IN
An IN Community Magazine
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Fox Chapel Area

FALL 2026



2025-2026 Fox Chapel Area School District State of the Schools

PAGE 8

Winter Farm Markets for All Things Festive!

PAGE 40

Holly Jolly Fun! Holiday Events and Light Displays

PAGE 48

Special Section: Family Health & Wellness

PAGE 58



Fox Chapel Area High School 2026 senior John Rehak greets O'Hara Elementary School teacher Patricia McCauley during the senior walk in June. All of the graduating seniors were given the opportunity to visit their elementary schools one final time.

2025-2026

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

TOGETHER WE CAN

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025-2026

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS









10 A Message from the Superintendent

11 Mission, Vision, Values & Beliefs

12 Together We Excel

14 Together We Achieve

16 Together We Innovate

18 Together We Create

20 By the Numbers

22 Together We Serve

24 Together We Belong

26 Together We Triumph

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fox Chapel Area Community,

Every morning, school buses set out across our communities. They stop at familiar corners, pick up students along the way, and eventually bring everyone together at school. Each bus carries students with different stories, personalities, hopes, and destinations, but for a time, we travel together.

In many ways, a school year is much like riding that bus.

At the beginning of the year, we climb aboard with excitement, anticipation, and maybe even a few nerves. We don't always know exactly what the year will bring. Some stretches will go smoothly, while others will bring unexpected stops, detours, and bumps. Sometimes the ride will feel long, and other times we will wonder how we arrived at the end so quickly.

What matters most is that we make the journey together.

Our school board, administration, and staff guide the way. Our families encourage and support us along the route. Our students bring energy, curiosity, laughter, and purpose to the ride. Each person on the bus plays an important role in making the ride better for everyone, and we are grateful for all the partnerships we have built between home, school, and our community.

And, like a bus route, not everyone gets on or off at the same stop. Each of us has our own path and destination. While we are together, though, we have an opportunity to look out for one another and make sure no one feels like they are traveling alone.

As we move through this school year, I encourage all of us to appreciate the ride, not just the destination. Learn from the bumps in the road. Be patient when the journey takes an unexpected turn. And, most importantly, remember that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

At the end of the school year, we will look back and realize the most meaningful part of the journey wasn't where we arrived, but the people we met, the experiences we shared, and the ways we grew along the way.

Thank you for being part of our school community and for making this journey so special.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac
Superintendent









MISSION STATEMENT

The Fox Chapel Area School District exists to maximize learning, achievement, and growth through a focus on educating the whole student.

VISION

The Fox Chapel Area School District will engage students in a learning community that values belonging and focuses on the education of the whole student through four pillars for success:

- **Purpose**: Learning and teaching through inclusive, standards-aligned, and culturally responsive approaches that meet the needs of all students, while monitoring growth and success through a data-informed approach for continuous improvement.
- **Passion**: Providing students with authentic learning experiences that motivate them to pursue their interests with a focus on educating the whole student.
- **Care**: Fostering safe and supportive learning environments that value the diversity, individuality, social and emotional wellness, and belonging of all students.
- **Community**: Partnering and collaborating with the community.

CORE VALUES

- **Respect**: Valuing self and others; caring for one's environment; and pride in positive actions
- **Responsibility**: Accountability; taking ownership of what you do; and listening and following through
- **Integrity**: Doing the right thing, even when no one is watching; being honest with self and others; and trustworthiness in thoughts, words, and actions







BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe that:

- All students want to learn, are capable of learning, and share in the responsibility for their education.
- Contributing partners in the educational process include all district staff, students, families, and the community.
- Responsive schools take a leading role in promoting safety and wellness.
- Educators must be knowledgeable and current in their profession, discipline, and pedagogy.
- It is important for each member of the educational community to recognize and respect all forms of diversity.
- Effective schools are built upon integrity and foster respectful, inclusive, and dynamic environments.
- Schools of excellence have effective educational leaders.
- Fiscal decisions must effectively balance the educational needs of the students and resources of the community.

TOGETHER WE EXCEL

EDUCATION SCORECARD

The Education Scorecard, a collaboration between Stanford University's Educational Opportunity Project and Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research, designated the Fox Chapel Area School District a **"District On the Rise."** The distinction recognizes school districts that are improving faster than their peers in both math and reading achievement, as measured by standardized testing data. Fox Chapel Area was one of only 108 districts recognized nationwide.

PITTSBURGH BUSINESS TIMES

For the third consecutive year, the Pittsburgh Business Times ranked Fox Chapel Area as the **No. 1 school district in Southwestern Pennsylvania and the state**. The rankings are based on three years of standardized test scores for grades three through eight. All tested grade levels ranked No. 1 or No. 2 in the region.

2026 NICHE BEST SCHOOLS

The Fox Chapel Area School District scored well in the **2026 Niche "Best Schools" rankings**. All six schools maintained their "A+" ranking, and Fox Chapel Area was named the No. 5 school district in Pennsylvania.

