

# Forest Area School District Newsletter

2023-2024 School Year



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

School Safety is a top priority for Forest Area Schools. In preparation for the start of the 2023-2024 school year, both schools have received an annual report with additional safety recommendations from the PA State Police and the local fire departments. These help to guide how budgeted money and grant funds directed toward safety are expended. This year we expect to add bollards in front of vulnerable entrances and improve public address systems.

Staff training is also a significant part of ensuring safe schools. During this year, our staff will participate in mandated reporter training to ensure that information is reported regarding any potential situations of abuse and neglect. In addition, October 9 will be designated as a training day for safety where staff will update their emergency response training and practice an exercise in reunification of students and families.

We have established trained teams for threat assessment and held previous staff trainings in suicide awareness, intruders in the building, bomb threats and various other emergency events. In all of our training, however, the best defense against many of the potential disasters is in having and maintaining good relationships and communications. If a student or community member shares something that sounds concerning, please reach out to school staff or report it to [safe2saypa.org](https://www.safe2saypa.org).

We are always looking for ways to improve student safety, so if you have suggestions or general concerns, please contact Mrs. Hetrick at [ahetrick@forestareaschools.org](mailto:ahetrick@forestareaschools.org).

**Wishing everyone a happy and safe start to a new school year!**

FALL 2023

## Newsletter Highlights

Message from the Superintendent

---

FCCLA Nationals

---

Nursing Awards

---

Summer Programs

---

Therapy Dog

---

Open House

---



# FCCLA NATIONALS

## East Forest Information

The first week of July 2023, nine East Forest Jr/Sr High School FCCLA chapter members represented Pennsylvania at the FCCLA (Family, Career, Community, Leaders of America) National Leadership Conference in Denver Colorado. They represented Pennsylvania nationally in their respective competitive events. Olivia and Kendra earned a silver medal in level 3 chapter service project portfolio. Alex and Hailee earned a silver medal in level 1 chapter service project portfolio. Vera and Jacob earned a silver medal in level 1 national programs in action community service. Jonah, Lauren, and Nicholas earned a silver medal in level 2 national program community service. Thank you all for your support. We could not have attended without all of you. Denver's Blue Bear stopped by to say hello to the students!



## West Forest Information

This summer 15 West Forest Jr./Sr. High School FCCLA Chapter attended the FCCLA National Leadership Conference this summer in Denver, Colorado. While there 12 of our chapter members competed in STAR events and brought home 10 silver medals. Macalie Hoffmann earned a gold medal for her STAR project in the hospitality, tourism and recreation category entitled, "Tionesta: Small Town - Big Opportunities", about tourism in her own hometown of Tionesta, PA. In addition, many of our students volunteered as youth room consultants and judges. They all agreed it was a great opportunity to meet people, work on their leadership skills and get ideas for their next projects. We even had some time to do some hiking and eat some great food. Thanks to the parents and chaperones who traveled with us this year!

# NURSING AWARDS

Shenessa Rossetti and Krista Wright, the Forest Area certified school nurses were both recognized for their school nursing practice and their service to our students and school community this past Spring. Mrs. Wright, nurse at West Forest Schools, was recognized as the PA Northwestern Regional Nurse of the Year and recognized at the PA conference of PASNAP (Pennsylvania Association of School Nursing and Practice). Mrs. Rosetti, nurse at the East Forest Schools, was awarded the Nurse of the Year Award for all of Pennsylvania and recognized at the national conference of the National Association of School Nurses. We are very proud of both of them and grateful for the care they provide for our students.





# SUMMER PROGRAMS

## Elementary School

This summer elementary students had the opportunity to participate in a summer camp co-hosted by Focus on Forest Future (FFF) and the Forest Area School District at the MACA in Marienville. The 4 week camp featured theme weeks: Drama and the Ocean, Math is Fun and Sloppy Science, More Sloppy Science and Makers, and Sea Turtles and Flag and Country. During the camp students participated in hands-on lessons and reinforced their math and reading skills through the exploration of new topics and preparation for performances. Many community partners, such as the Peen State Master Gardeners, the Marienville Library, and the PA Firefly Festival provided instruction and activities for the students. A great time was had by all!



