

#16 Reading Proficiency Rank

#10 (tie) Math Proficiency Rank

Reading Performance – Well Above Expectations

Math Performance – Well Above Expectations

Elementary Schools

Fairview Elementary School

#2 Among Pennsylvania Elementary Schools

Reading Performance – Well Above Expectations

Math Performance – Well Above Expectations

Hartwood Elementary School

#33 Among Pennsylvania Elementary Schools

Reading Performance – Well Above Expectations

Math Performance – Well Above Expectations

Kerr Elementary School

#101 Among Pennsylvania Elementary Schools

Reading Performance – Well Above Expectations

Math Performance – Well Above Expectations

O'Hara Elementary School

#11 Among Pennsylvania Elementary Schools

Reading Performance – Well Above Expectations

Math Performance – Well Above Expectations



STEM RECOGNITIONS

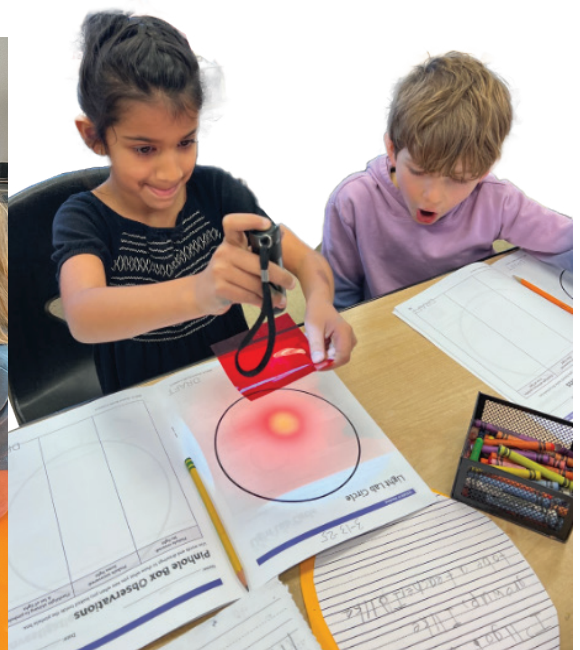
• Six students won first-place awards at the 2025 State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science: seniors **Omar Al-bataineh**, **Anna Delale-O'Connor**, and **Etash Jhanji**; sophomores **Heidi Stiger** and **Param Thawani**; and eighth-grader **Rishabh Krishnamurthy**.



• Two Dorseyville Middle School students were named MathCON 2025 finalists. Seventh-graders **Shengfeng Fei** and **Brian Xu** each ranked in the 99th percentile. Both secured a spot in the MathCON Finals in Chicago.

• Two middle school students earned high marks in the MathWorks Math Contest. Seventh-grader **Brian Xu** earned recognition in the silver category, and eighth-grader **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** placed in the bronze category.

• Dorseyville Middle School seventh-grader **Brian Xu** earned a perfect score in the annual Pennsylvania Math League Contest and was awarded first place in both the state and local competitions. **Shengfeng Fei** placed second in the state and local contests, and eighth-graders **Ario Homayoun**, **Rishabh Krishnamurthy**, **Zoe Liu**, and **Linden Trac** all placed in the top 30 in the state.





• Four DMS students placed first in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit CalcuSolve competition: eighth-graders **Rishabh Krishnamurthy** and **Linden Trac**, and seventh-graders **Shengfeng Fei** and **Brian Xu**. In the individual portion of the contest, all four of these students also won first-place awards by earning perfect scores of 35. Eighth-graders **Delaney Liu** and **Zoey Liu** each scored 33 points, earning them second place in the individual portion of the contest.

• A team of DMS seventh-graders ranked first out of 30 teams in Pennsylvania in the Purple Comet Math Meet: **Moxley Chiu, Samuel Ettinger, Shengfeng Fei, Akhil Muvvala, Louis Vandapel, and Brian Xu**. In addition to being the first-place team in the state, the group ranked 16th out of 298 teams in the United States and also received an honorable mention designation for its international rank of 38th out of 1,047 teams.

• Six elementary school students placed in the 2024 grades 5-6 CalcuSolve competition. Fairview Elementary School fifth-graders **Daniel Wu** and **Samuel Barritt**, and Kerr Elementary School fifth-grader **Stephen Lei** all tied for second place. Additionally, the Fairview Elementary School team of fifth-graders **Finnegan Frank, Eleanor Hoff, James Minor, and Daniel Wu** were among the top teams by winning third place.

