

Lydia Turnquist is the Junior Council Person (JCP) for Aspinwall Borough, Allegheny County. She will be a 2022 graduate of Fox Chapel Area High School (FCAHS). At FCAHS, she is heavily involved in Student Government and Community Outreach. Within student government Lydia has taken charge with fundraisers and is doing her best to be a voice for all of the diverse students of FCAHS. For Community Outreach Lydia has delivered cards to veterans in the veterans hospital and made lunch at the Ronald McDonald House. She is also the vice president of the Psychology club, where they work to promote mental health within the school and plan monthly activities to break the stigma surrounding mental health. Over the summer, Lydia participated in an internship within the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center and helped complete a research study assessing a novel device designed to help relieve fatigue in individuals being treated for metastatic breast cancer. Lydia is active in her school's concert band and a 4-year letter winner on the Fox Chapel varsity swim team. She is currently a Swim Instructor at the Goldfish Swim School, where she loves to help kids of all ages learn to swim and develop a love of the water. Turnquist plans to complete a degree in a Health Science-focused major in college next year to allow her to harness her passion for science and helping kids as a pediatrician. Lydia became a JCP to become more involved in local government after being exposed to community leaders working within the Borough Manager's Office during her summer breaks and helping her Dad and neighbors on the Aspinwall Democratic Committee. As Aspinwall Junior Council Person, her main focus has been the drafting of a new ordinance designed to establish a Human Relations Commission in Aspinwall. Lydia felt this was important to ensure equal opportunities and thwart discrimination in the borough, especially for the LGBTQ+ community that lack protection at the state level. Since the passing of this ordinance in December of 2021, Lydia has been developing an easy to use report and resolution form, as well as developing a process to identify community members to make up the new committee.