

IN

An IN Community Magazine

Fox Chapel Area

**Arts & Music
Programs
Find New
Creativity,
Thrive During
Pandemic**

**Fox Chapel Area
School District News**

PAGE 8

**The Latest Craze
During COVID-19 is Gardening**

PAGE 42

**Special Section: Spring Home
Improvement Guide**

PAGE 53

FOX CHAPEL AREA

School News



Fox Chapel Area School District

- 9 A Message from the Superintendent
- 10 Arts & Music Programs Find New Creativity During Pandemic, Continue to Thrive
- 12 Students Win National YoungArts Awards
- 13 FCASD Makes Strides on Diversity
- 14 Student Receives Youth Mental Health Leadership Award
- 15 Early Graduates Celebrate Virtually
- 16 FCASD Celebrates School Director Recognition Month
- 17 School Board Reorganization Meeting
- 18 Elementary Highlights

- 20 Secondary Highlights
- 22 2020 Retrospective Telethon Raises More Than \$16,400
- 23 Manelis Brings Home Second WPIAL Gold
- 24 Swim/Dive Teams Win Sections
- 25 Scholar-Athletes Set Gold Standard
- 26 Fox Chapel Area School District 2020-2021 Facts & Figures
- 27 2021-2022 Fox Chapel Area School District Calendar
- 28 Fox Chapel Area School District Directory

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fox Chapel Area Family,

While the COVID-19 pandemic certainly commanded a great deal of our focus during this school year, the Fox Chapel Area School District also advanced a number of goals and celebrated many academic, artistic, and athletic achievements.

One of the district's ongoing efforts is bolstering diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, which was a goal set by the Fox Chapel Area School Board in June. By working closely and collaboratively during the past several months, the district's faculty and administrative team identified a number of ways to strengthen our districtwide approach, including:

- Establishing a district-level Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, which focuses on our endeavors as a district and creates both short- and long-term goals. This district-level Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee has overseen the development of similar groups at the building level to support the mission of the districtwide committee and to focus on specific plans and initiatives in each of our school buildings.
- Holding a number of professional development opportunities for our staff on topics such as understanding terminology, personal reflection, and identification of key topics for the district's multiyear diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.
- Developing a new course proposal for the high school, Perspectives in History: African-Americans, which we will pilot in the fall of 2021.
- Undertaking a review of curricular materials in conjunction with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and instituting elementary read-alouds featuring underrepresented populations and voices.
- Collaborating with local, regional, and national experts to support our work.

We are committed to continue to look for ways to support diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our school district. We recognize that this is a journey that will take some time, and we will do our very best to improve our understanding, our work, and, most importantly, our school experiences for our children.

Throughout these pages, you'll also see that while the circumstances forced by COVID-19 drastically altered the concept of education as we know it, we didn't let that define who we are and what we do.

- Arts and music classes continued in engaging and inventive ways despite restrictions necessitated by the pandemic.
- Fox Chapel Area High School senior Jing McCann was named a finalist and received a Silver Award in a competition sponsored by the National YoungArts Foundation for her portfolio consisting of jewelry (wearable art) designed to communicate how stress and anxiety impacts her and others, and how it takes a toll on her mental and physical health.
- Senior Abigail Rickin-Marks received the National Alliance on Mental Illness Keystone Pennsylvania's Youth Mental Health Leadership Award, given to young leaders who shift perceptions and spearhead change in mental health advocacy.
- Our boys basketball team and our boys and girls swimming and diving teams won their sections. Additionally, teams and individuals qualified for WPIAL and state competitions.

I'm so very proud of these students, as well as faculty and staff members and all those who have supported our efforts. Though COVID-19 provided an interesting start to my role as superintendent, I feel so grateful to be here to witness the hard work, perseverance, and dedication that fill our halls, classrooms, and, yes, even our computer screens, each and every day.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac
Superintendent





Dorseyville Middle School Choral Director Amy Beresik instructs students both in her classroom and those attending virtually as they rehearse a song.



A Kerr Elementary third-grader plays a glockenspiel during a general music class.

ARTS & MUSIC PROGRAMS FIND NEW CREATIVITY DURING PANDEMIC, CONTINUE TO THRIVE

For at least a year, COVID-19 has redefined the traditional school day and prompted educators to reimagine classroom instruction. Perhaps no courses were as deeply affected by the pandemic in the Fox Chapel Area School District as its art and music classes.

The district's art and music teachers, certainly no strangers to being creative, had to find even more innovative and engaging ways to present their lessons despite a number of unprecedented obstacles, such as instructing students both in the classroom and those participating virtually, and restrictions on the use of classroom manipulatives and other materials due to cross-contamination concerns.

"When planning each lesson and project, we have had to totally rethink how we are used to doing things in art class," says Kerr Elementary School art teacher Becky Meyers. "I love to give students as much choice as possible to encourage creativity, but it's been hard to give as many options with having to quarantine some of the supplies to keep students safe."

With limits on the materials that can be used, Ms. Meyers says she shifted her art classes this year from primarily project-based work to include more lessons about art history.

Similar instruction is happening in music classes facing some of the same restrictions on the use of classroom materials and instruments.

"Until more recently, we have had to hold off on singing and playing band instruments due to aerosolization and potentially spreading COVID-19," says teacher Mairi Cooper, director of the Fox Chapel Area High School orchestra. "That's given us more time to focus on music theory."

While elementary students are able to play some instruments in class, such as drums, xylophones, and string instruments,

the use of wind instruments has been restricted, says Christy Ehman, music teacher at Kerr Elementary School. That also extends to one of the rites of childhood passage.

"Unfortunately, we are not playing the recorders in grades three through five in the music classroom," Ms. Ehman says, noting that students are practicing with them at home through assignments posted on their Google Classrooms.

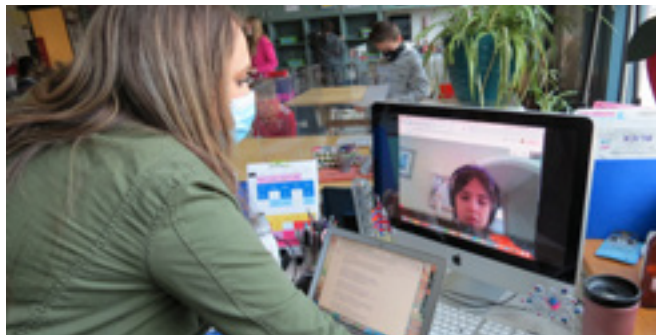
In addition to finding new approaches for their lessons, teachers also must navigate the complexities of instructing children in the classrooms along with those joining from home.