PASSION IN FOCUS

Our passion pillar embodies the need to make learning exciting and relevant for students.



FINE ARTS & MUSIC RECOGNITIONS



• The Fox Chapel Area School District was named among the 2025 Best Communities for Music Education. This is the 14th year that the district has received this designation. The award recognizes districts that demonstrate outstanding music achievement and that provide an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education for all students.

• Junior **Mira Owens**' artwork was selected for the 2025 National Art Honor Society Juried Exhibition. Mira's piece, titled "Reminiscence," is a drawing using all the ink in one pen.

• Junior **Nora Kelley** won an award in the painting and drawing category as part of the 2025 Youth Art Month Exhibit for her piece titled "Feline's Feast." Youth Art Month is sponsored by the Council for Art Education and is a celebration of the visual arts. Five students' work was also chosen for the exhibit: juniors **Ava deBruyn**, **Raina Guzman**, **Nora Kelley**, and **Mira Owens**, and freshman **Lily Rice**.

• Four Fox Chapel Area High School students had pieces accepted into the 2025 Youth Metal Arts Showcase: senior **Tessa Allan** and juniors **Claire Conti**, **Emma Kuhns**, and **Sophia Tai**.

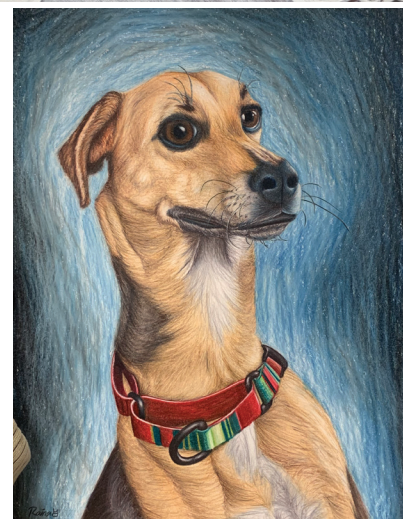


• Fox Chapel Area High School's literary magazine "Tapestry" was named a first-place winner in the 2024 American Scholastic Press Association's Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Yearbooks, Magazines, and Newspapers.

• Three students qualified for national competition by winning Gold Key awards for their entries in the Pittsburgh Region of the 2025 Scholastic Art Awards: juniors **Raina Guzman** and **Mira Owens**, and seventh-grader **Samuel Ettinger**.

• Three high school students, senior **Colette Walter** and juniors **Emma Kuhns** and **Umayma Trebak**, had their artwork featured as part of the Society for North American Goldsmiths 2025 Annual Juried Student Exhibition.

• Eight 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 were seniors **Alaina OKunewick** and **Mya Wilson**. The students selected for the PMEA All-State Orchestra were senior **Marina Dunham** (bassoon) and juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Michael Costello** (bass), **Charles Hahl** (cello), **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute).



• The plow painted by nine Fox Chapel Area High School students was named the "Judges' Pick" award winner in the Pittsburgh region of PennDOT's Paint the Plow contest. The theme was "Use Your Reason When It's Freezin'." The high school's design was created by junior **Caroline Grimsley**. The other students who worked on the project were juniors **Ava deBruyn**, **Raina Guzman**, **Nora Kelley**, **Shayna McDermott**, **Mira Owens**, and **Emilia Sutkowski**, and sophomores **Emily Kiro** and **Lillian Salva**.



• Sophomore **Lilith Bohin** took the top award in the best student costume design and/or fabrication category in Prime Stage

Theatre's Fifth Annual High School Drama Awards. Lilith's work was featured in the high school's 2024 fall play, "Harvey."

• Fox Chapel Area High School juniors **Akshay Lath** and **Rodrigo Silva** were named second-place winners in Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's 2024 Ralph Munn Creative Writing and Teen Media Awards in the short film category for their submission, "The Hill District: A History of Jazz."



• O'Hara Elementary School fifth-graders **Addison Coyle**, **Lucas Liao**, and **Sarah Mobley** were chosen to participate in the 2025 PMEA District 1 Elementary Sing Fest.

• Dorseyville Middle School eighth-graders **Avery Graham** and **Giselle Silva** were selected to perform with the PMEA District 1 Junior High Chorus.