2026 BEST Communities for MUSIC EDUCATION
Brought to you by The NAMM Foundation

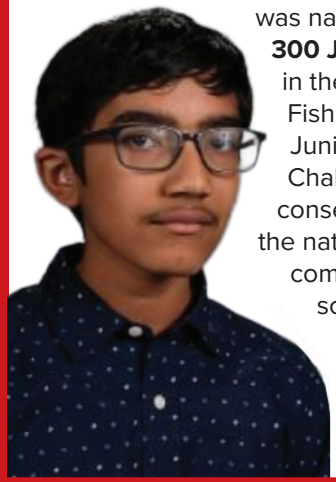
The school district was named among the **2026 Best Communities for Music Education**. This is the 15th year that the district has received this designation.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education awarded Fox Chapel Area the **Purple Star School designation**. Purple Star Schools is a program that supports military-connected children as they relocate to new schools. The designation recognizes districts and schools for their commitment to serving active-duty military families.





Eight Fox Chapel Area High School seniors were designated as **National Merit Finalists** in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program: Michael Costello, Riley Hemingray, Alan Jiang, Eloise Johnson, Joanna Li, Gavin Lynch, Rodrigo Silva, and Helen Xu. The Semifinalists were Ulyana Kubini and Yash Tahiliani.



Fox Chapel Area High School ninth-grader Rishabh Krishnamurthy was named one of the **Top 300 Junior Innovators** in the 2025 Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge for the third consecutive year. It is the nation's premier STEM competition for middle school students.

The district raised $101,001 for Fox Families Care at its **36th annual telethon** in December. This brings the telethon's total to nearly $1.4 million for various local and regional charities.

Seniors Michael Costello, Joanna Li, and Rodrigo Silva were selected as candidates in the **United States Presidential Scholars Program**. The program recognized approximately 5,000 members of the Class of 2026 from the U.S.







Seniors Claire Conti and Raina Guzman qualified for the **Junk Kouture World Final event** in Ireland. Raina and Claire used crocheted plastic bags, Styrofoam egg cartons, and repurposed jewelry to create a dress. Junk Kouture is a sustainable fashion competition that challenges young people to create designs from 100% recycled materials.

Junior Emily McKee was named the winner of the **Moe Rosensteel Most Outstanding Player Award**. The honor recognizes Emily as the WPIAL's top girls soccer player.

The College Board named 228 Fox Chapel Area High School students **Advanced Placement Scholars** for demonstrating college-level achievement on AP examinations taken in May.

A group of high school and Dorseyville Middle School students raised $30,881 in the **Cool Schools Polar Plunge**. For the fourth consecutive year, Fox Chapel Area's team raised the most money of any team in Pennsylvania. The funds support district Special Olympics Unified Sports teams and others statewide.



TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE



Fox Chapel Area High School juniors Noelle Fouron and Ainsley Goode placed seventh in the financial planning category at the 2026 **Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference** in San Antonio.



Senior Emily Korczyski won third place nationally in the **Create Real Impact Contest** for directing and producing a public service announcement, “The Final Rose,” a take on “The Bachelorette.” An advanced media production class received an honorable mention for their work on the PSA.



O’Hara Elementary School counselor Rachel Machen received the **2026 Care Solace “Super Care Hero” Award**. The honor recognizes individuals who consistently champion mental health support within their school community.





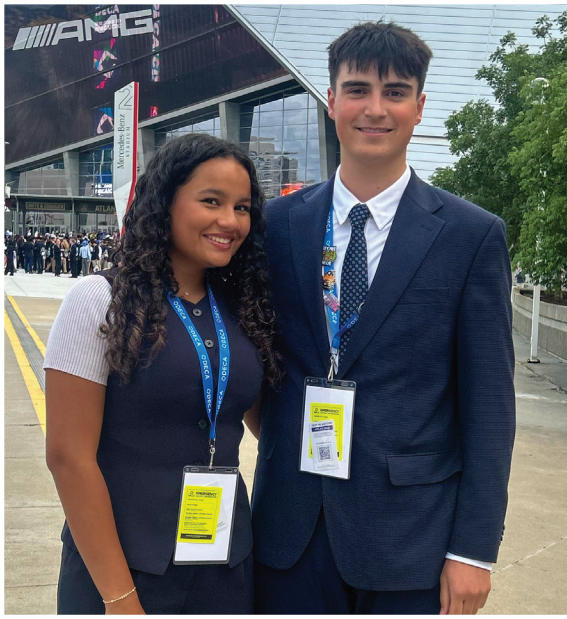
Junior Victoria Pfendler and sophomore Amelia Tedesco were honored by the United Nations Association of the USA and InnerView in the **2025-2026 Community Service Impact Awards**. The program connects student service to real-world outcomes, skill development, and community needs. Victoria and Amelia also received the Kroger Co. Zero Hero Award, which recognizes students who help create communities free of hunger and waste.

