

Forest Area School District Newsletter

2025 School Year

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT A YEAR OF GROWTH AND GREATNESS: CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS' SUCCESSES

As we approach the end of another busy and productive school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements of our students across all grade levels. This year has been a testament to their hard work, creativity, and commitment to excellence - and I could not be more proud.

Whether it was earning a spot on the honor roll, performing on stage, leading a community service project, competing in state championships, or showing growth in the classroom, our students have embraced the challenges and opportunities before them. Their efforts have not only resulted in individual success but have strengthened the fabric of our school community.

We celebrated FCCLA students winning recognition at the state and national levels, students competing at the State Envirothon competition as well as countless daily victories that are just as significant - students learning to read fluently, developing leadership skills, mastering complex math concepts, or finding their voice through writing or public speaking.

This year's graduating classes exemplify resilience, integrity, and a commitment to making a difference. Many will go on to pursue higher education, join the workforce, enlist in the military, and serve their communities.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication of our teachers, staff, families, and community partners. Together, we've created an environment where students can succeed in many ways.

As we head into the summer months, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, reflect, and recharge. Above all, let us continue to celebrate the potential of our young people. Their achievements this year are just the beginning of what they will accomplish in the years to come.

SUMMER 2025

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL GROWTH

Leadership Opportunities Expand

Students in the Forest Area School District are actively engaging in a variety of leadership development opportunities through their involvement in Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Student Council programs.

FCCLA members represented their schools at several key conferences and planning sessions throughout the 2024-2025 school year. These events include statewide meetings at State College, regional gatherings at Olmsted Manor and Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and leadership planning sessions at Marywood University, Hempfield High School, Gettysburg High School, and Seven Springs Resort. Students also participated in the Integrated Learning Conference and have the opportunity to attend the FCCLA National Conference in Orlando, Florida this summer.

Student Council members from both East and West Forest schools have taken part in a leadership strategy session at Wildcat Mansion in Franklin, further emphasizing the district's commitment to cultivating student leaders.

These experiences allow students to build essential skills in communication, collaboration, and civic engagement while forming connections with peers from across the region and state. Through travel and active participation, students are empowered to take initiative, lead projects, and represent their school with pride on a broader stage.

WEST FOREST



EAST FOREST

Students Explore Government and History Through Hands-On Experiences

Students in the Forest Area School District engaged in a series of meaningful, real-world learning experiences this school year that deepened their understanding of government, history, and civic engagement.

As part of their American Government and Economics curriculum, students traveled to Warren to take part in Law Day, where they observed the legal system in action and explored topics related to justice and democracy. Earlier in the year, students also participated in a Government Outreach Day in Bradford, offering them a chance to interact with local officials and learn more about the workings of government.

Students studying U.S. History and the Holocaust visited Maple Grove Cemetery and the Jackson Center in New York, where they gained a deeper appreciation for the lives and legacies of historical figures and events. These sites offered meaningful connections to classroom learning, emphasizing themes of justice, remembrance, and civic responsibility.

In the spring, Student Historian club members took a multi-day trip to New York City, where they explored major historical landmarks, museums, and cultural institutions. The experience allowed students to engage directly with the people, places, and events that have shaped the nation's history. These off-campus experiences support students in developing a deeper understanding of the curriculum, historical context, civic participation, and the importance of informed citizenship—essential components of a well-rounded education.



Exploring Nature, Community Service, and Local Engagement: Enriching Experiences for Students

Forest Area students participated in a wide variety of hands-on learning and community involvement activities throughout the school year, focusing on themes of environmental education, community service, and local engagement.

A strong emphasis was placed on exploring the natural world and understanding local ecosystems. Elementary and high school students visited the Tionesta Fish Hatchery to observe and learn about the steelhead life cycle and stock trout. Environmental science students attended a forest health day sponsored by the Allegheny Forest Alliance (AFA) inside of the Allegheny National Forest (ANF), deepening their connection to regional conservation efforts. Additionally, some students traveled to outdoor recreation areas to engage with nature firsthand.

Community service and civic responsibility remained central themes throughout the year. Students supported local veterans by assisting with a Veterans Hunt and extended their efforts by helping clean up Market Village in preparation for the summer season. They donated handmade port pillows to the National Children's Cancer Society's Global Outreach Program and organized a fundraising dinner to support a community member in need. Additionally, students volunteered at local church and community events and helped sponsor a benefit for a local student battling cancer. These meaningful experiences foster a strong sense of community and encourage students to stay engaged in local causes.

