

Forest Area School District Newsletter

2025 School Year

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As the end of the school year approaches, our students, particularly our high school students who are graduating, are demonstrating their growth and achievement by reaching goals that they have set for themselves. At Forest Area, we try to emphasize the practical needs of students who are preparing for their future.

While in high school, our students have gained hands-on experience in fields such as information technology, healthcare, engineering, and the skilled trades by participating in coursework at the Venango Technology Center. Other students have participated in experiences at East and West Forest such as job shadowing and cooperative education. Partnerships with local businesses have opened doors for students exploring immediate post-graduation work.

Students have participated in college and career fairs, resume-building sessions, mock interviews, and career research. These efforts ensure that our graduates are not only academically prepared but also equipped with skills to continue their education either immediately upon graduation or after spending some time in the military or workforce.

For those students who choose to continue their education directly after high school, our school counselors and teachers have been working with students to navigate the complex world of college admissions and financial aid. Students also have the opportunity to apply for many scholarships that are offered within our local community to help them defray the cost of higher education.

Beyond technical knowledge, we recognize the importance of soft skills in today's workforce. Our educators have integrated leadership, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving into daily learning experiences. Through group projects, community service initiatives, and extracurricular activities, students are honing the interpersonal skills that are crucial for success in any career. These competencies not only prepare our students for the workplace but also contribute to making them responsible and engaged citizens.

We are working to help Forest Area School District students and graduates build a future where they are prepared to excel in the workforce and post-secondary education. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the teachers, counselors, administrators, and community partners who care about our students and make these achievements possible.

SPRING 2025

Newsletter Highlights

[MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT](#)

[FOREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOGNITION](#)

[SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

[VENANGO TECHNOLOGY CENTER](#)

[DUAL ENROLLMENT](#)

[PSSA AND KEYSTONE TESTING, DATES](#)

[SAT/PSAT/ASVAB](#)

[FOREST READY](#)

[NASA CULINARY COMPETITION](#)

[DIVERSIFIED OCCUPATIONS](#)

[SERVICE LEARNING](#)



FOREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT DESIGNATED AS A GREAT PA SCHOOL



Forest Area School District was recently designated as a [Great Pennsylvania School](#). The Great Pennsylvania Schools (GPS) designation recognizes Pennsylvania public schools that provide students with access to rigorous programming, are community-centric, demonstrate financial well-being, and display resilience.

The award was presented at the March 2025 meeting of the Board of School Directors by Pennsylvania School Boards Association Representative, Lena Hannah. "Our Board is pleased to have achieved this award, and we believe our success comes from keeping the focus on our students and their needs in every decision that we make," said Board President Tim Korchak.

To receive this designation, districts must meet [the criteria](#) established. Districts that provide students with academically rigorous programming must confirm that their teachers are highly qualified and that students have access to career and technical education, dual enrollment, and gifted education.

To demonstrate a district's position as the centerpiece of the community, it must exemplify innovation in school programming, regularly celebrate the successes of students and staff, and provide academic and extracurricular offerings for the benefit of students.

To meet the resilience criteria, a district must implement an emergency preparedness plan and provide mental health support to students.

A district meets the financially healthy criteria by having an elected or independent auditor to conduct a financial audit annually, making the final district budget available for public review prior to adoption, and following School Code requirements for bids and quotations when purchasing goods and services.

For more information about the Forest Area School District, please visit our website at www.forestareaschools.org.



SCHOLARSHIPS



Need money to continue your education? Make sure you're watching the scholarship list! Our community organizations are beyond generous when it comes to helping Forest Area students fund their futures. In an average year, students in the Forest Area School District have access to about \$15,000 in scholarships. Individual awards range from about \$250 - \$2500 each. Take advantage of the multitude of opportunities provided. Check out the local scholarship awards available [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1, 2025 - WFH Baccalaureate - 5:00 PM
June 1, 2025 - EFH Baccalaureate - 7:00 PM
June 2, 2025 - EFH Awards Ceremony 9:00 AM
June 3, 2025 - WFH Awards Ceremony 9:00 AM
June 4, 2025 - WFH Commencement - 6:30 PM
June 5, 2025 - Last Day for Students - Dismissal at 11:04 AM
June 5, 2025 - EFH Commencement - 6:30 PM



VENANGO TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Have you seen all the opportunities that are available through the Venango Technical Center (VTC)? Forest Area students have the opportunity to attend VTC located in Oil City in the afternoons. In addition to learning skills and preparing for their future careers, in many of the program's students can take certification tests related to their field of study and participate in articulation agreements to earn college credits. Many students also participate in on-the-job training, pre-apprenticeship programs, and cooperative educational experiences.



