

BE SAFE
RESPECT OTHERS
ACCOUNTABLE
VICTORIOUS
ENTHUSIASTIC

BE BRAVE AND
FOLLOW THE
WARRIOR WAY.



SUMMER | 2019

THE ARROW



Class of 2019 Post-Secondary Plans

The Elizabeth Forward School District is proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2019. Good luck to all the graduates as they embark on new adventures!

1
• Class of 2019 Plans

2
• Young & Restless

3
• Wild About Reading

4
• The Winner Takes It All

5
• Kind Kids Club

6
• Growing Kindness

7
• School Beautification/
Be B.R.A.V.E.

8
• Schools to Watch/
Winter Sports

9
• Spring Sports

10
• Elite 20

11
• Graduation Collage

182 Total Students

- 89 Attending a Four-year Post-Secondary Institution
- 31 Attending a Two-year Post-Secondary Institution
- 9 Attending a Trade, Technical or Business School
- 14 Serving in the Armed Services
- 30 Working in the Workforce
- 9 Undecided

2019 Graduates Are Attending the Following Institutions:

Allegheny College
California University of PA
Clemson University
Coast Guard Academy
Colgate University
College of William and Mary
Community College of Allegheny County
Duquesne University
Kent State University
LaRoche University
Messiah College
Methodist University
Miami University

Ohio State University
Ohio Technical College
Penn State University
Point Park University
Robert Morris University
Seton Hill University
Slippery Rock University
St. Francis University
University of Pittsburgh
Virginia Tech University
Washington & Jefferson College
Waynesburg College
West Virginia University
Xavier University
York College
Youngstown State University

This is the first time in PIAA history that the Lady Warriors Softball Team has moved into the championships.



THE LADY
WARRIORS FINISHED
THE NIGHT BY
RECEIVING THE PIAA
RUNNER-UP TROPHY,
ANOTHER SCHOOL
RECORD, AND
AN AMAZING
ACCOMPLISHMENT
FOR SUCH A
YOUNG SQUAD.

Young & Restless

Lady Warriors Finish Second in 2019 PIAA Championships

Despite having a predominantly young team, the Warrior softball team had a record-shattering season. The girls had an undefeated section record of 12 and 0, which earned them the section title for the first time since 2015. Posting such an outstanding regular season record, the Lady Warriors were ranked as the number two team in the WPIAL 4-A softball classification, which earned them a first-round bye in the WPIAL playoffs. In the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds, the team defeated Indiana High School and Knoch High School to return for a second straight year to the WPIAL 4-A Softball Championship game. The Lady Warriors faced #1 ranked team Mt. Pleasant and were able to upset the Lady Vikings to earn the softball team's first ever WPIAL 4-A Softball Championship.

Touting the WPIAL Championship gold, the Lady Warriors then entered the PIAA State Softball Playoffs. The Lady Warriors defeated Punxsutawney High School, the defending state champions, and Grove City High School earning them a seat in the PIAA State Semifinals. The

Lady Warriors once again faced the Lady Vikings from Mt. Pleasant High School; however, the Lady Warriors scored a walk off run in the bottom of the 8th inning to beat the Lady Vikings once again. This victory qualified the Warrior Softball team for the PIAA 4-A Championship game at Penn State University against West Perry High School, which was the first time in school history that an EF softball team had made it that far.

Fighting through a major 6.5 hour rain delay on game day, the Lady Warriors rallied to tie the game in the 7th inning by scoring two runs after trailing through the game. In the bottom of the 7th inning, West Perry drew a walk, which eventually scored the winning run. The Lady Warriors finished the night by receiving the PIAA 4-A Runner-up trophy, another school record, and an amazing accomplishment for such a young squad. Congratulations and thank you to the Lady Warrior Softball for an enjoyable and great season!



**“You can find magic
wherever you look.
Sit back and relax, all
you need is a book.”
- Dr. Seuss**

Wild About Reading

William Penn Elementary Partners with the Washington Wild Things

William Penn Elementary School teamed up with the Washington Wild Things, a professional baseball team from Washington, PA, for a Spring Reading Club program.

On April 17, the Washington Wild Things mascot and the Wild Things Reading Club program coordinator, Hanna Luckenbach, visited William Penn Elementary for an assembly to introduce the Reading Club partnership.

