2017-2018 Fox Chapel Area School District State of the Schools
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Proactive Plan to Protect Students and Staff

The district has implemented a Proactive Plan to Protect Students and Staff, which includes:

- **Raptor Visitor System**: Screens driver's licenses for criminal records and ensures visitor safety.
- **Locked Lobby Area**: Visitors are greeted by staff and must sign in.
- **Staff Training**: Staff members have received safety training, and there have been safety drills held at each school.
- **Police Forces**: The school police force will work in cooperation with the local municipal police forces.
- **Safety Coordinator**: The officers will be under the direction of the new safety and security coordinator and will work in cooperation with the local municipal police forces.

In an effort to ensure safety, the district has implemented the following:

- **Keystone Exam Results**: Students scored well above state averages in all three subject areas.
- **SAT Scores**: Students from Fox Chapel Area High School continue to outscore other students in the state and globally.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses**: The high school offered 26 AP courses during the 2017-2018 school year, and 68.2% of Pennsylvania AP students scored 3 or higher.
- **Language Immersion Program**: A new Language Immersion Program will be open to students across the district. The program in which classes will be primarily taught in Spanish will start at the new Kerr Elementary School in the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Keystone Exam Results**: State and national SAT mean scores were not available for 2018 at press time.
- **Fox Chapel Area High School 2018 AP Test Results**: The table below shows the total number of students who took AP exams, as well as the number who scored 3 or higher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>Total AP Tests Taken</th>
<th>Tests Scored 3+</th>
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<td>Math</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The plan is for these students to continue the Spanish Immersion program in which classes will be primarily taught in Spanish.

**Student Awards and Achievements**

- **Sixteen high school seniors were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program.**
- **Three seniors were named 2018 National Merit Finalists including Albert Liu.**
- **Melanie Pivonka was recognized by the Pennsylvania Governor’s Science Awards Program.**
- **Rahul Sethy was recognized by the Pennsylvania Governor’s Science Awards Program.**
- **Three seniors were named 2018 National Merit Finalists including Veronica Mascilli.**
- **Rahul Sethy was recognized by the Pennsylvania Governor’s Science Awards Program.**
- **Summer Learning**: The district has demonstrated a commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its students to use the power of digital media to explore, create, connect, communicate, think critically, and work as collaborators.
- **Common Sense District Award**: The district has been recognized as a Common Sense District for the 2017-2018 school year.
- **STEM Competition**: Sanjay’s project, “Keeping Our Heads Above Water: Early Detection of Stress in Buried Water Pipes,” was inspired from a previous assignment in AP Physics C. Sanjay works well with others and enjoys solving complex problems.

**Concluding Remarks**

The Kerr community has come together to break ground for the new Kerr Elementary School. The new building is expected to be completed in 2019. The Kerr community is excited about the new school and looks forward to the future.
Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

I was pleasantly surprised to find out that Pittsburgh Magazine named Fox Chapel Area School District as the top-ranked suburban district – but not really surprised. Our School Board, administrators, staff, and especially our students, with the support of the entire community, have maintained a tradition of high performance for many years. Once again, our district has demonstrated improvement in student achievement, and we are being recognized for our results.

• Fox Chapel Area has improved in the Pittsburgh Business Times annual rankings of schools. In 2018, the district is fourth among Western Pennsylvania public school districts, and eighth in the state on the list. Our third graders, districtwide, are ranked first in Western Pennsylvania.

• Our PSSA and Keystone Exam proficiency results have continued to improve every year since 2014-2015 when the Pennsylvania Core became the new standard. Our use of STAR benchmarking, which assesses each student’s individual learning needs on a regular basis so that teachers can better guide their instruction, has proven to work in improving student growth and outcomes incrementally since we began using it in 2015. Other school districts are taking notice of our success and both local and statewide districts are following our lead and implementing benchmarking. Benchmarking works because it is an ongoing process of assessing student needs and allows teachers to plan and tailor instruction that meets individual learners at their own academic levels.

Of course, we have set a goal to continue to grow and improve every year, and 2018-2019 will be another exciting year.

We started the school year with the groundbreaking on the new Kerr Elementary School. While we are building on the same site as the current Kerr and will continue the same nurturing culture and traditions that were a hallmark of that historic school, our new school will feature some exciting spaces that will enhance learning.

• The Spanish Immersion program that will be offered to one class per grade level, beginning with our pilot program next year that will include first graders who will be drawn from throughout the district;
• A full-day preschool for four-year-olds to better prepare them for kindergarten; and
• A collaboratory area that will feature innovative learning spaces where students will gather to work on projects, conduct research, collaborate, and plan – skills so necessary for their future endeavors.

As you look at the pages of what students and staff accomplished last year, I hope that you will also join me in looking at what the future holds. Although the goals of the Kerr construction process are easy to see, there are many other projects and goals that are “under construction” at every grade level. I assure you that we have the tools to achieve even higher goals for our students!

Sincerely,

Gene Freeman, Ed.D.
Superintendent
The Fox Chapel Area School District was named by Pittsburgh Magazine® as the top-ranking school district in the suburbs in its “Ranking Pittsburgh’s Suburbs: Which Has the Best Schools?” The rankings were based on five criteria from the 2017-2018 school year: average SAT math and reading scores, the number of Advanced Placement courses offered, the presence or absence of full-day kindergarten, and the school real estate tax millage.

