

IN

An IN Community Magazine

Fox Chapel Area Area

Fox Chapel Area
High School
Presents

'Legally Blonde The Musical'



Fox Chapel Area
School District News

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FOX CHAPEL AREA

School News



Fox Chapel Area School District

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

As a resident of this community for more than 35 years, I was both humbled and excited to be elected as the School Board president in December. I feel the same way about serving the community.

I know that I speak for my fellow Board members when I say that each one of us is focused on working together to expand on the district's recent successes. We also remain dedicated to helping all students achieve at their highest levels.

Although it has been a while since my two daughters graduated from Fox Chapel Area High School, my wife, Carol, and I remain rooted in the community. I know how fortunate we all are to live in such an exemplary school district.

As a Board, we have been very busy. Our first task is to hire a superintendent who is confidently prepared to lead us into the future. Since December, we have been working nonstop to find the perfect candidate, whom we hope to introduce to the community very soon. We have listened to district residents and plan to choose a leader with a clear vision of excellence for our district – one who values the holistic growth and development of children, a person of strong integrity, and someone who is able to build a culture of inclusivity so that all students, parents, employees, and community members feel valued.

Additionally, our Board remains committed to focusing on all aspects of learning. After all, that's why we're here. Yet, we also know it's important to continue fiscal responsibility. It's imperative that we help design and influence a budget that is responsible to all district taxpayers. There's a lot to think about when it comes to the budget: salaries, curriculum, programs, transportation, infrastructure, and more.

We also want to focus on working with all stakeholder groups to better define the Board's vision, along with both short- and long-term goals. Keeping the public well informed is another important objective for the Board.

As you read this magazine, I hope that you will see, like I do, that our community continues to reap the rewards of the hard work of our staff and students. We live in, not just a good school district, but a great one! I am proud to live here, and I am also proud to serve on the Board of School Directors.

Sincerely,

Somer Obernauer Jr.
School Board President



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for my fellow Board
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Fox Chapel Area School District representatives accepted Kerr Elementary's designation as a Title I Distinguished School at a reception hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on January 27 at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh. From left to right are: Brian Campbell, director of the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction at the Department of Education; Dan DiDesiderio, Ed.D., Fox Chapel Area School District director of student achievement and instructional verification; Paul Noro, Ed.D., Kerr Elementary principal; Jackie Koziatek, Kerr reading specialist; Erin Wharton, Kerr fourth grade teacher; Tracy Santoro, Kerr reading specialist; David McCommons, Ed.D., Fox Chapel Area School District deputy superintendent; and Susan McCrone, the Department of Education Division of Federal Programs chief.

KERR ELEMENTARY NAMED TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

Kerr Elementary School has been named a Pennsylvania Department of Education Title I Distinguished School for the 2019-2020 school year. The designation is based on Kerr Elementary state assessment results from the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

According to the Department of Education, there are two categories of Title I Distinguished Schools. Category 1 includes schools that were in the top 5% in achievement in the two most recently completed academic years or schools that were in the top 5% for growth in the two most recently completed academic years; and Category 2 encompasses schools that made the greatest gains in achievement in the All Students Group.

The Title I Distinguished School recognition is the result of the dedicated efforts of the entire Kerr school community, says Principal Paul Noro, Ed.D.

"We have attained this distinction because we focus on a whole school approach," says Dr. Noro. "I commend the efforts of the students, parents, teachers, support staff, and community. We take a holistic approach, and everyone works together for the benefit of our students."

Kerr PTO President Amy Cooper echoes those sentiments, saying the award is the result of the academic performance

and achievements of the Kerr students and the hard work of school staff.

"The diligence of our Kerr teachers to identify student needs and take a team approach to foster student success is why Kerr deserves this recognition as a Title I Distinguished School," Mrs. Cooper says. "I see teamwork every time I'm at Kerr. Our instructional aides and support teachers also play a big role in the success of our students. Our Kerr leadership creates an environment that allows our students to have this level of growth and academic achievement."

Kerr Elementary is one of 94 schools to receive the designation in Pennsylvania out of a total of approximately 1,800 schools who use Title I funds to support educational programs.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Title I is a 100% federally funded supplemental education program that provides financial assistance to schools to improve educational opportunities. Title I programs are designed to help children meet the state content and performance standards in reading, language arts, and mathematics.

K-9 ARES RETIRES, BUT WON'T SOON BE FORGOTTEN

Toys, treats, and even some tears accompanied retiring Indiana Township K-9 Ares as he made his final patrol on March 10 through the halls of Fairview Elementary School.

K-9 Ares, a 10-year-old German shepherd, and his partner, Indiana Township Officer Scott Palmer, made frequent visits to the school, as well as to Hartwood Elementary School.

Officer Palmer says the day was one of mixed emotions for him.

"Today is bittersweet because it's the end of our partnership," Officer Palmer says. "Ares has been an amazing partner. He has excelled in his patrols and narcotics finding, but I think the thing he's excelled in the most is his community relations, and he's done an amazing job with the kids of the Fox Chapel Area School District."

Lisa Lang, a computer science teacher at Fairview, says the impact that Ares has made on the school is evident.

"The students light up when Officer Palmer and Ares walk into the room. It's truly remarkable," says Mrs. Lang. "And in this day and age, to have respect being built for the uniform, to us, is very powerful."

A reverence for police officers isn't the only effect that K-9 Ares and Officer



Palmer have had on the school, though, according to Mrs. Lang.

"We have one little girl, a second-grader, who always wanted to be a veterinarian," she says. "Now she wants to be a K-9 officer."

The previous day, Hartwood Elementary School celebrated K-9 Ares' retirement with a luau, complete with leis for every student and staff member, many of whom wore Hawaiian shirts. Fittingly, K-9 Ares and Officer Palmer also arrived in tropical attire.

Maria Stewart, a fifth-grade teacher at Hartwood, echoes Mrs. Lang's

sentiments about the influence that K-9 Ares has had on the school.

"Teachers and students alike looked forward to and enjoyed a visit from Ares," Mrs. Stewart says. "He not only provided a source of comfort, but he also was able to put a smile on the face of even those having the worst of days."

Hartwood raised more than \$600 and also presented K-9 Ares with a dog pool filled with toys. Fundraising at Fairview generated \$3,863 for K-9 Ares' care, as well as to help cover costs for K-9 Toki, K-9 Ares' replacement. Fairview students also presented Officer Palmer with dog treats, toys, cards, and a picture book.