William Penn Elementary Reading Specialists Bernice Francia and Sarah Nill chaired the event for the school year. They created baseball field posters for every kindergarten through fifth grade homeroom in the building. Classroom teachers set reading goals for the students in their classrooms from April 29 to May 23. Each student received a paper baseball that moved one base as each goal was attained. Any student who scored a

reading “homerun” (moved all four bases) in the allotted month of reading goals earned a free ticket to the designated “William Penn Night” Washington Wild Things baseball game on Tuesday, June 4th at 7:05pm. Parents were also able to buy tickets at a discounted rate.

Students were treated like royalty on game night. There was a Reading Club parade for the students, their parents and William Penn teachers on the Washington Wild Things baseball field!

When students read, everyone wins! Thanks to the Washington Wild Things organization for developing such a motivational reading program that supports literacy and education! Students at William Penn Elementary in the Elizabeth Forward School District wish the Wild Things Baseball Team a winning season as well!

**WHEN
STUDENTS
READ,
EVERYONE
WINS!**



The Winner Takes It All

EFHS Musical Wins 5 Gene Kelly Awards

Elizabeth Forward High School's Musical has earned considerable respect and acclaim throughout the region over the last several years, having been nominated for many Gene Kelly Awards, including five nominations for 2017's production of "Anything Goes" and 11 nominations for the 2018 production of "Legally Blonde: The Musical." This year's production of "Mamma Mia!," which played to sold-out audiences from April 11-14, surpassed all previous achievements by being nominated for nine Gene Kelly awards and winning five!

Elizabeth Forward's "Mamma Mia" took home the Gene Kelly Awards for Best Scenic Design, Best Execution of Choreography, Best Execution of Direction, and Best Execution of Music Direction, beating 32 other schools in Allegheny County. Our talented cast and crew also took home the coveted Gene Kelly Award for Best Musical in Budget Level II. Additionally, Elizabeth Forward received nominations for Best Ensemble, Best Costume Design, and Best Crew and Technical Execution. Sophomore Angelina Guadalupe was also nominated for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Rosie Mulligan.

The Gene Kelly Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theater, named for the acclaimed Pittsburgh-native dancer and singer, was created in 1991 to celebrate the achievements of musical theater programs across the Pittsburgh region. The Kelly Awards, managed through the Pittsburgh CLO, are patterned after Broadway's Tony Awards and are a founding part of the national program, the Jimmy Awards.

High School English Teacher Mrs. Alana Wieclaw served as both director and choreographer for the musical. This is the 8th musical at Elizabeth Forward High School that Mrs. Wieclaw has directed and the 11th one that she has choreographed. Other staff involved in the musical include Mrs. Katherine Bonatesta, who has served as assistant director of the musical for six years, Mr. Steve Spang, who has directed the pit for four consecutive shows, and Mr. Justin Plansinis, who has been the musical's producer for the last two years and who previously served as the stage crew manager for two years. Additionally, Vocal Director Jennifer Herrington, Technical Director David Herrington, Acting Coach Tony Pinneri, Set Coordinator and Stage Manager James Benedek, and Costume Coordinator Renee Benedek give countless hours of energy and talent to the success of the show each year. Designers, Leesa Kassler and Cody Turner, also constructed beautiful costumes for the production.

The entire musical staff could not be more proud of the hard work and dedication of the students in the musical's cast, crew, and pit. Everyone involved in the program is incredibly thankful to the district's administration and school board for their continued support, the parents and volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to the program, and the entire Elizabeth Forward Community for their passion and appreciation in supporting our performances each year.



Kind Kids Club

Greenock Elementary JAMs with Avonworth School District to Teach Important Life Lessons

Last year Greenock partnered with a club called JAM from Avonworth School District started by two first grade students and their technology teacher. Through their student run business selling games, t-shirts and other inventions, JAM has raised over \$15,000 which is now used to fund other student run start up companies. Their #BeTheKindKid shirts and signs are popping up all over Pittsburgh. Greenock Elementary is so happy to be a part of this movement. Ms. Stephanie Sciulli, Greenock Elementary teacher, meets with the Kind Kids Club every other week after school to teach students how to spread kindness to others and how to start a student-run business. The students are learning so much!

In addition to partnering with JAM Enterprises, JAM 2 Kindness Club also holds a partnership with The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. The Children's Museum will be funding projects, which included a #PGHKindKids Community Night on May 9 at Greenock gymnasium. JAM 2 will be collecting donations for our local food bank, in addition to creating items for people in need in the community! Kindness Night will include activities and events for the whole family so we hope to see everyone there!



“Adolescents who identify their primary motive as helping others are three times happier than those who lack such altruistic motivation.”