"Initially, this was such a challenge and fatiguing in a way I did not expect," says Dorseyville Middle School Choral Director Amy Beresik. "Along the way, I found that if I focused on the students by greeting them, telling them I was happy to see them, overlooked dark screens or lack of energy, and just continued to be positive, it became easier. When I received a Christmas card from a student who said, 'Thank you for always making me feel like a part of the class, even though I'm on Zoom,' it made me feel grateful that those efforts are paying off, even when virtual instruction feels clumsy or imperfect in the moment."

Equity also is a concern for those teaching students in varying instructional models.

"I want students at home to have the same opportunities as students here in my classroom," Ms. Meyers says. "That means that I have been sending home clay, tools, paint, and all kinds of things that are often overlooked when planning a lesson. For a class that requires so many materials to differentiate instruction and encourage variety, it's been a very big challenge."

In some classes, the dynamic of "some here and some at home" means a whole new way of teaching.



Fairview Elementary School art teacher Sarah Dixon works with a virtual fifth-grade student.



Fox Chapel Area High School Orchestra Director Mairi Cooper directs students both in person and online.



Dorseyville Middle School art teacher Nanci Goldberg helps a student pack up her individual art supplies. In an effort to reduce cross-contamination, art and music students often work with supplies only available to them.



O'Hara Elementary School instrumental music teacher Evan Hertrick teaches students socially distanced in the school commons area.

"Because we can't have in-person concerts, and by and large, students are not truly rehearsing together, we have had to completely restructure our curriculum and outcomes," Ms. Cooper says. "In some ways, this has been good. We have learned a lot of new technology and are more aware of the abilities of many of our students because we are hearing them more individually than as an ensemble.

"In other ways, though, it has been heartbreaking. Our students thrive on creating music together. They seek those moments when they look across an ensemble and communicate through music with a friend."

The art and music educators, however, laud the dedication and resilience of students, and how they've embraced learning and performing in new ways. At the high school level, the orchestra produced videos in smaller chamber groups to share with retirement and nursing homes, and the chorus students created a virtual choir.

"Our students have been amazing," Ms. Cooper says. "Our seniors, in particular, have lost a lot but are always game to try a new effort. They have supported each other, the faculty, and the broader music community throughout this."

"The students have been remarkably resilient, but I have found that we need to be aware that students can be struggling even when it seems they are 'OK,' and continue to offer support where we can so they can finish this year strong. I'm so proud of them," Ms. Beresik adds. "I am most looking forward to having the students all together again so they can hear each others' voices and enjoy the satisfaction that comes from working as a team to produce something beautiful. That is something I will never take for granted again."

STUDENTS WIN AWARDS IN ART & MUSIC

Despite difficult circumstances, Fox Chapel Area High School students continue to excel and were selected for prestigious honors.

- Senior Joey Wang was chosen for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) 2020 All-National Honor Ensembles Concert Band. Joey, a clarinet player, joined 120 band students from across the U.S. and military base schools overseas in a virtual event January 7 and 8.
- Three seniors were chosen to perform with the 2021 NAfME All-Eastern Honors Ensembles. Nathaniel Hines was selected for the Mixed Chorus, Jack Penland was chosen to play with the Orchestra, and Joey Wang was named to the Symphonic Band. A total of 719 high school students from 11 states were selected for the ensembles.
- Twenty high school and middle school students won awards in the regional competition of the Scholastic Art Awards. Seniors Jessica Jing McCann, Joey Wang, Alwyn Williams, and Wenyu Zuo; sophomore Jonathan Li; and freshman Isabella White qualified to have their work judged nationally. Additionally, Jing was selected as an American Visions nominee for her jewelry. American Visions pieces are considered to be among the very best of the show.



STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL YOUNGARTS AWARDS



Jessica Jing McCann

Two Fox Chapel Area High School students were named winners in a contest sponsored by the National YoungArts Foundation. Senior Jessica Jing McCann was named a Finalist and received a Silver Award in the Design Arts category, and sophomore Sloane Simon received an honorable mention in the Voice: Singer-Songwriter category as part of the 2021 National YoungArts Foundation competition. Jing and Sloane are considered to be two of 659 of the most accomplished young visual, literary, and performing artists from across the country.

Jing was honored for her portfolio consisting of jewelry (wearable art) designed to communicate how stress and anxiety impact her and others, and how they take a toll on her mental and physical health. Her artwork is meant to serve as statement pieces. According to Jing, each piece is physically and conceptually restrictive, communicating the feeling of being trapped and caged while, at the same time, incorporating the beauty of nature found in butterflies.



Sloane Simon



Jing models one of her jewelry pieces.

She also explains how the butterflies represent her attempt to obtain relief from her stress and the desire for freedom.

“I want to bring awareness to society about mental health disorders as I experience them. I hope I can help others who are experiencing this so that they know they are not alone in this

battle, and they shouldn't have to feel embarrassed or guilty for experiencing anxiety and depression,” says Jing.

As a Finalist, Jing was invited to participate in National YoungArts Week+. Typically presented at the YoungArts Campus in Miami, Florida, National YoungArts Week+ was held virtually January 3-9 when Jing convened with 142 fellow Finalists across nine other disciplines from all around the country, participated in interdisciplinary masterclasses, and learned from notable artists and mentors. On January 29, Jing was able to showcase her wearable art to a worldwide audience, and her work can be seen here: <https://www.2021youngartsweek.org/exhibition-of-works>. She will also receive a cash prize of \$5,000 for her Silver Award.

For her entry into the Voice: Singer-Songwriter category, Sloane submitted three original songs, one titled “Seven Feet Apart” which she wrote about the frustration of quarantine; another called “The Boy Who Cried Beautiful” based on Aesop's fable “The Boy Who Cried Wolf,” but in her song, the boy cries wolf about love; and the third, titled “Laurel Canyon,” based on a documentary she binged over quarantine about California music in the 1960s and 1970s. Sloane also won a cash prize.

YoungArts applicants are between the ages of 15-18 or in grades 10-12, and each winner demonstrates outstanding artistic achievement in the visual, literary, or performing arts.

“YoungArts has a highly competitive application process for talented artists, judged by an independent panel of highly accomplished artists through a rigorous blind adjudication process,” according to Jewel Malone, the executive director of the National YoungArts Foundation. “This group of extraordinary artists has reminded us yet again that extraordinary artistry is ageless.”

FCASD MAKES STRIDES ON DIVERSITY

Among one of the expectations for the Fox Chapel Area School District administrative team during the 2020-2021 school year was the creation and implementation of a number of diversity initiatives across the district's six school buildings.

At a special meeting in June 2020, the Fox Chapel Area School Board adopted a resolution, "Racism, Diversity, Equity, and the Educational Mission of the District," to bolster diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts districtwide.

Despite much focus commanded by the COVID-19 pandemic, the district's administrative team, faculty, staff, and students have worked collaboratively during the school year to meet many of the goals listed in the resolution.