### PA Capital Picture

**Front:** L-R: Senator Scott Hutchinson, Katie Banner, Chloe Banner, Zach Walton, Macalie Hoffmann, Kiarra Wagner, Alison McLaughlin, Kale Morrison, Hailee Oliver, Willa Heferle, Mr. Wortman, House Representative Kathy Rapp

**Middle:** L-R: Mrs. Kahle, Alanah Wagner, Vera Heferle, Ethan Dawson, Chris Hoover, Jaiden Delay, Riley Smith, Lauren Geraci, Jonah Glass, Jacob Glass, Mr. Hartwig

**Back:** L-R: Mrs. Banner, Izek Sample, Vinny Carey, Nathaniel Sample, Alex Contrael, Nick Geraci, Mrs. Cislou

## High School

The Forest Area School District secondary summer program came to a close on Tuesday, June 20th, 2023. In June, the participating students met at their respective schools for two-day learning sessions. During the sessions, the students learned about Benjamin Franklin as a writer and printer and about his printing shop in Philadelphia, made their own paper and printed on the paper. They learned about the cave formations under Pennsylvania, how they were formed, and grew their own stalagmites and stalactites. The students learned about the homogenization process of milk, discussed Louis Pasteur and the invention of pasteurization, learned about the Penn State Creamery, and made their own ice cream. The students also learned about the history of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, how this location became Pennsylvania's capital, the political offices that comprise the Pennsylvania General Assembly and Executive Branches, the specific qualifications for each office, and the term length each position serves. The learning sessions were followed by a trip to Harrisburg where the participants had the opportunity to tour the Pennsylvania Capitol building, meet Senator Scott Hutchinson, and had a question and answer session with PA House Representative Kathy Rapp. The students enjoyed lunch at Dave and Buster's, followed by a trip to Penn's Caves where they had the opportunity to ride through the underground, water-filled caves and participate on the safari ride. After supper, the students stopped at the Penn State Creamery, where they had the opportunity to enjoy freshly made ice cream!



# SUMMER MUSIC & DRAMA PROGRAM

During the summer music and drama program at Forest Area, students had the opportunity to showcase their talents through various performances. The program allowed participants to prepare solo songs, duets/group songs, monologues, group scenes, and even author their own scripts. The culminating event of the program featured outstanding performances by Lillian Bawden and Macalie Hoffmann.

Lilly delivered a captivating rendition of the monologue "The Idiot's Daughter" by Mary Depner. In addition, she mesmerized the audience with her rendition of "Do Re Mi" from the renowned Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The Sound of Music*.

Macalie delivered a powerful performance of the monologue "The Women," also by Mary Depner. Her versatile talent was showcased as she skillfully played the guitar and sang "Riptide" by Vance Joy.

The summer music and drama program at Forest Area provided a platform for many talented students to hone their skills and captivate the audience with their remarkable performances. We look forward to more events in the future as students continue to nurture and showcase their artistic craft.

Lillian Bawden

Macalie Hoffmann



## THERAPY DOG

The Forest Area School District received a grant from Americans Helping Americans that will be used to purchase a therapy dog for our schools.

Dogs are known to be exceptional as therapeutic agents as well as an antidote to depression. Studies have shown that therapy dog visits can lead to a decrease in both blood pressure and stress levels. They help to break up daily routines, stimulate the mind, and lead to an increase in overall well-being. Therapy dogs are also known for taking people's minds off personal problems and worries, helping people to share their feelings and stories, and helping people communicate with others.

We aren't sure when our new dog will start school, but we are really looking forward to meeting our new classmate!

## OPEN HOUSE

Annual school open houses will be held on September 13, 2023, for East Forest and September 18, 2023, for West Forest. Both buildings will be open from 5:00-6:30 pm on their respective dates. In addition to meeting the teachers, community members, parents and students will have the opportunity to see many community agencies showcased that provide services to our residents. Nutrition Inc will be providing samples of food served in the cafeteria.