- Christine Carter, PhD, Author of Raising Happiness



STUDENTS AND
STAFF WILL ALSO
BE CREATING
A “KINDNESS
GARDEN” IN FRONT
OF THE SCHOOL
FOR THE
COMMUNITY TO
ENJOY AS THEY
DRIVE PAST OUR
SCHOOL.

Growing Kindness

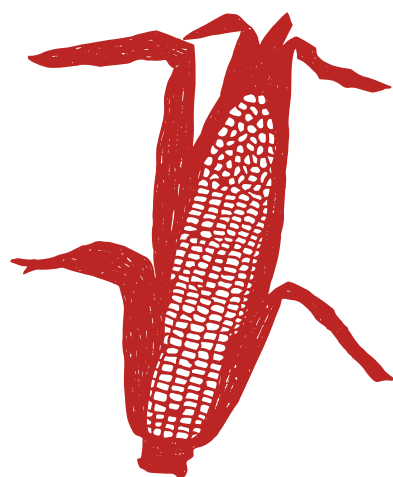
Kindness Garden Takes Root at Mt. Vernon Elementary

Mt. Vernon Elementary students are growing like crazy. Teacher Larissa Leuenberger paired with fellow Elizabeth Forward alum, Bobbi Jo Skibo (who now teaches in Alaska), to teach their students about sharing flowers and plants grown by our students with neighbors in our community. First, Mt. Vernon students held a logo contest so that a symbol for the project could be created.

The winning logos (one per grade level) will appear on stickers for the plant pods, posters, buttons for kids to wear and pass out, and wood signs on our Carvey wood carver and Glowforge Stations. The logos will also be used on the hanging baskets

that will be created out of the flowers our students grow.

Students and staff will also be creating a “Kindness Garden” in front of the school for the community to enjoy as they drive past our school. With the remaining flowers, Jeff Tiberio from the local business T-Fab, husband of third grade teacher Lisa Tiberio, made and donated a metal sign to put in our garden that says, “Kindness Garden.”



School Beautification Central Elementary

Dig In for Good

This spring, students at Central Elementary enjoyed a day in the sun participating in a school-wide beautification project. Staff and students spent the morning spreading mulch, pulling weeds and getting the planter boxes ready for planting. The children took an active role in deciding the direction of the project and worked hard to get the job done!

The morning also included a scavenger hunt, planting seeds, building bug houses, and continuing the rock painting project from the previous year. Each child had the opportunity to

decorate a rock to place around the planter boxes. The school-wide beautification project instilled a sense of pride and ownership in the students and beautiful results were seen in a few short hours. The students had so much fun getting dirty and sprucing up the grounds that they started to plan for next year's project.

The Central Elementary staff and students would like to thank Blue Ridge Nursery and the Central Elementary Parent Teacher Organization for the generous donations that made this project possible.

Be B.R.A.V.E.

Making Good Choices and Encouraging Positive Behaviors

About PBIS

PBIS stands for Positive Behaviors Interventions & Supports. It is a framework designed to teach our students how to be safe, respectful, accountable, victorious and enthusiastic while at school. In the Elizabeth Forward School District, we encourage students to continuously make good behavioral choices by implementing this framework. PBIS is a research-based program which results in:

- an increase in instructional time
- an increase in positive behaviors school-wide
- a decrease in disruptive behaviors
- an increase in school spirit and community engagement.

How the Framework Works

All students and staff are taught the school-wide expectations. We use the acronym B.R.A.V.E. Although the letters mean something a little different at each level, the district has adopted BRAVE as its motto to help students remember the expectations. Students receive frequent reviews

of the expectations and are acknowledged when they demonstrate them. The contact students have with adults in the building helps to build positive relationships and prevents problem behaviors from occurring. The Staff uses data to help identify students who need additional support. A PBIS school provides a consistent, predictable, and fair use of consequences for all students.

BRAVE Bunch

Nominated by their teachers, these high school students are a part of a leadership council that creates, communicates, and collaborates with their peers and staff to change the climate of the high school experience. Individually, they are well known for setting positive examples in the classroom, in their extra curricular activities, and outside of school.

Recently recognized nationally for their efforts, the BRAVE Bunch will continue to produce videos that positively depict EFHS, assist with ways to acknowledge students, and maintain and grow the positive energy at Elizabeth Forward High School!

Schools to Watch

Elizabeth Forward Middle School Receives Prestigious Distinction

We are very proud to announce that Elizabeth Forward Middle School was redesignated for the 2018-2019 Don Eichhorn: Schools to Watch distinction as one of the top middle schools in the nation. This prestigious honor is given each year to high-performing middle schools that meet the rigorous standards of the Schools to Watch program.