Senior Michael Costello won second place in the **America’s Field Trip** contest. More than 10,000 students in grades 3-12 nationwide submitted original artwork or writing in response to the prompt, “What Does America Mean to You?”



Four students qualified for the **National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament**: senior Sabina Mantella and sophomores Paulomi Goel, Ottilie Happold, and Divya Thirumala.

Superintendent Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac was selected to serve on the **National Education R&D (Research and Development) Advisory Committee**, an initiative of the Alliance for Learning Innovation and Digital Promise to transform and scale education research and innovation nationwide. Dr. Reljac was one of 13 educational leaders from across the country to join the committee.



Juniors Aiden Drucker and Noelle Fouron won third place in the Entrepreneurship Team Decision-Making event at the **Pennsylvania Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) State Career Development Conference**, qualifying them to advance in the international competition in Atlanta.

Four students ranked among the best at the **Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Tournament**. Seniors Maya Agarwal and Prachi Behal placed in the state's top four Parliamentary Debate teams, and juniors Aiden Drucker and Noelle Fouron finished in the top eight in Public Forum Debate.



Three elementary students were winners in the **WQED Writers Contest**. Hartwood Elementary School third-grader Emmerson McCormick placed first for her story, "The Mystery of the Midnight Gym." O'Hara Elementary School third-grader Camden Lenz won second place for "Waffle and the Attack of the Terrible Toaster," and Hartwood Elementary first-grader Celia Chan was awarded third place for "7 Years of Bad Luck."

NTHS National Technical Honor Society

Six FCAHS and A.W. Beattie Career Center students were inducted into the **National Technical Honor Society**: seniors Lucy Bingler (Culinary Arts), Summer Burkhart (Early Childhood Education), and Elyse Ritchie (Carpentry/Building Construction); and juniors Nolan Gwin (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning), Ethan Strain (Carpentry/Building Construction), and Elias Zeiner (Network Engineering and Cybersecurity).



Dorseyville Middle School literacy teacher **Scott Vensel** was named the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh's Educator of the Year for 2025-2026. The award recognizes outstanding commitment to Holocaust education and fostering understanding among students in the tri-state area.



Senior Zinta Jacob received a **Stamps Scholarship** through the University of Pittsburgh. The full scholarship is one of the nation's most prestigious merit scholarships for undergraduate students and is valued at more than $190,000. Only five scholarships are awarded.

The following employees attained **25 years of service**: Fairview - Jennifer Kane; Hartwood - Kira Dadowski; Kerr - Connie Banachoski and Rachel Stone; O'Hara - Kerrie Barnett and Julie Perrotte; DMS - David Dadowski, Joseph Eisel, and Gretchen Gyrich; and FCAHS - Jose Aires, Jennifer Antonikas, Bill Barle, Jeremy Bennett, Mairi Cooper, Jessica Green, Tanja Koller, Mary Modlin, Bonnie Pazin, and Andrew Richards.



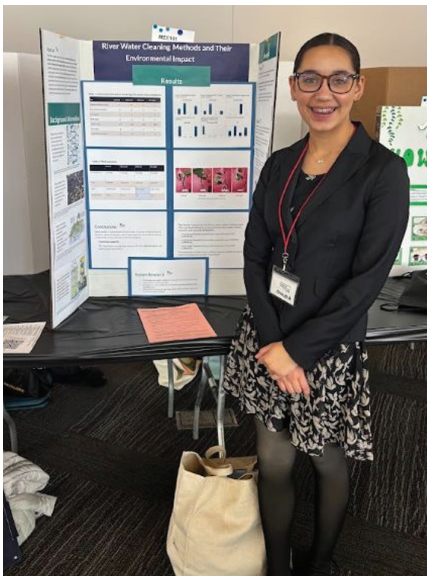




Two students won first-place awards at the **Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair**: ninth-grader Rishabh Krishnamurthy (physics and astronomy) and seventh-grader Ellie Huh (earth and environment). Seventh-grader Alexander Li received an honorable mention (engineering).