Local engagement extended to practical skills development, with students soliciting advertisements for their school yearbooks in various nearby towns. This activity not only supports school initiatives but also connects students with the broader community, enhancing communication and business skills.

Ongoing literacy enrichment was also prioritized, with younger students regularly visiting the local library, fostering a love for reading and learning in early education.

Together, these diverse activities underscore the district's commitment to providing students with meaningful, real-world experiences that promote environmental stewardship and community.



WEST FOREST ENVIROTHON



ARTS, CULTURE, AND EXPRESSION



Students Engaged in Rich Arts and Cultural Experiences

Students in the Forest Area School District had several opportunities during the school year to explore the arts and participate in meaningful cultural experiences through a variety of off-campus events.

In the fall, students in grades 8–12 traveled to Pittsburgh to attend the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, where they experienced a powerful blend of history, music, and storytelling. Drama students also attended a live performance of *Dracula* in Franklin, deepening their appreciation for theatrical arts and stagecraft.

Music education was a strong focus throughout the year. Choir and band students traveled to DuBois, Indiana, and Blairsville to participate in regional rehearsals, auditions, and performances through the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA). These events allowed young musicians to collaborate with peers from other districts and perform in professional settings.

In the spring, a district-wide trip to the Byham Theatre in Pittsburgh brought together students in grades 3–12 for another live performance experience, *360 All Stars*, connecting students of all ages to the performing arts.

Art students visited the Brockway Center for Arts & Technology to explore visual arts and creative careers. Meanwhile, world language students traveled to Slippery Rock and Pittsburgh for a cultural immersion day that supported language learning through real-world context.

These experiences reflected the district's commitment to providing students with access to the arts and culture, helping them develop creativity, critical thinking, and a broader understanding of the world around them.



CAREER READINESS & ACADEMIC EXPLORATION

Students Explore Career Pathways and Hands-On Learning Opportunities

A key theme in the education provided at Forest Area is career readiness and workforce exposure. Students visited local businesses and industry sites, such as manufacturing facilities and ceramic coating companies, gaining insight into various career fields. The Industry Club participated in visits to regional employers and interacted with professionals to better understand potential career paths.

Higher education and technical learning opportunities were also highlighted. Students attended events like Discover Engineering Day at Penn State DuBois Campus and participated in a Career Day hosted at East Forest, fostering awareness of post-secondary options and vocational skills. Multimedia and journalism students sharpened their technical and creative skills by competing in a regional journalism contest, while pre-employment transition services offered hands-on experiences through visits to specialty sites like an herb farm and manufacturing sites, helping students prepare for future work environments.

Students also connected with marketing professionals during a visit to a major amusement park's marketing team, gaining firsthand knowledge of career possibilities in business and communications.

Students Explore Career Pathways and Hands-On Learning Opportunities

(Continued)



Author presentations and career exploration events further enriched students' understanding of professional opportunities beyond the classroom.

Together, these activities reflect the district's focus on providing diverse pathways for students to explore careers, develop practical skills, and prepare for future success in college and the workforce.

Students Engage in Academic Competitions

Throughout the school year, students from the Forest Area School District actively participated in a variety of academic competitions and environmental activities designed to enhance critical thinking, teamwork, and community stewardship.

A significant focus was placed on academic challenges, including math competitions, chess tournaments, and academic scrimmages held at regional education centers. These events provided students with opportunities to apply problem-solving skills, engage in strategic thinking, and collaborate with peers in competitive settings. Multiple rounds of competitions gave students a platform to showcase their knowledge and commitment to academic excellence.

Students from the Forest Area School District also participated in a series of engaging STEM-focused competitions throughout early 2025. These events aimed to foster hands-on learning and problem-solving skills in various scientific and technological fields.



The Fluid Power Challenge saw a group of seventh and eighth-grade students participate in an event hosted by Komatsu Mining Corp. This challenge allowed students to explore principles of fluid power in a practical setting.

Separately, a team of Robotics students traveled to DuBois in February for a competition. This event provided an opportunity for them to showcase their design and programming abilities in a competitive environment.

Finally, elementary students from both West and East Forest took part in a STEM Design Challenge. This event, held in March, was conducted in Clarion and encouraged young learners to apply their creativity and critical thinking to various design problems.

ELEMENTARY ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

Elementary Students Embark on Educational Trips

Elementary students from East and West Forest schools participated in a series of excursions during the 2024-2025 academic year, enriching their learning through hands-on experiences and outings.

Early in the academic year, young learners from West Forest Pre-K, Kindergarten, First, and Second grades visited Port Farms in October 2024, offering them an autumnal educational experience.

