

Forest Area School District Newsletter

2025-2026 School Year

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

As we progress through the school year, this is a great moment to pause and reflect on how far our students have come and to look ahead at the important weeks still to come. This time of year, is especially critical for learning, and consistent attendance truly makes a difference. Being in school every day, on time, and ready to learn allows students to stay connected to instruction, build strong habits, and make steady progress toward their goals. Your partnership in prioritizing daily attendance is essential to student success.

As we move through the second semester, our focus shifts to fine-tuning the skills students developed during the first half of the year and using those skills as a scaffold for new, more complex learning. Teachers will be helping students strengthen their foundations while encouraging growth and deeper understanding. Looking ahead, families of students in grades 5 –11 should also be on the lookout for scheduling materials that will be coming home soon for the 2026–2027 school year. These plans are an important step in preparing for future opportunities, and we appreciate your attention and support as those materials arrive.

Thank you for your partnership. Wishing everyone a positive and productive start to the new year!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Beers

WINTER 2026

Newsletter Highlights

MESSAGE FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT

STUDENT RECOGNITION
& SCHOOL PRIDE

FROM CLASSROOM
TO COMMUNITY

WARM MOMENTS
THIS WINTER

SCHOOL BOARD
APPRECIATION



STUDENT RECOGNITION & SCHOOL PRIDE



PMEA District 3 Chorus

Esther Forker, Kale Morrison, and Macalie Hoffmann proudly represented the Forest Area School District at the PMEA District 3 Chorus Festival hosted by Brockway High School. Leading up to the festival, they prepared many choral selections, some favorites being “No Time,” arranged by Susan Brumfield, and “Kwangena Thina Bo,” a South African piece arranged by Lhente-Mari Pitout. These students had the honor of working with the festival’s guest conductor, Dr. Gerrit Scheepers. He is currently the Director of Choirs and Assistant Professor of Music at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, a university located in Rapid City, South Dakota. Dr. Scheepers previously taught at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where Miss Jackson, Forest Area School’s music teacher, briefly studied and performed under his choral direction. Through their enthusiasm and commitment to music, they earned the opportunity to rehearse alongside nearly 200 talented high school singers from across PMEA District 3. During the festival, these students spent three days engaging with music in a meaningful and impactful way. At the end of the festival, they got to perform in the PMEA District 3 Chorus Festival concert, showcasing their gained knowledge and appreciation of choral music.

We are very proud of Esther, Kale, and Macalie for their hard work and dedication towards this amazing and enriching opportunity. Their participation reflects proudly on our school, students, and community, as well as highlights the ongoing growth and positive impact of our music program.



Girls Basketball /All Stars

Tara Brown and Jayden Colvin were named to the All-Stars team at the Forest Area Tip-off tournament where they led their team to a second-place finish.



Boys Basketball

The Forest Fires boys basketball team had the opportunity to play in the gym at Penn West Clarion University as part of a Diabetes Awareness fundraiser. They won their game against AC Valley. The co-op with Abraxas has been successful and mutually beneficial!



Paint the Plow for East Forest Area

PennDOT announced that East Forest is the District 1 Judge's Pick regional winner of the Paint the Plow safety outreach contest. The "Judges' Pick" award was presented to East Forest High School of Forest County, selected by a panel of PennDOT representatives. Their design stood out for its creativity and connection to the winter safety message.

Honor Roll Achievements

Students in both buildings have celebrated Honor Roll achievements with awards assemblies and treats! Congratulations, students, on your academic achievements! Keep up the good work!

West Forest



East Forest



Homecoming 2025

HOCO

East Forest King & Queen

East Forest High School held its annual Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 18th. The dance was sponsored by the East Forest Student Council.

Jonah Glass and Jayden Colvin were named Homecoming King and Queen.

Glass is the son of Dan Glass and Kristen and Kevin Roberts. Colvin is the daughter of Staci and Rodney Colvin.