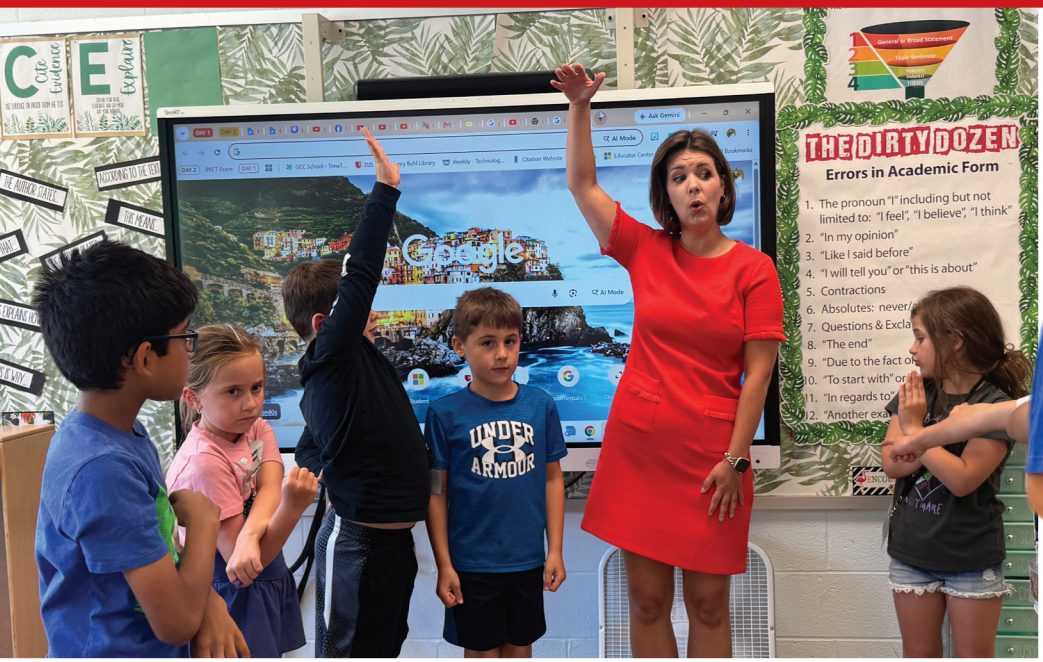
Two eighth-graders, Shenfeng Fei and Brian Xu, tied for first place in the 2025 regional **CalcuSolve tournament**. Hundreds of students from across Allegheny County and surrounding areas competed. CalcuSolve tests students' mathematical problem-solving skills.

Two teams of Fox Chapel Area High School students won awards at the **BotsIQ state competition**. The "Trident 2.0" battle bot won the "Best Engineered Bot" award and second place in the "Engineering Documentation" category. The team members were juniors Zhanyu "Eric" Jiang, Ayush Patel, and Georgy Pistsov, and sophomore Cecilia Sumrok. The "Rockem Sockem 2.0" bot won third place in "Engineering Documentation." Team members were seniors Jackson Biehl, Benjamin Sun, and Yixin "Amy" Zhang, and juniors Mateo Phelan-Vidal, Nicholas Spector, and Brady Stocker. Students from both teams were invited to national tournaments in Ohio and Colorado.



Four students won awards at the 2026 State Meeting of the **Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS)**. Junior Param Thawani, freshman Rishabh Krishnamurthy, and seventh-grader Alexandra Delale-O'Connor won first-place awards. Junior Rachel Kim placed second. Students researched their science projects for several months and gave an oral presentation before a panel of judges at the competition, held at Penn State University.









Senior Arman Alborzi qualified for the 2026 **USA Mathematical Olympiad**. The USAMO took place in March at 31 colleges and universities nationwide. Only 600 students were invited to the national finals. To qualify for the USAMO, Arman took the Mathematical Association of America American Invitational Mathematics Examination in February. He ranked in the top 11% of participants.

Seniors Arman Alborzi and Ian Wellman qualified to take the 2026 **USA Physics Olympiad** exam. The American Association of Physics Teachers sponsored the exam, which was administered in April and covered advanced physics topics such as mechanics, electricity and magnetism, thermodynamics, fluids, relativity, and nuclear/atomic physics. Prior to the USAPhO assessment, Arman and Ian qualified by excelling in the AAPT *F = ma* exam in February. They ranked in the top 7% of students.



Fox Chapel Area High School and A.W. Beattie Career Center senior Gracen Patterson placed in the **SkillsUSA Pennsylvania District 8 competition**, winning first place in the medical terminology category. The competition was open to students from 10 career and technical education centers from across the greater Pittsburgh area.

A team of seventh-graders won first place in the sixth- through eighth-grade division of the **Allegheny County Envirothon**: Zoey Guinn, Hugo Gutowski, Ellie Huh, Prisha Jhanji, and Christina Randtke. Teams tested their knowledge in five topic areas – aquatic ecology, forestry, soil and land use, wildlife, and current environmental issues. Hugo and Ellie also won the top score on the wildlife exam, and Prisha attained the highest score on the current environmental issues exam.





Six Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected to perform with **Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Ensembles**. The students chosen for the PMEA All-State Concert Band were senior Jack Murray-Krezan and sophomore Claire Lesnik. The students selected for the PMEA All-State Orchestra were seniors Michael Costello and Charles Hahl, and juniors Ozlem Sayrak and Joshua Shah. The PMEA All-State Ensembles bring together the top student-musicians from across Pennsylvania.