Thanking K-9 Ares and Officer Palmer for everything they've done for the school made students feel good, says Ava Henderson, a third-grader at Fairview.

"He was very kind, and he protected our school," Ava says of K-9 Ares.

K-9 Ares will be on "couch duty" from now on, according to Officer Palmer. He will continue to live with Officer Palmer and his family, as well as K-9 Toki, who is expected to complete training by the end of April and make his first school visit in May.





STUDENTS TAKING TIME FOR “ME FIRST”

“**M**e First”: They’re two small words, but they’ve had a big impact on the Fox Chapel Area High School student body.

This initiative is part of the Peer-to-Peer Empowerment Program sponsored by Crisis Center North, a local nonprofit counseling and resource center that aids victims of domestic violence and their loved ones. The goal of the program is to help students achieve healthy relationships. Participating Western Pennsylvania schools form a team of students who want to develop and lead an initiative that addresses a need in their school or community.

After evaluating a number of topics, Fox Chapel Area High School students chose the “Me First” theme, which encourages students to take some time for themselves and prioritize their mental health.

Teens are under more pressure than ever, balancing a full slate of classes, extracurricular activities, athletics, jobs, and preparing to go to college, junior Xavier Perry says.

“To juggle all of that is difficult for most teens to do and be successful at the same time,” he says. “Self-care for teens teaches them that they are important and are worth something.”

“Many teens fail to take a break from the stressors of life and do something that they enjoy or will relieve them of whatever may be stressing them out,” echoes junior Samantha Dunlap. “I think we just forget to slow down, take a deep breath, and do something for ourselves.”

For the first activity in the “Me First” project, a banner was hung in the high school cafeteria on which students could write ways to take time for themselves. Examples of goals included focusing on something positive every day, keeping in mind that learning comes from failing, getting more sleep, and drinking more water.



Teacher Lisa Gibson talks with students from the Peer-to-Peer Empowerment Program team about ways to inspire their peers to take more time for themselves.



The Fox Chapel Area High School Peer-to-Peer Empowerment Program team, with sponsor Lisa Gibson.



A student posts a self-care goal to the “Me First” banner showing how she will take better care of herself in 2020.

Students were eager to contribute their ideas, says sophomore Danielle Horne.

“A lot of people liked the wall that we created and said it was a really cool idea,” she says. “And they liked how there were not many boundaries on what they could write.”

The “Me First” project will continue through the rest of the school year with a series of self-improvement articles in Fox Tales Quarterly, a publication written and designed by high school students, says teacher Lisa Gibson, sponsor of the Peer-to-Peer Empowerment Program team. Students also hope to begin a mentoring program in the future, she says.

“I am so proud of the students’ effort,” Mrs. Gibson says. “It took a lot of courage for them to talk to their peers about the importance of self-care, and they did so with ease and enthusiasm. Rather than merely viewing this as a one-time event, they are already discussing ways to expand the program in upcoming years.”

In addition to Xavier, Samantha, and Danielle, the Peer-to-Peer Empowerment Program team is composed of senior Ethan Alfery; juniors Suparna Agrawal, Alex Blaylock, Jake Mulhern, Abigail Rickin-Marks, and Hayden Rutkowski; and sophomore Beata Turnquist.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHER TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Fox Chapel Area School District elementary instrumental music teacher Dennis Emert has been selected as the 2020 recipient of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) James R. Stewart Distinguished Service Award. The award was created to recognize outstanding service to the PMEA, reflecting the dedication and commitment demonstrated by former PMEA President Jim Stewart.

According to PMEA Executive Director Abigail Young, the award is a small token of gratitude for Mr. Emert's support and commitment to the PMEA throughout the years.

"It was no surprise to me that the vote was unanimous," Ms. Young says. "Your dedication to PMEA and your hard work on PMEA's behalf is well known."

Mr. Emert will be retiring at the end of the school year after 20 years of service in the Fox Chapel Area School District. He is in his 33rd year of teaching.

Paul Noro, Ed.D., Kerr Elementary School principal, says Mr. Emert, a musician who plays in several bands, inspires his students by sharing his professional experiences and his enthusiasm for the subject he teaches.

"Dennis is deserving of this very important award because of the high expectations that he sets for all of



Elementary instrumental music teacher Dennis Emert works with a small group of Fairview Elementary School students.

his students in his program, and his overall dedication to music education, both through the Fox Chapel Area School District and the PMEA," he says.

Fairview Elementary School Principal Stephen Edwards says the district is fortunate to have Mr. Emert as a teacher.

"Mr. Emert's hard work and dedication to the education of his students is what sets him apart," Mr. Edwards says. "His passion for music is exemplified by his students through their excitement to learn and perform."

Mr. Emert currently teaches band at Fairview and Kerr Elementary schools. He has served the PMEA as president, president-elect, and past president of the state organization, as well as Districts 1 and 3. He has served on the board of the PMEA for a total of 17 years. Mr. Emert was also instrumental in starting the PMEA's composition contest and served on the Eastern Division Board of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). He also served as the 2019



Mr. Emert works with the Fairview Elementary fourth-grade trombone players during a recent rehearsal.

All-East Ensemble general chair for the Eastern Division NAFME Conference.

The award will be presented at a breakfast on April 25 as part of the 2020 PMEA Annual In-Service Conference at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in the Pocono Mountains.

The PMEA is the Pennsylvania state-level affiliate of NAFME. It is a nonprofit organization of more than 4,500 members dedicated to promoting the musical development of all Pennsylvanians.



Mr. Emert gives small-group lessons to Kerr Elementary School fourth-graders.



HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS STEM SYMPOSIUM

Fox Chapel Area High School hosted dozens of high school students from around the region February 25 for a daylong STEM symposium. The event is a unique STEM conference, run for and by high school students.

The conference focused on three main STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines: bioinformatics, artificial intelligence, and computational biology. Sessions were taught by leading researchers and entrepreneurial guest speakers in those fields. Students also learned about research and internship opportunities.

For the second year, the symposium was coordinated by Fox Chapel Area

High School junior Amulya Garimella, founder of the high school's STEM Outreach Club.

"Artificial intelligence and computational biology are really rapidly growing fields that are truly revolutionizing the world," Amulya says. "However, so many students feel alienated from pursuing these fields because they're not often exposed to them and feel intimidated or don't know where to start. I hope to inspire and motivate these students."

The symposium was co-sponsored by the Carnegie Mellon University Computational Biology Department, the Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute, and Argo AI.

Thanks to the sponsors, more than \$5,000 in stipends were awarded to schools to help cover the costs of transportation to the symposium and for substitute teachers.



