BE SAFE
RESPECT OTHERS
ACCOUNTABLE
VICTORIOUS
ENTHUSIASTIC

BE BRAVE AND FOLLOW THE WARRIOR WAY.







THE ARROW



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Class of 2022 Bright Futures

Congratulations and best of luck to our graduates as they embark on new adventures!

187 Total Students

- 76 Attending a Four-year Post-Secondary Institution
- 27 Attending a Two-year Post-Secondary Institution
- 21 Attending a Trade, Technical, or Business School
- 2 Serving in the Armed Services
- 56 Entering the workforce
- 5 Undecided

2022 Graduates are attending the following Institutions:

Albright College
Bella Capelli Academy
California University of
Pennsylvania
Carlow College
Chatham University
Clemson University
Community College of
Allegheny County
Douglass Education Center
Gannon University
Grove City College
Indiana University of
Pennsylvania

Kent State University
LaRoche University
Marywood University
Mercyhurst University
Penn State University
Pittsburgh Institute of
Aeronautics
Pittsburgh Technical College
Point Park University
Rochester Institute of
Technology
Slippery Rock University
St. Vincent College
United States Air Force
Academy

Elizabeth Forward Named a National 'Lighthouse' School System

Setting the course for the future of American education.

The American Association of School Administrators has chosen the Elizabeth Forward School District as one of only 13 school systems in the country to be named as 'Lighthouse' School Systems. Joining just two other districts in Pennsylvania, EF was chosen to be part of this prestigious group because it serves as a model of positive public education change.

The AASA is a group of over 13,000 school districts nationwide that advocates for public education and offers opportunities for superintendents to network with other educators who want to innovate learning environments and expand opportunities for their school districts. Partnering with the Successful Practices Network, the AASA selected EF and the 12 other districts from their AASA Learning 2025 Network, a group of 120 school systems that are forward-thinking districts who ultimately want to improve learning outcomes through innovative practices.

The designation as a 'Lighthouse' School System recognizes a commitment to progress as each district serves as a "beacon of light" in specific areas relating to the redesign of the American educational system. Districts were evaluated by a review panel of independent educational leaders from across the US who looked for redesign component indicators, including student growth, offering learners opportunities to co-author their learning, early learning initiatives, technology-enhanced learning opportunities, and other factors.

AASA Executive Director Daniel A. Domenech says, 'Lighthouse' Systems serve as "thought-leader practitioners that are implementing bold, actionable steps

on behalf of the broader education community to learn from and learn with as they have taken on the challenge of Learning 2025."

In June, the AASA and SPN will host the Learning 2025 National Summit in Washington, DC. Mr. Keith Konyk, Mr. Steve Hartnett, and Dr. Mary Carole Perry will represent EF at this meeting of school leaders and other stakeholders from districts across the country to network and share strategies that will help maximize each district's potential as innovative and transformative schools.

EFSD is honored to be amongst this group of distinguished schools and looks forward to continuing our collaboration with these organizations as we #ignite learning in our district.





The Warrior Wall

Celebrating the achievements of our students.

Since 2019, Central Elementary has used the student-created pallet board, Central's Wall of Fame, to highlight student success stories. Under the direction of Miss Straub and former 5th-grade teacher Mrs. Weagley, students in the after-school Pallet Club created a large wooden platform that now hangs on a wall in the main hallway. This large, stained pallet platform is decorated with student photos and a description of each event. Central students participate in various activities outside the school day, including community-organized sports, after-school clubs, dance, gymnastics, karate, acting, and the arts. The Warrior Wall has carved out a unique space in the school to highlight these moments in their lives.

Students are always delighted when their pictures are hung on the wall. The most recent additions to the wall included 5th-grade students Lily Giffin, Samantha Bubash, and Ben Waugaman. They recently participated in the District 1 Elementary Sing Fest, a yearly concert, that was held at Penn-Trafford High School this school year. Acknowledging out-of-school achievements promotes pride and is another way to connect students to the school, the district, and the greater community. Creating a thoughtful method to

recognize student achievements and hard work can help build a stronger classroom community and lay the foundation for future success both in and out of the classroom.