Six students won first-place awards for their submissions in the 2026 Pittsburgh Region, and two won national **Scholastic Writing Awards**. Sophomore Veronika McCarl and freshman Rebecca Dorneich both won Gold Medals at the national level. At the Pittsburgh Region Scholastic Writing Awards, Gold Keys were won by sophomore Veronika McCarl (3 Gold Keys), and freshmen Rebecca Dorneich and Jack Teschke; and eighth-graders Emily Dean, Samuel Ettinger (2 Gold Keys), and Laila Tobe. All six students qualified for national judging.



Six high school students had their artwork selected for the **Slippery Rock University Art Department 2025 Juried High School Art Exhibition**. The students were seniors Adele Grady, Nora Kelley, Emma Kuhns, and Samantha Van Kirk; junior Rylie Graham; and sophomore Troy White.



Seniors **Abigail Haas** and **Molly Krajcovic** won in the best student makeup design category in Prime Stage Theatre's 6th Annual High School Drama Awards for the fall play, "Our Town."







Junior Olivia Arca won the Juror's Grand Prize for her piece, "Picnic for One," in the 2025 **FUSION Youth Metal Arts Showcase**. The showcase was open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 from throughout the greater Pittsburgh area, and all work had to feature metal as a material or in the process of creating the art. Senior Adele Grady also won the prize for Best Use of Color for her piece, "Deep Sea Jewel."



Several high school students won Gold Key awards for their entries in the **Pittsburgh Region of the 2026 Scholastic Art Awards**. Senior Nora Kelley won a Gold Key for her art portfolio titled "Lifetime of Beauty." The portfolio included several original artworks. Additionally, Nora won six other Gold Keys and was also selected as an American Visions nominee for her drawing titled "Marked Wisdom." Only a select few regional Gold Key winners receive this honor. Other Gold Key winners were seniors Claire Conti, Adele Grady, and Raina Guzman; sophomore Ella Shevchuk; and freshman Nathan Ko, all of whom qualified for national judging.

The high school marching band won first place at the **Pennsylvania Interscholastic Marching Band Association Championships**. The Marching Foxes placed first in Class 2A at the competition, held in October. The band also won awards for the Highest Music and General Effect. The theme of the show was "From the Ashes." The band was under the student direction of drum majors senior Sophia Nguansiri and junior Nadre Digbohou.

High school art teacher Joan Marangoni was selected to serve on the first-ever **United States Junk Kouture Teacher Advisory Board**. She was one of only six educators chosen for the board. Junk Kouture is an international sustainable fashion competition that challenges young people to create high-fashion designs from 100% recycled materials.

Senior Adele Grady received individual recognition in the **Standard Clay 2026 High School Student Exhibition** for her piece, "The Emergence."

The Dorseyville Middle School Chorale and the FoxTones performed both separately and together as the DMS Honor Choir at a **High Note Festival** in Hershey. Each ensemble earned the highest rating of "Superior."

The Dorseyville Middle School Philharmonic Orchestra earned the highest rating possible at the **Cedar Point Festival of Music**. The orchestra earned a "Superior" rating and was the only middle school orchestra to receive the top mark.



Twenty Fox Chapel Area School District students were selected to perform with the inaugural **Allegheny Valley Elementary Honors Band**: sixth-graders Naomi Chao, Daniel Choi, Daniel Claus, Theda Kingman-Graves, Luca Liu, Morgan Lovett, Tristan Sayre, and Hanaka Takano; Fairview fifth-graders Brilee Edwards and Cloudio Jeffery; Hartwood fifth-graders Conor Hollis and Granth Patel; Kerr fifth-graders Lucy Ferda, Ada Randtke, Rowan Teschke, and Shihong Yu; and O'Hara fifth-graders Lisha Chen, Nicholas Friedberg, Miles Glick, and Michael Luis Sakoian.

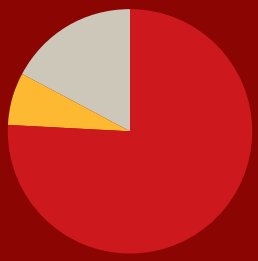
FOX CHAPEL AREA

Class of 2026

318 Total Number of 2026 Graduates

242 or **76%** attending 4-year colleges

22 or **7%** attending 2-year colleges/ other



- 4-year colleges (76%)
- 2-year colleges/other (7%)
- Work/military/other (17%)

Class of 2026 SAT Mean Scores

EVIDENCE-BASED READING & WRITING
619

MATH
620

The average scores nationally were 528 in evidence-based reading and writing and 517 in math.