Program areas include the following:

- Allied Health Occupations
- Auto Body Repair Technology
- Building Construction Technology
- Computer Aided Drafting & Design
- Computer Information Systems
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Assisting
- Early Childhood Education
- Heavy Equipment Repair Technology
- Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning
- Natural Resources
- Machine Tool Technology
- Protective Services
- Welding Technology

Check out the [VTC Programs Guide](#) for more details



DUAL ENROLLMENT

Forest Area School District offers students multiple pathways to dual enrollment credits. Students can take courses and earn credits from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (UPB), Penn West University (PWU), or the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (NPRC).

UPB courses, often called College in the High School classes, are taught by our teachers who have attained a Master's Degree and have been approved by UPB as meeting the qualifications as an adjunct professor. Students are required to take and pass the UPB approved final examination to earn credit.

PWU courses are offered both in person (on the Clarion campus) or online. Students may choose to attend courses in person outside of the regular school time or they can attend asynchronous online courses either in the evenings or by scheduling a study hall during the day.

NPRC courses are also available in both synchronous and asynchronous modes online, or students can attend those classes as livestream instruction or complete them independently.

Many students are able to graduate with a semester or more of college credits. Completing these courses gives students the confidence that they can succeed in higher education coursework and also saves a considerable amount of money in the future. More information about enrollment can be obtained from your school office.



PSSA AND KEYSTONE TESTING, DATES

PSSA and Keystone testing is used by the state of Pennsylvania to let us know how we are performing academically in comparison to other schools in the state. Students are encouraged to get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and do their best. You've worked hard all year - let's show them what we can do!

Test Type & Grades Testing

PSSA ELA (Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8)
PSSA Math (Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8)
PSSA Sci (Grades 5 & 8)
Keystone Lit
Keystone Algebra I
Keystone Biology

EAST

April 23 - 25
April 29 - 30
May 7 - 8
May 13-14
May 20-21
May 15-16

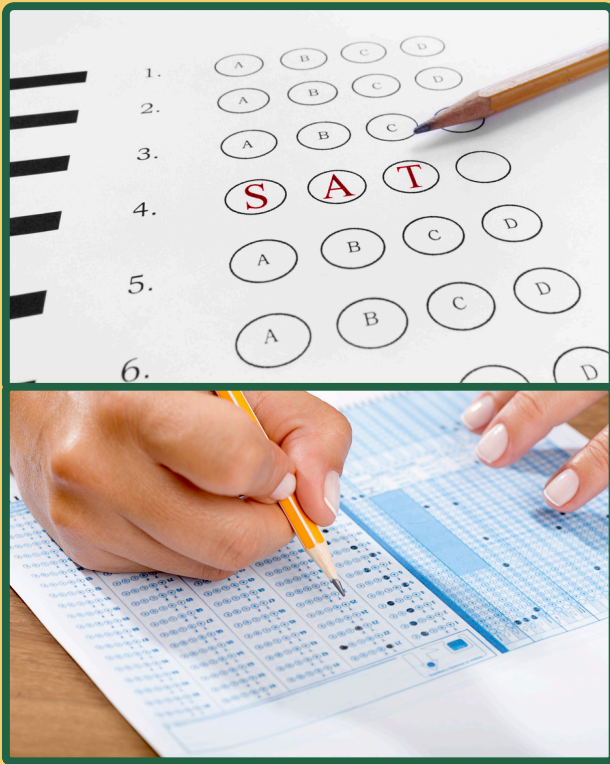
WEST

April 23 - 25
April 28 - 29
April 30 - May 1
May 13 - 14
May 15-16
May 19-20



SAT/PSAT/ASVAB

What's the SAT and why should I take it?



The SAT is composed of two sections: (1) the Reading and Writing section, and (2) the Math section. Each section is divided into 2 equal-length modules, and there is a 10-minute break between sections. The first module of each section contains a broad mix of easy, medium, and hard questions. Based on how you perform on the first module, the second module of questions will either be more difficult or less difficult.

SAT scores are often used by colleges and universities as criteria for admission. The SAT is offered at both East and West Forest schools each spring. Students are encouraged to take the SAT during their junior year. The Pre-SAT (PSAT) is offered to sophomores and is an excellent way for students to practice before taking the SAT.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. Forest Area students are offered the opportunity to take this test each school year.