Among the biggest accomplishments to date is the creation of a district-level Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to focus on endeavors as a district and create both short- and long-term goals. This district-level Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee has overseen the development of building-level groups to support the mission of the districtwide committee and to focus on specific plans and initiatives in each of the school buildings.

"The committee was established to promote the essential value of diversity and the need for equity in the district, as well as to build a cohesive effort by engaging all building teams with the district goals," says Dr. Matthew Harris, executive director of secondary education and instruction, and leader of the districtwide committee.

According to Dr. Harris, the committee established a multiyear action plan that coordinates efforts in five main areas: professional development, curriculum and instruction, events, hiring practices, and diversity and equity assessments/audits.

During the 2020-2021 school year, the district's administrative team has conducted a number of professional development opportunities for staff on topics such as understanding terminology, personal reflection, and identification of key topics.

Another accomplishment during the school year has been the development of a new course for the high school, Perspectives in History: African-Americans, which will be piloted in the fall of 2021. The course is expected to appeal to students who wish to positively affect the climate in the school. The Perspectives in History course will examine the contributions of various ethnicities to the culture and history of the United States and the world and their impact on the political, economic, and social development of humanity.

"Students are so eager and excited to be change-makers," says Jessica Green, a Fox Chapel Area High School English teacher and sponsor of the school's recently established Fox Chapel Diversity Council. "Despite the challenges of COVID-19, students have worked diligently and tirelessly on a variety of anti-racism projects and concepts for the high school."

Members of the high school's Diversity Council are already looking to the future.



Fox Chapel Area High School Diversity Council founders, senior Melina Bradley (left) and junior Kaylee Uribe, examine books that promote inclusivity. The books were donated during a book drive sponsored by the Diversity Council and will be distributed to libraries and other organizations.

"Some future goals of the Diversity Council are to have more students of different socioeconomic statuses participate in events and activities," says junior Kaylee Uribe. "Additionally, we hope to have more guest speakers and activities in which community members can participate."

The districtwide committee plans to collaborate with local, regional, and national experts to support the district's short- and long-term initiatives. It also will undertake regular reviews of curricular materials at all levels. At the building level, elementary classes are conducting read-alouds featuring underrepresented populations and voices; schools organized theme weeks and Black History Month events; and students shared how they viewed diversity, equity, and inclusion in their schools.

According to Hartwood Elementary School Principal Dr. Rachel Fischbaugh, discussions and lessons on the topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to helping students learn and grow.

"They provide a focus on diversity, and, in essence, promote an understanding of our history as a country," Dr. Fischbaugh says. "Most importantly, these efforts allow us to model and shape critical thinking skills that are necessary for our students to be independent thinkers."

Dorseyville Middle School Principal Jonathan Nauhaus agrees, saying, "I think the efforts are important because they provide perspective to our students and staff, and require them to think about important and sensitive topics that they may not ordinarily navigate."

Despite the amount of work by the district's leaders during the school year, administrators recognize that their work is far from done.

"We all know there is much, much more to do to change practice, perception, and procedures related to diversity, equity, and inclusion," Dr. Harris says. "It will be an ongoing effort, as it should be."



STUDENT RECEIVES YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Fox Chapel Area High School senior Abigail Rickin-Marks was chosen to receive NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Keystone Pennsylvania's 2021 Youth Mental Health Leadership Award. The award is given to a young person who is a change-leader in the areas of mental health education and is instrumental in positively shifting conversations about mental health. Abby, who received four nominations, was selected for her vital contributions in both her school and community.

At Fox Chapel Area High School, Abby is involved with social activism and the Peer-to-Peer Empowerment Program, and also serves as a member of the school's Diversity Council.

According to Fox Chapel Area High School counselor Rachel Machen, Abby is a natural leader whose efforts make a true difference for her peers.

"I see how, even within our high school, Abby is trying to create change and reduce the stigma around mental health," Mrs. Machen says.

Abby is quick to deflect praise, saying that everything she does is for change, and not recognition. She also hopes that other young people will follow her lead.

"I hope that this NAMI award and the publicity around it encourages more young individuals to get involved in mental health advocacy and activism as a whole," Abby says.

At the Jewish Community Center in Squirrel Hill, Abby is the founder of The Second Floor Teen Wellness Committee, a group formed to empower teens to educate peers about mental health. Additionally, she serves as a teen advisory council member for UpStreet, a teen drop-in therapy service through Pittsburgh Jewish Family and Community Services. Abby is also a student advocate with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation's Youth Advocacy Committee focused on teen mental health in Southwestern Pennsylvania. She helped design and implement the "Igniting A Youth Advocacy Movement" that focused on destigmatizing mental health, building safe and inclusive communities in schools, and increasing school resources for mental health services. She has also spearheaded two social justice symposiums that focused on the intersection of social equity, diversity, and inclusivity.



Abby is incredibly deserving of the award, says NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania Director of Education Susan Caban.

"To say that we were impressed and appreciative of Abby's mental health advocacy is an understatement. She really is an amazing young woman."

According to Deborah Murdoch, program manager for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, "Abby's warm and empathetic approach, as well as her openness about her experiences, creates an environment that is welcoming to teens of all backgrounds."

Abby received the award on February 5 as part of the NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania Child, Adolescent, and Transition Age Youth Mental Health Virtual Conference. She was presented with a \$500 scholarship and a commemorative plaque.

NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania is the state organization for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the largest grassroots mental health organization in the country. NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children, adolescents, adults, and families affected by mental illness through recovery-focused support, education, and advocacy.

"I hope that this NAMI award and the publicity around it encourages more young individuals to get involved in mental health advocacy and activism as a whole." – Abigail Rickin-Marks

EARLY GRADUATES CELEBRATE VIRTUALLY

A pandemic didn't stop Fox Chapel Area High School's first graduating class of 2021 from celebrating the momentous occasion January 14 with family, friends, faculty, and staff members.

"This is definitely a milestone like no other," Lead Principal Dr. Michael Hower told the class as part of the virtual celebration, during which he described the early graduates as a "special group of students." He pointed out that the early graduates had been able to navigate more roadblocks than they could count, specifically mentioning social distancing, masking, and the different instructional models.

Superintendent Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac expressed that the early graduates persevered while adapting to change and that she was very proud of each of them. She also urged the graduates to do their best to make the world a better place.

"You are well-prepared for your future, and we can't wait to see what you do," she told them.

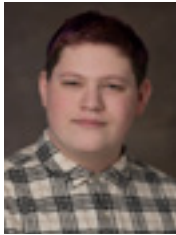
As part of the ceremony, Program Principal Dr. Daniel Lentz introduced the graduates, and each was able to share a favorite memory and future plans. Many plan to obtain college degrees, with some even starting college early; some will begin jobs; and a few will attend a trade school.