• Eighth-grade viola player **Emma Nguansiri** was selected to perform with the 2025 PMEA District 1 Junior High Orchestra.

• Senior **Marina Dunham** (bassoon) and juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute) were selected to perform with the 2025 PMEA Region I Band.

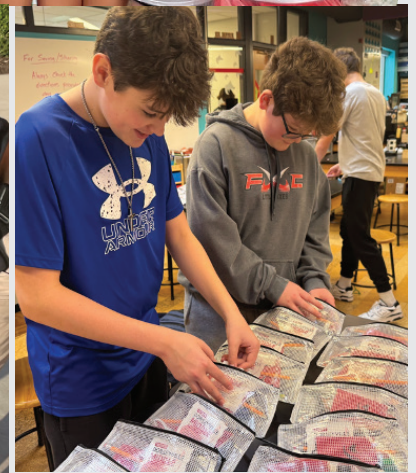
• Eight high school students were chosen by audition to perform with the 2025 PMEA Western Region Orchestra: seniors **Anna Delale-O'Connor** (violin) and **Marina Dunham** (bassoon); juniors **Elliott Broyles** (trombone), **Michael Costello** (bass), **Charles Hahl** (cello), **Jack Murray-Krezan** (percussion), and **Joshua Shah** (flute); and sophomore **Aislynn Senn** (harp).

• Three high school students were chosen for the PMEA Region I Choir: seniors **Alaina OKunewick** and **Mya Wilson**, and sophomore **Evangeline Sereno**.



CARE IN FOCUS

Care centers around the belief that school is a safe and welcoming environment for all students.



STAFF ACCOLADES

• Fox Chapel Area School District Superintendent Dr. **Mary Catherine Reljac** was named the recipient of the first-ever Reflective Leadership Award from Leading Now, a nationwide organization that supports superintendents in navigating political complexity and strengthening public trust. The award is given to a school leader who leads with clarity, purpose, and the courage to pause and go deeper. The Reflective Leadership Award is one of three inaugural Public Trust Awards.

• Dr. **Megan Collett**, the district's executive director of instructional and innovative leadership, was named the 2025 Technology Administrator of the Year by the Pennsylvania Education Technology Expo and Conference. The award is presented to an administrator who encourages or facilitates innovation and/or leadership in the use of technology in schools. The winner must also have noteworthy technology innovations and/or leadership achievements.



• Fox Chapel Area High School transition coordinator Dr. **Stacie Dojonovic** helped develop curriculum as a lead author through the Council for Exceptional Children. Dr. Dojonovic also served as a presenter and keynote speaker on the topic of student transitions for various organizations across the United States.

• High school English teacher **Jessica Green** was given the Educator of Distinction Award by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. Ms. Green was nominated by senior Gabriella Hample. The award is given to educators who have had a significant impact on the lives of Coca-Cola Scholars.

• The Fox Chapel Area School District won 11 national awards in the 2025 National School Public Relations Association Publications and Digital Media Excellence Awards contest. Additionally, the district won 15 state awards in the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association's Excellence in Education Communications Contest. Fox Chapel Area's winning entries were coordinated by **Jill Leonard**, the district's community engagement specialist, and by **Bonnie Berzonski**, the district's coordinator of communications.

• High school art teacher **Joan Marangoni** was selected as one of only six teachers from across the U.S. to serve on the first Junk Kouture Teacher Advisory Board. Junk Kouture is an international fashion competition that uses recycled materials for garment construction.

• **Sarah Stewart Vasquez**, a high school art teacher, had an original metalwork piece, "Arrow," exhibited on the Society for North American Goldsmiths 2025 Annual Juried Student Exhibition website.

• Dorseyville Middle School choral director **Amy Beresik** served as the guest conductor for the PMEA District 5 Singfest Fifth-Grade Chorus in March 2025.