If you have questions about the SAT, SAT, or the ASVAB please contact your school counselor.

FOREST READY

Forest Ready is a career readiness certification program that allows students in grades 9 - 12 to learn valuable skills for preparing to enter the workforce upon graduation. In order to complete the certification students will show that they understand the importance of:

- Work ethic
- Tactfulness/manners
- Teamwork/ critical thinking
- Problem solving skills
- Communication skills
- Supervision skills

Students are given the opportunity to earn an industry-based credential as well as a graduation cord to wear during their graduation ceremony.



Upon completion of the program, students will be guaranteed an interview with participating local companies. Local businesses can participate by reaching out to the Venango County Chamber of Commerce for more information.

NASA CULINARY COMPETITION TAKES EAST FOREST STUDENT TO HOUSTON

Students in the Culinary Arts program at the Venango Technology Center are off to Houston, Texas! Congratulations to the "Pasta Rangers" for earning a top ten spot in the Nationwide Competition for NASA! The group, including East Forest High School student Peighton Trout, created a Vegetarian Pad Thai dish appropriate for space flight. Their next stop will be the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas to showcase their recipe in hopes of it becoming a space flight meal for astronauts!



DIVERSIFIED OCCUPATIONS

Seniors who are not attending VTC in the afternoon may be eligible to participate in the Forest Area Diversified Occupations program. This course will provide students with a structured method of classroom-based education with practical, hands-on work experience.

Course content includes career development, employment acquisition, human relations, health and safety in the workplace, employment retention, communication development, legal awareness, youth organizations and leadership, consumer skills, economics, future planning, and technical skills.

Mr. Douthett and Mr. Donato will be happy to discuss employment options - contact them if you have questions!



**WEST FOREST
HARLEY ELLENBERGER**



**EAST FOREST
JACOB HEALY**



**WEST FOREST KAYLYN BEICHNER,
ALEXIS OSWALD, KILEY OLIVER**



**EAST FOREST
CHRISTINA MICALE**

Innovation Forest - Planting Ideas and Growing Projects

We are happy to announce a brand new elective for 2025-2026! Are you interested in studying a topic, solving a problem, or doing a project that isn't covered in regular electives? Do you want to work with the community, reach out to professionals in a specific field, or create a meaningful course for yourself? Here's your opportunity!

This course will empower students to take charge of their own learning by designing and executing independent projects that align with their interests, passions, and future goals. Students will propose their own project ideas, which must be approved based on feasibility, educational value, and a clear assessment plan. Each project will require research, skill development, and hands-on application, culminating in a final presentation shared with the school or community.

Projects may take many forms, including but not limited to community service initiatives, creative works, scientific research, job shadowing experiences, or entrepreneurial ventures. While some projects may involve work outside the school building, all students will be supported in setting goals, tracking progress, and refining their work through teacher and peer feedback.

Throughout the course, students will:

- Develop a formal project proposal, including a timeline and assessment criteria
- Conduct research and apply relevant knowledge and skills
- Adapt and problem-solve throughout the project development process
- Engage with mentors, experts, or community members when appropriate
- Present their final project to an authentic audience, demonstrating their learning and impact

This course fosters independence, creativity, critical thinking, and real-world application of skills, preparing students for future academic, professional, and personal endeavors.

Students in grades 10-12 during the 2025-2026 school year are eligible for the course!



Service Learning

Service Learning can be taken as a nine-week, semester, or year-long course. It is a course in which students may volunteer on short-term and/or long-term projects within the school building or nearby community. Students are encouraged to choose a volunteer assignment that matches their interests and fulfills a legitimate need. For example, if you are already part of the local volunteer fire company or volunteering in an elementary classroom, you may qualify for Service Learning credit. Students must report to their assignments as scheduled, attend quarterly meetings, and complete periodic reflection assignments. Responsibility, self-management, and a good work ethic are required for this course. Please visit Mrs. Pasinki or your building principal to discuss this option.





Now Hiring! Substitute Teachers & Support Staff



Forest Area School District

Join with ESS today to support student achievement! As the nation's largest education personnel and management company, ESS provides qualified candidates like you a fulfilling career in education and the opportunity to support schools in your local community.

Substitute Teachers \$125.00/day	Substitute Coordinators \$12.50/hour	Substitute Nurses \$15.00-\$21.00/hour
Substitute Paraprofessionals \$12.50/hour	Substitute Secretaries \$12.50/hour	

Apply Now! ESS.com

Jamie Zacherl | JZacherl@ESS.com | 814.360.3402



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