Number of Cafeteria Meals Served

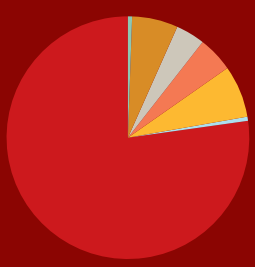
The total number of breakfasts served was **146,354**
The total number of lunches served was **357,323**
The total number of meals served was **503,677**

Our Students

Economically Disadvantaged	18.5%
English Language Learners	2.5%
Gifted Learners	7.4%
Special Education	13.9%
Military-Connected	0.6%

Student Ethnicity Breakdown

American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.09%
Asian	6.68%
Black or African American	3.89%
Hispanic	4.71%
Multiracial	7.46%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (not Hispanic)	0.02%
White	77.14%



- American Indian/Alaskan Native (0.09%)
- Asian (6.68%)
- Black or African American (3.89%)
- Hispanic (4.71%)
- Multiracial (7.46%)
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (not Hispanic) (0.02%)
- White (77.14%)

Enrollment

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (K-GRADE 5)

Fairview Elementary School	401
Hartwood Elementary School	404
Kerr Elementary School	436
O'Hara Elementary School	758
Total Elementary Enrollment	**1,999**

SECONDARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 6-12)

Dorseyville Middle School (6-8)	981
Fox Chapel Area High School (9-12)	1,366
Total Secondary Enrollment	**2,347**
Total District Enrollment	**4,346**

BY THE NUMBERS 2025-2026

Professional Staff Statistics



NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Elementary	171
Secondary	184
Total	**355**



MASTER'S OR DOCTORATE DEGREE OR EQUIVALENT

Elementary	75%
Secondary	82%



AVERAGE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Elementary	17 Years
Secondary	22 Years



Athletics Participation

High School:	725
Middle School:	391
Total:	**1,116**



College in High School & AP Courses

The high school offers 30 College in High School courses. The district has agreements with the University of Pittsburgh, Seton Hill University, Duquesne University, and Westmoreland County Community College. The high school also offers 27 Advanced Placement (AP) courses.



AP Exams

The total number of AP Exams taken by Fox Chapel Area High School students was 954.



Transporation

53 schools serviced
77 bus drivers
4,896 students transported to/from school daily
52,300 trips to/from school
1,169,784 miles driven

FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY

Students raised $2,000 for the Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh. Fundraising efforts included spirit days and a raffle to participate in student-vs.-teacher basketball games.

Students held their annual Veterans Day breakfast, inviting local veterans from the community for a meal and honoring them at a schoolwide assembly.

HARTWOOD ELEMENTARY

Fourth- and fifth-grade student council members organized a food drive, collecting Thanksgiving donations to benefit 75 Hartwood families. Every grade level was assigned a specific part of the Thanksgiving meal to donate.



The members of the third-grade Hartwood Elementary JAM organization collaborated with The Ronald McDonald House of Pittsburgh and Morgantown. With a grant from the Grable Foundation, the organization held an evening event during which students invited an adult to join them in filling snack bags and decorating magnets for the families staying at The Ronald McDonald House.

KERR ELEMENTARY

Students revamped and redesigned the Kerr garden. Students planted native plants and built insect shelters.

Third-grade students in the JAM club held a fundraiser, selling custom buttons and other crafts. Their entrepreneurship raised $450 for Aspinwall Meals on Wheels.

Kerr students collected toiletries for the Veterans Affairs care facility in O'Hara Township and honored veterans at their annual assembly.



O'HARA ELEMENTARY

Students participated in World Kindness Day by decorating hundreds of coffee cup sleeves for local coffee shops with uplifting messages, vibrant drawings, and reminders of positivity.

O'Hara students participated in a bus driver appreciation brunch at the ABC Transit garage in Harmar.

The school's Green Foxes group collected empty pens and markers for recycling, collected applesauce and yogurt packs at lunch for recycling, and collected shoes for the Fox Chapel Garden Club's tennis shoe recycling drive.



DORSEYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

During the DMS Afternoon of Service, students completed more than 80 unique service projects, including honoring veterans, military, and first responders by assembling tactical survival kits; assisting vulnerable pets by handcrafting customized adoption bags; supporting senior living residents by creating Valentine's Day packages; constructing winter care kits for the unhoused; and designing pillows for patients at local healthcare facilities.

The annual Turkey Trot raised nearly $11,000 in gift cards for Thanksgiving meals for families in need.







FOX CHAPEL AREA HIGH SCHOOL

The Fox Leadership Council's community outreach program sponsored food drives to benefit the Sharpsburg Food Pantry; sponsored three blood drives with more than 100 donations; hosted the annual senior citizens luncheon; planted and tended to a vegetable garden, donating the vegetables to Second Harvest; and decorated the Veterans Affairs care facility in O'Hara Township for the holidays.

The National Honor Society held its annual Boo Bash, raising $2,000 for Backpack for Hunger and collecting a truckload of food for the Sharpsburg Food Pantry.









The Fox Chapel Area School District earned Bronze-Level District of Distinction recognition from the Northeast Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Network (PBIS) for successfully implementing Tier 1 PBIS frameworks across all schools. Bronze-level recognition requires demonstrating consistent, evidence-based behavioral supports to improve school climate, social-emotional competence, and academic success.