The district has climbed in the annual Pittsburgh Business Times rankings published in the spring of 2018. The district, as a whole, was ranked number four in 2018 among Western Pennsylvania school districts, up from number 17 in 2017. In the state honor roll rank, the district also moved up from number 13 to number eight. The third graders, districtwide, went from being number three in 2017 to being number one in 2018 in Western Pennsylvania. Additionally, among Western Pennsylvania school districts, the 11th graders held steady at number three, the eighth graders went from number seven to number five, the seventh graders went from number six to number four, the sixth graders held steady at number 10, the fifth graders went from number five to number three, and the fourth graders went from number five to number four. In the two-year gain rank category among Western Pennsylvania school districts, Fox Chapel Area went from number six in 2017 to number three in 2018. The rankings are based on the last three years of results from the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and Keystone Exams.

For the ninth year, Fox Chapel Area High School received a Silver Medal rank from U.S. News & World Report.

Alison Francis, facilitator of the district’s Creativity and Literacy Program, was named a grand-prize winner in The Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation Teacher Innovator Awards and received a week-long “Innovation Immersion Experience” at the Henry Ford Museum in Michigan. Mrs. Francis was one of 10 grand-prize winners from across the nation, and the only winner from Pennsylvania, in the contest that recognizes America’s most innovative teachers.
• Sixteen high school seniors were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Three seniors were named 2018 National Merit Finalists including Albert Liu, Elizabeth Mountz, and Jordan Taxay. Additionally, 13 seniors were named Commended Students in the program including Emilia Bianchini, Christopher Bonavita, Emelyn Broniek, Theodore Faucher, Nicholas Fennell, Wonho Kang, Shania Khatri, Jacob Klein, Margaret Lazzara, Adam Mattioli, Rebekah Polcyn, Lucy Stone, and Jorgen Wu.

• High school freshman Sanjay Seshan was selected as one of 30 finalists in the 2017 Broadcom MASTERS®, the nation’s premier and most prestigious STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) competition for middle school students. Sanjay’s project, “Keeping Our Heads Above Water: Early Detection of Stress in Buried Water Pipes,” was inspired from a trip to a poor area in India, where he saw that the drinking water system was basically “one community pipe and leaking water everywhere.” Sanjay traveled to Washington, D.C., in October for the nationwide competition that tested participants’ abilities in STEM, critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration.

• Freshman Sanjay Seshan and Dorseyville Middle School seventh grader Arvind Seshan received the Champion’s Award at World Festival held in Detroit at a 2018 FIRST LEGO League international tournament. The Seshan brothers competed against 108 teams from 90 countries at the international level who were selected out of 35,226 teams from around the world. The teams were challenged to research and design robots that improve the human water cycle.

• The Pittsburgh Business Times ranked Fox Chapel Area High School number one in Allegheny County based on 2017 ACT scores and number two in Allegheny County for the 2017 SAT scores. The students were number five in the state for their ACT scores, and number 11 in the state for their SAT scores.

• Common Sense Media, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children and families thrive in a world of digital media and technology, recognized Fox Chapel Area as a Common Sense District for the 2017-2018 school year. The award recognizes that the district has demonstrated a commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its students to use the power of digital media to explore, create, connect, and learn, while limiting the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying. The recognition also acknowledged the district’s commitment to creating a culture of digital learning and citizenship.
Construction Begins on New Kerr School

The Kerr community came together to break ground for the new Kerr Elementary School July 10, 2018. The new building is being constructed on the same property as the current Kerr School on the lower field (the current playground).

In his opening remarks, Superintendent Gene Freeman, Ed.D., described the groundbreaking as a “grand occasion.” Special guests included Kerr Elementary School rising fifth grader Sophia Jacobs and incoming kindergartner Veronica Mascilli, along with Kerr alum John A. Meinert. Mr. Meinert, who still lives on his family farm about a mile from Kerr School, expressed that he was looking forward to the transition from the old to the new. He and his wife sent their eight children to Kerr, and eight of their grandchildren also attended there. They anticipate that a fourth generation of Meinert children will be attending school at the new Kerr.

The new construction will provide critical updates to Kerr and will include several innovative features. Centrally located in the new building will be a collaboratory space that includes a large area where students will gather to work on projects, conduct research, collaborate, and plan. There will be a makerspace, a SMALLab learning space, and a computer science robotics lab, in addition to a traditional library. The new Kerr will include space for a language immersion program in which classes will be primarily taught in Spanish and will be open to students across the district. There will also be space for a prekindergarten classroom, along with the Creativity and Literacy Program.

Construction will continue throughout the 2018-2019 school year and is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2019. It is anticipated the cost of the new Kerr Elementary School will be approximately $21 million.
Proactive Plan to Protect Students and Staff

School safety was front and center as a priority in the district. The administration and staff conducted a communitywide meeting for parents and residents regarding safety in April. In an effort to ensure safety, the district has implemented the following:

• There is a safety plan that has been approved by the district and endorsed by local police departments. Staff members have received safety training, and there were safety drills held at each of the school buildings. Students also participated in age-appropriate safety training.

• School resource officers continued to be assigned to the high school and middle school and also spent time at each of the elementary schools. The Board of School Directors has hired a safety and security coordinator who will oversee the creation of a school police force. The plan is to hire four additional police officers during the 2018-2019 school year who will cover each of the schools. The school police force will be under the direction of the new safety and security coordinator and will work in cooperation with the local municipal police forces in the district. The officers will be armed and will be retired federal agents or state, municipal, or military police officers or sheriffs.

• Hartwood Elementary School was upgraded with a new secure vestibule. Each of the six schools has a locked lobby area where visitors are greeted by a staff member and must sign in before gaining entrance to the school. The district has also purchased a subscription to the Raptor visitor system that screens driver’s licenses of visitors for criminal records and this new protocol will be implemented during the 2019-2020 school year.