Dr. John McGee, a high school program principal, described the early graduates as being the "epitome of class and dignity" since they first entered the high school as freshmen, saying that is a credit to themselves and their families.

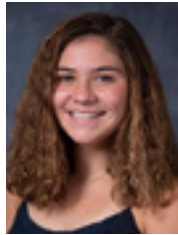
Perhaps early graduate Nataalka Harris summed it up perfectly when she said with a laugh, "Hopefully we'll get some precedented times around the corner!"



Alexis Austin



Isaiah Charapp



Jean Daniher



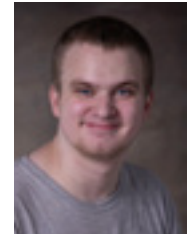
Noah Diamond



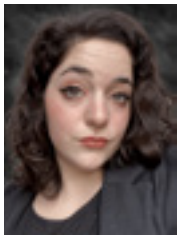
Robert Gillner



Richard Graciano



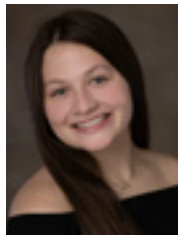
Matthew Gurtner



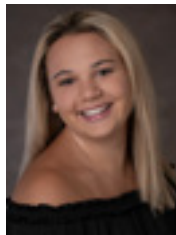
Fiona Hardie



Nataalka Harris



Hannah Humes



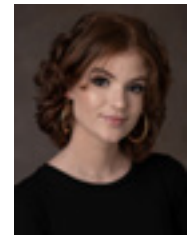
Madyson Kondel



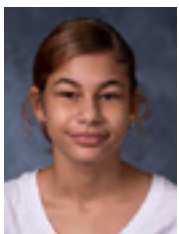
David Kronman



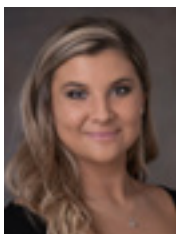
Evan Lyons



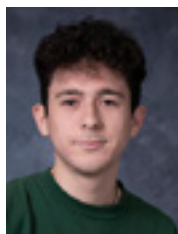
Grace McManus



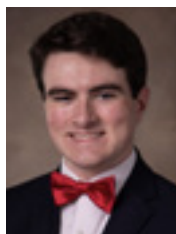
Nadia Neal



Jessica Orban



Javier Rodriguez



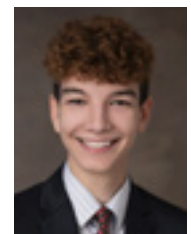
Hayden Rutkowski



Autumn Schaffer



Brianna Suranovich



Daniel Taimanov



Robert Tirk



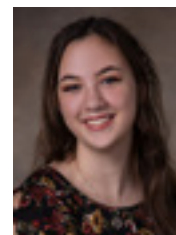
Jalen Toland



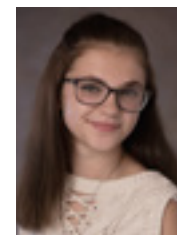
Jason Waltz



Cara Waxter



Jacalyn Wetmore



Sara Zdobinski



FCASD CELEBRATES SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH

Members of the Fox Chapel Area High School Student Government honored the Fox Chapel Area School Board as part of School Director Recognition Month in January.

Melina Bradley, a senior and the high school student body president, praised School Board members for giving of their time, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also told the Board members that their generosity and dedication is appreciated and that they serve as role models for the students.

“You have committed more hours than ever before to our students and community,” she said. “On top of an already crazy year, we admire your decision to take on the responsibility of the School Board as well. We greatly appreciate your continued devotion to making Fox Chapel a safer and better place for all of us.”

Student government vice president Nabeela Islam explained that the Board fosters the growth of students through the important work that its members carry out. She also pointed

out that the work of the Board creates an environment for students in which they are given the very best opportunities.

“We have watched you all make decisions that show your true devotion to your students and community,” Nabeela, a junior, said.

Student body secretary Nina Busch, a junior, said, “We can’t even begin to imagine how this year must have been significantly different and difficult to navigate for the School Board. We appreciate all the effort and want to show our appreciation for everything you do for Fox Chapel.”

The high school student government presented each Board member with a Fox Chapel Area sweatshirt and an engraved mug.

School Director Recognition Month is a program of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. The purpose is to recognize those who spend hours each month voluntarily leading schools and making difficult decisions on behalf of the students in their districts.



Dr. Edith Cook



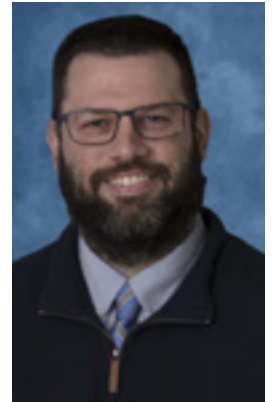
Amy Cooper



Marybeth Dadd



Ron Frank



Adam Goode



Eric Hamilton



Vanessa Lynch



Somer Obernauer Jr.



Dr. Dharmesh Vyas

SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING

The Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors held its annual reorganization meeting December 1, 2020. Marybeth Dadd was elected president, Ronald Frank was elected vice president, and Dr. Edith Cook was re-elected assistant secretary.

The Board will meet on the following dates in 2021:

- April 12 (Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting)
- May 3 (Agenda Study Session)
- May 10 (Regular Business Meeting)
- June 7 (Agenda Study Session)
- June 14 (Regular Business Meeting)
- August 2 (Agenda Study Session)
- August 9 (Regular Business Meeting)

- September 13 (Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting)
- October 4 (Agenda Study Session)
- October 11 (Regular Business Meeting)
- November 1 (Agenda Study Session)
- November 8 (Regular Business Meeting)
- December 6 (Reorganization Meeting and Combined Agenda Study Session & Regular Business Meeting)

The School Board's annual reorganization meeting will be held December 6, immediately before the combined meeting. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held either in the Fox Chapel Area High School large group instruction room, or via Zoom.

The other School Board members are Treasurer Eric Hamilton, Amy Cooper, Adam Goode, Vanessa Lynch, Somer Obernauer Jr., and Dr. Dharmesh Vyas.

Fox Chapel Area



June 14-18, 2021 • Fairview Elementary School

For a list of topics and to register, please visit
www.fcasd.edu/steamcamps



ELEMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS

Fairview's Love of Service Brightens Day at Care Homes

Among the endeavors of the Fairview Elementary School student government during the 2020-2021 school year was leading the creation of Valentine's Day cards for care home residents at Concordia of Fox Chapel and the Harmar Village Care Center. Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade student government members organized supplies for each homeroom, and on indoor recess days, students made cards with messages and drawings to bring smiles to residents who might not have been able to see their families on Valentine's Day due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A collection box was placed in the lobby at Fairview so that virtual students also



could participate in the project. Three boxes of cards were delivered to the care homes.