Fox Chapel Area High School junior Amulya Garimella, coordinator of the STEM symposium, introduces Bhiksha Raj, Ph.D., professor in the Language Technologies Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.



Students work together on an activity as part of an artificial intelligence breakout session.



A student works on an artificial intelligence exercise during a breakout session of the symposium using a program that recognizes rudimentary drawings that are then enhanced and completed by the computer.

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FIRST GRADUATES OF 2020 CELEBRATE

The first Fox Chapel Area High School graduating class of 2020 celebrated the momentous occasion with family, friends, principals, teachers, and support staff at a ceremony January 16 at the high school.

Members of Fox Chapel Area High School's first graduating class of 2020 are Isabel Acevedo, Madison Baldus, Cody

Carson, Jon Paul DeLuca, Jaclyn Filo, Susan Hicks, Zane Ingram, Nicole Lazaro, Kaylie Leas, Arbay Muhina, Eve-Lyn Nicklas, Kayla Norkevicius, Lucy Perkins, Christina Saleone, Amanda Schilcher, Parker Shaw, Sydney Svoboda, Michael Thalimer, Jacob Tommasin, Madaline Viale, Ethan Wyman, and Zachery Zapf.





TELETHON RAISES MORE THAN \$46,500

Fox Chapel Area School District students held their 30th annual telethon December 20, raising more than \$46,500. This year's total brings the money raised by Fox Chapel Area students and staff to nearly \$902,000 over the last 30 years for various local and regional charities.

The telethon raised money for the Sharpshurg Community Library and involved students and staff from all six schools in the district. It was coordinated by the Fox Chapel Area High School Student Government and the digital media production students at the high school, who plan and produce the event.



HARTWOOD ELEMENTARY STUDENTS HONOR SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Five Hartwood Elementary School fifth-grade students honored the Fox Chapel Area School Board in January during School Director Recognition Month. The students read a poem that they wrote and presented it to the Board, along with gifts of appreciation.

The poem is below, along with a small speech the students gave to acknowledge the work of the district's school directors.

"School Board is for
Creating
Happiness in
Our
Optimistic
Lives
Because of
Our
Awesome
Respected
District

Our School Board is a very important part of our district. The School Board is special because they provide guidance and financial support for all of the

schools. We cherish our respected School Board and the members who spend their time to make our community better."

According to Hartwood Elementary School Principal Rachel Fischbaugh, Ed.D., the students worked together to research the role of the School Board in order to thank them for the opportunities the Board provides to all students.

"We are so proud of the work our kids put in to honor our School Board," Dr. Fischbaugh says. "Not only did they thank the School Board, but they also learned about the importance of public service."



The fifth-grade presenters were Cameryn Brindza, Max Bryson, Elina Neumann, Evelyn Owens, and Lilah Rivera.

SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors held its annual reorganization meeting December 3, 2019. Somer Obernauer Jr. was elected president, Marybeth Dadd was elected vice president, Edith Cook, Ph.D., was elected assistant secretary, and Eric Hamilton was elected treasurer.

The Board will meet on the following dates:

- April 13, 2020 (Combined Meeting): Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room
- May 4, 2020 (Combined Meeting): Dorseyville Middle School Auditorium
- June 1, 2020 (Agenda Study Session): O'Hara Elementary School Auditorium
- June 8, 2020 (Regular Business Meeting): Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room
- Aug. 10, 2020 (Combined Meeting): Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room
- Sept. 14, 2020 (Combined Meeting): Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room
- Oct. 5, 2020 (Agenda Study Session): A.W. Beattie Career Center

- Oct. 12, 2020 (Regular Business Meeting): Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room
- Nov. 2, 2020 (Agenda Study Session): Kerr Elementary School Multipurpose Room
- Nov. 9, 2020 (Regular Business Meeting): Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room
- Dec. 1, 2020 (Reorganization Meeting and Combined Meeting): Fox Chapel Area High School LGI Room

The School Board's annual reorganization meeting will be held December 1, immediately before the combined meeting. All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Additionally, as part of the reorganization meeting, re-elected Board member Lisa Rutkowski*, and newly elected Board members Ms. Dadd, Mr. Hamilton, Ronald Frank, and Vanessa Lynch were all sworn in by the Honorable David Wecht, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Other members of the School Board are Adam Goode and Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D.

**Mrs. Rutkowski resigned from the Board in February.*



NEW FCASD BOARD MEMBERS

Next Step for Educator is Serving on Board

Marybeth Dadd, the School Board's new vice president, has been an educator for many years, and, although she is engaged in various aspects of education, she has a "deep interest" in teaching and curriculum development.

"As an educator, I feel serving on the Board is the next step in my work in this field. I want to help use the district's resources to support the students as they progress through their educational experience," she says. "My greatest area of interest is always what we can do as a district to give our students the best education possible."

Ms. Dadd has taught middle and high school social studies, and has been a mentor and curriculum developer. She currently supervises student teachers at Duquesne University.

She sees the district's biggest strength as the teachers and staff members.

"We have very dedicated, motivated, and hard-working teachers and staff in our district who really make a difference in children's lives," she says.

In her spare time, Ms. Dadd is involved in the Dorseyville Middle School and O'Hara Elementary School PTOs. She

is also one of the O'Hara parent representatives for Parent Advocates for Learning Support (PALS), and serves on the Green Foxes Committee and as a TAG (Traveling Art Gallery) volunteer at O'Hara Elementary.

Ms. Dadd has a bachelor of arts degree in secondary education/social studies from Niagara University and a master of science degree in curriculum development and instructional technology from the University of Albany. She also has a graduate certificate in supervisor of curriculum and instruction from Duquesne University.

Ms. Dadd, who was born and raised in New York, and her husband, Robert Sroufe, Ph.D., moved here from Boston and have lived in O'Hara for more than 12 years. They have two daughters, one who attends Dorseyville Middle School and one at O'Hara Elementary School. The family enjoys traveling and spending time with their black Lab, Olive.



Retired Teacher Serves Students in Different Capacity



Fox Chapel Area School Board member Ron Frank retired in 2018 after spending more than 40 years in the Fox Chapel Area School District as an art educator.

"Moving away from the classroom meant more time for new opportunities to learn, to grow, and to serve," Mr. Frank says. "Our residents and students are

our greatest assets, and our schools are the most important community resources."

During his career, Mr. Frank had a wide variety of experiences inside and outside of the classroom. He coached football and baseball, and served as Fox Chapel Area's head wrestling coach for 40 years. His coaching career victories are third all-time in WPIAL wrestling history, and he has continued on as a volunteer wrestling coach at the high school.