• The district established confidential telephone, email, and website tip lines so that students and parents can report safety issues.

• The district stresses the importance of relationships related to school safety. Safety nets are in place for students who may be struggling with social or emotional issues.

• All parent volunteers are required to have clearances.

Language Immersion Program

Demographic trends indicate that in 25 years, English will no longer be the dominate language in America. Students entering the workforce will have a definite advantage if they are fluent in a second language in areas such as business, technology, medicine, education, and law. Not only that, research has shown that children who are bilingual exhibit higher cognitive ability and executive functioning skills as they mature.

Language immersion programs are beginning to pop up in schools across the country. During the 2017-2018 school year, Fox Chapel Area School District made the decision to create a Spanish Immersion pilot program that will be open to 25 incoming first graders selected from all four elementary schools beginning in the 2019-2020 school year at the new Kerr Elementary School. The students will spend the majority of their school day listening, speaking, and learning core subjects in Spanish. The plan is for these students to continue the Spanish Immersion program throughout elementary school. The program is the first of its kind in Western Pennsylvania.

In preparation for the new program, district staff members have been choosing curriculum in Spanish that matches Fox Chapel Area’s traditional elementary curriculum, and the students will be taught by highly-qualified teachers who are fluent in Spanish. Beginning last spring and continuing during the 2018-2019 school year, staff members are sharing the message about the value of young students learning a new language to parents and community members throughout the district.
Student Achievement

The overall Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) scores for Fox Chapel Area School District students have risen incrementally over the past four years. The PSSA was first aligned with the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards in 2015. The same year, the district began to use a comprehensive student-benchmarking and response-to-data process, STAR Benchmarking, in kindergarten through grade 11 in math and English Language Arts (ELA). Students are assessed several times a year to identify each student’s strengths and areas that need improvement. The district uses Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) benchmarking assessments for science. Through these benchmarking processes, teachers have guided their instruction to improve student achievement outcomes in ELA, math, and science.

In addition to student-benchmarking, the district has realigned the curriculum to better meet the Pennsylvania Core Standards. Teachers have received extensive training in how to take the data from the benchmark assessments to better address student learning needs.

Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments administered in Algebra I, literature, and biology. Fox Chapel Area students have also shown improvement in Keystone results each year as well.

The following pages are an overview of not just the 2018 student achievement results, but a comparison since 2015.
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### Elementary PSSA Results Comparison by Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<td>58.3%</td>
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*Percent scoring advanced and proficient; ELA = English Language Arts

### Middle School PSSA Results Comparison

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*Percent scoring advanced and proficient; ELA = English Language Arts

### District Elementary 2015-2018 PSSA Math/ELA/Science Scores Comparison

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<th>2016</th>
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<td>4th Grade Science*</td>
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<td>5th Grade Math</td>
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<td>5th Grade ELA</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>83.8%</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
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*Percent scoring advanced and proficient; ELA = English Language Arts

### Middle School 2015-2018 PSSA Math/ELA/Science Scores Comparison

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<td>8th Grade Science*</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
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</table>

*Percent scoring advanced and proficient; ELA = English Language Arts

- The PSSA ELA assessment encompasses reading, writing, and language arts.
- Students in grades three-eight take the ELA and math assessments.
- Students in grades four and eight also take a science assessment.
- Students are rated as Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic based on their display of grade-level skills. Fox Chapel Area students always score above the state averages.

Continued on next page
### Elementary Percent in Each Performance Level in Math

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<thead>
<tr>
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### Elementary Percent in Each Performance Level in English Language Arts

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### Elementary Percent in Each Performance Level in Science

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<th>20</th>
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<td>63</td>
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### DMS Percent in Each Performance Level in Math

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
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<th>70</th>
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### DMS Percent in Each Performance Level in English Language Arts

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<th>Grade</th>
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<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
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<th>50</th>
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<th>70</th>
<th>80</th>
<th>90</th>
<th>100</th>
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<td>2017</td>
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### DMS Percent in Each Performance Level in Science

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<thead>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>%</th>
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<th>30</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>50</th>
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**2018 Senior Year SAT Mean Scores**

Fox Chapel Area

**ERW**

- Evidence-Based Reading & Writing
- Math

A total of 270 members (78 percent) of the 345 students in the Class of 2018 took the SAT during their junior or senior year. Fox Chapel Area High School students have outscored the state and nation on the SAT in all subject areas for many years. State and national SAT mean scores were not available for 2018 at press time.

**Fox Chapel Area High School 2018 AP Test Results**

- Total AP Students: 336
- Total AP Tests Taken: 690
- Tests Scored 3+: 314

The high school offered 26 Advanced Placement (AP) courses during the 2017-2018 school year and many students take multiple courses. Success on an AP exam is defined as a score of 3 or higher which represents the score point that research finds predictive of college success and college graduation. More than 93 percent of Fox Chapel Area students scored 3 or higher. In 2018, 68.2 percent of Pennsylvania AP students scored 3 or higher, and, globally, 61.3 percent scored three or higher. Fox Chapel Area students continue to outscore other students in the state and globally.

**Keystone Exams**

End-of-course assessments administered at various grade levels and the results are banked until the students' junior year for accountability purposes. Fox Chapel Area students continue to score well above state averages in all three subject areas assessed.
### High School Keystone Exam Results Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School (Grade 11)</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Biology</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>88.0%</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>89.0%</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

% = Percent scoring advanced and proficient

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments administered at various grade levels and the results are banked until the students’ junior year for accountability purposes. Fox Chapel Area students continue to score well above state averages in all three subject areas assessed.