The Adventure of a Good Book

William Penn Elementary celebrates Read Across America

What does the number 3,000 have to do with William Penn Elementary School students? Students in grades kindergarten through five at William Penn read more than this impressive number of books during the week of February 28- March 4, 2022. William Penn celebrated the love of reading and Dr. Seuss during "Read Across America Week."

When asked about the week's events, third-grader Kiera Hutchman replied, "The best thing about Read Across America is to have fun and learn about new things." Second-grader Jeffrey Troesch added, "I loved it. Reading is really fun."

Each homeroom competed in a reading competition. The student from each homeroom

who read the most books was a winner. Fifth-grader Rylee-Shae Selvage, who is new to Elizabeth Forward this year, said, "Read Across America Week was really impressive because you could read and take tests. It made you want to read more with the contest going on." On Friday, March 11, 2022, winners received an ice cream treat and certificate to recognize their amazing achievements.

A theme was established for each day to inspire students' book choices to offer variety and generate interest. Themes included silly story day, influence day, favorite author day, animal day, and read my shirt day. To coordinate with the theme days, students dressed silly, dressed to impress, dressed as favorite characters and animals, and wore shirts that could be read. William Penn's classrooms and



Front: Chillian Jamison, Angelina Trumpie, Isabella Campbell, Elsie Boyd, Trevor Beatty, Colton Krupa Middle: Austin Mucci, Jeffrey Troesch, Mya Kremer, Dalton Young, Phoenix Sampson, Wade Vos Weiss

Back: Edward Pepka, Ryder Paiano, Skylar Brown, Rocco Thompson, Rylee-Shae Selvage, Sophia Demeis

Not Pictured: Jaton Saunders, Kiera Hutchman

hallways were filled with characters such as the Cat in the Hat, Harry Potter, the pigeon from Mo Willem's Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, and Jack and Annie from Magic Treehouse. Elsie Boyd, a first grader, thought it was cool dressing up. She stated, "I dressed as Andy from Andy Also and a

crocodile."

Fourth-grader Edward Pepka noted that one of the books he chose to read from the book selection placed in the hallway that week was about megalodons. He learned interesting facts from his book selections but said his "favorite thing was choosing from all the books and reading in the 'chill zone.'"

Students were highly motivated to win the reading competition. The competitive spirit of fifth-grader Rocco Thompson paid off. When he learned he was one of the winners, he said, "I was surprised because I thought other people were going to beat me." Students were kept up to date with daily announcements during the reading competition.

Wednesday of that week was National Dr. Seuss Day, so members of Elizabeth Forward Middle School Student Council came to William Penn to read and participate in Dr. Seuss-themed activities with our kindergarten and first-grade classes.

Other engaging activities throughout the week in individual classrooms, enrichment classes, and itinerant classes included reading informational texts about Dr. Seuss, rhyming activities, and art projects. William Penn students utilized books from their library, Epic, Khan Kids, and Accelerated Reader (AR), to compete in this competition.

When asked what his favorite part was, kindergartner Clinton Copeland stated, "reading all the books. My favorite is Monkey's Friends."

In addition to all the activities, the PTA provided Cat in the Hat cookies from Keystone Bakery were provided for everyone.

All students at William Penn benefited by being immersed in reading and learning. Congratulations to the official winners and recipients of the ice cream reward (pictured to the left).

Being a B.R.A.V.E. Warrior

Middle School students rewarded for positive behavior.

In March, Elizabeth Forward Middle School was honored to implement School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) at Tier 1 with fidelity. SWPBIS is a framework designed to enhance students' understanding of behavior expectations at school. The program follows the motto of being a BRAVE Warrior: Be safe, Respect others, Accountable, Victorious, and Enthusiastic. Students earn "Brave Bucks" by following defined expectations in all areas of the school, including the cafeteria, classrooms, restrooms, hallways and stairs, and during assemblies. The purpose of the program is to create a positive environment where all students are taught pro-social behaviors so that they achieve academic and lifelong success.



Students earned Kona Ice for positive behaviors in the cafeteria.

The Green Team Visits Greenock



Earth Day education helps students care for our planet.

