



FCAHS & DMS POLAR PLUNGE TEAM TOPS IN STATE

It was a toasty 32 degrees on February 24 when a group of Fox Chapel Area High School and Dorseyville Middle School students took to the pool to raise money for the 2023 Cool Schools Polar Plunge at Acrisure Stadium. In the end, thanks in part to a matching donation from the Kramer family, the Fox Chapel Area team raised \$30,558 for the Fox Chapel Area School District Special Olympics Unified Sports teams, which promote inclusion through competitive experiences. The Fox Chapel Area students raised the most of any school in Pennsylvania.

This was the first time DMS students participated in the Polar Plunge. Sixth-grader Miles McCarthy said he enjoyed being part of the event.

“I liked jumping in the water and helping friends,” Miles says.

Seventh-grader Ruby Rowley agrees. “It’s important to participate in fundraising events like this to spread awareness of the cause, raise money for it, and create a community of supporters.”

Sixth-grader Adelynn Hunter encourages her friends to take advantage of these fun opportunities while they can.

“You are only in sixth grade one time, and before you know it, you are in college, and then an adult, so take the opportunities to have fun and help others while you still can,” she says.



This was Fox Chapel Area High School sophomore Marin Cusano's second year to take the plunge. She prepared by wearing her Batman mask and cape. After jumping, she jokingly told her friend, junior Sydney Schutzman, "That was terrible!", referring to the brutally cold water, following up by saying she would be jumping again next year.

Like her friend, Sydney agrees that the water was cold, but says it's worth it to raise money for Unified Sports.

"All kids should be able to feel the joy of competing and training hard for a sport," Sydney says, recalling the times she's seen Marin succeed in Unified Bocce and Unified Track. "Sports are something I believe all kids should be able to compete in, and as someone who loves to play any sport, I want to do my best to allow everyone to participate in the sports I love, which is what we accomplish each year by fundraising and participating in the Polar Plunge."