Each school in the district received a Peace Pole from the Rotary Club of Fox Chapel Area. Each has "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in eight languages. The poles are intended to inspire unity among people of all cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY

The school had "Buddy Classrooms," where older students were paired with younger peers. Students met quarterly to engage in activities, build relationships, promote teamwork, and foster a collaborative, unified school environment.

More than 500 students and their family members attended fall family night. The event aimed to build relationships within the school community to support the whole child, which is key to student success and growth.

Fairview also hosted the annual multicultural night for students and families.

HARTWOOD ELEMENTARY

Students participated in the Best Buddies program, which promotes friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students participated in activities and social-emotional learning that encouraged acceptance and interaction.

Hartwood's school committee created Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) lessons, videos, and expectations for students and staff throughout the school environment. Rewards included individual student recognitions, a movie day, surprise popcorn, and shaved ice.





KERR ELEMENTARY

Families were invited to attend Title I Math Night, during which students and families engaged in interactive math games. Fox Chapel Area High School National Honor Society members and teachers volunteered their time to lead the games. Transportation was provided to ensure all families could attend.

The school held its annual spring showcase night/art show. Kerr families were invited to visit the school to celebrate their students' hard work. The evening featured PBIS scavenger hunts, and every student had work on display. Transportation was provided for all families.

During daily dismissal, fifth-grade student leaders and bus patrols helped younger students review academic concepts, played games, and built meaningful cross-grade bonds.

O'HARA ELEMENTARY

Students participated in The Children's Institute Kids on the Block program, a schoolwide assembly celebrating differences. Through engaging, interactive puppetry and candid dialogue, the performance introduced students to relatable characters and gave them the shared language and perspective needed to actively practice inclusion.

Students continued participating in the schoolwide reading and math buddies program. Every homeroom was paired with another to connect, learn, and grow together. These partnerships build wonderful cross-









grade friendships and ensure every student feels valued.

O'Hara hosted the annual multicultural night for students and families.

DORSEYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Dorseyville Middle School Best Buddies Club held an ice cream social; took field trips to Zone 28, the Museum of Illusions, and the movies; decorated teacher doors for fall; hosted board game and other activity days; made friendship bracelets; and participated in Unified Bocce.

The school's "Featured Fox," "Framed and Noted," and "In the Foxlight" recognition walls celebrate students who display exceptional leadership, determination, and creativity.

The new state-of-the-art eSports arena provides an inclusive environment where students of all abilities connect, culminating in a DMS-hosted unified eSports tournament with surrounding districts.

As part of the LIGHT Education Initiative, the student committee led homebase lessons on upstander behavior and cultural milestones, including Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month.

Inspired by the legacy of Fred Rogers, 143 Day welcomed rising fifth-grade families into the DMS community, ensuring their transition to middle school is built on kindness, equity, and belonging.

FOX CHAPEL AREA HIGH SCHOOL

The Fox Chapel Area High School continued its Unified Sports program, including bocce and track and field, to promote unity and inclusion.

The high school implemented its new PBIS program, the FCA Way. The FCA Way emphasizes student focus, care, and accountability.

The school's diversity council completed a project called the kindness fishbowl. A bowl was placed in the commons area for students to write positive messages, words of affirmation, and compliments. Students used the notes to make a collage for the annual Eradicate Hate Global Summit in downtown Pittsburgh.

The high school held its annual multicultural night in the spring, giving students an opportunity to celebrate their differences.

Students have access to the Diversity Den during all lunches, a specialized room that supports inclusion, equity, and diverse backgrounds.







TOPS IN STATE ... AGAIN

Junior Carson Kittsley was crowned the PIAA Class 3A individual golf champion for the second consecutive year. He is the first boys golfer in Fox Chapel Area history to earn two state titles.



FRESHMAN PHENOMS

Freshmen Ellie Lange won a gold medal in the 200 IM, and Delaney O'Toole won gold in the 100 back at the PIAA swimming championships.

PIAA QUALIFIERS

The girls cross country, girls golf, boys soccer, girls soccer, field hockey, girls basketball, and





girls lacrosse teams qualified for states, as did some individuals. Individual qualifiers were senior Michael Costello and freshman Asher Eckel (cross country); junior Carson Kittsley and sophomore Barron Bitar (boys golf); junior Clara Koteski (girls golf); senior Arman Alborzi, juniors Cameryn Brindza, Sarah Huang, Norah Kovach, Gosha Pistsov, Charlotte Rusche, and Josie Stanczak, sophomores Nathan Agens, Tuuli Airik, Owen Nguyen, Nico Ressler, and Maren Shelkey-Bray, and freshmen Hayden Kang, Ellie Lange and Delaney O'Toole (swimming & diving); sophomores Bridget Hemingray and Ella Shevchuk, and freshmen Sydney Kimmons and Claire Loiudice (indoor track); and seniors Claire Conti and Marin Airik, sophomores Bridget Hemingray and Ella Shevchuk, and freshman Sydney Kimmons and Claire Loiudice (track & field).