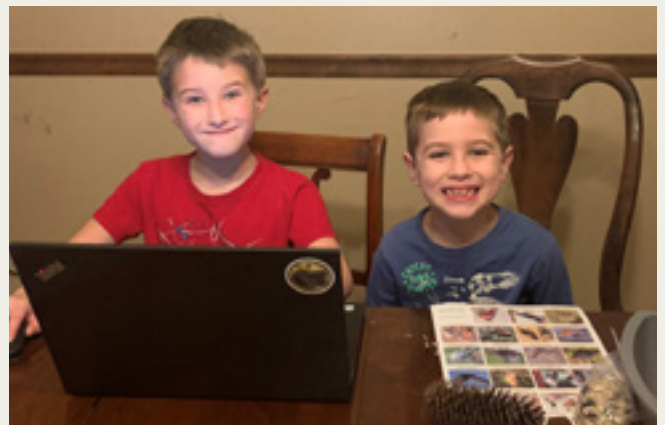
"I like that we can make people feel a little more hopeful and know that other people are thinking of them. It just feels good to do something to make other people smile," says fifth-grader Amalia Guttridge.

Kerr Goes to the Birds – the Winter Birds

Who says birding isn't a winter activity? That's the mindset of the Kerr PTO, which, in February, sponsored a virtual "Winter Birds" program conducted by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. The activity promoted participation in the "Great Backyard Bird Count," a family-friendly "citizen" science project that occurs every President's Day weekend, says Gabrielle Hughes, environmental educator for the Audubon Society. In addition to assembling pine cone bird feeder kits, organized and distributed by the Kerr PTO, students received a bird identification page, a bird tally sheet, information for a scavenger hunt, and a page with links to additional resources and bald eagle nest cameras in the region. "Miss Gabi" reviewed important qualities of a scientist with students and taught them how to collect data by observing qualities such as size, shape, markings, and behavior.

Watching birds does far more than teach observers about topics such as different species, behaviors, and life cycles, Ms. Hughes says.

"Birding also builds that connection to nature that research has shown is so important to mental well-being. Watching birds invites children of all ages to slow down, to focus, and observe. It rewards patience and allows us to practice mindfulness, all of which has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety levels," she says. "And watching the antics of your backyard blue jay is just a fun activity to share as a family."





STEAM Lessons Bring Skills to Light for O'Hara Kindergartners

STEAM classes don't just provide Fox Chapel Area's youngest learners lessons in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. They also foster students' collaboration and communication with their classmates, and allow them to engage in knowledge using the trial-and-error method. Kindergarten students at O'Hara Elementary School recently learned about circuitry – creating a closed simple circuit capable of illuminating

an LED bulb while working with their peers on troubleshooting tips.

"The opportunity for hands-on learning and sharing of ideas is essential for student learning and engagement," says Michelle Ulanowicz, kindergarten teacher at O'Hara. "Our youngest learners are excited to grow through exploration, and mastery of this content is high while nurturing skills that all students will apply in the real world."

Black History Month Takes on New Meanings, Fosters Collaborations at Hartwood

Traditional Black History Month celebrations at Hartwood Elementary School were made anew as some of the building's youngest learners worked with the oldest ones, and others analyzed key works by African Americans.

First-graders read "The Story of Ruby Bridges," about the first African-American child to integrate into a New Orleans school, and learned corresponding vocabulary words. They then presented their summaries to their fifth-grade schoolmates.

In third grade, students in Brianna Amoscato's class discussed "The Green Book," about Victor Hugo Green, a postal employee who realized the need for a book African Americans could use to safely travel around the United States from 1936-1966. For their culminating project, students were asked to choose one of five different "paths" and plan

a trip traveling from the South to the North utilizing the 1966 Green Book as a guide to creating the itinerary.

In order to set the foundation for the unit, the class discussed Jim Crow laws, segregation, and injustice. They also completed a timeline of important events in the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and analyzed poems, including "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes, "Blackbird" by the Beatles, and "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou. In addition, the students spent a week analyzing the words of Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and writing their own versions.

"If we aren't relearning the uncomfortable parts of history that many of us were never taught, we certainly are not helping our students become good citizens and change-makers," Mrs. Amoscato says.





SECONDARY HIGHLIGHTS

'Polar Pop' Brings New Twist to Special Olympics Fundraiser

Dorseyville Middle School students were bursting at the opportunity to fill the school's halls with confetti and raise money for a good cause. The school's Best Buddies program, which pairs students with peers who have developmental challenges, sponsored a "Polar Pop" in early March to benefit Special Olympics. In a spin on the "Polar Plunge" activity in which people jump into cold pools or bodies of water as a fundraiser, students instead paid a dollar to pop a confetti-filled balloon over their own heads, that of a classmate, or even a staff member.



Videos Bring Physical Education Classes Into Homes



Knowing that on any given day, they wouldn't be seeing some of their students because of COVID-19, a group of physical education/health teachers at Fox Chapel Area High School came up with a way to make sure everyone was still able to be active. Dave Battista, Todd Massack, and Mark Shemanski film themselves every week doing various workouts – and providing instructions on proper form and technique – and share the videos to their students' virtual classrooms.

"There's been too much sitting and too much screen time," Mr. Battista says. "We thought this was an opportunity for kids to take a break from both."

"We've received all positive feedback," Mr. Massack says. "A few students have referenced our workouts in their weekly physical education fitness journal assignments."

Students aren't the only ones benefiting from the weekly fitness workouts, however.

"Teachers have also been motivated to try the workout tips and have just become more motivated to move in general," Mr. Battista says.

Far-Out Lessons Connect DMS Students with NASA

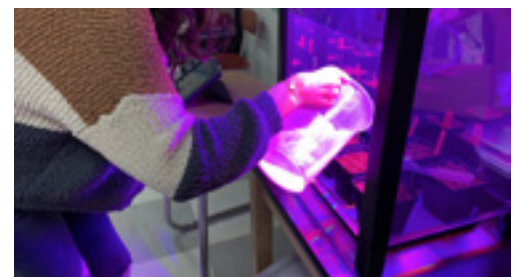
Talk about an out-of-this-world experience.

Research being done at Dorseyville Middle School is directly helping astronauts currently aboard the International Space Station. Through a partnership with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Florida and NASA, students in grades six through eight raised pepper plants during the fall and collected and reported data. Research is continuing during the spring as both in-person and virtual students test a fertilizer protocol for red romaine lettuce.

The plant experiments utilize equipment similar to NASA's Vegetable Production System and evolved out of NASA's efforts to develop technologies for growing food crops for long-duration missions into deep space, says Dorseyville Middle School gifted education teacher Mimi Loeffler.