### 2018 Senior Year SAT Mean Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fox Chapel Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERW</td>
<td>604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ERW = Evidence-Based Reading & Writing

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### Fox Chapel Area High School 2018 AP Test Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total AP Students</th>
<th>Total AP Tests Taken</th>
<th>Tests Scored 3+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>336</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Student Awards and Achievements

- A total of 140 Fox Chapel Area High School students were named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board for demonstrating college-level achievement on the AP examinations taken in May 2018. Seniors Mia Jamiolekowksi, Elizabeth Kauma, Julia Kissling, Braddock Lalor, Albert Liu, Elizabeth Mountz, Andreas Paljug, Rebekah Polcyn, Jeffrey Savin, Jordan Taxay, Bridget Wang, and Jorgen Wu and juniors Vaishavi Agrawal and Arnav Gupta qualified for the National AP Scholar award by earning an average score of 4 or higher on all AP exams taken, and scores of four or higher on eight or more AP exams.

- Fox Chapel Area High School earned the Gold Level of the Governor’s Civic Engagement Award. The award recognizes the efforts of the next generation of leaders to educate, engage, and inform their fellow students about how to get involved in the voting process. Specifically, through the leadership of their peers, 85.3 percent of Fox Chapel Area eligible seniors registered to vote this year.

- A team of Dorseyville Middle School sixth grade students placed first in the elementary division of the 3-2-1 Questions Unlimited National Quiz Bowl. The team included Jack Cannon, Adam Ferris, Katherine Haas, Benjamin Myers, Eric Pil, Adhitya Thirumala, and Abraham White. Teams from across the nation answered questions online in the academic competition that includes history, geography, math, art, music, science, and technology.

- The high school’s 2016-2017 literary arts magazine “Tapestry” was named a first-place winner in the 2017 American Scholastic Press Association’s Annual Contest/Review for Scholastic Yearbooks, Magazines and Newspapers. Additionally, sophomore Anzu Sekikawa received recognition for “Outstanding Art” for her artwork entitled “Japanese Dream.”

- High school senior Alessia Fontecchio was named a first-place winner in the 2018 Civics Essay and Video Contest. The topic was the 14th Amendment – 150 Years Later. Alessia won for her video and was invited to receive her award in Washington, D.C.

- Fox Chapel Area High School seniors Alyssa DiPaolo and Bridget Wang were named candidates in the 2018 United States Presidential Scholars Program. Approximately 4,000 students from across the U.S., and 103 from Pennsylvania, were selected as candidates. Students are chosen based on their high academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and an essay.

- Two high school sophomores, Hanna Chen and Claire Fenton, received gold medals in the National Latin Exam. Four other high school students received honors in the exam including senior Delaney Roberts, juniors Marissa Hardiman and Elizabeth Kaslewicz, and freshman Amulya Garimella.

- High school sophomore Rajeev Godse finished among the top 32 Lincoln Douglas debaters at the Patriot Games Classic Tournament held at George Mason University. More than 1,500 students representing approximately 115 high school speech and debate programs from across the U.S. participated in the tournament.

- Six high school students earned first through fourth places at the 2018 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference and qualified to participate in the national conference. They include juniors Daniel Andrud and Noah Fritsch and freshmen David Kronman, Emily Li, Kaylee Werner, and Zoey Zoschg.

- Three Fox Chapel Area High School students placed in their events at the Pittsburgh Diocesan Qualifying Tournament for the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Championship Tournament. Senior Sara Puthenpurayil, sophomore Rajeev Godse, and freshman Jackson Romero advanced to compete at the Grand National Championship Tournament.

- Junior Annika Urban was named a third-place winner for her essay entitled “The Hidden Dangers of Persistence” in the Eleventh Annual Benjamin Franklin Scholar Award. The award is part of a writing competition open to Pennsylvania public school juniors and students submitted an original essay.

- Three seniors, Cassidy Carson in German and Lea Prato and Kacie Zakin in Spanish, were named Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association Global Scholars.

- Four high school students were named among the Elite Top 100 in the Trib Total Media’s 2018 Outstanding Young Citizen Awards Program and senior Helen Paulini was named a gold medalist.

- High school sophomore Grace Han placed in the FBI Pittsburgh’s annual HOPE (Heroin Outreach Prevention and Education) PSA Contest. For the contest, Grace created a PSA-awareness video on the dangers of choosing to use opioids in an effort to combat the crisis confronting our region. Her award-winning video can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_X3fbRWTHVg&t=66s.
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Science and Technology Recognitions

- Fourteen students won first-place awards at the 84th Annual State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). They were juniors Vaishavi Agrawal, Zachary Lakki, Kathryn Schwartzman, Gina Wang, and Ziya Xu; sophomores Rajeev Godse and Zeynep Ozkaya; freshmen Amulya Garimella, Anthony Nguyen, Jackson Romero, and Sanjay Seshan; and eighth graders Mona Gerges, Zoe Lakki, and Siddharth Yende.

- Three Fox Chapel Area School District students, sophomore Rajeev Godse, seventh grader Arvind Seshan, and sixth grader Adhitya Thirumala, won first-place awards at the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair.

- Dorseyville Middle School eighth grader Arvind Seshan was named among the Top 300 in the eighth annual Broadcom MASTERS®, the nation’s premier Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) competition for middle school students. He was selected as a result of the project he presented as part of Carnegie Science Center’s Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair.

- Three high school students won first-place awards at the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association (TSA) State Leadership Conference. The Fox Chapel Area first place winners were seniors Nathan VanDemark and Jorgen Wu and sophomore Aaron Wu.