Mr. Frank also says that his experiences in a wide variety of positions have taught him about the importance of collaborating with different groups in the pursuit of common goals. One of his biggest objectives is moving the district

forward with an eye on fiscal accountability. He also stresses that learning is about the whole academic experience, which includes core classes, as well as the arts, music, and extracurriculars.

"Students learn and develop in many different ways, and grow in small increments each day and every year through many experiences," Mr. Frank says. "We must maintain our great schools at a cost that is reasonable and affordable to our residents knowing that the majority do not have children in our schools."

Mr. Frank served as the president and vice president of the Fox Chapel Educators Association. He serves the local wrestling community in numerous volunteer capacities. He has also been the manager of the Chapel Gate pool for many years.

Mr. Frank has an associate's degree in fine arts from Community College of Allegheny County, bachelor's and master's degrees in art from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and postgraduate certification in elementary education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Frank and his wife, Maureen, have resided in Indiana Township for more than 30 years. Their sons – Patrick, Michael, and Timothy – are all Fox Chapel Area High School graduates and reside with their families in the district. Mr. and Mrs. Frank have nine grandchildren.

Giving Back to a Place that Provides an “Excellent” Education

Giving back to the community that has given his children an “excellent” education is the main motivator for Eric Hamilton to serve his community as a member of the School Board. He looks forward to learning more about the full range of Board responsibilities and hopes to directly contribute to the growth and development of the district.

“Serving on the board made sense as a way for me to do that,” he says. “Democracy works best when citizens get engaged.”

Although he has only served a few months on the Board,

Mr. Hamilton says he is impressed by the “depth of skills, knowledge, and experience” that the current Board members have. He is especially interested in using his data analytics background for the benefit of the district, particularly in the areas of finance and student achievement. He also considers engaging the community a top priority.



“The most important thing for me is that we as a Board perform our duties in a way that respects and engages all of our stakeholders,” Mr. Hamilton says. “By doing that, we will make better decisions and propel our district to even greater achievements.”

He points out that the district has many strengths.

“I would say that we distinguish ourselves by providing our students an extraordinary range of ways to grow and challenge themselves. We do that not only with a broad range of outstanding academic options, but also with excellent music, art, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities.”

A self-described “numbers guy,” Mr. Hamilton was elected to serve as the Board treasurer in December.

Mr. Hamilton, a native of Los Angeles, has resided in O’Hara Township for 17 years with his wife, Laura. He has two daughters who are Fox Chapel Area High School graduates, and one daughter still at the high school.

Mr. Hamilton has a bachelor’s degree in history and Spanish, and a master’s degree in public management and policy, all from Carnegie Mellon University. He leads an advanced analytics group for health insurer Aetna.

Students’ Mental Health Focus for Board Member

Student mental health is an important focus for Vanessa Lynch, who has worked in the field of mental health for more than 10 years. She said she understands the effects that social and emotional stress can have on children, and she hopes serving on the Board will be a way for her to make a difference. She also knows it’s important for “students to feel supported, understood, and valued.”

“I am excited by the opportunity to be a part of creating a positive and supportive environment for our children to learn,” Mrs. Lynch says. “There is no greater honor than being chosen by our community to lead our schools and support our incredible teachers, administrators, and school staff who care for our children every day.”

Mrs. Lynch also values the arts as a core part of the education of students.

“Expression, creative thinking, and a positive outlet for emotion are just some of the results that participation in the arts can bring to a community,” she says.

Mrs. Lynch knows that one of the district’s biggest strengths is the knowledgeable and involved community.

“We have a deep reservoir of talented and engaged citizens who can be a strong support for continued positive progress in our school district. Additionally, our talented teachers and

school district staff are the backbone of what makes our district a robust and engaging learning environment,” she says.

In her spare time, Mrs. Lynch enjoys supporting nonprofit organizations, mainly in the fields of mental health and advocacy. Most often, her community service activities revolve around supporting children and families.

Mrs. Lynch recently took a new job as the Pennsylvania field organizer for a nonprofit organization called Moms Clean Air Force, for which she provides education and advocacy to Pennsylvanians on creating a healthy environment for children.

Mrs. Lynch, a native of North Huntingdon, has a bachelor of arts in English literature from Purdue University and a master’s in education in community counseling from the College of William and Mary.

Mrs. Lynch and her husband, Sven, have been married for 20 years and live in Indiana Township. They have two children who attend Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School.





SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH NEARS COMPLETION

Since December, the Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors has been involved in an intensive nationwide search for the district's next superintendent. The Board hired the consulting firm of McPherson & Jacobson LLC at its meeting in January and hopes to have a candidate to present to the public in April. The members of the Board search committee, Ron Frank (committee chairperson), Vice President Marybeth Dadd, and Adam Goode, have been leading the process.

On February 6, two consultants from McPherson & Jacobson conducted multiple focus group meetings to gather input from various stakeholders throughout the district. These groups included students, parents, community members, teachers, support staff, and administrators. Two meetings were held for the general public to provide input. Each group was asked to provide feedback on the following statements/questions:

- Tell us the good things about the community of Fox Chapel.
- Tell us the good things about Fox Chapel Area public schools.
- What are the hot topics the new superintendent should be aware of so he/she can get off to a great start?
- What are the skills, characteristics, and traits you're looking for in the next superintendent?

Additionally, an online survey was available to anyone who was not able to attend one of the focus group meetings.

Based on the input from the stakeholder meetings, the School Board has developed a series of questions to ask each of the finalists.

According to Mr. Frank, the Board has worked diligently to gather feedback from a diverse group of stakeholders during the search for the district's next superintendent.

"We hope that by giving a voice to representatives of various groups within the district that we will be able to hire the best overall candidate to guide the district into the future," he says.

A total of 23 applicants for the position were received by McPherson and Jacobson by the February 27 deadline. Applicants are from Pennsylvania and beyond, and have been vetted by McPherson & Jacobson, including a reference check. The number of candidates has been reduced, and the names



Marjorie Wallace, Ed.D., from the superintendent search consulting firm of McPherson & Jacobson, meets with members of the district's administrative team on February 6 during a stakeholder meeting.

of the remaining candidates will be given to the Board. From that smaller number of candidates, the Board will choose the few that will be interviewed. Initial interviews will be done at the end of March by small groups representing various stakeholders in the district, and then the members of the School Board in a separate interview. A group leader of each of the stakeholder groups will also meet with the Board to share the groups' impressions of each of the candidates. The candidates will also tour the district.

