



# Forest Area School District

## NEWSLETTER

### *A Note from Superintendent Hetrick*

#### **SUMMER 2022**

**1ST DAY OF SCHOOL  
FOR PREK:  
AUGUST 29, 2022**

**1ST DAY OF SCHOOL  
FOR K-12:  
AUGUST 30, 2022**

We were very pleased that the 2021-2022 school year was a much more “normal” year for our students as we started to move past some of the challenges that COVID presented. Our students were able to participate in many activities such as field trips, Prom, and traditional graduation exercises. You will see many of these highlighted in this edition of our newsletter.

As we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year, we are excited to be seeing some building upgrades including the completion of an upgraded HVAC system with improved ventilation and UV technology to help prevent the spread of germs. In addition, we have added new windows at West Forest, new flooring in a number of the East Forest classrooms, updated restroom facilities throughout both buildings and completed some renovations to the gymnasium areas. Both buildings will be ready to start school on schedule. All of these changes should help to preserve the overall lifespan and appearance of our buildings and provide a healthier learning environment for our students.

Academically, teachers at the junior high school level will be working with students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset. This curriculum will be embedded in existing classes and will help to teach students to see problems as opportunities and consider various ways to approach challenges in their lives and careers. We will also be providing tutoring and more summer opportunities in the 2022-2023 school year.

In other news, the Forest Area School Board adopted a budget for the school year that included no tax increase for our residents. The Board recognizes that the recent economic situation has impacted many of our residents and we hope that this will help them.



### **BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH RURAL EDUCATION AWARD**

The Penn State Center on Rural Education and Communities, in partnership with The Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS) on May 6 issued the annual Building Community Award through Rural Education to the Forest Area School District. The award was announced at the PARSS annual meeting in Boalsburg, PA. The Building Community Award recognizes a school or school district that has demonstrated innovative practices by improving educational opportunities while strengthening education.

Superintendent Amanda Hetrick received the award on behalf of the Forest Area School District. The district, spanning Forest, Venango, and Elk Counties, covers about 500 square miles but is highly rural and has an enrollment of just over 400 students. The district has distinguished itself through addressing broadband access within the district during the COVID-19 pandemic, and working with regional health care providers to establish a rural medical clinic servicing district residents. The Forest Area School District has also worked to address issues of food security for community residents by creating community gardens in both communities where produce is grown for donation to local residents. The District attributes its success to having built multiple ongoing partnerships with community businesses and agencies to promote career readiness for students and to engage in community outreach. Forest Area School District was nominated for the award by Forest County Commissioner Bob Snyder.



Special thanks to all of our Forest Area staff members, students, families, and communities!  
This award belongs to all of us!

Follow us on:



*Prepare to EXCEL!*

[www.forestareaschools.org](http://www.forestareaschools.org)

# Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

## EAST FOREST VALIDICTORIAN

Ryan Parrett is the son of Randall and Jane Parrett of Marienville. He plans to attend Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport studying Forest Technology.

Ryan is a member of the National Honor Society, FCCLA, Varsity Club, President of Student Council and President of the Mini Relay for Life Club. He is an Eagle Scout, member of the Marienville Volunteer Fire Company and United Methodist Church.



At the recent Awards Day Ceremony, Ryan was awarded DAR Good Citizen Award, Sen. Scott Hutchinson Good Citizenship Award, Lenna Chips Citizenship Award, Male Athlete of the

Year Award, Presidential Education Gold Award, Lions Club Scholarship, Katie M. Edmondson Memorial Scholarship, Marsha L. Beichner Memorial Scholarship, Floyd E. & Anna E. Carbaugh Memorial Scholarship, Butch Hulings Memorial Scholarship, Boys Soccer Scholarship, EF Alumni Scholarship, Sports Booster Scholarship, William E. & William D. Snyder Memorial Scholarship, Russell M. Smith Scholarship, Arthur VanNort Memorial Scholarship, Forest Co. Taxpayers Assoc. Scholarship, EF Faculty Scholarship and the Sandy Cochran Fund Scholarship.