- A team of Fox Chapel Area High School students won third place at the PA BotsIQ State Competition and qualified for the national competition with their battle bot, Reaper. Team members included seniors Jason Hertzberg, Gregory Kirklewski, Tyler Rapp, and Christian Reiber and juniors Graham Childs, Samuel Gilmore, Jacob Keeler, and Connor McAtee.

- A team of high school students won first place at the Eighth Annual Combat Bots Competition. The team members were senior Alexander Vlahos; juniors Ian Chang, Thomas Grandizio, and Michael Scanlon; and sophomore Michael Mendelson.

- High school freshman Amulya Garimella was one of 20 students selected for the Pennsylvania State BioGENEius competition in Harrisburg in May. She was chosen based on the project she submitted for the Covestro Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair.

- A team of Dorseyville Middle School eighth grade students, including Janise Kim, Nathaniel Mueller, Shrivardhan Thada, Theodor Urban, and Siddharth Yende, placed first at the 2018 Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Science Bowl. The team went on to the finals where they finished fourth among all middle school teams in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

- A team of high school students won first place in the 2018 Allegheny County Envirothon competition and qualified for the state competition.
Fine Arts and Music Achievements

• The Fox Chapel Area School District was named among the 2018 Best Communities for Music Education. This is the seventh year in a row that the district received this prestigious designation. Fox Chapel Area was one of 82 in the state of Pennsylvania and one of 583 school districts in the nation chosen for this honor that recognizes outstanding commitment to music education.

• High school sophomore Chaehyun “Cuna” Kim was selected as a first-place winner in the American Protégé International Concerto Competition 2018 and performed a violin solo in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York. Cuna was also named a first-place winner for the music of Germany & Austria and won first place for the music of Mediterranean Europe in the Great Composers Competition. Additionally, she was named a winner of the 2018 Young Artists Auditions sponsored by the Pittsburgh Concert Society and in the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra Young Artists Concerto Competition.

• High school junior Sofia Porter Bacon had her original artwork selected for the “Art.Write. Now.Tour 2017-18” traveling exhibition. Prior to having her piece chosen for the national display, Sofia’s artwork, entitled “How aliens return the cows they abducted,” was named a national Gold Medal winner in The Scholastic Art Awards of 2017. One of 50 of the best works from the national competition, Sofia’s artwork was displayed at four locations across the country.

• Fox Chapel Area High School Gold Key winners in the regional Scholastic Art Awards of 2018 were juniors Sofia Porter Bacon, Hannah Higgins, Rachel Himmel (two Gold Keys), Michela Nicholas, Seo Yeon Wang, and Hosoo Yoo; sophomore Fiona Healy; and freshmen Jessica McCann and Nora McDougall. The Dorseyville Middle School Gold Key winner was eighth grader Kadence Boykin. The Gold Key winners had their work sent to New York for national judging.

• Fox Chapel Area High School students were selected by audition to perform with the 2018 Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) prestigious all-state music ensembles. Senior Kieran Bartels and juniors Steven Cano, Gabriel Fynsk, and Jeremy Platt were selected for the PMEA All-State Chorus. Five students, including seniors Benjamin Franks-Meinert and Andreas Paljug, juniors Ji-Yool Moon and Chloe Yofan, and sophomore Felix Veser were selected to perform with the 2018 PMEA All-State Orchestra. Six high school students were chosen for the 2018 PMEA All-State Band including senior Elizabeth Mountz; juniors Megan Hayes, Hannah Kim, and Glenna Van Dyke; and sophomores Jacob Rendall and Anzu Sekikawa.

• Sixteen high school students were selected by audition to perform with the PMEA Region I Chorus and 18 were chosen for the District 1 Chorus.

• Six students were selected to perform with the PMEA 2018 Western Region State Orchestra and eight were selected for the District 1 Orchestra.

• Nineteen high school students were selected to participate in the PMEA 2017 District 1 Honors String Orchestra.

Continued on next page
 Nine high school students were chosen to perform with the 2017 PMEA District 1 Honors Band and 11 students were chosen to perform with the 2018 PMEA District 1 East and Region I Honors bands.

 Three students were selected by audition to perform with the 2017 PMEA District 1 Honors Jazz Ensemble.

 The high school choirs received gold ratings at the WorldStrides OnStage Music Festival. The Concert Choir, Vulpes Cantantes, and the Madrigal Singers all received gold ratings in their respective categories and the Madrigal Singers and the Vulpes Cantantes also received first places, and the Concert Choir won a second place. Additionally, the Madrigal Singers received an award for being the overall highest scoring ensemble of all the choirs in the entire competition.

 The Dorseyville Middle School Honor Choirs, comprised of the Girls Chamber Chorus and the FoxTones, earned first place and “Excellent” ratings in the mixed choir, men’s choir, and women’s choir divisions at The Music in the Parks Festival held in May.

 The Fox Chapel Area High School Vulpes Cantantes women’s choir was chosen to perform at the 2018 American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division Conference. One of only three high school choirs chosen, the group performed in conjunction with the organization’s biannual conference.

 The Dorseyville Middle School Sinfonia and Philharmonic orchestras placed at a Music in the Parks Festival in May. The Philharmonic placed first in its division with a “Superior” rating. The Sinfonia also placed first in its division with a “Superior” rating, won first place overall orchestra, and received the highest scores of all instrumental ensembles.

 Three Dorseyville Middle School eighth grade students were selected to perform with the 2018 PMEA District 1 Junior High Orchestra.