On April 21, students from Elizabeth Forward High School's Green Team traveled to Greenock Elementary to help students learn more about being kind to the environment. This is the seventh year that the EFHS Green Team has worked with Greenock for Earth Day, and it is an event that everyone looks forward to, especially since the schools have not been able to celebrate the past two years.

The Earth-conscious high school students, Lily Dovichin, Keegan Cogley, Carlie Grice, Aleena Hawthorne, Taylor Kapisak, Amelia Lieberman, Emily Miklos, Jenna Nigon, Dessa Patterson, Alexandria Robison, Rebekah Yee, accompanied by their sponsors Mrs. Dianne Keller and Mrs. Linda Wright, partnered with Greenock teachers to run creative sessions for the students. Sessions included learning about plants, creating a recycling container, planting their own green bean seeds, learning about actual dirt, then making the tasty treat with Oreos and the famous Recycling Relay!

Second grade Greenock student Brooke Bercik said, "This day was incredible," and her class joined in with a resounding cheer of agreement. One kindergarten student asked his teacher if they could please have Earth Day every day.

The Greenock teachers always enjoy working with the high school staff and students, many of whom are returning to their elementary alma mater. First-grade teacher Ms. Stefanie Raible who coordinates the day at Greenock was thrilled to see EFHS juniors and seniors doing such a great job at teaching their younger counterparts. She said, "I can't say enough about how amazing the kids were. They connected so well with our kids and did everything from prep work to clean-up. They were just amazing and have grown up so beautifully." These are the types of inter-school partnerships that create special relationships between schools, students, and teachers.

Earth Day was first observed on April 22, 1970, to demonstrate support for environmental protection. Celebrated each year on or about April 22, the day has grown in recognition and importance as global citizens have come together to bring attention to the care the planet needs.





Great Competition. High Honors.

EFMS gifted students set the bar high.

The EF Middle School Gifted program has seen great success in the past few months, as several groups of students participated in multiple academic competitions.

On December 15, the middle and elementary school gifted students traveled to the Heinz History Center for the History Bowl, where our district excelled. The team of Brooke Yurkovich, Lilah Hall, and Chloe Axon, as well as the team of Joey Giunta, Cooper Weagley, Aaron Ulmer, and Sophia Gidel, brought home awards.

In November, two teams of students traveled to Thomas Jefferson High School to participate in the Future Problem Solvers Competition. The team of Grace Lenart, Vinny Ricciardi, and Cooper Weagley earned a spot to compete in the regional competition in January. This was followed in February by the America Bowl competition, hosted by Baldwin High

School, where sixth grader, Sophia Gidel placed first.

Those who like numbers would have enjoyed the Challenge 24 competition held at Thomas Jefferson High School on March 4. Seventh-grader Grace Lenart brought home second place in her division.

All the gifted students have been making us Warrior Proud with their many completed projects and their success in so many competitions in the last few months.

Left Photo: Sixth grader, Sophia Gidel, placed first in the America Bowl at Baldwin High School.

Right Photo: History Bowl participants at the Heinz History Center.







57 Inductees Earn Honors

National Junior Honors Society salutes top students.

On Tuesday, March 22, fifty-seven members were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at a ceremony at the Youghiogheny Country Club. Students being inducted were selected based on the five qualities that a candidate must exhibit: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. The students started the evening with dinner, then listened to speakers from the high school

and the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. Following the speakers, the students participated in a ceremony that inducted them into the society. Each student was recognized by name and received a certificate from the adviser, Mrs. Maggie Weagley.

Image: National Junior Honor Society Induction

Strategy & Teamwork Come Together with Esports

New video gaming class teaches problem-solving skills.

Gaming technology has touched Elizabeth Forward High School in a unique way with the newly introduced Esports team. EFHS Esports, coached by Mr. Matt Flaus and Dr. Anthony Popowitz, competes in popular video games such as Rocket League, Overwatch, and Super Smash Bros. and incorporates teamwork skills along the way. These highly strategic, online video game competitions are spectated and enjoyed in the same manner as other common sporting events.