"Growing Beyond Earth is a highly successful classroom-based citizen science research project," she says.

Experiments are currently in progress in more than 235 middle and high schools across the country.



High School Students Bring 'LOVE' to Aspinwall Riverfront Park

Aspinwall Riverfront Park just got a lot more LOVE-ly. Thanks to Fox Chapel Area High School students in technology education teacher Joe Gass' class, the park is displaying a large LOVE sign and two big painted hearts. The installation is the first of a series of public art initiatives that will be featured at the park this spring. The project is supported through the generosity of The Dave and Beth Short Family Foundation.

"So many kids enjoy taking pictures for Instagram at the park, we thought it would be fun to involve them in creating this public art for all to enjoy. And, in this challenging year

or so, our world could use more love and beauty," says Susan Crookston, Aspinwall Riverfront Park's founder and executive director.

The students designed the seven-and-a-half foot letters and two large hearts on the computer then cut them out using machinery in the high school's technology education classrooms.

Fox Chapel Area junior Emily Hook says, "I'm glad that I was able to help work on this project, and I hope seeing the sign will help brighten other people's day."

Park officials are collecting photos of individuals taken in front of the LOVE sign. To submit your images, email them to info@aspinwallriverfrontpark.org, or tag the park on Facebook or Instagram.



High School Students Host Virtual Hackathon

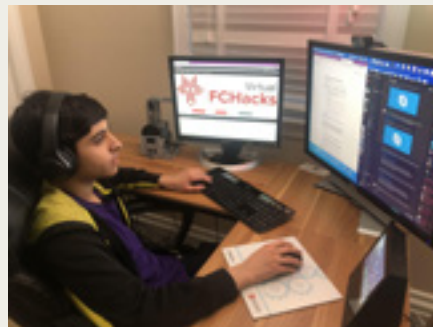
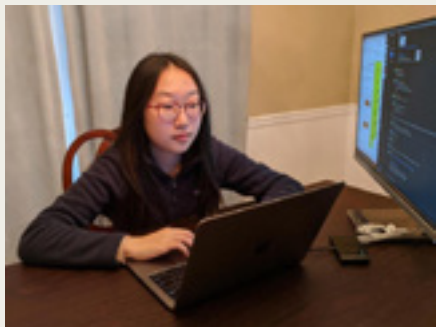
Three Fox Chapel Area High School students put Fox Chapel Area and the Pittsburgh community on the map in November. Students from around the world participated in the first-ever virtual hacking competition organized by a high school in Western Pennsylvania. FCHacks ran for 24 hours November 13 and 14. Because of COVID-19, lead organizer and high school senior Sanjay Seshan ran the global all-virtual event, along with his brother, sophomore Arvind Seshan, and junior Janise Kim, from their homes. They spent months preparing, including creating a website and organizing volunteers.

A total of 110 students from 11 countries participated. More than 22 volunteers from across the nation mentored the students and ran workshops. The theme of the event was Hacking Health Care, which was revealed only on the day of the event. Students were given 24 hours to come up with a

technology solution to a problem in health care, and several teams tackled COVID-related projects. Some students created websites that diagnosed illnesses and promoted social health. Others made apps to calculate BMI or provide exercise recommendations. Other teams focused on tracking eating habits.

Nearly \$1,000 in prizes were awarded, with the top honor going to a group of students from North Allegheny Senior High School. Their team, Segmentation Fault, created an app to help those with autism or schizophrenia recognize emotions in text messages.

The group's latest endeavor is a primary school hackathon that was held at the end of February called Jr. FCHacks. Traditionally, hackathons are held for older students, but this hackathon gave younger students the opportunity to both compete and learn coding skills.





2020 RETROSPECTIVE TELETHON RAISES MORE THAN \$16,400

Fox Chapel Area School District students held their 31st annual telethon December 20, raising more than \$16,400. This brings the money raised by Fox Chapel Area students and staff to more than \$918,383 for various local and regional charities.

The telethon raised money for the Sharpsburg Community Library and involved students and staff from all six schools in the district. It was planned and produced by the Fox Chapel Area High School Student Government and the digital media production students at the high school.

The 2020 telethon included a retrospective in celebration of the 31st year and featured alumni and a special look back at the last 30 years of the traditional annual event. It was streamed on the Swift Fox Media YouTube Channel and can be watched any time.

Fundraising, which was done virtually, included a fox ornament sale, a virtual 5K, basket raffles, and a Zoup! restaurant fundraiser.



FCASD is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube!

Visit us at

- Facebook – facebook.com/foxchapelarea
- Twitter – @FCASD
- Instagram – foxchapelareasd
- YouTube: youtube.com/user/fcasdweb

#FCProud

MANELIS BRINGS HOME 2ND WPIAL GOLD

Watching David Manelis dive is a powerful, yet beautiful experience. The height he gets on his takeoffs is twice that of his peers, and his picture-perfect form and major attention to every detail have combined to make him the most dominant diver in WPIAL Class 3A – twice. David recently won his second consecutive WPIAL gold medal at the 2020-2021 diving championships with a final 11-dive score of 571.75 points, nearly 50 points higher than he scored last year. Additionally, he stood 122.30 points higher than his closest competitor, as compared to

last season when he beat the silver medalist by 100 points.

Due to the pandemic, the field of qualifiers going to states was sharply shaved, and only the champions from each district in Pennsylvania qualified for the PIAA competition.

“I’m happy and proud of my performance,” says David, who will dive at West Point next season. “This morning, I was a little nervous going into it, but when I got there, I felt a lot more relaxed. It felt really great to win, for both myself and (coach) Vernon (Yenick).”

Coach Yenick expects a lot out of his star pupil because he knows what he is capable of. He says, “When I first started coaching David when he was 10 or 12, I knew right away he was going to be a champion. His rise to where he is today was incredibly quick. He is a great athlete, and whatever he puts his mind to doing, he will be great. David makes everything he does look easy, but it isn’t easy at all. Today, he performed incredibly well, but I think there is an even better performance ahead of him at states.”

The diver and his coach agree that his best dive at the WPIAL championships was his forward 1½ somersault with two twists. The judges gave him his highest marks of the day on that dive, and he scored a total of 67.6 points. His second highest score was his inward 1½



somersault in pike position for which he earned 60 points.

Coach Yenick says he may be getting ahead of himself, but, in his eyes, David can be an Olympic diver. “He’s a very disciplined person and, even more than that, he is extremely talented. I’m sure that he will continue to develop and become even better at West Point. They have a great program.”

As for his WPIAL experiences, David says as it was getting toward the end of the meet, it really started to sink in that this was his last-ever WPIAL meet.

“Diving has been such a big part of high school and my life,” says David. “When looking back, I can see how I’ve really matured and progressed from my first year on the team. It’s been exciting.”