 Nine elementary students were selected to perform at the PMEA District 1 Elementary String Festival. The participating Fox Chapel Area students were Fairview Elementary School fifth grader Jeremy Lee; Hartwood Elementary School fifth graders Rayna Huang and JinLiang Zhang; Kerr Elementary School fifth graders Malik Choset, Daniel Kwiatkowski, and Mya Wilson; and O’Hara Elementary School fifth graders Anna Delale-O’Connor, Hyunoh Ro, and Sarah Voigt.
Staff Awards and Accomplishments

- During the summer of 2017, high school multimedia teacher Ryan Devlin traveled to Ethiopia on a Fulbright-Hays Scholarship. While there, he created a video curriculum guide that accompanies his YouTube video, “An Ethiopian Expedition,” for teachers in the United States. With the help of high school art/photography teacher Amy Wickman, he also created a traveling photo exhibit that was shared with other schools.

- Dorseyville Middle School science teacher Peggy Perdue was chosen to serve as the guest editor for the February 2018 edition of Science Scope. For the magazine, Mrs. Perdue wrote an article entitled, “Tips for project-based learning.” The magazine is sponsored by the National Science Teachers Association.

- High school world language teacher Myriam Fontes served as the exchange program coordinator for the school’s first reciprocal exchange between Fox Chapel Area and Colegio Virgen de Europa from Madrid, Spain. A total of 11 students from Madrid visited the high school in October, and then several Fox Chapel Area students visited Madrid in March.

- High school choral director Benjamin Murray is serving as the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 president.

- Hartwood Elementary School math specialist and RTII facilitator James Jones, Ed.D., was a lead speaker at the 2018 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

- The school district won state awards in the 2017 Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association Excellence in Education Communications Contest. The district received Awards of Excellence for the summer and spring 2017 IN Fox Chapel Area Community Magazine. The district also received an Award of Honor.

School Board

- The members of the Fox Chapel Area School Board have a combined total of 66 years of service to the community. Sandra Garbisch, who has been on the Board since 1995, is the longest-serving current member. These Board members serve without compensation and have a true desire to ensure a quality education for all students, while looking out for the best interests of all residents. Among other things, throughout the year, they address the budget, as well as the policies and procedures of the district. They also approve academic programs and all hiring and are involved with negotiating contracts with district employees.

- After more than 21 years of service as a member of the Fox Chapel Area School District Board of Directors, Joel Weinstein retired in December 2017.
Summer Learning

New Program Empowers Students with Lifetime Skills
The Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy at Fox Chapel Area High School partnered with Dale Carnegie & Associates to create Empower2018, a new, innovative leadership program designed to help students become successful not only in their chosen career paths, but in life. Empower was offered to incoming 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students from Fox Chapel Area, as well as other school districts.

The nine-day leadership program included four Dale Carnegie Training sessions that focused on areas that are critical for future success. Four additional Dale Carnegie Training sessions following the Empower2018 program earned participating students two eligible college credits.

In addition to the Dale Carnegie classes, Empower included a blend of workshops that focused on mindfulness, leadership, executive functioning skills, building a positive digital footprint, and professional networking. There were keynote motivational speakers, including former Pittsburgh Steeler and Vietnam veteran Rocky Bleier, and Suzanne Alexander, cofounder of the Live Like Lou Foundation. Additionally, there were various leadership sessions and networking breakfasts that allowed students to interact with area professionals from a multitude of careers in order to practice their networking skills.

Incoming Ninth Graders STEP into High School
A total of 82 incoming freshmen participated in a transition program designed to help them take their first step to a successful high school career in a five-day summer program. FIRST STEP included activities to help new high school students make a smooth transition. Participants had the opportunity to practice academic strategies for success including understanding the importance of their cyber profile and the value of teamwork. Throughout the week, students worked on learning skill-sets, as well as executive functioning and leadership skills. The program included guest speakers and participants also took part in the opening-day keynote Empower2018 speaker event, that featured Mrs. Alexander. Current Fox Chapel Area High School students helped enhance the learning experience by serving as student ambassadors.

Elementary and DMS Summer Learning Academy
The district continued its summer learning academy for both elementary and middle school students. This year’s four-week program focused on reading, writing, and math skills in a positive and fun learning environment. Nearly 200 elementary students and 52 Dorseyville Middle School students participated in the academy.

The elementary program featured a partnership with the Attack Theatre and the Gateway Clipper Fleet. Students used art, history, creative movement, and modes of transportation to connect communities, artists, and audiences in Pittsburgh and around the world. The Attack Theatre
teaching artists led two dance and creative movement-based workshops at Kerr Elementary. The third week featured a field trip to two City of Pittsburgh locations that allowed students to continue to explore the concepts of transportation and travel. They climbed aboard the Gateway Clipper for a two-hour excursion that traveled the city’s rivers. They then visited the Attack Theatre and participated in an afternoon of creative movement workshops. While there, the students also had the opportunity to learn about the history of the Pittsburgh Opera/Attack Theatre building that was formerly George Westinghouse’s air brake factory in the 1800s.

Dorseyville Middle School students had several summer academy options. In addition to reading, writing, and math classes designed to enrich and expand skills, Dorseyville also offered a project-based learning rotation, “Innovation Nation,” that featured a series of engineering challenges. Students worked in teams or as individuals learning design and engineering principles in up to four, one-week experiences in a laboratory setting. Based on their interests, they chose from among several options and completed tasks related to the maker movement, robotics, fabrication, and design & engineering processes. Students also had the opportunity to participate in the science summer session, which this year, focused on electricity and electronic components. Students learned by doing, conducting activities and experiments during the four-week class. Students who took the summer science program also spent part of their day working on project-based learning activities.

**Summer STEAM Camp**

The district’s popular STEAM Camp that engages elementary and middle school students in a fun approach to thinking and doing, returned for the second year. Young campers used 3D printers, a laser engraver, Hummingbird robotics kits, and other materials that created interest and experience in STEAM topics, as well as skills in collaboration and problem-solving. A wide range of topics was offered that infused Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics.