Esports not only offers the formation of problemsolving skills but also a feeling of comradery, as explained by the EFHS Esports course teacher, Mrs. Jessica Gabrielson. Gabrielson said, "What Esports can do for those who participate is give them a place where they belong. It helps build a strong community of people who enjoy gaming problem-solving."

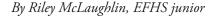
Offering this new class at the high school provides students with the opportunity to participate in a club and connect with other students. Team member Owen Musisko emphasizes the social benefits of participating in this club. He said, "Esports is a great way for team bonding and communication. Although it may seem like a video game at first, there is much more to it than

just that." This new team has the potential to attract a crowd who may not necessarily be participating in traditional sports or clubs, which further strengthens bonds within the EF community.

Esports member Ben Neeley highlights the skills needed to be successful in this sport. He said, "There are many instances during the game where something unexpected happens where you need to adapt on the fly." Quick thinking skills are crucial to the success of these video games.

This mindset can also be applied to a classroom setting, and practice with rapid pace thinking can be beneficial to learning. Memorizing teammates' playing styles is also a common tactic to success in these competitions that can also be used for educational benefit. Putting in the effort to understand one another is the key to proper teamwork.

Team member Gino Penascino agrees that "Esports definitely helped me be more efficient during group work in school. My communication and listening skills definitely improved since joining the Esports team". From active listening to teamwork, Esports provides the ability to form a multitude of skills in an enjoyable manner.









Freight Farm Brings Green Thumbs to EFSD



Hydroponic farm-in-a-box teaches students environmental lessons.

Elizabeth Forward School District (EFSD) has been in a constant state of innovation over the past decade. EFSD was one of the pioneering districts that partnered with Apple to distribute technologies, specifically iPads, to help educate and motivate its students. Recently, EFSD has been on a venture to implement a new, environmentally friendly, and educational resource known as a Freight Farm.

Freight Farms are large shipping containers that house hydroponic farming systems that can be considered, more simply, a farm in a box. Freight Farms were originally developed in Boston, Massachusetts, by Brad McNamara and Jon Friedman. Through research and innovation, Freight Farms are able to use 95% less water than traditional farming methods and can reduce toxic emissions into the atmosphere. The farm is able to grow as many as 1,200 heads of lettuce a week with only about 5 gallons of water per day. Not only does the company develop the farms, but it also trains people so they can use the farms efficiently and effectively.

EFSD has a healthy relationship with Trinity School District, who has a Freight Farm, which inspired the EF administration to look into getting a Freight Farm for the high school. Through a generous grant of \$140,000 from the Hillman Foundation, EF was

able to integrate a Freight Farm into the property and curriculum. Installation of the farm is planned for May near the greenhouse, which is located towards the back of the school. Once installation happens, EFHS will become one of the few schools across the country that use this new and eco-friendly technology.

According to Mr. Michael Routh, principal at EFHS, the Freight Farm is planned to be integrated into the Environmental Science class offered at the high school and other science classes and even clubs further down the road. Routh believes that the inclusion of the Freight Farm will enhance the science curriculum and motivate learning within the classroom. Many students like to work with their hands, and the Freight Farm will give them a unique and hopefully better learning opportunity. The district hopes that anything grown in the Freight Farm may be incorporated into fresh lunch options for the students or donated to a local food bank. This new opportunity is not only sanctioned for the use of those in high school but also may be open to the middle and elementary schools and even some adult education classes.

By Ethan Callaghan, EFHS junior





Suddenly Seymour

Little Shop of Horrors Takes the Stage

Elizabeth Forward High School presented yet another crowd-pleasing musical this school year. This year's production, Little Shop of Horrors, premiered March 31 and was performed through April 3, 2022. The theater program welcomed a new director this year: Elizabeth Forward alumnus and former musical cast member, Mr. James Benedek.

Reflecting on his first year as a director, Benedek explained, "The EF musical has always been a huge part of my life and my family's life. It was so special to give back to the program that has given me so much. It was amazing to see all the students perform brilliantly and have so much fun doing it. I'm grateful to have had this opportunity."