East Forest Student Council would like to thank everyone who helped to make the dance a success.



Jonah Glass & Jayden Colvin

West Forest King and Queen

West Forest High School held its annual Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 11. The dance was sponsored by the West Forest Student Council.

Conner Summerville and Becca Wagner were named Homecoming King and Queen.

Summerville is the son of Donny Summerville and Holli and Dustin Wolfe. Wagner is the daughter of Rick and Mary Wagner.

West Forest Student Council would like to thank everyone who helped make the dance a success.



Conner Summerville & Becca Wagner

FROM CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY

Loleta Trip for EFH and WFH

The 9th Grade Environmental Science classes took a field trip to Loleta to take part in an AFA Forest Management program. Students participated in a Forest stocking survey and in bird banding. Students were able to hold the birds and then release them after banding. WF freshman Samuel Bayle is pictured here holding one of the banded birds.



STEAM

East Forest 5th and 6th graders are working with Mr. Donato in our new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Music) class to create planter boxes. The plan is for them to plant and grow lettuce in the planters. In this photo, you can see Gage Walton and Mr. Donato making holes in the bottom of the planter box.



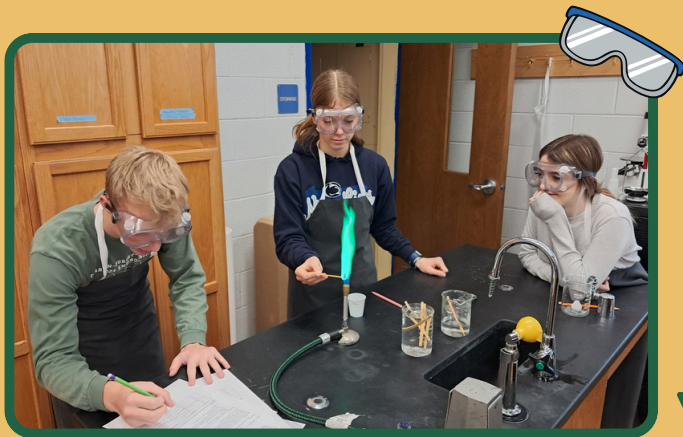
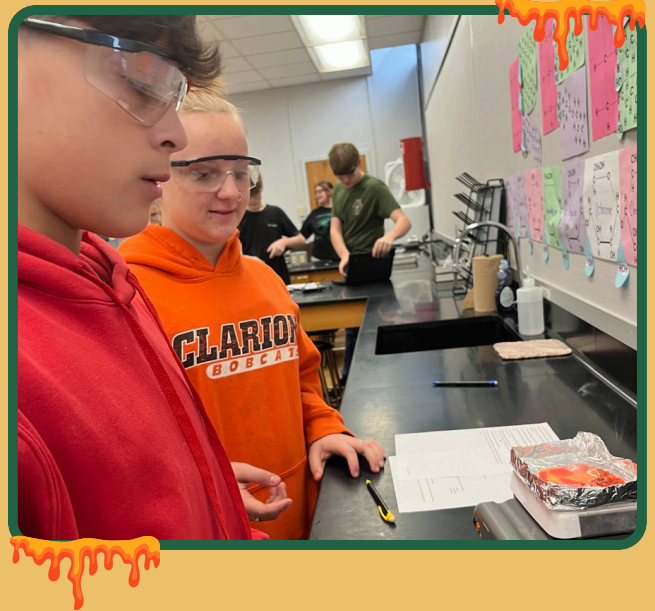
Farm to Table

East Forest 9th-grade Family and Consumer Science students received a special look at local agriculture this week. Warren Thomas, owner and operator of Emlenton's Baytree Farm, joined the class to share his expertise on running a successful lamb farm. The visit provided a firsthand perspective on sustainable ranching as part of the students' current Farm-to-Table unit.