As spring approached in March 2025, West Forest third and fourth-grade students traveled to the Hurry Hill Farm Museum in Edinboro, providing an opportunity to learn about agricultural history and practices.

May 2025 was a busy month for field trips. Second-grade students from both East and West Forest Elementary schools explored the Clarion County Park for Agricultural Safety Days. Simultaneously, a group of West Forest third-grade students traveled to the Warren County Fairgrounds with a focus on learning about the state of Pennsylvania, including its history, geography, and resources. Also in May, East Forest fifth-grade students visited Clear Creek State Park and Farmers Inn and all Forest Area elementary students embarked on an enriching journey to the State College area, where they explored Penn's Cave, toured the Penn State Campus, and visited the PA Military Museum.

LET'S GO

ADVENTURE



CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

Class of 2025

Congratulations!



EAST FOREST

**Congratulations to the
class of 2025!**

**Take some time to
reflect on the moments
that got you here.
As your life grows and
fills with new
experiences, carry the
memories and lessons
you've learned with you.
Endless possibilities
await!**



WEST FOREST

CROWNING MOMENTS

Prom Royalty



**EF PROM QUEEN & KING
ALETTA SUMMERS & JACOB HEALY**



**WF PROM QUEEN & KING
KILEY OLIVER & ZACHARY CARLL**

The Forest Area Prom was held at the Flying W Ranch in Kellettsville during the evening of Friday, May 2nd.

Aletta Summers and **Jacob Healy** were crowned as East Forest 2025 Prom Queen and King. Healy is the son of Jeremy Healy and Kelly Healy. Summers is the daughter of Rory and Eileen Summers.

Kiley Oliver and **Zachary Carll** were crowned as West Forest 2025 Prom Queen and King. Carll is the son of Jennifer and Tim Carll, and Oliver is the daughter of Chris and Brianne Oliver and Cara Blum.



Celebrating the Class of 2025: Valedictorians and Salutatorians

Aletta Summers, Valedictorian, is the daughter of Eileen and Rory Summers.

Aletta has participated in the Foreign Language Club, Drama Club, Student Historians, Student Council and is a member of the National Honor Society. She was also the 2024-2025 Homecoming and Prom Queen.

Her high school awards include the Gold & Silver Presidential Education Award, Honors Student Award, Student Council Award, Bausch & Lomb Science Award, Lenna Chips Citizenship Award, DAR Good Citizenship Award, Senator Scott Hutchinson Good Citizenship Award and the Forest Ready Award. Aletta received the 2025 East Forest Faculty Scholarship.

Aletta plans on attending Lock Haven University majoring in Elementary & Special Education and becoming an elementary teacher.



ALETTA SUMMERS
EF Valedictorian



PEIGHTON TROUT
EF Salutatorian

Peighton Trout, Salutatorian, is the daughter of Shauna Ochs and Ryan Trout.

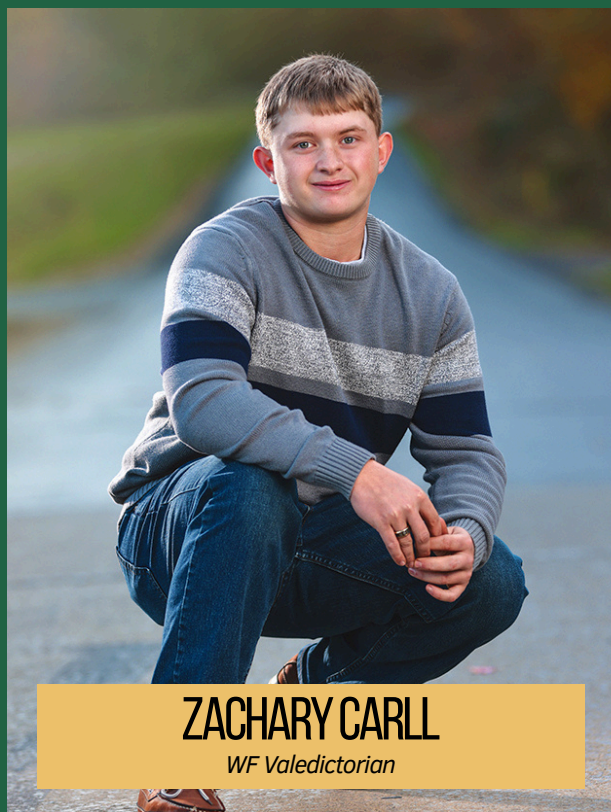
Peighton has participated in volleyball, basketball, softball, cheerleading, soccer, Drama Club, Chorus Club, Industry Club and Student Historians. She participated in the Culinary Arts program at Venango Technology Center and is a member of the National Technology Honor Society.

