A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fox Chapel Area Community,

Spring is often seen as a season of growth and renewal, and as a time of hope and promise. I go into these last few months of the 2021-2022 school year not only incredibly proud of our collective efforts and successes, but also very optimistic about all that is to come.

Reading the following pages, I think you’ll find many reasons to be excited, too. Our students continue to excel academically, which, of course, is very important. However, providing our students with artistic and athletic opportunities, other extracurricular outlets, and citizenship experiences are also very integral to the educational process. In these uncertain times, it is also crucial that we maintain our focus on educating the whole child, which means supporting and nurturing all areas of our students’ development and learning.

Social-emotional learning is a significant and necessary part of what we do every day. In the following pages, you’ll find a number of examples of this.

• Students at Fox Chapel Area High School “Stand Together” to support their peers struggling with mental health and substance abuse.

• Technology plays a valuable role in the social-emotional learning of our students, and the district incorporates it throughout its curricula in myriad ways.

• High school students are furthering the district’s social-emotional and inclusion efforts through Unified Robotics, which partners students of all abilities. In addition to building and battling robots, students also learn understanding, belonging, and acceptance.

• At Hartwood Elementary School, social-emotional learning takes place as students gain confidence and compassion through their visits to Humane Animal Rescue in Homewood to read to animals in need of a forever home.

As we continue to look ahead to warmer weather and being able to engage in more outdoor activities, I hope you will join me in celebrating the many milestones that our students have achieved, despite the many disruptions and challenges we have faced over the last few years. Regardless of everything that has been asked of them and despite the fact that our world may be very different, our students have shown strength, perseverance, and resiliency. They have also shown kindness and compassion, and epitomized what it means to be part of a community. So many wonderful things are ahead, and I look forward to being able to witness and be a part of them!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac
Superintendent

Regardless of everything that has been asked of them and despite the fact that our world may be very different, our students have shown strength, perseverance, and resiliency. They have also shown kindness and compassion, and epitomized what it means to be part of a community.
A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fox Chapel Area Community,

In the small space of time between when one school year ends and planning for another begins, I allow myself some time for reflection. Looking back on the 2021-2022 school year, I keep coming back to one theme: success. Success, of course, is subjective and measured in a multitude of ways. For me, success was making it through the entire school year without any major disruptions as we endured yet another year under the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic. Success, to me, also resulted from the spirit of collaboration that so abundantly permeates our district, from our school board to our administrative team, to our faculty and staff, to our families and the members of our greater school community. Many of the ways that these groups bolster and uplift our students to aspire and achieve their greatest potential never become known to most people, but their contributions are immeasurable.

Finally, success was reflected in the myriad academic, artistic, athletic, and citizenship achievements that our students and staff earned this school year.

Here are just a few of the highlights:

• Nine Fox Chapel Area High School students were named National Merit Finalists.
• A group of Dorseyville Middle School students placed first in the state in The Stock Market Game.
• Two teams of Fairview Elementary School students tied for first place regionally in the grades four and five division of the 2022 Science Bowl.
• Two high school students were named national winners in the 2022 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.
• Eight Fox Chapel Area teams won their sections, and five triumphed as WPIAL champions. Three teams qualified for PIAA competition, as did 15 individual student-athletes. Overall, 21 of 26 interscholastic teams and/or individuals from those teams qualified for the postseason.
• The 2021 Fox Chapel Area School District telethon, which benefited Fox Families Care, raised more than $107,000, a record for the event.
• Kerr Elementary School hosted its first-ever volunteer fair, which furthered a spirit of giving within the school.

The above examples of success, along with the willingness of the many stakeholders in our school district to come together, especially during uncertain and difficult times, provide much promise for the future. As I prepare to enter my third full year as superintendent of the Fox Chapel Area School District, I’ve never been more hopeful and excited, and I eagerly await all the success that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac
Superintendent
Message from the Superintendent

Dear Fox Chapel Area Community,

When I look back on the 2021-2022 school year, I tend to define it by one word: perseverance. I recall a year that started with a great deal of uncertainty. At the beginning, we were not fully aware of what challenges the COVID-19 pandemic would continue to bring. We were unsure of whether we would be able to have a school year in which the educational process would not be disrupted, as it was the previous school year. We didn’t know whether we would be able to hold athletic competitions. We were unsure about whether we would be able to gather for the plays, musicals, and concerts that we anticipate so much every year. Thanks to the perseverance of our students, parents/guardians, staff, and extended school community, however, we experienced a year with no major hurdles. In fact, in many ways, it came to feel “normal” again. We held open houses and art shows. We watched our talented students perform. We cheered together in the stands for our teams. And, perhaps most importantly, we celebrated being able to do those things with one another in person once again.

To be clear, the year was not without its challenges. When needed, though, our students stepped up and exhibited the resilience that has come to define our learning community. They adapted to obstacles. They continued to be successful in their academic, athletic, and arts and music pursuits, as well as in myriad citizenship endeavors. In times of struggle, they held each other up. I’m #FCProud of them for all of these reasons.

Last year, the district placed an emphasis on implementing initiatives geared toward the mental and emotional health of our students, staff, and families. These included a partnership with Care Solace, a service that helps individuals find mental health care providers and substance use treatment centers; beginning an ongoing needs assessment of the district’s mental health services; and continuing to focus on equity, inclusion, and belonging.

As we move forward, we will continue to do our very best to support learning, growth, and the social-emotional needs of our community. And, of course, we will continue to enjoy our successes while continuing to celebrate the seemingly ordinary, which we will not take for granted anytime soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac
Superintendent
Dear Fox Chapel Area Community,

Happy holidays! I hope that the holiday season has been a joyous and festive one for you and yours!

As for me, I tend to view this pause for winter break as a crossroads of sorts, and I often take an opportunity to look back and reflect on our first few months of school, while eagerly awaiting the resumption of instruction and the start to the second half of the year.

During the 2022-2023 school year, we’re focusing on celebrating successes of all kinds. While we’re fortunate that our students regularly earn academic achievements, artistic accolades, and athletic accomplishments, we know that there are triumphs day in and day out in the classrooms and beyond, and we’ve made a point to share that laudable learning and growth with you on a regular basis.

The adage goes that it takes a “village” to raise a child, and I often extend a similar sentiment to our district as a whole. While certificates and medals are certainly praiseworthy, they do not tell the full story of our Fox Chapel Area “village.” Every day, our students work to their greatest potential, exhibit positive behavior, show concern for others, and learn to be good stewards of their communities. Our entire Fox Chapel Area “village” continues to be a source of great pride for me on a daily basis.

When the calendar flips to January and we resume classes, we will continue to tout these things, of course. I also anticipate a number of occasions to come together as a school community, forums for public input, and continuing to define a path forward and a shared vision for the future of our school district. One of these opportunities will be the formation of a new comprehensive plan for our district, which you can read more about on page 15.

For now, as we continue to celebrate the holidays, I wish you lasting joy and contentment, and a happy and healthy 2023.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Catherine Reljac
Superintendent