East Forest Hands-On Science

The 8th grade Fundamentals of Science class, taught by Mrs. Shaftic, is doing a starburst lab modeling the rock cycle. The lab followed procedures to illustrate sediment, sedimentary rock, and the creation of metamorphic rock. Students taught themselves the basic vocab, and then the experiment followed in which they created "magma." Being hands-on and self-guided often creates the most memorable experiences, and science lends itself to this more often than other school subjects.



West Forest Hands-On Science

Mr. Brown's Chemistry class worked on flame tests. Students tested different materials during this experiment by burning the materials in the flame. Students determined the material being burned by the color of the flame.

WARM MOMENTS THIS WINTER

West Forest Thanksgiving Dinner

West Forest Elementary held their annual Thanksgiving Dinner with families on Thursday, November 13th. Families were invited to eat a Thanksgiving dinner with their children here at school. Many West Forest families attended and had a wonderful time enjoying the company of each other and their families.



East Forest Veterans Day

On November 13, East Forest School held an assembly to honor local veterans. Guest speakers included Senator Scott Hutchison and East Forest Teacher, Mr. Ernie Hartwig, Master Sergeant, U.S. Army Retired. The atmosphere was very patriotic, featuring a giant American flag hung by the Marienville Volunteer Fire Company's engine outside the school, a Wall of Honor, and a red-carpet entrance. The program, arranged by the Student Council, featured Grace Cornman singing "The Star-Spangled Banner," third and fourth grade students leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and second through sixth grade students reading thank-you notes. The event concluded with a special reception for the veterans and their family members.



West Forest Veterans Day

West Forest held its annual Veterans Day Assembly on Friday, November 14. The assembly featured Representative Rapp as the keynote speaker. Ariana Millard and Kendall Westcoat each read an essay they wrote on Veterans Day. Macalie Hoffmann performed the National Anthem. Miss Jackson led the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders in a choral selection dedicated to Veterans Day.



Shop With a Cop

Elementary students from both buildings enjoyed "Shop with a Cop" this weekend. Steve Manns, SPO from East, was able to represent FASD at the event.



Santa and His Elves

The Forest County Courthouse visited both buildings to allow students a visit with Santa and his elves. This photo was provided by Mrs. Arner.



SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION



On average, a school board member volunteers approximately 10 hours per month—or more than 100 hours per year—in regular board meetings, work sessions, meeting preparation and document review, school event participation, communication with constituents, training, and the occasional special or emergency meeting. Rural school board members wear multiple hats, so their time is also spent on budgets, hiring, facilities, or community engagement as well.

We recently celebrated School Board Recognition Month, a time set aside nationwide to honor the dedicated volunteers who govern public schools, all without compensation! In our rural district, board members frequently balance their service with full-time jobs, family responsibilities, and community commitments. Yet they consistently show up to support our students, staff, and schools.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our Board of Education for their commitment, their time, and their belief in our students. Thank you for the countless hours you invest, the difficult decisions you navigate, and the steady guidance you provide. Our schools are stronger because of you. Thank you to **Tim Korchak**, President; **Troy Johnston**, Vice-President & VTC Representative; **Michael Oliver**, Treasurer & IU6 Representative; **John Atkin**, PSBA Representative; **Tim Carll**; **Shirley Edmondson**; **Tammy Thompson**; and **Tabitha VanDyke**.

Pictured: Tim Carll, Amy Beers, Tabitha VanDyke, Mike Oliver, Tammy Thompson, Tim Korchak, John Atkin, and Troy Johnston. Missing from photo: Shirley Edmondson.





Opportunities Await! Apply Now!



Now Hiring

Substitute Teachers &
Substitute Support Service Positions
for Forest Area School District

Flexible Schedule | Weekly Pay | Health Benefits
Bonus Programs | Training Opportunities | 401(k)



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(EC)

In search of bus and van drivers for East and West Forest schools. We will train you for a Class B CDL! Call Muccio Transportation at: 814-755-7775.