Her high school awards include the Female Sportsman Award, Athlete of the Year Award, George Eastman Young Leaders Award, Forest Ready Award, Student Council Award and the Silver Presidential Education Award. She is also OSHA certified and an Honors Student.

Peighton received the Sports Booster Scholarship and the KSAC Sports Scholarship at the recent awards ceremony. She plans to attend Mercyhurst College majoring in Sports Medicine and then become a Physical Therapist.

Celebrating the Class of 2025: Valedictorians and Salutatorians

(Continued)



ZACHARY CARLL
WF Valedictorian

Zachary Carll is the son of Timothy and Jennifer Carll. He has one sibling, Logan Carll. Zachary is the President of the Class of 2025, Student Historians President, and a member of the National Honor Society. He is also a member of the Drama Club, the National Technical Honor Society, and the Varsity Club. Zachary participated in Golf, Basketball, and Baseball. He was on Homecoming Court and Prom Court and was selected as Prom King. Zachary is also an Eagle Scout and a Volunteer of West Hickory VFD. Zachary attended Venango Technology Center for Welding and Co-Op with CNB Wagner Enterprise. Throughout his academic career, he has received Presidential Excellence Gold Award, Student of the Week, List of Excellence award, Lions Club Vocational Award, KSAC Scholarship, Senator Scott Hutchinson Good Citizenship Award, West Forest Alumni Scholarship, Forest County Association of Township Officers, Kinnear Memorial Scholarship, DAR Good Citizen Award, Sportsman of the Year, Sports Boosters Scholarship, Sons of the American Legion Athletic Scholarship, Titusville Moose Lodge #84 Scholarship, Blair Employee Family Fund Scholarship, Trevor Chamber Memorial Scholarship, Titusville Area Hospital Scholarship, Kami Dinger Memorial Scholarship, J.Bowen Proper Memorial Scholarship, Forest County Taxpayers Association Scholarship, Sherman Memorial Scholarship, SME 25-26 E.Wayne Kay Community College Scholarship, Warren Fabricating Scholarship, American Red Cross Scholarship, Forest Ready Certificate, Ruth & Vernon Taylor Valedictorian Award and Thomas D. Fulton Award. Zachary's future plans are to attend Pennsylvania College of Technology for welding.

Colter Bayle is the son of Crissa and John Woodworth. He has two siblings, Jeffery and Samuel Bayle.

Colter has participated in National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Foreign Language Club, Varsity Club, Student Historians, Industry Club, Soccer, Basketball, and Track and Field, List of Excellence award, and was elected as Student of the Week.

Throughout his academic career, he has received the Forest Ready Certificate of Completion, Certificate of Completion from the Venango Technology Center in Electronics Education, and the Ruth and Vernon Taylor Salutatorian Award. Colter has enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he plans to work as a mechanic.



COLTER BAYLE
WF Salutatorian

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Distinguished Alumni

Pamela (Van Nort) Negrete - East Forest Class of 1978

Ms. Van Nort completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh in 1982 where she received her Bachelors in Business Economics and with magna cum laude honors. Her first professional role was as a finance and operations auditor for Quaker State where she traveled 70% of her time and was exposed to the inner workings of more than 50 of the company's 120 national divisions and subsidiaries.

At 27, she was accepted to Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, the then ranked #1 Business School in America. At Kellogg, she learned the value of teamwork, branding and strategic thinking. With the coveted Masters of Management in hand, she immediately relocated to San Francisco to attend Wells Fargo's rigorous 8-month MBA Officer Development Program. On successful completion, she accepted a Vice President position in Wells Fargo's Private Banking division in San Diego where she facilitated the real estate lending and personal banking needs of her high net worth clients.

At 32, Ms. Van Nort had a solid sense of purpose and began to narrow her career focus to commercial real estate and asset management. She spent the next 32 years (11 years at JLL; 21 years at the Irvine Company) developing large regional real estate teams and executing strategic priorities for multi-billion dollar trophy portfolios located in San Diego, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York. The cultural focus on excellence at both JLL and Irvine Company presented the perfect ecosystem to live out her values of forever learning, creating meaningful work life experiences for her customers and community, and for positively influencing the next generation of leaders.

In 2024, Pamela retired from her executive leadership role at the Irvine Company and she and her husband Christopher relocated to Marienville to care for her mother.