The Don Eichhorn: Schools to Watch recognition is one of the highest honors that a middle school can receive. The goal of the program is to recognize schools achieving academic excellence based on a 37-step criteria established by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Forum members believe that high performing middle schools are:

- Academically excellent and challenge all students to use their minds well
- Developmentally responsive and are sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence

- Socially equitable and are democratic and fair, providing every student with high quality teachers, resources, and supports.

Elizabeth Forward Middle School has made incredible strides over the past several years to become one of the top middle schools in the country thanks to the hard work and dedication of the administration, staff, parents, and students of the district. The middle school is recognized as a high-performing school that establishes norms, structures, and organizational supports to sustain a trajectory toward excellence. Elizabeth Forward Middle school has a sense of purpose that drives every facet of practice and decision-making.

Congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, parents, and community for earning this honorable recognition!



Winter Sports Update

Elizabeth Forward Ices the Competition

The Elizabeth Forward Boys Basketball Team welcomed Matthew Loftis as its new head coach for the 2018-2019 season. The Warriors were faced with a challenging exhibition schedule and a very tough section schedule. The Warriors were a young team with only four seniors on their roster (Xander Pannell, Josh Balogh, Nick Sedor, and Christian Jordan). The boys finished their season with a section record of 2-8 and an overall record of 7-15.

The Lady Warriors Basketball Team was able to have a very successful season. The Lady Warriors captured the section championship for the first time since 2015. Their section record was 12-2 and their overall record was 16-6. The Lady Warriors qualified for a berth into the WPIAL playoffs and made it all the way to the WPIAL

Semifinals where they lost to North Catholic, the eventual WPIAL Champions. The Lady Warriors also qualified for the PIAA playoffs held at Edinboro University, where they played Villa Maria High School. The Lady Warriors said goodbye to their six seniors at the end of the season (Julia Jenkins, Alyssa Brinson, Haylee Briggs, Julia Fluornoy, Brianna Spinak, and Seneca Thompson). Brianna Spinak finished her high school basketball career with a total of 1,410 points.

The Warrior Wrestlers also had one of their most successful seasons in years. The team finished in second place (4-1) in the section. This enabled them to enter into WPIAL team playoff and make it to the quarter-finals. The wrestling team also had many individual successes throughout the

season. Seven wrestlers competed at the WPIAL Individual Qualifiers, including Ethan Cain, Dakota Buchina, Noah Hunnell, Dylan Bruce, Nate Homa, Chris Bruce, and Ryan Michaels. Ryan Michaels became the WPIAL Champion in the 113 lbs weight class. Six of the wrestlers, including Ethan Cain, Noah Hunnell, Nate Homa, Dylan Bruce, Ryan Michaels, and Chris Bruce qualified and competed at the WPIAL Regional Qualifiers at IUP. Ryan Michaels also qualified for the PIAA Individual Wrestling Tournament in Hershey, PA. He competed for three days and took third place in the state.

The Elizabeth Forward High School Cheerleaders defended their 2018 WPIAL Competitive Spirit Championship by once again being crowned the 2019 WPIAL Competitive Spirit Champions. The girls then qualified to compete at the PIAA Competitive Championship at Hershey, PA.

Dry land was not the only place that the Warrior community saw success. The Lady Warriors in the pool also secured the section championship following an undefeated season. Both the boys and girls swim teams sent many individuals to the WPIAL Individual Qualifiers, including Abby Kelly, Jamie Belding, Marleigh Bennett, Natasha Trainor, Brook Himich, Natalie Glessner, Kaelyn McClain, Hailey Yurkovich, Faith Markland, Gavin Guern, Carson Tokar, Aidan Provins, Tony Kelley, AJ Palmer, Katrina Wilhelm. From the WPIAL Individual Qualifiers, five swimmers were able to then proceed to the PIAA Individual Qualifiers including Kaelyn McClain, Hailey Yurkovich, Natalie Glessner, Marleigh Bennett, and Gavin Guern.



Spring Sports Update

WPIAL Champions in Track and Baseball

This season, the Lady Warriors track team competed in the 3-A division of the WPIALs and their overall record was 2 wins and 3 losses. Individually, Hanna Hughes placed 5th in the shot put, Dejuanna Gile placed 6th in the high jump, and Brianna Spirnak was the overall WPIAL Champion in the Women's Javelin, taking home the gold for the second year in a row. These performances earned these young ladies a chance to compete in the PIAA Championship where Brianna Spirnak placed 5th in the entire state for women's javelin. Another notable performance came during the regular season when Alyssa Craig tied the school record in the women's pole vault with a vault of 9' 3".

