

# Forest Area School District Newsletter

2023-2024 School Year



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Mission and Vision

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As we look forward to the end of the school year, it is time for students to start thinking about next steps. Whether that involves moving to the next grade, obtaining a summer job or planning for a future career, it is important to them that the adults in their lives offer guidance and support in their future plans. We count on parents, guardians and community mentors to help our students understand the possibilities for their future.

Throughout this issue of the newsletter, you will find information about helping students plan and prepare for their future. Articles will focus on STREAM activities, learning life skills and on post-secondary education, high school course scheduling, enrollment at the Venango Technology Center and other career and education pathways.

Your local schools are a great resource for you when you have questions about how to help your child be successful. Please remember to reach out if you have any programming suggestions or other ideas that will help us prepare students for the future that they want to create for themselves.

SPRING 2024

## Newsletter Highlights

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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COLLEGE & TECHNICAL SCHOOL VISITS

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PSATS AND MORE

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STREAM

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LIFE SKILLS

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SCHEDULING FOR 2024-2025

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CUSTOM COASTERS FOR THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

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ALUMNI/ALUMNI SURVEY

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RETIREMENTS

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# College and Technical School Visits

As students are planning for their future, it is important that they consider their career plans and any necessary post-secondary education. Touring the campus of a school that they are considering is one of the best ways to know if that institution is a good fit for their future. Some ideas for questions that they might want to ask on a tour can be found [here](#). A little planning helps to make the most of the college visit.



## PSATS AND MORE

It can sometimes seem overwhelming to think about the various tests and the acronyms that are part of the post-secondary planning process. At Forest Area, all 11th grade students take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test). This test is given at school and is essentially a practice test so that students have a better understanding of what the SAT test that is required for admission to many colleges and universities is like.

Students may also choose to take the SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) or the ACT (American College Testing). Either of these tests is usually accepted for the admission requirements for four year colleges and universities. These help admissions staff to evaluate student knowledge on a level playing field and may also be used to help determine course placement for students.

ASVAB (Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery) testing is offered through the US military branches and provides information about student achievement levels. ASVAB scores are used primarily to determine enlistment eligibility, assign applicants to military jobs and aid students in career exploration.

The school counselor can provide a lot of information about these tests and how they may benefit your specific student. Please contact Mrs. Pasinski to talk about what options are the most suitable for your student.



# STREAM

STREAM projects encompass Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. They encourage higher level thinking skills like asking questions and forming theories while providing students with hands-on learning opportunities. Precise measuring and planning, physical skills, and problem solving are the focus of STREAM projects.

Retired teacher Mr. John Lewis is helping Mrs. Lisa Schmidt's third grade class at West Forest Elementary School to build ukuleles provided by Stewart MacDonald and funded through a grant from PASR.

In Mr. Brad Roth's fourth grade Science class at East Forest, students are building physical representations of various atoms with the help of some toothpicks and marshmallows.



# LIFE SKILLS

What does it take to succeed in life outside of the classroom? Students in the Forest Area School District are working to learn skills that help them make it through the summer months and in years following graduation!

East Forest Pre-K students were able to see the recycling truck as the conclusion of a lesson on recycling. The recycling dumpster at East Forest was added as the result of an Ice House project completed by Nick Geraci and Aidan Faust last year.

Third and fourth graders at West Forest Elementary School have received a Proper Grant for swimming lessons. They traveled to the Oil City YMCA for their lessons. The students were very nervous for their first lesson but soon grew comfortable and had a great time learning about water safety and various ways of swimming. Pictured here are many West Forest students with (left) Jennifer Kissell-McClellan, aquatics director of the Oil City YMCA, and (right) Mrs. Leann Sharrar, West Forest Elementary teacher.



# LIFE SKILLS (Continued)

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High School students are learning about many careers, helping with the distribution of food from the local food banks, volunteering at community events, learning to create and repair items for their households, and even learning how to grow their own food. ↘



## SCHEDULING FOR 2024 - 2025

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Our principals and school counselors have begun the scheduling process for next year. If you have a high school student, please remember to consider the options for dual enrollment courses. We have agreements with the Northern PA Regional College, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and PennWest that students can consider in their future plans.

Ninth grade students participated in tours of the Venango Technology Center in Oil City. Beginning in tenth grade, students can enroll in a number of programs from HVAC to welding to Dental Assisting and more. New this year is the Early Childhood Education program where students can start preparing for a career in teaching preschool or early elementary grades.