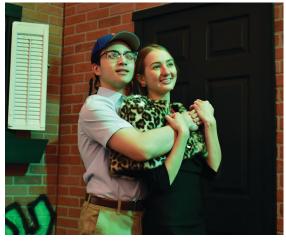
In order to make the show possible, Benedek worked alongside assistant director Mrs. Katie Bonatesta, choreographer Mrs. Alana Wieclaw, executive producer Mr. Justin Plansinis, music and vocal director Ms. Elaina Kauffman, technical director Mr. David Herrington, costume and prop designer Mrs. Erica Guadalupe, set designer Mr. Michael Day, and acting coach Mr. Tony Pinerri.

Little Shop of Horrors is the story of Skid Row florist, Seymour Krelborn and his love interest, Audrey, whose lives are changed when Seymour discovers a man-eating plant and brings it to the Mushnik Flower Shop where they both work.

It was decided that Little Shop of Horrors would be the best fit for the talent potential that

our students had to offer based on last year's production of The Drowsy Chaperone. The auditions for the cast took place at the end of October, and students practiced from November through March to bring the show to life.





This year's show incorporated 24 cast members and 25 crew members, and each student played an important role in making the show successful. Tyler Guinto-Brody led the show as Seymour and Skylar Ruschak as Audrey, accompanied by Noah Meek as Mr. Mushnik, Nathan Marks as Audrey II, Jacob Maola as Orin, Sadie Mitchell as Ronnette, Madelyn McClain as Crystal, and Rebekah Yee as Chiffon. The lead and supporting roles were assisted by a dedicated and motivated group of doo-wop girls, featured ensemble, and ensemble members, as well as puppetry performed by Chad Licht. In addition, the stage, tech, costume, and makeup crew members worked behind the scenes to

perfect every aspect of the show.

The cast, crew, and staff are extremely proud of this year's show and are excited to see what next year will bring for the program. In the future, Benedek hopes to expand the program and bring more appreciation to musical theater. His goal is to begin musical skill development in the elementary schools, build on them in middle school, and have them culminate in the high school production.

By Madelyn McClain, EFHS junior

Elizabeth Forward receives two Gene Kelly Awards!

The Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater were launched in 1991 as a means to recognize and encourage student achievement and to focus the attention of the community and school districts on the importance of musical theater and arts education.

The 31st Annual Gene Kelly Awards were held on Saturday, May 28, 2022. Elizabeth Forward was nominated for seven categories and won two.

Gene Kelly Award for Best Crew/Technical Execution – Elizabeth Forward High School: Little Shop of Horrors

Gene Kelly Award for Best Actor – Tyler Guinto-Brody – Elizabeth Forward High School: Little Shop of Horrors "Seymour Krelborn". Tyler will be competing for the opportunity to represent Pittsburgh CLO's Gene Kelly Awards in the Jimmy Awards/ National High School Musical Theatre Awards in New York City on Monday, June 27.





Winter Sports

Battling back and welcoming fans!

The 2021-2022 winter sports teams all welcomed fans back into the bleachers this season. Each team enjoyed moments of excitement and success during the season, with fans there to cheer them on toward victory.

The EF Warrior Wrestling team had a section record of 1-4 and an overall record of 4-7. Three wrestlers reached the WPIAL individual podium on February 18, 2023, including Dylan Bruce, who took first place with a 126-pound classification; Damon Michaels, who took second place with a 138-pound classification; and Emanuel Gardner, who took eighth place with a 120-pound classification.

The EF Boys Swimming and Diving team finished its season with an overall record of 9-6 and a section record of 4-3. The boys' team had six young men that qualified to compete at the WPIAL individual qualifiers on March 3 and 4, including Kaden Faychak, Chris Dell, Thomas Fine, Ethan Glessner, Garrett Vietmeier, and AJ Palmer. Notable finishes were Kayden Faychak, who placed fourth in the 50 free and sixth in the 100 breaststroke. Kayden Faychak and Garrett Vietmeier advanced to the PIAA championships.