The mens track team finished the regular season with an overall record of 3 wins and 2 losses, which enabled the team to compete in the WPIAL 2-A team playoffs. The team ultimately was defeated by South Park, but had many individual successes throughout the season. The 4 x 800m relay team, including Steven Frost, Joram Stith, Christian Guinto-Brody, and Andre Smith, placed 4th overall in the WPIALs. Robert Hrabosky placed 6th in the 300m hurdles, while

Chase Whatton placed 5th in the men's javelin. Hunter Ribarchak placed 4th overall in pole vault. Meanwhile, Steven Frost placed 4th in the 800m run, and Nick Hunnel placed 7th in the 110m hurdles. Several of the athletes therefore qualified for the PIAA State Championships. A record-breaking performance came when Steven Frost broke the school record in the 800m run with a new school record time of 2:00.17.

The baseball team also had a successful season, boasting a section record of 8 wins and 6 losses as well as an overall record of 11 wins and 7 losses. The team was propelled throughout the season by timely hitting and senior leadership. Collectively, the team carried a batting average of .351, which is one of the team's best batting averages in school history! The boys finished fourth in the section, which qualified them to enter into the WPIAL baseball playoffs where they were defeated by New Castle in the first round of the WPIAL playoffs with a score of 8 to 1. Despite this loss, the team did well and competed strongly against all opponents.

Elite 20
honorees are
nominated by
faculty for their
achievements in
community service,
academics,
character
and leadership.



Left to Right Sitting: Julia Jenkins, Alyssa Craig, Isabella Lee-Hauser, Kerry Repasky, Nancy Beintlich, Kami Olexic, Grace Murphy, Lacey Martin, Hayley Palmer, Madison Younger
Standing: Noah Madden, Jacob Fritsky, Seth Ziemke, Joram Stith, Taylor Ludwick, Rebecca Haney, Ben Durant, Josh Balogh, Zachary Benedek, John Dziadyk

ELITE 20
SENIORS WERE
RECOGNIZED AT
A CEREMONY ON
APRIL 26, 2019
AT THE SUNSET
ROOM ALONG
WITH THEIR
TEACHERS AND
FAMILIES.

Elite 20

Top Seniors Recognized

Elizabeth Forward High School's Elite 20 seniors were recognized at a ceremony on April 26, 2019 at the Sunset Room along with their teachers and families. Launched on May 22, 2013, the Elite 20 is a concept inspired by Dr. Kevin Ryan, Vice President of the EF Alumni and Friends Association, to recognize outstanding students in their senior year at Elizabeth Forward High School. Elite 20 honorees are nominated by faculty for their achievements in community service, academics, character and leadership. Each senior selected is asked to name a district teacher, past or present, who has positively influenced his or her education. Teachers who have been honored include elementary, middle school and high school teachers. The event is funded by an anonymous Elizabeth Forward alumnus and is held every year during the spring.





Congratulations Class of 2019!





SUMMER | 2019

THE ARROW



Elizabeth Forward School District
401 Rock Run Rd, Elizabeth, PA
www.efsd.net

Elizabeth Forward School Board

Mr. Thomas Sharkey Jr. - President
Mr. Ryan O. Hemminger - Vice-President
Mr. Jamie Evans - Secretary
Mr. Richard Cummings, Jr. - Treasurer

Board Members:

Mr. Charles Bakewell
Mr. Douglas Dyer
Mrs. Megan Ferraro
Mrs. Dorothy Wycoff
Mr. Travis Stoffer

www.efsd.net

412-896-2300

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2019 Fall Schedule

August

August 19: First Day for Teachers/Staff
August 20: Middle School Grade 6 Open House
August 20: Kindergarten Open House
August 22: First Day for Students
August 27: Elementary Open House
August 28: Middle School Open House
August 29: High School Open House

October

October 28: Two-Hour Delay for Students

November

November 5: Election Day – No School for Students

2019 Sports Schedule

August

August 21: First Home Boys Golf Match
August 22: First Home Girls Golf Match

September

September 3: First Home Girls Volleyball Game
September 7: First Home Boys Soccer Game
September 7: First Home Girls Soccer Game
September 13: First Home Football Game
September 20: Senior Citizen BBQ before Football Game
September 24: First Home Cross-Country Match



SUMMER | 2019

THE ARROW