## CUSTOM COASTERS FOR THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

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In December of 2023, Congressman GT Thompson happily presented Associate Chief of the U.S. Forest Service Angela Coleman with cherry wood coasters handmade by technology education students in the Forest Area School District. These students worked diligently to provide beautifully carved coasters made from cherry hardwood straight from the Allegheny National Forest. GT commented that it was a privilege to deliver these on behalf of the students. Our students are honored to be part of the Allegheny National Forest Centennial Celebration!



# ALUMNI - FOREST AREA EMPLOYEES


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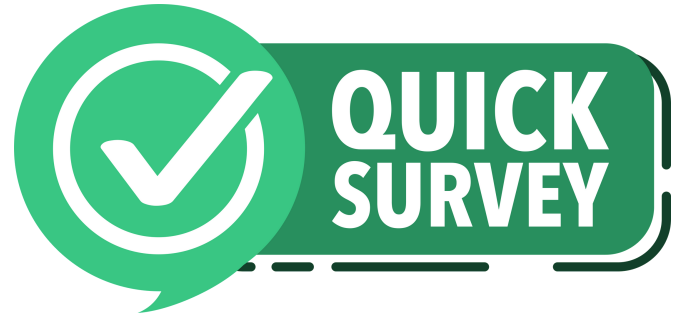
We are proud to feature our Forest Area School District employees as our first alumni feature. We have 25 employees who have graduated from either East or West Forest and have returned to our schools to teach or provide support services.

## Check Out Our Forest Area Alumni Below

- 1. Luke Alex**, High School Math & Physics Teacher, West Forest Class of 2001
- 2. Michelle (Walter) Bawden**, Business Affairs Clerk, West Forest Class of 2005
- 3. Christopher Bereksazi**, Custodian, West Forest Class of 1992
- 4. Jennifer (Catlin) Carll**, School/Central Office Secretary, West Forest Class of 1991
- 5. Amy Cochran**, Special Education Teacher, East Forest Class of 1985
- 6. Renee (Moore) Conti**, School Secretary, East Forest Class of 1997
- 7. Emma Cussins**, Special Education Teacher, East Forest Class of 2017
- 8. Waylin Dashner**, Paraprofessional, West Forest Class of 2021
- 9. Katelyn (Preisel) DeLay**, PK/Kindergarten Teacher, West Forest Class of 2006
- 10. Dustin Donato**, Tech Ed, Business & Elementary Teacher, West Forest Class of 2002
- 11. June (Silvis) Druckemiller**, Elementary Teacher, East Forest Class of 2004
- 12. Sheila (Scott) Dubrawka**, Business Manager, West Forest Class of 1984
- 13. Penelope (Nesbella) Gawelski**, Elementary Teacher, East Forest Class of 1979
- 14. Patricia (Gigliotti) Johnston**, Cafeteria Baker, West Forest Class of 1983
- 15. Penny (Lankard) Kahle**, Paraprofessional, East Forest Class of 1982
- 16. Darla (Dreihaup) Kennedy**, Confidential/Board Secretary, West Forest Class of 1981
- 17. Debbie (Meagher) McLaughlin**, Elementary Teacher, West Forest Class of 1988
- 18. Tonya (Stevens) McWilliams**, Paraprofessional, West Forest Class of 2000
- 19. Alyssa (Conrad) Oliver**, Paraprofessional, East Forest Class of 1998
- 20. Donna (Woodford) Oliver**, School Secretary, East Forest Class of 1979
- 21. Craig Parrett**, Math and Physics Teacher, East Forest Class of 2003
- 22. Shenessa (Huth) Rossetti**, School Nurse, West Forest Class of 1992
- 23. Lisa (Hubert) Schmidt**, Elementary Teacher, West Forest Class of 1989
- 24. Tammy (McKee) Schwab**, Paraprofessional, West Forest Class 1991
- 25. Leann (Wright) Sharrar**, Elementary Teacher, West Forest Class of 1999

# ALUMNI SURVEY

Recognizing the importance of our alumni in supporting our students caused the district to recently launch an alumni survey so that we can do a better job of keeping in touch with our graduates and matching them with students that are interested in pursuing opportunities in similar fields of employment. If you are a Forest Area graduate and haven't already completed the survey, please [click here.](#) 



## RETIREMENTS

### SHAWN REICHART

Shawn Reichart is a very familiar figure at East Forest and within the Marienville community. He is a hard worker who cared deeply about the schools and our students. He began working at East Forest in April of 2004 as a custodian. He was promoted to Head Custodian in 2012. After working for the district for nearly 20 years, Mr. Reichart retired in August of 2023. Now that he has a little more time, he enjoys playing the bass guitar, playing video games and going for walks in the neighborhood. He actually enjoyed the snow this winter since he no longer has to work in it! His future plans are to move South within the next five years to be close to his daughter.

*A big thanks to Mr. Reichart for his dedication and hard work!*



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