The Board anticipates naming a final candidate at its April 13 combined agenda study session and regular business meeting to be held at 7 p.m. in the Fox Chapel Area High School large group instruction room. It is anticipated that the new superintendent would start July 1, 2020.

School Board President Somer Obernauer Jr. says it's been inspiring to see the community come together throughout the process to select the district's next leader.

"It's going to be important for the community to welcome our new superintendent. I hope all residents will embrace the selection. We already have great things happening in our schools, and this person will be using his or her expertise to take our district and our students to the next level."

The executive summary from the stakeholder meetings and other information on the search are available under the "Superintendent Search" tab on the district's website at www.fcasd.edu.

DISTRICT'S SUMMER CAMPS ENRICH LEARNING

The Fox Chapel Area School District will, once again, be offering a number of summer programs for students.



Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy Programs

The Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy will continue its many programs offered at the high school. All of the classes are open to Fox Chapel Area students, as well as students from other school districts, unless indicated.

FIRST STEP – This program is for incoming Fox Chapel Area High School freshmen only, and the goal is to help students with the transition from middle school to high school. This interactive program focuses on leadership, communication skills, thinking strategies, and academic preparation. Transportation is provided, if needed. June 16-19 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

EMPOWER Leadership Program – Through a series of interactive, real-life experiences and professional exposure, rising ninth- through 12th-graders will develop and practice their social, professional, and interpersonal skills. June 22-26 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CSI Camp – Rising sixth- through eighth-graders will be introduced to career pathways in the field of forensic science by exploring the various disciplines associated with forensic investigations. June 22-24 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Survivor Camp – Rising sixth- through eighth-graders will gain the skills and knowledge needed to survive in the outdoors. July 6-8 from 9 a.m.-noon.

BOLD (Brilliant, Original, Leading, Determined) – A leadership training and confidence-building program for rising sixth- through eighth-grade girls. Topics covered include healthy friendships and relationships, self-identity, goal setting, time management, values, difficult decisions, and more. July 14-16 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Mastering the College Essay – Running September 2-December 1, high school seniors can get one-on-one guidance on producing a stellar college application. Essay-writing mentorship is ongoing until applications are submitted.

Prices for the courses vary, and space is limited. More information can be found by visiting www.wpalearning.com, contacting Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy Director Lisa Gibson at 412/967-2479, or emailing her at lisa_gibson@fcasd.edu.

STEAM Camps



The district's fourth annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) summer camps will be offered to rising first- through ninth-graders from any school district. This is a series of interdisciplinary camps focusing on topics such as drones, coding, escape rooms, engineering design, digital art, theater arts, and more.

The camps will be held at Kerr Elementary July 13-17 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday, with an open house on Friday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Spots are limited. Register at <https://fcasdsteamcamp2020.eventbrite.com>.





SCHOOL DISTRICT EXAMINING SCHOOL START TIMES

This school year, the Fox Chapel Area School District has continued to examine the possibility of changing school start times across the district. The district's site-based management team, which includes parents, students, teachers, support staff, administrators, and community members from each school, has been meeting during the past year to study the implications of adjusting start times so that high school students can start school later. The group has heard presentations from health professionals and district employees; discussed and asked questions about the possible impact of changing school start times; and brainstormed positive outcomes and potential challenges. Topics discussed at the meetings included ramifications at the high school level, the effect on transportation, and financial implications across the district. Future topics of discussion will include the impact at the elementary and middle school levels, as well as potential implications for athletics.

The district has been exploring one mutually-agreed-upon schedule option during this school year. That option involves Dorseyville Middle School and Hartwood Elementary students arriving at school at 7:35 a.m. and departing at 2:45 p.m.; O'Hara Elementary students arriving at 7:35 a.m. and departing at 2:40 p.m.; Fox Chapel Area High School students arriving at 8:20 a.m. and departing at 3:40 p.m.; and Kerr and Fairview students arriving at 8:20 a.m. and departing at 3:20 p.m. Because the option is still being examined, these times are approximate. There is a possibility of the group examining additional scenarios and schedules, and the arrival and departure information mentioned above is subject to change.

Changing school start times has both benefits and challenges. Sleep experts and research say that insufficient sleep in



Members of the Fox Chapel Area School District administration summarize questions raised during the February districtwide site-based team meeting.



Business Manager Kimberly Pawlishak discusses possible financial implications related to transportation if a change to school start times is implemented.

adolescents is a critical public health issue. They say starting school later can have positive effects on the mental health of students, and allowing adolescents to get more sleep can lead to improved grades, focus, and behavior. However, starting school later is expected to add at least \$700,000 to the district's transportation budget, which would be an annual recurring cost to taxpayers. Additionally, some elementary school students could be picked up prior to 7 a.m.; some elementary students could be at bus stops at the same time as high school students; and a number of elementary students would be dropped off in the afternoon prior to high school students arriving home.

The examination of school start times in the Fox Chapel Area School District began a few years ago when a group of parents approached district administrators and requested that a potential adjustment to start times be examined.

Additional information on the district's study of the school start time topic is available under the "Examination of School Start Times" tab on the district's website at www.fcasd.edu.



Fox Chapel Area High School Lead Principal Michael Hower, Ed.D., discusses scheduling options with parent Cory Siri.

BRANDON PEIFER CHOSEN AS STATE COACH OF THE YEAR

Three years ago, Athletic Director Michael O'Brien had a vision. He wanted to create a pioneering sport-specific strength and conditioning program for Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School student-athletes. It was important to him that the training be evidence-based and not only appeal to males, but female athletes as well. Fortunately, Mr. O'Brien had the perfect candidate to implement that program, teacher and coach Brandon Peifer, who took on Mr. O'Brien's vision as his own.

One goal that was never on Mr. Peifer's radar, however, was receiving recognition for his efforts. But, to his surprise, in February 2020, Coach Peifer was named the State Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year by the National High School Strength Coaches Association (NHSSCA). The award is given annually to high school strength and conditioning coaches in recognition of their coaching achievements and passion for the profession. The State Coaches of the Year are among the nation's top coaches, and a total of 30 from across the United States were chosen to be honored in 2020.

Mr. O'Brien says Coach Peifer is not only "exceptionally committed" to the district's strength and conditioning program, but also has the unique ability to relate to both students and coaches, and get them excited about participating.