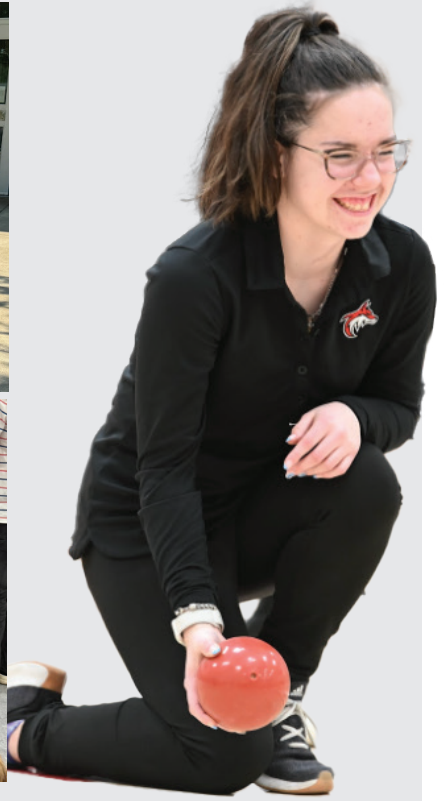


- Fox Chapel Area High School librarian Dr. **Laura Ward** served as the chairperson of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) ABC-CLIO Leadership Award Committee for the third consecutive year. Additionally, Dr. Ward was appointed by the AASL president to the Bound to Stay Bound Award review committee.

- The following employees attained 25 years of service to the district during the 2024-2025 school year: Hartwood Elementary School – **Meredith Brown, Karina Grande, and Jodi Travaglia**; Kerr Elementary School – **Mary Ellen Dolansky, Jacqueline Koziatsek, and Christina Thompson**; O'Hara Elementary School – **Dana Ferrari**; Dorseyville Middle School – **Timothy Derbish, Lynn Erdos, Alessandra Maletta, Kristin Pollick, Christy Rupert, Melissa Swift, and Ginger Wilson**; and Fox Chapel Area High School – **Kimberly Hollern, Amy Montgomery, and Deborah Welty**.

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS

Our community pillar represents the importance of stakeholder engagement within our schools and student involvement in our larger community.





ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A total of 897 Fox Chapel Area High School students and 561 Dorseyville Middle School students participated in interscholastic athletics.
- The boys cross country, boys soccer, girls golf, and girls soccer teams qualified for state competition.
- Individual state qualifiers were seniors **David Black** (track & field), **Christian Dantey** (swimming - fourth consecutive year), **Maya DiPasquale** (track & field), **Jackson Hagler** (diving - fourth consecutive year), **Owen Howell** (swimming - fourth consecutive year), **Grace Kovach** (swimming), **Sangyon "Paul" Park** (swimming), **Sarah Pasquella** (swimming - fourth consecutive year), **Margaret Rusche** (swimming - fourth consecutive year), **Ethan Vaughan** (track & field), and **Michael Worsen** (wrestling); juniors **Marin Airik** (track & field), **Arman Alborzi** (swimming), **Claire Conti** (track & field), and **Michael Costello** (track & field); sophomores **Cameryn Brindza** (swimming), **Elizabeth Datt** (swimming), **Nolan Gwin** (track & field), **Carson Kittsley** (golf), **Cecilia Ressler** (cross country and track & field), **Charlotte Rusche** (swimming), and **Josephine Stanczak** (swimming); and freshmen **Nathan Agens**, (swimming), **Tuuli Airik** (swimming), and **Ella Shevchuk** (cross country and track & field).
- Twenty out of 27 interscholastic sports teams qualified for the WPIAL playoffs: boys golf, girls golf, boys soccer, girls soccer, girls tennis, girls volleyball, field hockey, boys cross country, girls cross country, boys basketball, girls basketball, girls swimming and diving, boys swimming and diving, boys wrestling, girls wrestling, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys tennis, baseball, and softball.
- The following teams won section championships: boys cross country (undefeated in the section for the sixth consecutive year), boys golf (fourth consecutive year, undefeated in 2024), girls golf (seventh consecutive year), boys soccer, girls soccer (undefeated), boys swimming and diving (fifth consecutive year undefeated), and boys tennis (undefeated for the third consecutive year).
- All high school boys teams had an average 3.91 QPA and the girls teams had an average 3.70 QPA. Girls cross country earned a 4.15 team QPA, and boys indoor track achieved a 4.03 team QPA to win top honors.



- Sophomore **Carson Kittsley** was crowned the PIAA Class 3A individual golf champion. He is only the second boys golfer in Fox Chapel Area High School history to win a state title. The first was Frank Fuhrer in 1976. Prior to that, Carson was also named the WPIAL Class 3A Section 7 individual golf champion.