Fox Chapel Area also had two other divers qualify for WPIALs – seniors Aidan Ireland and first-year diver Tristan Vettier. Both advanced to the semifinals, and Aidan advanced to the finals, where he placed eighth.

The PIAA Class 3A diving championships were held March 13 at Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Results for the PIAA diving championships were not available at deadline.





SWIM/DIVE TEAMS WIN SECTIONS

First for Boys in 30 Years

It was long overdue. The Foxes boys' swimming program captured its first section championship in 30 years after it squarely defeated North Catholic High School in its last meet of the regular season. The celebration was twice as nice because it was the first time on record that both the boys and girls teams won their titles simultaneously. This was the girls' second consecutive section title. Both teams were undefeated with records of 8-0.

"I'm proud of the kids because they had a tough year (from practice interruptions due to the pandemic), but they have a great work ethic and really stepped it up," says Coach Dan Taylor. "Both the boys and girls teams will continue to get even stronger and faster in the coming years."

The teams have been playing catch-up by training seven days a week for a good part of the season, with the seventh practice being optional. Still, nearly everyone attends, which is a demonstration of how much the swimmers had their hearts set on gold this season.

"It felt amazing to win the section, especially with this group of boys," says junior Nate Ross. "I'm really proud of how hard we worked and how it all paid off. This group of guys was different than any other I've swam with in the past. We knew we were good, and we knew we had a chance to win. Every single day we came to practice and gave it all we got."

Girls junior co-captain Rei Sperry adds, "Winning the section, especially two years in a row, is extremely fulfilling for the girls team. We have all worked so hard at every practice and during our dryland (practices), and knowing it made a difference is powerful."

There were a number of highlights during the 2020-2021 season, including:

- The girls 200 free relay and the 400 free relay teams, consisting of senior Vivian Shao, junior Rei Sperry, and sophomores Talia Bugel and Sophie Shao, broke a pool record.
- Individually, Sophie Shao broke the pool record in the 200 IM.
- 2020 state champion Sophie Shao was ranked first in the 100 butterfly and the 200 IM.
- Senior David Manelis (a two-year WPIAL Class 3A diving champion) topped the leaderboard in boys diving all season.

It was tougher than ever to get to the WPIAL Class 3A tournament than in years' past, because the number of qualifiers was changed this season due to COVID-19. Only the top 12 relay teams and top 16 individuals in each event qualified. Six Fox Chapel Area girls swimmers, seven boys swimmers, and three boys divers qualified for the WPIAL Class 3A championships.

Coach Taylor commends his swimmers for a job well done this season.

He says, "Every swimmer on our teams did exactly what we had to do. We got the job done with every race, and because of the teams' efforts, we succeeded. The boys team has more qualifiers and better seeds going into WPIALs than we've had in quite a while. I'm not at all surprised by the girls standings, and, together, this is probably the most qualifiers we've had in the last three years."

Results for the WPIAL and PLAA swimming championships were not available at deadline.

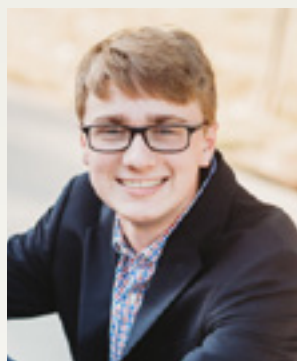


Fox Chapel Area High School varsity swimming and diving team.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES SET GOLD STANDARD

Scholar-athletes Ryan Kenyon and Vivian Shao have a lot in common. Both students are wrapping up their senior years with a long list of accomplishments that extend from the classroom, to athletics, to volunteering, and more. One of the most recent and impressive achievements Ryan and Vivian share is that both were named candidates in the 2021 United States Presidential Scholars Program, one of the country's highest honors bestowed upon graduating seniors. In order to be named a candidate, students are evaluated on their academic records, character, leadership, and service activities.

Ryan Kenyon



Ryan's accomplishments span many fields – academics, writing, music, athletics, and volunteerism. Yet, he thinks of himself as a normal teenager. However, that's just not true.

The student-athlete tries to downplay his accolades, but his academic prowess speaks for itself. Ryan scored a perfect superscore on his SATs, is a National Merit Finalist, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He also plays the viola in the school's orchestra.

Ryan has also tackled a hefty load of advanced placement (AP) classes and is an AP Scholar with Distinction. Next year, as a college freshman,

Ryan plans to tackle a double major in math and biology.

This year, however, in what Ryan calls "a really tough decision," he decided to skip swimming for the Foxes, something he has done for the past three years, and concentrate on running in his senior year. He is a four-year member of the cross-country and track and field teams, and recently joined the winter indoor track team.

"Ryan brings a lot of positivity to each practice. Whatever Ryan is involved in, he puts everything toward it. He gives his all at each practice and through each season," says cross country and track coach Tom Moul. "I have also taught Ryan in three physics classes, two of them were AP classes, and, as a student, he's the same way in the classroom. One of his best strengths is his curiosity and willingness to embrace hard problems in class, and hard workouts in cross country and track."

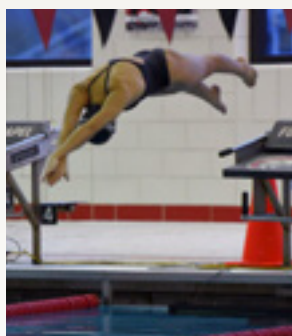
Perhaps ironically, it's not academics or sports that Ryan considers as his most important accomplishment. That distinction goes to the volunteering he does for Second Harvest, and, where he has placed most of his time – UPMC St. Margaret.

"The coolest thing is interacting with patients," says Ryan, who is considering a health care career. "I started looking at each patient as a chance to make someone smile."

Vivian Shao



Throughout her four years of high school, and even before that, Vivian has been a prodigious role model. She had a perfect score on her ACT tests in all sections and also a perfect score on her SAT subject tests. Vivian has taken as many AP classes as she could. In affirmation of the high priority Vivian places on academics, she got perfect scores on eight out of nine AP tests, which certified her as a National AP Scholar, the highest award that can be bestowed to an AP student by the College Board. Vivian also has been recognized as a Carson Scholar, a scholarship based on academics and humanitarianism, and is a Coca-Cola Scholars Semifinalist.



In addition to serving as the 2020-2021 president of the school's National Honor Society, she is a member of Future Business Leaders of America and qualified for the state competition in economics with a first-place regional finish. She has also been very active for the last four years and has a leadership role in the Girls of Steel Robotics Club through Carnegie Mellon University. Additionally, for two years, she has been a volunteer at UPMC St. Margaret, and has also served more than 350 hours at the Veterans Affairs medical center in O'Hara Township. Her interest in computers led her to complete two internships at local start-ups, during which she gained valuable experience as a software developer.