Distinguished Alumni (CONTINUED)

Miles Furnish - West Forest Class of 1983

Miles Furnish is a distinguished professional with a diverse background spanning athletic training, business, and dedicated community service. A proud 1983 graduate of West Forest, Miles furthered his education by earning a Bachelor of Science from Anderson University, where he majored in Athletic Training and Secondary Education. He then went on to secure a Master of Education from Temple University, specializing in Exercise Physiology.

Miles began his career as a Certified Athletic Trainer, working with a wide range of athletes from high school to collegiate, world-class amateur, and professional levels in both clinical and high school environments. He later transitioned into the business world, making significant contributions in the medical device, pharmaceutical, and biotech industries. Currently, Miles serves as a National Account Director for Takeda Oncology.

Beyond his professional achievements, Miles is deeply committed to his community in Fishers, Indiana. He has coached youth baseball and basketball and served on the Executive Leadership Team of Heritage Christian School. For over two decades, he has been an active member of Church at the Crossing in Indianapolis, where he has taught adult classes, served in children and youth ministries, and chaired the Board of Elders. He currently lends his expertise to the Personnel Committee and Pastoral Leadership Team.

In his personal time, Miles enjoys playing golf, traveling, and passionately supporting all Pittsburgh professional sports teams, especially attending Steelers games. Above all, he cherishes time with his family: his wife of 32 years, Dina, their three sons, two daughters-in-law, and their new granddaughter, Daisy.



HONORING OUR RETIREES

Retirements



Happy Retirement



JULIE AARON

Ms. Julie Aaron graduated from Clarion Area High school in 1984. She earned a BA in French and Spanish, with a K-12 teaching certificate in 1989. She started work at West Forest High School later that year as a French and Spanish teacher, grades 9 -12. Soon after, an 8th grade introductory class and later, 5th and 6th grade classes were added to her schedule. In 2009, Julie began working at East Forest and travelling between both buildings.

During the course of her career, Julie did many extracurricular activities, like DAFFY, Prom, Student Council, Ski Club, Game Manager for basketball, Mr. West Forest, Homecoming, and of course, Foreign Language Club. The trips she took with her students were often the highlight of the school year, visiting Mexico, Canada, France, England, Spain, Switzerland, Germany and Italy, as well as many places in the US, like California, Virginia, North Carolina, Vermont and Maryland. Towards the end of her tenure at Forest, she expanded into journalism and media and began doing some of the articles and slideshows that are used to highlight our exceptional students, staff and events.

Julie plans to continue traveling often with family and friends, playing golf and discovering new places, and she will probably get a part-time job or volunteer her skills.

LORI BEATTY

With 38 years of experience in music education, Lori Beatty brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for music and family consumer sciences. For the past 14 years at Forest Area School District, Lori has been a cornerstone of the music program (PK - 12) and the FCS department (Gr. 7 - 12).

Beyond the classroom, she has been a highly engaged adviser for FCCLA, State Executive Council, and Student Council, and has dedicated her summers to leading music enrichment programs. Her musical talents and leadership extend to Grace Church, where she directs the Children's Choir, sings in the adult choir, plays handbells, and accompanies services. Before her tenure at FASD, Lori spent 21 years making a significant impact at Kane Area School District, where she led a wide array of musical programs from elementary through high school, including marching band and community musicals with the Kane Players. Her extensive prior experience also includes teaching 5th grade at Warren County Christian School and preschool at Bethel Park United Methodist Child Care Center, alongside numerous leadership roles at Kane First United Methodist Church, demonstrating her lifelong commitment to education and community.

In retirement Lori plans to spend time with her family, continue to support her church, and cheer for the Steelers!



Retirements

(CONTINUED)



PENNY KAHLE

Mrs. Penny Kahle began her career with Forest Area 2006 as a Teacher's Aide at East Forest. She worked in the high school learning support classroom for 3 years before transitioning to the elementary learning support classroom. She also worked as a Cheerleading Advisor for 8 years and a Game Manager for 4 years. She ran the concession stand while her children played sports.

Before working at East Forest, Penny was a waitress for 15 years, Boy Scout Leader, Girl Scout Leader, and Marienville SWAT (Servants With A Testimony) Youth group leader. She raised 4 children and continues to operate an automotive business in Marienville with her husband, Tom.

Mrs. Kahle has enjoyed many years of working and being active in the community. She is thankful for the opportunity to work for the Forest Area School District, the 19 wonderful years helping students become the best they can be, and working with the beautiful staff. She has been blessed.



Embrace the Journey:

Retirement, Where New Adventures Begin!



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Opportunities
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