The EF Girls Swimming and Diving team finished the season with an overall record of 10-5 and a section record of 6-1, winning the title of cosection champions. Seven young ladies competed at the WPIAL individual qualifiers on March 3 and 4, including Hailey, Yurkovich, Riley McLaughlin, Emma Durant, Rhyan Smith, Rylee Emsurak, Katie Glessner, and Madison Alessio. Notable finishes were Hailey Yurkovich, who

placed fifth in the 200 free and second in the 500 free. Riley McLaughlin also set a new school record in the 100 breaststroke. Hailey Yurkovich, Emma Durant, Riley McLaughlin, Madison Alessio, and Rhyan Smith advanced to the PIAA championships.

Ashlyn Cummings also represented the district as an individual gymnast. Ashlyn competed on February 19 at the state championships in the vault, beam, and floor. Ashlyn finished third in the floor exercises.

The EF Boys Basketball team continued with its improvement. The team's overall record was 15-7, with a section record of 8-4. The boys qualified to compete in the WPIAL 4A playoffs, being defeated in the first round by the outstanding perimeter shooting of Burrell High School.

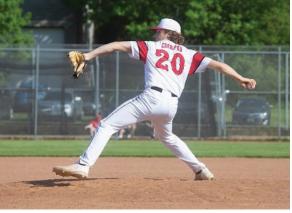
The EF Lady Warrior Basketball team had an outstanding year, with an overall record of 19-6 and a section record of 10-2.

The team qualified to compete in the WPIAL 4A playoffs and advanced all the way to the WPIAL semifinal. The girls defeated Central Valley in the first round of the playoffs. In the quarterfinals, they were able to defeat Beaver, the team that eliminated them from the previous year's playoffs. They lost to the eventual WPIAL champion, Blackhawk, in the semifinal game. By advancing to the semifinal of the WPIAL, the Lady Warriors earned themselves an invite into the PIAA playoffs. They traveled to Bedford High School, where they played a hard-fought game but nonetheless ended their amazing season.









Spring Sports

A strong season of victories.

The EF Boys and Girls Track teams were able to enjoy home track meets for the first time in the last four seasons. With the new track surface, the boys' team experienced much success. The team went 6-0 in its section. This enabled the team to secure its first section championship in 27 years. Several of the boys qualified for the WPIAL individual championship held on May 18. Nick Snyder, Ethan Bowser, DaVontay Brownfield, Ethan Callaghan, Logan Monzak, Keilly Rush, Patrick Burgos, Hunter Thomas, and Dominic Cavalier all competed at the championships. The girls' team finished its season at 1-5. The girls competed hard at their meets, but the number of girls from the other teams put the Lady Warriors at a disadvantage.

The EF Baseball team had an overall record of 9-10 and a section record of 6-6. The team experienced many injuries during the season that put all hopes of making the playoffs in jeopardy. Still, a strong section record earned the boys fourth place in the section and entry into the WPIAL 4A baseball

playoffs. They traveled to Fox Chapel High School to face off against Beaver High School. The Warriors played a very competitive game but eventually lost in the bottom of the seventh inning.

The Lady Warrior Softball team had an exceptional season, finishing with a final record of 16-4. This enabled the team to be section champions once again and enter the WPIAL 4A softball playoffs as the number two seed. They defeated the West Mifflin Titans in the quarterfinals by a score of 4-1 to advance to the 4A semi-finals. There the girls faced Burrell High School and were victorious by a score of 3-1. The Lady Warriors returned to the WPIAL 4A softball championship game at California University to face Beaver Area High School but came up short against the Bobcats with a score of 6-0. Because they finished as the WPIAL runner-up, the Lady Warriors were eligible for the PIAA 4A softball playoffs. They travelled to Hamburg High School for the PIAA first-round playoff game. They fought hard but ended the season with a 5-4 loss.









THE ARROW

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15th Annual Warrior Open

Friday, August 5th, 2022

Join Elizabeth Forward School District and the TD Club for the 15th Annual Warrior Open. The District and the TD Club will split the proceeds from the years outing. The District's funds will go towards scholarships for our students in the areas of academics, sports, arts, vocation and additional items for enhancement of District wide programs. Your participation and generosity is greatly appreciated and the students of Elizabeth Forward thank you!

Any questions or information needed, please visit www.efsd.net or call Tim at 412-896-2345.