"Traditionally, only football players had used the weight room for training, but now, boys and girls from nearly all 27 sports teams at Fox Chapel Area High School attend pre- and in-season training. In fact, from 2017, when the formal strength and conditioning program was initiated, there has been a 300% increase in the number of total workouts completed by student-athletes," Mr. O'Brien says. "Coach Peifer is not only respected and well-liked by our student-athletes; he is also one of the most professional individuals that I have had the pleasure of knowing."

Coach Peifer has been especially successful in getting female athletes to join the program and has increased by 100% the number who participate in strength and conditioning workouts.

Maddie Kieffer, a senior volleyball player and track medalist, is impressed with how Coach Peifer tailors every workout to meet the physical requirements of each of her sports.



"He knows what each team needs to be focusing on and has them work out the muscles that will help them reach their specific goals," says Maddie. "Coach Peifer has even gone the extra mile to provide me with requested workouts outside of what I do in the gym. I have seen a huge difference in my performance."

Senior Alex Wecht also has high praise for his coach. A varsity starter and playmaker for the Foxes' football and wrestling teams, Alex has earned numerous honors in multiple years for both sports and will wrestle next year at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

"Coach Peifer has been an incredible asset to Fox Chapel athletics and brings a consistent, positive attitude every single day," says Alex. "He is always available and happy to talk about personal goals and how to work toward them. Overall, the Fox Chapel strength and conditioning program is what is going to take each team to the next level."

Coach Peifer, who is quick to deflect praise, says, "I was very surprised when I won the award. I never thought I would win something like this. It was nice to receive it, but it's more a result of everybody working together, not just me."

He says the award wouldn't be possible without the support and help of the administration, Mr. O'Brien, Athletic Trainer John Panos, the various sports coaches, the physical education department, and assistant coaches John Alerich, Zach Metkler, and James Chandler, as well as Lesley Cowles, Ed.D.

Coach Peifer, who currently teaches social studies at the high school, has taught in the Fox Chapel Area School District since 2004.

He will be presented with the State Coach of the Year award at the 2020 NHSSCA Conference, which will be held in June in Minneapolis. The purpose of the NHSSCA is to educate, equip, and empower coaches to make a positive impact in the lives of student athletes, and to develop coaches that are trustworthy, knowledgeable, effective, passionate, and transformational.





DÉJÀ VU FOR BOYS BASKETBALL

It was some kind of regular season for the Foxes' boys basketball program – gratifying, exhausting, and fun – as it accomplished a milestone that only one other team in school history had done before: The team won every section game, registered 20 consecutive wins, and ended up 21-1, the only loss at the hands of Upper St. Clair in the second-to-last game. The only other time a Fox Chapel Area boys' basketball team had done that was in 1977, when, in an eerily similar way, that team's only loss also came in the next-to-last regular season game. Afterward, the '77 team went on to become WPIAL and PIAA champions.

Since Coach Zach Skrinjar took over 11 years ago, the program has reached the WPIAL playoffs nine times and made three trips to the PIAA playoffs.

Sophomore Eli Yofan, the top scorer on the team this season, says, "I feel proud to be a part of a team that has the talent and work ethic that we have. We, as a team, are not necessarily focused on statistics, but on being the best team we can be each and every night."

That consistency, game after game and week after week, started to catch the attention of 1977 team member Ron Urso. Now a faculty adviser and clock manager at home games, Ron says that after watching about a half-dozen games, he started getting a feeling of déjà vu.

"I knew early on that this was a special team that reminded me of my own and was going to be hard to beat," he says. "Both teams were great at both ends of the court, even though we both were best-known for being strong defensive teams. The players on each of the teams also had a lot of chemistry."



Eli Yofan was the top scorer on the team this season.



The Fox Chapel Area High School 2019-2020 boys basketball team.



The Fox Chapel Area High School 1977 boys basketball team.

Senior Will Livingston says it was the players' team-based mindset and their capacity to rise above challenges that made them special. "Our biggest accomplishment was our ability to overcome adversity," he says. "With different injuries and sicknesses, especially early in the season, the path was not very smooth. But our younger guys stepped up and helped us out when we needed them to."

But, every player on this year's team says it's not just singular performances that made the season such a memorable one – it was the coaches who made the difference, and they have paved the way for a bright future.

"Every single coach that is part of our team brings a lot to the table. Along with that, they are just very good people who I enjoy being around every day. I don't think we would be where we are today without them," says Will. "But I also would like to remind one of our coaches, Ben Bailey, that the Foxes '77 team was so good that they beat his team (Norwin) in the WPIAL championship that year!"

The other members of the varsity team who made this year such a success were seniors Sam Brown, Shane Susnak, and Arnold Vento; junior Kent Baldauf; and sophomores Jacob DeMotte, James Dockey, Russell Fenton, and Lorenzo Jenkins.

Despite the strong comparisons with the 1977 team, the 2020 team didn't experience as long of a playoff run. The season came to an end in the second round of the WPIAL playoffs on February 22 as the Foxes lost to Central Catholic, 42-34.

MANELIS WINS WPIAL GOLD, KEEPS DIVING STREAK ALIVE

David Manelis crushed the competition at the WPIAL Class 3A diving championship on February 22 and, by doing so, continued the Foxes' four-year flow of gold medal winners. His victory came after a few years of watching and learning from Foxes' alum and the schools' all-time best diver (so far), Jonah Cagley, and with the help of new diving coach Joey Ference. This year was David's time to shine. He was the heavy favorite entering WPIALs and did not disappoint. His mark of 524.90 was more than 100 points higher than the runner-up.

As he's done the past two years, David now moves on to the PIAA Class 3A championship where, last year as only a sophomore, he claimed the runner-up spot, ahead of his teammate and mentor.

Coach Ference, who was a two-time WPIAL and PIAA champion in high school and went on to be a star for the University of Pittsburgh, says, "The most important thing I emphasized to David was staying relaxed and always being confident on and off the diving board. Diving is not only about the flips and twists; it's about what's going on between your ears, and that's what's most important coming into a diving competition. Knowing I can put myself in his shoes at any time helps me boost his confidence and allows me to give the best advice possible."

Soft-spoken with a fairly mellow approach to challenges, David says he wasn't all that nervous, other than concentrating on getting a good hurdle on one of his more difficult dives. He says, "I was just a little concerned with getting a good hurdle and jump. If you give it too much, they can become unstable."

Whatever he did, it worked. Coach Ference says, "David's performance was outstanding. As far as his voluntary dives, he hit the nail on the head with averages in the 7.5- to 9-point range. For his optionals, he had some big dives that we decided to put in his list, an inward two-and-a-half and a reverse two-and-a-half. These dives have a 3.0 degree of difficulty. I believe he has the chance to score much higher, and that's going to be the key for the PIAA championships."