- Senior **Sarah Pasquella** won a gold medal in the 200 yard freestyle at the PIAA swimming championships.

- The boys varsity soccer team won the WPIAL Class 4A title and qualified for the PIAA playoffs. The team members were seniors **Kellan Bleier, Milo Chiu, Jonah Kline, Carson Krushansky, Aidan Stein, Luke Tsai, and Bradford Zimmerman**; juniors **Chase Carney, Joseph DeMartino, Rocco Didomenico, Eduardo Guirola Diaz, Calyx Kimbrough, Jaxson Lapiana, Patrick Levy, Brady Matthews, Sean Regan, Evan Saunders, Lorenzo Smiraglio, Nicolas Squeglia, Jacob Williams, and Michael Winter**; sophomores **Paul Fitzsimmons, Rocco Poli, David Zakrocki, and Sharif Zureikat**; and freshmen **Max Fortun and Carson Torres**. This was the first WPIAL soccer title for the boys team in 29 years.

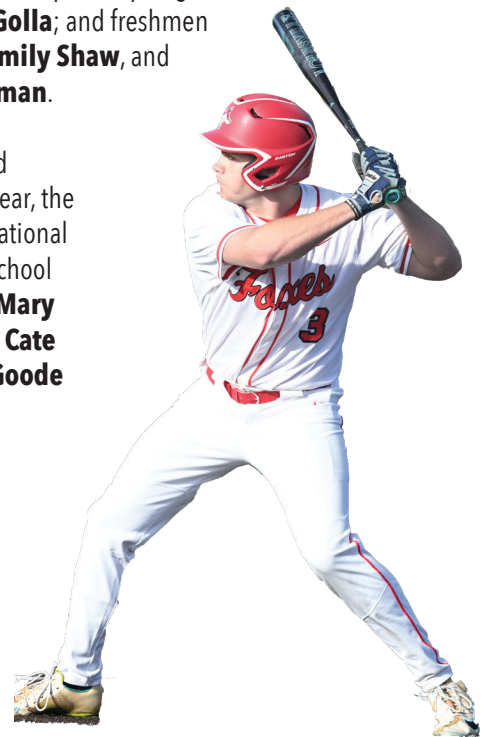


Fox Chapel Area varsity cheerleading competition squad earned a bid to compete at the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida, the most prestigious high school competition in the country. Members were seniors **Ty'Anne Binion, Maurena Cilenti, Mary Ann Frauenholz, Gretchen Shelestak, and Alexandra Vita**; juniors **Maya Agarwal, Cate Conway, Lillian Fontenot, Trista Jackson, and Emma Kurtz**; sophomores **Ainsley Goode and Evie Rosen**, and freshmen **Ilaria Conte, Nora Greenawalt, Chloe Karlo, Mia Maples, Emma Ritz, and Arianna Solari**.

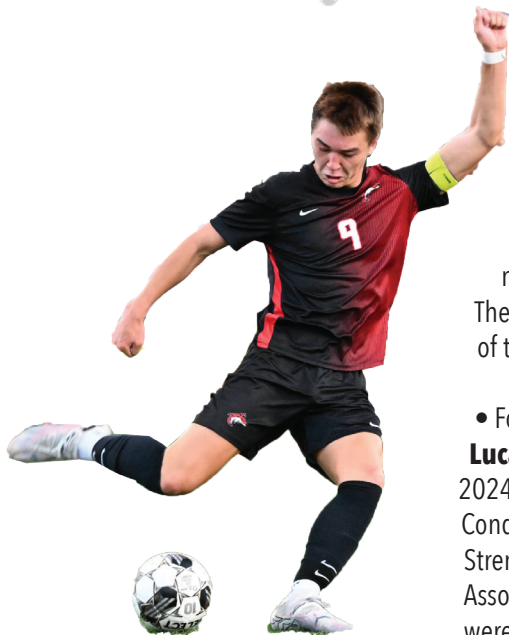
- Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Jeremy Haigh** was named to the Pennsylvania State Baseball Coaches Association (PSBCA) All-State first team. He was also chosen to play in the PSBCA's inaugural all-star game in June.