## EAST FOREST SALUTATORIAN

Shelby Nelson is the daughter of Amy Nelson of Marienville, and Richard Nelson. She plans to attend Clarion University majoring in Secondary Education Biology.

Shelby is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Historians, and Student Council. She is a Highest Honor Student in the Top 25 Academic Students.



During the Awards Ceremony at East Forest she received the English Award, Floyd E. & Anna E. Carbaugh Memorial Scholarship, EF Alumni Scholarship, Lions Club Scholarship, Sen. Scott Hutchinson Good Citizenship Award, Forest County Taxpayers Association Scholarship, and the Presidential Education Gold

## WEST FOREST VALIDICTORIAN

Darcie Maul is the daughter of Bobbi and Lance Maul. She is the Vice President of the Class of 2022, President of Student Council, and a member of National Honor Society, Yearbook Club, and Student Historians. During Darcie's high school career, she participated in Cross Country (grades 8-10) and Drama Club (grades 8-10). She received the Presidential Excellence Gold Award, the Ruth and Vernon Taylor Valedictorian Award, the Thomas D Fulton Valedictorian Award, and the West Forest Faculty Scholarship. Darcie's future plans are to attend Clarion University for Nursing.



## WEST FOREST SALUTATORIAN

Logan is the son of Timothy and Jennifer Carll. He has one sibling, Zachary Carll. Logan is the President of the Class of 2022, Student Historians President, and National Honor Society Secretary. He is a member of Drama Club, School Safety Committee, Yearbook Club, Tech Club, and Varsity Club. Logan participated in Golf and Basketball. He was on Homecoming Court and Prom Court. Logan is an Eagle Scout and a Volunteer of West Hickory VFD.

Throughout his academic career, he has received Presidential Excellence Gold Award, Lions Club Academic Award, KSAC Scholarship, Sen Scott Hutchinson Good Citizenship Award, David Jardin Memorial Scholarship, Tidjoute American Legion Aux Unit 0334, Lions Club Academic Scholarship, WF

Alumni Scholarship, Forest County, Association of Township Officers, Kinnear Memorial Scholarship, DAR Good Citizen Award, Drama Club Lifetime Achievement Award, Male Sportsman of the Year, Sports Boosters Scholarship, KSAC Scholarship, Sons of the American Legion Scholarship, Titusville Moose Lodge #84 Scholarship, Blair Employee Family Fund Scholarship, Mountain Laurel Credit Union Scholarship, Clarion University School Counselor Scholarship, Titusville Area Hospital Medical Staff Scholarship, American Legion Post 368 Scholarship, and the Ruth & Vernon Taylor Salutatorian Award. Logan's future plans are to attend Clarion University for Business Administration and Information Services, and plans to minor in History.



# Activities and Events

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, students at all grade levels had the opportunity to participate in field trips that focused on everything from career exploration to local communities. Students visited many local business, post secondary education institutes, parks, and other places relevant the exploration of curriculum in areas such as Social Studies, World Languages, Science, Math, ELA, and Family and Consumer Sciences.



## EAST FOREST PROM

Donald Tucker and Shelby Nelson were named the 2022 East Forest Prom King and Queen. Donald is the son of Treava Kendall and Donald Tucker. Shelby is the daughter of Amy and Richard Nelson.



## WEST FOREST PROM

Darcie Maul and Allen Johnston were crowned 2022 West Forest Prom King and Queen. Darcie is the daughter of Lance and Bobbi Maul. Allen is the son of Patty and Butch Johnston.



## WEST FOREST NAMES PRINCIPAL

Ms. Staci Blair was named PK-12 Principal of West Forest School after serving nearly a year as acting principal. Staci is starting her 17th year with the Forest Area School District. She was hired as an English /Language Arts teacher by the school board in August of 2006. Ms. Blair completed her undergraduate work at Clarion University. She completed her master's through Edinboro University and obtained her principal certification from California University. During her time with the district, Staci taught dual enrollment English classes through the University of Pitt Bradford for many years. She has served as the gifted teacher, Special Education Facilitator and also worked as part of the Forest Area grants team. Outside of the academic school day Ms. Blair has been the head coach for the Forest Fires varsity girl's soccer, basketball, and softball teams and served as a FCCLA adviser. In her free time, Staci enjoys traveling, gardening, and spending time with her family.