You would think that after winning such a prestigious award, David would be basking in the glory of his achievement and celebrating in grand style. That was nowhere near what actually happened.

"Afterward, we went to dinner, and I had wings and pizza. I was a little exhausted, but I got up at 8 a.m. on Sunday because I had homework to do," says the WPIAL champ. "But, overall, I was very pleased with my performance at WPIALs."

David's biggest obstacle standing in the way of a state gold medal is likely to come from last year's winner, Brendan McCourt, now a senior at Emmaus High School. In the 2019 championship, Brandon scored 542.75 on 11 dives as compared to David's mark of 487.45.



But that was when David was only a sophomore, and a lot of things have changed. He is more experienced, and, having qualified for states every year since he was a freshman, David is well familiar with what goes on at the state tournament. He does, however, acknowledge the tough test ahead of him.

"I have dived with Brendan and seen him at club meets," says David. "He is very good, very talented, and does some difficult dives."

David won a third-place state medal at the 2020 PIAA Class 3A diving championships held March 11 at Bucknell University.

Winter Athletics Update

Swimming

Freshman Sophie Shao brought home gold medals in the 100 butterfly at the PIAA and WPIAL Class 3A swimming championships. Other state qualifiers in swimming (including individuals and relays) were seniors Grace Gackenbach and Leia Ross, junior Vivian Shao, sophomore Rei Sperry, and freshman Talia Bugel.

Indoor Track

Six members of the high school indoor track team qualified for the Pennsylvania Track & Field Coaches Association (PTFCA) Indoor State Championships. Senior Christian Fitch placed fifth in the 3,000 meters at the state event. Additional state qualifiers were seniors Abigail Kieffer, Madolyn Kieffer, Brooke Krally, and Grace Sisson, and sophomore Nele Frank. The state championships were held March 1 at Penn State University's main campus.



FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019-2020 FACTS & FIGURES

2019-2020 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (K-GRADE 5)

Fairview Elementary School	372
Hartwood Elementary School	363
Kerr Elementary School	391
O'Hara Elementary School	677
Total Elementary Enrollment	1,803

SECONDARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 6-12)

Dorseyville Middle School (6-8)	932
Fox Chapel Area High School (9-12)	1,312
Total Secondary Enrollment	2,244
Total District Enrollment	4,047

CLASS OF 2019

The total number of graduates in the Fox Chapel Area High School Class of 2019 was 329. The percentages of 2019 graduates entering some type of postsecondary education were as follows:

Four-Year Colleges	246 or 75%
Two-Year Colleges/Other	44 or 13%
Total Continuing Education	290 or 88%

AVERAGE SAT SCORES

	Evidence-Based		
	Reading & Writing	Math	
Class of 2019	608	616	
Class of 2018	604	600	
Class of 2017	611	606	
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing
Class of 2016	563	572	557
Class of 2015	562	574	561

A total of 258 members (78%) of the Class of 2019 took the SAT during their junior or senior year. The national average scores for all 2019 graduates taking the test were 536 in evidence-based reading and writing and 531 in math.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF STATISTICS

NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Elementary	171
Secondary	198
Total	369

MASTER'S OR DOCTORATE DEGREE OR EQUIVALENT

Elementary	75%
Secondary	82%

AVERAGE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Elementary	17 Years
Secondary	20 Years

THE COMMUNITY

The Fox Chapel Area School District is located in a dynamic suburban community about 11 miles northeast of downtown Pittsburgh. The district includes six municipalities (the boroughs of Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel, and Sharpsburg and the townships of Indiana and O'Hara) representing a wide range of social, economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. The schools provide a comprehensive array of educational opportunities to serve the needs of this diverse population and to meet the high expectations of its residents. The district encompasses an area of about 36 square miles with approximately 30,000 residents.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Fox Chapel Area School District is a nationally recognized, award-winning school district that produces high achievement in students, with a motivated and professional faculty and an involved and caring administration. There are six schools in the district.

VISION

The Fox Chapel Area School District will be recognized as one of the top-performing public school districts in the nation. Toward that end we will:

- Challenge each student to reach his/her maximum potential level of achievement.
- Provide scholarly experiences that deepen understanding, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, innovation, and collaboration.
- Provide an environment that promotes inclusiveness and embraces diversity.
- Foster a culture that encourages student involvement in the community and raises awareness of civic responsibilities.
- Build relationships with postsecondary institutions, businesses, and industry to create and sustain programs that prepare students to excel beyond high school.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Fox Chapel Area School District exists to maximize student learning, achievement, and development.

CORE VALUES

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Integrity

2020-2021 Fox Chapel Area School District Calendar

August 2020				
3	4	5	6	7
I	I	I	P	FC
10	11	12	13	14
P/C	P	P	P	FC
17	18	19	20	21
				(5)
24	25	26	27	28
31				

September 2020				
	1	2	3	(10)
X				(14)
7	8	9	10	11
				(19)
14	15	16	17	18
				(24)
21	22	23	24	25
X				
28	29	30		

October 2020				
			1	(28)
				(33)
5	6	7	8	9
		E/+		(38)
12	13	14	15	16
				E/C (43)
19	20	21	22	23
				R (48)
26	27	28	29	30

November 2020				
E/CONF	CONF+			(52)
2	3	4	5	6
				(57)
9	10	11	12	13
				(62)
16	17	18	19	20
		E/+ (65)	X	X
23	24	25	26	27
X				
30				

December 2020				
	1	2	3	(69)
				(74)
7	8	9	10	11
				(79)
14	15	16	17	18
		(82)	X	X
21	22	23	24	25
X	X	X	X	
28	29	30	31	

January 2021				
				X
				(87)
4	5	6	7	8
			(91)	FC
11	12	13	14	15
P				R (95)
18	19	20	21	22
				(100)
25	26	27	28	29

February 2021				
				(105)
1	2	3	4	5
			(109)	P
8	9	10	11	12
X/M				(113)
15	16	17	18	19
				(118)
22	23	24	25	26

March 2021				
				(123)
1	2	3	4	5
				(128)
8	9	10	11	12
				E/C (133)
15	16	17	18	19
				E/R (138)
22	23	24	25	26
X	X	X		
29	30	31		

April 2021				
			X	X
			1	2
				(143)
5	6	7	8	9
				(148)
12	13	14	15	16
				(153)
19	20	21	22	23
				(158)
26	27	28	29	30