- Several members of the Fox Chapel Crew team qualified for the Scholastic Rowing Association of America Regatta. The Men's Junior 4x finished first at the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Association (MSRA) Championship Regatta. Team members were juniors **Keitaro Inada, Gavin Nguyen, Nikolaj Vavpetic, and Ian Wellman**. Other members of the crew team qualifying for nationals were seniors **Katherine Banyas, Emilia Boleng, and Noelle Dick**; juniors **Nora Kelley and Sophia Tai**; and sophomore **Marlowe Schmidt**. Additionally, the Women's Novice 4+ finished in first place at the MSRA Championship Regatta: senior **Addison Rossi**; junior **Laila Golla**; and freshmen **Vita Metz, Emily Shaw, and Eliana Wellman**.

- For the third consecutive year, the



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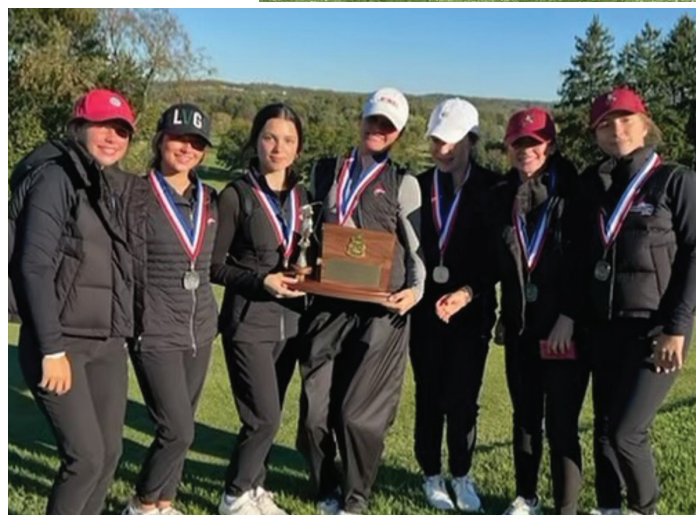
- Senior **Milo Chiu** was named to the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team. The members of the team were selected by the coaches.

- High school sophomore **Emily McKee** was named to the PIAA All-State Girls Soccer Team. The team members were selected by the members of the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association.

- 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. The athletes were also recognized for their academic

accomplishments, as well as their integrity as student-athletes and for being role models for their peers.

- The high school girls varsity golf team was the WPIAL Class 3A runner-up and qualified for the PIAA championships. The team members were seniors **Baustin Bitar**, **Gabrielle DeVita**, and **Riley Francis-Perka**; juniors **Ava Calandra**, **Molly Classen**, **Morgan Monteverde**, and **Madison Rothert**; sophomores **Abigail Freyvogel** and **Clara Koteski**; and freshmen **London Bitar** and **Brooke Leone**.





• The Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity soccer team was the WPIAL runner-up and qualified for the PIAA playoffs. The team members were seniors **Elena Curran, Maya DiPasquale, Madeline Grimsley, Gianna Patterson, Alyssa Quackenbush, Paige Solomon, Ariana Stevenson, Sophie Thorne, Bella Urso, and Teagan Welty**; juniors **Cassie Classen, Summer Hill, Emily Korczynski, and Lily McLaughlin**; sophomores **Antonia Linzoain, Emily McKee, Lia Pizzella, Caylie Wilkinson, and Taylor Wilkinson**; and freshmen **Viviana Didomenico, Gemma Levy, and Ava Stackhouse**.

• The boys varsity cross country team qualified for the PIAA championships. The team members were seniors **David Black, Nicholas Clump, Douglas Lisotto, and Ethan Vaughan**; junior **Michael Costello**; sophomores **Nolan Gwin, Nolan Horne, Harrison Parker, and Victor White**; and freshman **David Culley**.

• Senior **Ethan Vaughan** was the individual first-place winner at the WPIAL Cross Country Championships, and he was the individual champion at the Tri-State Track Coaches Association championships.

• Junior **Claire Conti** won first place in the discus at the WPIAL Class 3A Track & Field Championships.