WPIAL'S BEST

Junior Carson Kittsley was the WPIAL Class 3A individual golf champion. The boys soccer team won the WPIAL Class 4A title, and the girls soccer team notched the Class 3A title. The Foxes field hockey team captured the Class 2A title. At the WPIAL swimming championships, the 200 medley relay team of junior Cameryn Brindza, freshman Ellie Lange, junior Josie Stanczak, and freshman Delaney O'Toole, and the 400 freestyle relay team of Ellie Lange, sophomore Nico Ressler, junior Charlotte Rusche, and Delaney O'Toole won gold medals. Ellie Lange won gold in the 200 IM, and Delaney O'Toole won gold in the 50 free and 100 back.

INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

Foxes senior kicker Harran Zureikat broke a WPIAL record, booting a 57-yard field goal against Franklin Regional. The previous mark was set in 2002.





TRIB CUP HONORS

Fox Chapel Area High School placed second in the 2025-2026 WPIAL Class 5A Trib HSSN Trib Cup final standings. The award honors the region's most successful and well-rounded high school athletic programs.

SUCCESSFUL START

Fox Chapel Area's inaugural flag football team reached the postseason, notching a 12-4 record.

STRONG HONORS

Fox Chapel Area High School earned a School of Distinction designation from the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), recognizing excellence in strength and conditioning programs in K-12 schools. The high school was among 13 schools nationwide to receive the recognition, and the first in Pennsylvania.





Senior Sophia Tai and junior Drew Moyer were named 2026 High School All-American Strength and Conditioning Athletes of the Year by the NSCA, which recognizes athletes whose accomplishments reflect their dedication to strength and conditioning.

ROW FOXES

The members of the Fox Chapel Crew team qualifying for nationals were seniors Charles Hahl, Keitaro Inada, Nora Kelley, Gavin Nguyen, Sophia Tai, Morgan Van Kirk, and Ian Wellman; juniors Simon Goode, Mark Christopher Ong, and Marlowe Schmidt; sophomores Emily Shaw, Alessandra Sirio, and Eliana Wellman; and freshman Julia Olivieri.



SECTION WINNERS

The following teams won their section: girls cross country, boys cross country, boys golf, girls golf, boys soccer, girls soccer, field hockey, girls swimming and diving, boys swimming and diving, boys tennis, and boys lacrosse.

INDIVIDUAL SECTION WINNERS

The following students were named individual section winners: senior Michael Costello (cross country), senior Ava Calandra (girls golf), junior Carson Kittsley (boys golf), and junior Grant Fenton and sophomore Frank Siegel (boys tennis).

FIRST FOR FENCING

The high school girls fencing team won first place at the Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association Championships. The team members representing Fox Chapel Area in tournaments were seniors Korra Littwin and Elizabeth Thomas, junior Victoria Macklin, sophomore Felicity Anderson, and freshman Kate Lin.

ALL-STAR ACCOLADES

Junior Emily McKee was named to the High School Girls All-America Team, the United Soccer Coaches All-East Region Team, and the Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association (WPSCA) All-State Team. Senior Rocco Didomenico was named to the United Soccer Coaches All-East Region Team and the WPSCA All-State Team.







ALL-STATE ACCOLADE

Junior Jillian Haigh was named to the Pennsylvania High School Softball Coaches Association Class 5A All-State first team as a utility player.



FOUR CHEERS

For the fourth consecutive year, the Fox Chapel Area varsity competition cheerleading squad competed at the National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando. The competition is the most prestigious high school championship in the country.

POSITIVE-LY AWESOME

Senior Katie Siddons was named the 2026 Western Pennsylvania Positive Athlete in field hockey and lacrosse.



SHE SHOOTS & SCORES

Senior Emma Srodes was named the WPIAL Class 2A offensive player of the year by the WPIAL Field Hockey Coaches Association.

ALL-WPIAL HONORS

The following students received all-WPIAL honors: seniors Cassie Classen (girls soccer), Rocco Didomenico (boys soccer), Caroline Grimsley (girls lacrosse), Caroline Leland (girls lacrosse), Sean Regan (boys soccer), Katie Siddons (field hockey), Emma Srodes (field hockey), Brooke Thiele (field hockey), and juniors Tucker Cullen (boys lacrosse), Emma DiRocco (girls volleyball), Emily McKee (girls soccer), Melanie Pietz (field hockey), Rocco Poli (boys soccer), Caylie Wilkinson (girls soccer), and Sharif Zureikat (boys soccer).



HOCKEY HONORS

Senior Spencer Goehring and junior Tucker Cullen were selected for a Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) all-star game.