May 2021				
				(163)
3	4	5	6	7
				(168)
10	11	12	13	14
				(173)
17	18	19	20	21
				(178)
24	25	26	27	28
X				
31				

June 2021				
		K/E		E/C (182)
	1	2	3	4
FC	P/C			R
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

1st Grading Period – October 23 – 43 days
 2nd Grading Period – January 14 – 48 days
 3rd Grading Period – March 19 – 42 days
 4th Grading Period – June 4 – 49 days

November 2 – Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Parent Teacher Conference Day
 November 3 – Parent Teacher Conference Day (No School for Students)
 June 4 – Last Day for Students = 182 Days (unless makeup days are required)
 June 8 – Last Day for Professional Staff = 195 Days (unless makeup days are required)

First Semester	
8/10-12	New Teacher Induction Days
8/13, 18, 19 & 20	Professional Development Days
8/14 & 21	Full Clerical Days
8/17	Professional Development/Clerical Day
8/24	First Day for Students
9/7	Labor Day
9/28	Fall Break
10/14	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
10/23	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
11/2	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Parent Teacher Conference Day
11/3	Parent Teacher Conference Day
11/25	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
11/26-30	Thanksgiving Break
12/24-1/1	Winter Break

Second Semester	
1/15	Full Clerical Day
1/18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day & Professional Development Day
2/12	Professional Development Day
2/15	Presidents' Day or Makeup Day
3/19	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
3/26	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
3/29-4/2	Spring Break
5/31	Memorial Day
6/2	Kennedywood Day & Early Dismissal
6/4	Last Day for Students
	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
6/6	Commencement
6/7	Full Clerical Day
6/8	Professional Development/Clerical Day

I New Teacher Induction Day
C Clerical Day
FC Full Clerical Day (No School for Students)
P Professional Development Day (No School for Students)
E Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
X Holiday/Break/No School
+ Act 80 Day
CONF Parent Teacher Conference Day
K Kennedywood Day
R Report Cards Available
M Makeup Day (if Necessary)

FINAL 3/9/2020

April 19-May 7 shaded areas indicate PSSA testing windows. January 4-15 and May 17-28 shaded areas indicate Keystone Exams testing windows. Refer to the FCASD website (www.fcasd.edu) for specific grades tested in each time frame.

Makeup days, if necessary, will be February 15, 2021, and then added on to the end of the school year, beginning June 7, 2021. Please consult building, website, and the district's art and activities calendar for building-level early dismissal dates, school activities, and other special events.



FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORY

District Administration

611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/963-9600
www.fcasd.edu
Superintendent: Gene Freeman, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent: David McCommons, Ed.D.
Business Manager: Kimberly Pawlishak

District Resource Staff

Executive Director of Elementary Education and Instruction: Ashley Constantine, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Secondary Education and Instruction: Matthew Harris, Ed.D.
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services: Timothy Mahoney
Executive Director of Instructional and Innovative Leadership: Megan Collett, Ed.D.
Director of Literacy: Dana Simile
Director of Student Achievement and Instructional Verification: G. Daniel DiDesiderio III, Ed.D.
Director of Ancillary Services: Daniel Breitreutz
School Safety and Security Coordinator: Joseph Kozarian
Director of Athletics: Michael O'Brien
Coordinator of Communications: Bonnie Berzonski
Community Engagement Specialist: Jill Leonard

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOLS

Fairview Elementary School

738 Dorseyville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/963-9315
Principal: Stephen Edwards

Hartwood Elementary School

3730 Saxonburg Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/767-5396
Principal: Rachel Fischbaugh, Ed.D.

Kerr Elementary School

341 Kittanning Pike
Pittsburgh, PA 15215
412/781-4105
Principal: Paul Noro, Ed.D.

O'Hara Elementary School

115 Cabin Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/963-0333
Principal: Kristy Batis
Interim Assistant Principal: William McClarnon

Dorseyville Middle School

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

Fox Chapel Area High School

611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/967-2430
Lead Principal: Michael Hower, Ed.D.
Program Principal (A-L): Daniel Lentz, Ph.D.
Program Principal (M-Z): John McGee, Ph.D.

For the latest information on school activities and weather-related delays and cancellations, visit the Fox Chapel Area School District website at www.fcasd.edu.

The athletic events calendar can be found on the Fox Chapel Area School District athletics website at www.fcasdsports.org.

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Edith L. Cook, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary (2021 - Region III); Amy B. Cooper (2021 - Region I); Marybeth Dadd, Vice President (2023 - Region III); Ronald P. Frank (2023 - Region II); Adam G. Goode (2021 - Region III); Eric G. Hamilton, Treasurer (2023 - Region I); Vanessa K. Lynch (2023 - Region II); Somer Obernauer Jr., President (2021 - Region I); and Dharmesh Vyas, M.D., Ph.D. (2021 - Region II).

Region I covers all of Sharpsburg Borough and Wards 2, 3, and 4 of O'Hara Township; Region II covers Districts 2, 4, and 5 of Fox Chapel Borough and all of Indiana Township; and Region III covers all of Aspinwall Borough, Blawnox Borough, Wards 1 and 5 of O'Hara Township, and Districts 1 and 3 of Fox Chapel Borough.

School Board meetings are usually scheduled for the first and second Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The Fox Chapel Area School District is an equal rights and opportunity school district. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, or handicap/disability. The district shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.

Additional information pertaining to civil rights, school district policies, and grievance procedures can be obtained by contacting the compliance officers listed below between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. This notice is available from the compliance officers in large print, on audiotape, and in Braille.

Title IX: David P. McCommons, Ed.D. (412/967-2456)

Section 504 and ADA: Timothy A. Mahoney (412/967-2435)

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



FOX CHAPEL AREA HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS 'LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL'

The Fox Chapel Area High School presented "Legally Blonde The Musical," on March 5, 6 & 7, at 7 p.m. and March 8, at 2 p.m. More than 150 Fox Chapel Area High School students were involved in this year's show.

"Legally Blonde The Musical" premiered in 2007, with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin and book by Heather Hach. The story is based on the novel "Legally Blonde" by Amanda Brown and the 2001 film of the same name. It tells the story of Elle Woods, a sorority girl who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend Warner. She discovers how her knowledge of the law can help others, and successfully defends exercise queen Brooke Wyndham in a murder trial. Throughout the show, no one has faith in Elle Woods, but she manages to surprise them when she defies expectations while staying true to herself.

PHOTOS BY PRIMETIME SHOTS