Several new offerings that sparked excitement in older students included a rocket science and stop-motion studio classes. Additionally, “The ‘A’ Team of STEAM” art-centered class, “Once Upon a STEAM” fairy tale-inspired engineer challenges, and the “Fun with Flowers!” science and art class, brought rave reviews from enthusiastic younger students.

Returning this year by popular demand were the escape room and drones and spheros classes. Several camp offerings were revamped, such as the mobile fab lab, which this year focused on inventing and marketing with a Shark Tank theme, STEAM Olympics in which students explored apps and challenges in an Olympic-style event, and “Science Olympiad & Rube Goldberg Contraptions” which was a camp that focused on apparatus designs and a series of science Olympiad-style experiments.

At the end of the five-day camp, participants demonstrated what they learned, built, and created at an open house for their parents and families.
Service to the Community

Throughout the year, district schools raised money for local, national, and international organizations. Students continued to support local and national veterans’ groups. They also collected money and food to help support the Backpack for Hunger program in the district and collected items for hurricane victims. Students and staff at each of the individual schools conducted other community service projects throughout the year.

- Fox Chapel Area School District students and staff held their annual telethon December 22, 2017, and raised nearly $39,000 for Make-A-Wish® Greater Pennsylvania and West Virginia. A longtime annual event, the telethon has raised more than $805,000 since its inception and has benefitted local and regional charities. All six schools in the district participated.

- Fox Chapel Area High School – Students volunteered at a food bank and held a Thanksgiving food drive. Students also collected specific items for All of Us Care, provided food for Meals on Wheels in Blawnox, and participated in the Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics.

- Dorseyville Middle School – A new program at the middle school, a breakfast on September 11 for first responders, honored those in the local community who protect residents. Other projects included: a teddy bear collection for Family House in Shadyside, the annual Turkey Trot to help families in need, and a benefit talent showcase for The Highmark Caring Place. Additionally, students sorted and packed clothing for shipment to third-world countries.

- Fairview Elementary School – Students and staff donated to the Foster Love Project, an organization that provides comfort items for children in the foster care system in the Pittsburgh area. They also donated to the Children’s Institute, the Ronald McDonald House, and the VA Hospital.

- Hartwood Elementary School – Students and staff conducted a clothing drive for an elementary school in Key West, Florida, in response to Hurricane Irma. Additionally, the Hartwood community worked together to raise money, as well as collected food and paper goods, for the Network of Hope Food Pantry.

- Kerr Elementary School – Students and staff collected money and presents for the local holiday Give A Gift Drive for All of Us Care in Sharpsburg. They also participated in a new effort, the Kerr Kindness Rocks initiative. Rocks were painted with positive messages and placed around the school and local community.

- O’Hara Elementary School – Students and staff collected gift cards that were donated to families in need within their school for Thanksgiving. The fourth and fifth grade chorus visited Lighthouse Pointe during the holidays to celebrate with local senior citizens, and O’Hara students were paired with senior citizen grandbuddies from Seneca Hills Village for monthly visits. Additionally, the teachers also donated money to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

- District Staff – In addition to helping with individual projects at their schools, teachers continued to support the community in various ways. This included a snack drive as part of the homecoming football game to benefit the local Backpack for Hunger program and All of Us Care. Additionally, the group held a food drive as part of the district’s annual wellness fair and also held a blanket drive for the Pittsburgh area homeless.
2017-2018 FOX CHAPEL

Athletic Accomplishments

The athletic teams had another great year as evidenced by their performances and the number of individuals and teams that represented the district at PIAA and WPIAL events. A few facts about the Fox Chapel Area athletic program include:

- A total of 846 boys and girls at the high school and 467 DMS students participated on athletic teams.
- Boys' cross country, girls' cross country, field hockey, boys' tennis, and girls' tennis had perfect section records.
- Twenty-three of the 26 interscholastic teams and/or individuals from those teams qualified for postseason competition. The list includes: baseball, boys' basketball, boys' cross country, girls' cross country, field hockey, football, boys' golf, girls' golf, gymnastics, boys' indoor track, girls' indoor track, boys' lacrosse, girls' lacrosse, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, softball, boys' swimming and diving, girls' swimming and diving, boys' tennis, girls' tennis, boys' track and field, girls' track and field, and wrestling.
- Team section champions included: boys' cross country, girls' cross country, field hockey, boys' lacrosse, girls' lacrosse, girls' soccer, boys' tennis, and girls' tennis.
- A total of 29 seniors were recruited and signed to play sports in college.
- All high school teams maintained at least a 3.1 GPA.

- Senior Amanda Nord and sophomore Charlotte James were the PIAA Class AAA doubles tennis champions, the WPIAL Class AAA doubles champions, and the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 doubles champions. Amanda tied a WPIAL record and set a school record winning the WPIAL title all four years of her high school tennis career. She is now the most-decorated athlete in Fox Chapel Area High School history. Additionally, Amanda was the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 singles champion and was named a winner of the KDKA-TV and Allegheny Health Network Extra Effort Award.

Continued on next page
• For the first time in team history, the Fox Chapel Area High School Girls’ Cross Country Team won the gold medal at the PIAA Class AAA championship. The members of the PIAA-winning girls’ team were senior Caelan Miller; juniors Anna Folkerts, Serena Seeger, and Annika Urban; and sophomores Isabelle Doerr, Brooke Krally, and Grace Sisson. Additionally, Caelan, Anna, Serena, Annika, Brooke, and Grace were also invited to participate in the Nike Cross Regionals Northeast qualifier that was held in November in New York where the team placed third.