## WATER UPDATE

We recently received a violation notice from DEP about our West Forest water system. Even though these were not emergencies, as our families, you have a right to know what happened. The violation was due to late submission of a required report. Samples that were to be collected between January and June 2021 were actually submitted in September of 2021. We are happy to report that the results of that sample submission confirm that our water treatment plan is working as it should. Our drinking water is within the lead and copper rule standards and is safe for drinking.

## Retirements

# A+

### MR. BRIAN HALE

Brian Hale has been a teacher in the Forest Area School District for 35 years. He was hired by the Forest Area School Board in August of 1987. His first assignment was kindergarten at East Forest Elementary. The following year, he was transferred to West Forest Elementary where he began teaching first grade. Mr. Hale taught that grade level for a total of twenty three years. Two other years during his career, he taught second grade. One additional year had him back teaching kindergarten. For the past eight years, Mr. Hale has been instructing students in fourth grade. While at that grade level, he developed an annual curriculum studying the local trout streams. He organized trips to the Tionesta Fish Hatchery where students learned about trout eggs, fry, and adult fish. Classroom visitors included guests who discussed stream pollution and river mussels that effect trout. The annual highlight involved trout stocking of local streams nearby the school.



In 2010-2011 school year, Mr. Hale began serving as West Forest lead teacher. He held that position for several years prior to his retirement.

### MRS. ERIN BRANNON



Erin O'Toole Brannon has worked for the Forest Area School District for 35 years. Erin graduated from Clarion University in 1986. Her first year after graduation, she taught fifth grade at Madison Elementary in Madison, Ohio. She returned to West Forest in 1987 to begin her career as a second-grade teacher. Erin worked hard to keep current in the educational setting by obtaining graduate credits either on campus or through Distance Learning.

In obtaining her graduate credits, she attended Gannon for the majority of her masters credits but also attended Clarion, Penn State, Wilks, The College of Saint Rose, Millersville, University of Alaska, John Carroll, Carlow and Indiana Wesleyan University. When the pandemic occurred in 2020 and teaching and learning were done remotely she took classes at Clarion to learn how to be an effective online teacher. She also completed Google Certified training to become one of three Google Certified teachers in the district.

During her tenure at West Forest, Erin held several coaching positions. Her first twelve years and her last four, she coached elementary basketball. She also coached junior varsity basketball for four years. In 2021 she was an assistant high school baseball coach. Every year she did a second-grade yearbook for her students.

Erin resides in Oil City with her husband Ken of 28 years. Her daughter Mallory has followed in the family tradition and is teaching junior high math in Union City. Her son Nolan is a senior at Slippery Rock University studying to be a physician assistant.

As a footnote, Erin's mother, Mary Schierberl O'Toole came to Tionesta to teach English Language Arts in 1948 and retired in 1987. Her father, Michael O'Toole spent his career here at West Forest from 1950-1986 as a biology teacher and then the high school principal.

### MRS. LINDA SILVIS

Mrs. Linda Silvis has worked as a full time employee for the Forest Area School District for 35 years. Mrs. Silvis started working at East Forest in the 1970s. Prior to starting at East Forest, Mrs. Silvis earned her Elementary Education degree at Clarion State College. She began her time here supervising in-school-suspension and substitute teaching. In 1987 Mrs. Silvis joined the school staff as the school secretary. Linda was also involved in coaching sports for many years. She coached high school volleyball for 16 years and elementary boys basketball for 5 years. Mrs. Silvis says what she will miss most about working here will be the work family and all the friends she has made over the years. Her plans during retirement will be to help her mother, spend time with her grandchildren, and enjoy finally having a summer off!