Vivian is also an accomplished swimmer for the Foxes as a four-year varsity letter earner. Her 200 medley relay team has broken school and pool records, and her 200 and 400 free relay teams also broke pool records. A key contributor to the relays, Vivian and her teammates have qualified for the WPIAL Class 3A championships for three years.

With regard to the Presidential Scholars Program recognition, Vivian says, "I viewed it as something that showed my efforts are turning out to be the right thing to do."



FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-2021 FACTS & FIGURES

2020-2021 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (K-GRADE 5)

Fairview Elementary School	401
Hartwood Elementary School	374
Kerr Elementary School	399
O'Hara Elementary School	680
Total Elementary Enrollment	1,854

SECONDARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 6-12)

Dorseyville Middle School (6-8)	947
Fox Chapel Area High School (9-12)	1,306
Total Secondary Enrollment	2,253
Total District Enrollment	4,107

CLASS OF 2020

The total number of graduates in the Fox Chapel Area High School Class of 2020 was 339. The percentages of 2020 graduates entering some type of postsecondary education were as follows:

Four-Year Colleges	233 or 69%
Two-Year Colleges/Other	38 or 11%
Total Continuing Education	271 or 80%

AVERAGE SAT SCORES

	Evidence-Based		
	Reading & Writing	Math	
Class of 2020	617	619	
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

A total of 255 members (75%) of the Class of 2020 took the SAT during their junior or senior year. The national average scores for all 2020 graduates taking the test were 531 in evidence-based reading and writing and 528 in math.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF STATISTICS

NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Elementary	170
Secondary	187
Total	357

MASTER'S OR DOCTORATE DEGREE OR EQUIVALENT

Elementary	74%
Secondary	81%

AVERAGE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Elementary	16 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 29,000 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

2021-2022 Fox Chapel Area School District Calendar

August 2021				
2	3	4	5	6
		<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>I</i>
9	10	11	12	13
<i>P</i>	<i>FC</i>	<i>P/C</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>
16	17	18	19	20
<i>FC</i>				(4)
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

September 2021				
		1	2	(9)
<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>			(12)
6	7	8	9	10
			<i>X</i>	(16)
13	14	15	16	17
				(21)
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

October 2021				
				(26)
				1
				(31)
4	5	6	7	8
		<i>E/+</i>		(36)
11	12	13	14	15
				<i>E/C</i> (41)
18	19	20	21	22
				<i>R</i> (46)
25	26	27	28	29

November 2021				
<i>E/CONF</i>	<i>CONF/+</i>			(50)
1	2	3	4	5
				(55)
8	9	10	11	12
				(60)
15	16	17	18	19
		<i>E/+</i> (63)	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>
22	23	24	25	26
<i>X</i>				
29	30			

December 2021				
		1	2	(67)
				(72)
6	7	8	9	10
				(77)
13	14	15	16	17
			(81)	<i>X</i>
20	21	22	23	24
<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>
27	28	29	30	31

January 2022				
				(86)
3	4	5	6	7
			(90)	<i>FC</i>
10	11	12	13	14
<i>P</i>				<i>R</i> (94)
17	18	19	20	21
				(99)
24	25	26	27	28
31				

February 2022				
	1	2	3	(104)
				(109)
7	8	9	10	11
				(114)
14	15	16	17	18
<i>X/M</i>				(118)
21	22	23	24	25
28				

March 2022				
	1	2	3	(123)
				(128)
7	8	9	10	11
				<i>E/C</i> (133)
14	15	16	17	18
				<i>R</i> (138)
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

April 2022				
				(143)
				1
				<i>E</i> (148)
4	5	6	7	8
<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>X</i>
11	12	13	14	15
				(153)
18	19	20	21	22
				(158)
25	26	27	28	29

May 2022				
				(163)
2	3	4	5	6
				(168)
9	10	11	12	13
				(173)
16	17	18	19	20
				(178)
23	24	25	26	27
<i>X</i>				
30	31			

June 2022				
		<i>K/E</i>		<i>E/C</i> (182)
		1	2	3
<i>FC</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P/C</i>	<i>R</i>
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

1st Grading Period – October 22 – 41 days
2nd Grading Period – January 13 – 49 days
3rd Grading Period – March 18 – 43 days
4th Grading Period – June 3 – 49 days

November 1 – Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Parent Teacher Conference Day
November 2 – Parent Teacher Conference Day (No School for Students)

June 3 – Last Day for Students = 182 Days
(unless makeup days are required)

June 9 – Last Day for Professional Staff = 195 Days
(unless makeup days are required)

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 Kennywood Day (Tentative)
R Report Cards Available
M Makeup Day (if Necessary)

First Semester	
8/11-13	New Teacher Induction Days
8/16,	
19 & 20	Professional Development Days
8/17 & 23	Full Clerical Days
8/18	Professional Development/Clerical Day
8/24	First Day for Students
9/6	Labor Day
9/7 & 16	Fall Break
10/13	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
10/22	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
11/1	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Parent Teacher Conference Day
11/2	Parent Teacher Conference Day
11/24	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
11/25-29	Thanksgiving Break
12/24-31	Winter Break

Second Semester	
1/14	Full Clerical Day
1/17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day & Professional Development Day
2/21	Presidents' Day or Makeup Day
3/18	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
4/8	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal
4/11-15	Spring Break
5/30	Memorial Day
6/1	Kennywood Day (Tentative) & Early Dismissal
6/3	Last Day for Students
	Elem/Sec Early Dismissal & Clerical Day
6/5	Commencement
6/6	Full Clerical Day
6/7 & 8	Professional Development Days
6/9	Professional Development/Clerical Day

April 25-May 13 shaded areas indicate PSSA testing windows. January 3-14 and May 16-27 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 21, 2022, and then added on to the end of the school year, beginning June 6, 2022. Please consult building and website calendars 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: Mary Catherine Reljac, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent: David McCommons, Ed.D.
Business Manager: Kimberly Pawlishak

District Resource Staff

Executive Director of Elementary Education and Instruction: Ashley Constantine, Ed.D.
Executive Director of Secondary Education and Instruction: Matthew Harris, Ed.D.
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services: Timothy Mahoney
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
Chief of School Police/School Safety and Security Coordinator: Joseph Kozarian
Director of Athletics: Michael O'Brien
Coordinator of Communications: Bonnie Berzonski
Community Engagement Specialist: Jill Leonard

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOLS

Fairview Elementary School

738 Dorseyville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
412/963-9315
Principal: 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
Program Principal: Dana Simile

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.fcasdathletics.org.

FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL BOARD

Edith L. Cook, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary (2021 – Region III); Amy B. Cooper (2021 – Region I); Marybeth Dadd, President (2023 – Region III); Ronald P. Frank, Vice President (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. (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