• High school girls’ and boys’ cross country head coach Tom Moul was named the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches’ Association Girls’ Coach of the Year. He coached the girls’ cross country team to its first-ever PIAA Class AAA championship in the fall of 2017.

• High school senior Helen Paulini, a member of the Fox Chapel Crew Team, was named to the 2017-2018 USRowing Scholastic Honor Roll. The honor roll recognizes seniors who have excelled in both academics and rowing.

• High school junior Kenyon Weis was selected as an Academic All-American lacrosse player.

• Junior Jonah Cagley won first place in the WPIAL Diving Championships and freshman David Manelis won third place and both qualified for PIAAs. Jonah was also a bronze-medal winner at states.

• Tennis team member, junior Robby Shymansky, won the WPIAL Class AAA singles and the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 singles championships. Additionally, he placed third at the PIAA singles tournament.

• The high school girls’ varsity golf team advanced to the PIAA finals for the first time since 2010 and finished in fourth place at the Class AAA team championships. The team was also the WPIAL runner-up. Team members who participated at states were seniors Hannah Conroy and Cara Levicoff; juniors Nicole Garcia-Tunon and Jessica Paper; and sophomore Emily Scheffler.

• High school boys’ varsity golf team members junior Gregor Meyer and sophomore Amani D’Ambrosio qualified for the PIAA Class AAA West Region Golf Championships.

• Two members of the boys’ cross country team, junior Ian Brown and sophomore Christian Fitch, qualified as individuals for the PIAA Class AAA championships.

• The boys’ varsity basketball team qualified to participate in the PIAA Class 6A playoffs. Team members included: seniors Carson Cohen, Domanic McGriff, Micah Morris, Justin Supsura, Sai Yarlagadda, and Joseph Zappala; juniors Bennett Kelly, Ryan Kerr, Noah Marks, and Kenyon Weis; sophomores Samuel Brown, William Generett, Brendan Kelly, Will Livingston, Matthew Mattioli, Shane Susnak, Brevin Urso, and Arnold Vento; and freshmen Kent Baldauf and Lyle Blaylock.

• Four members of the high school girls’ swimming and diving team qualified for the 2018 PIAA Swimming and Diving Championships. Senior Joslyn Filo qualified in the girls 100-butterfly and the team of Joslyn, senior Molly Wiese, and sophomores Jaclyn Filo and Grace Gackenbach qualified in the 200-medley relay.

• The boys’ varsity tennis team won the WPIAL Class AAA team title. This is the team’s third gold medal in a row. Additionally, the team qualified for the PIAA tournament. Team members included: seniors Karsten Lagerquist and Kurran Singh; juniors Shahn Hassan, William Kabazie, Jayanth Kashyap, Michael Kilmer, Jared Nord, Robby Shymansky, and Brandon Wei; and sophomores Milo Baron and Isaac Mah.

• High school indoor track members, junior Sarena Seeger and sophomore Grace Sisson, qualified for the Pennsylvania Track & Field Coaches Association Indoor State Championships.
• Four members of the high school track team qualified for the 2018 PIAA Track & Field Championships, including senior Caeleen Miller, junior Sarena Seeger, and sophomores Christian Fitch and Grace Sisson.

• High school junior Lexie Schutzman was named the Most Positive Athlete in Girls Soccer for the second year in a row. She received the award from former Steelers great Hines Ward. Her story of leadership with students with disabilities captured the attention of producers from CNN’s “Headline News,” who created a special segment featuring Lexie who finds inspiration in helping others. See the video at https://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2018/05/30/positive-athlete-lexi-schutzman.cnn/video/playlists/cnn-positive-athlete.

• Kerr Elementary School physical education teacher and high school boys’ and girls’ tennis coach Alexander Slezak was recognized as a “Century Coach” by the United States Professional Tennis Registry for having 151 wins as a head coach.

• High school wrestler, junior Avery Bursick, was named to the Pennsylvania All-Academic High School Wrestling second team.

• High school head football coach Tom Loughran was named Coach of the Week by the Pittsburgh Steelers and was honored at a Steelers game. He was also named the Allegheny Nine Conference Coach of the Year.

• High school girls’ soccer coach Peter Torres was named the WPIAL Class 4A Section 3 Coach of the Year.

• The high school girls’ fencing team won first place at the Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association Championships.

• Sophomore Donovan Cutchember was named the WPIAL Class AAA Section 3 varsity wrestling champion in the 220-pound weight class.

• Senior Kate Goodwin and junior Graham Childs were named to All-WPIAL Class AAA lacrosse teams.

• The high school boys’ varsity lacrosse team competed for the first time in the WPIAL playoffs since the team became an officially-sanctioned WPIAL sport.

• High school athletes continued to be named to prestigious all-star teams and all conference teams, and were also chosen to participate in all-star games.

• The high school added a new sport, indoor bocce. The bocce team includes an equal number of students with disabilities alongside their peers that do not have disabilities. In their inaugural year, the Fox Chapel Area teams enjoyed a successful season and won gold and silver medals at the countywide championships. Bocce is part of the Unified Sports Program offered in Allegheny County schools and sponsored by Special Olympics.
Fox Chapel Area High School
Class of 2018

On June 10, 2018, a total of 345 seniors became the 57th class to graduate from Fox Chapel Area High School. Of these, 88 students had a 4.0 weighted Quality Point Average (QPA) or above when they graduated. Approximately 89 percent of the Class of 2018 are continuing their education and 49 percent are enrolled in schools outside of Pennsylvania. The graduates continued the tradition of being accepted to the top colleges and universities across the nation.