• Several members of the boys and girls varsity swimming and diving team won gold, silver, and bronze medals at the WPIAL Class 3A swimming championships. Senior **Owen Howell** won a gold medal for the second consecutive year in the 200 yard individual medley. Senior **Sarah Pasquella** won a gold medal in the 200 yard freestyle, achieving an All-American time, and senior **Charlotte Rusche** won a bronze medal. The 200 yard freestyle relay, achieving an All-American time, and the 400 yard freestyle relay teams of **Sarah Pasquella, senior Grace Kovach, and sophomores Josephine Stanczak and Charlotte Rusche** also won gold medals. Silver medals were won by **Sarah Pasquella** and senior **Christian Dantey** in the 100 yard breaststroke, and senior **Jackson Hagler** in diving. Bronze medals went to **Christian Dantey** in the 200 yard freestyle and to **Owen Howell** in the 100 yard breaststroke. Additionally, the girls swimming and diving team was the WPIAL Class 3A runner-up.



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- The field hockey team was the WPIAL runner-up in Class 2A.
- The Fox Chapel Hockey Club varsity team won the regular season championship of the Varsity Class AA Division of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) and played in the Penguins Cup championship game. The team members were seniors **Dominic Casile, Liam Foley, Robert "Trip" Goehring, Tyler Goldstein, Parker Haberman, Pierce Osterholm, Augustin Passerello-Carnevali, and Liam Wiseman**; juniors **Antonio Cardinali, Miles Carey, Xing Carlough, Aiden Elwood, Spencer Goehring, Nikolaj Vavpetic, and Grant Watson**; sophomores **Ian Berdik, Tucker Cullen, Hayden Ferra, Keita Komatsu, and Cavan Patrick**; and freshmen **Parker Hanley and Crosby Wukotich**.
- Sophomore **Clara Koteski** won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 4 individual golf title for the second consecutive year.
- The duo of senior **Mason Friday** and freshman **Frank Siegel** won the WPIAL Class 3A Section 3 doubles tennis championship.



- Four varsity boys soccer players, seniors **Kellen Bleier, Milo Chiu, Carson Krushansky, and Aidan Stein**, were named to the All-WPIAL team. The team members were selected by the WPIAL coaches.
- High school varsity girls soccer players senior **Alyssa Quackenbush** and sophomore **Emily McKee** were named to the All-WPIAL team. The team members were selected by the WPIAL coaches.

- Two members of the high school field hockey team were named to the All-WPIAL team: senior **Regina Fitzsimmons** and junior **Emma Srodes**. The team members were selected by the WPIAL Field Hockey Coaches Association.



- Two senior members of the Fox Chapel Area High School girls varsity soccer team, **Maya DiPasquale** and **Alyssa Quackenbush**, were selected to play in a 2024 Western Pennsylvania High School Girls Soccer Coaches Association all-star game.
- Seniors **Kellan Bleier, Milo Chiu, Carson Krushansky, and Aidan Stein** were chosen to play in the 2024 Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association Class 4A all-star game. Boys head soccer coach **Erik Ingram** was chosen to coach the game.





- Four members of the Fox Chapel Area High School field hockey team were named to the Class 2A all-star team: senior **Regina Fitzsimmons**, juniors **Kathryn Siddons** and **Emma Srodes**, and sophomore **Melanie Pietz**.

- Five members of the Fox Chapel Hockey Club varsity team were selected for the PIHL Class 2A all-star game: seniors **Dominic Casile**, **Tyler Goldstein**, and **Liam Wiseman**; junior **Miles Carey**; and sophomore **Tucker Cullen**.

- Fox Chapel Area High School senior ice hockey player **Dominic Casile** was named to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Stellar 6. Dominic finished the regular season with 32 goals, led Class 2A in goals, and was second in the PIHL.

- Sophomore **Emily McKee** was named to the TribLive High School Sports Network girls soccer all-star team. Emily joined 15 members chosen from teams in the WPIAL.



- Fox Chapel Area High School senior **Milo Chiu** was named to the TribLive High School Sports Network boys soccer all-star team. Milo joined 15 members chosen from teams in the WPIAL.

- Fox Chapel Area High School senior soccer player **Milo Chiu** and swimmer **Sarah Pasquella** were honored by the Alle-Kiski Valley Sports Hall of Fame. Milo was honored for his selection as the 2024 Valley News Dispatch boys soccer player of the year. Sarah was honored for winning the PIAA Class 3A 200 yard freestyle title.

- The Dorseyville Middle School girls field hockey team was undefeated with a record of 10-0-3.

- The Dorseyville Middle School girls cross country team was undefeated with a record of 10-0. The team also won all three invitational in which it participated.

