

Forest High School News

BANK OF AMERICA - PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

OCTOBER 2009

<http://users.mfi.net/forest>

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Forest Parents,

October is here which means lots of activities here on the FHS campus. Our student population is currently 2,350 and seems to be stabilizing. We have added a couple of teachers and portables to handle our numbers. Some adjustments will be made to teacher and student schedules so that FHS can provide the best education possible for your child. We hope to complete this task in the next several days.

Mid-term progress reports were distributed to students on September 29th. Please contact us if you failed to receive one. I strongly encourage you to make an appointment with your student's counselor if you have concerns regarding grades, conduct, or attendance.

The month of October has some key dates to remember. FCAT retakes for juniors and seniors will occur on October 20-21. FHS will also administer the PSAT for sophomores and some juniors. This test will be administered on October 14th. The end of the first grading period is October 27th which means report cards will soon follow. Homecoming festivities will occur the week of October 19-24.

Parents of college bound seniors; now is the time to start exploring scholarship opportunities and learning about the financial aid process. Information is available in our guidance office and on the school website.

I encourage you to get involved with your child's education. Our School Advisory Committee (SAC), Booster Clubs, PTO, and support groups are great ways for parents to get involved with FHS. Please become an active participant in FHS activities! Also, please encourage your child to participate in an activity. Being involved can play a key role in your child's education.

Please review the newsletter for important dates and information relating to your child's education. Thank you for your support as FHS looks forward to a great year.

Go Wildcats!

Chester Gregory, Principal

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN P.T.O.!

The Forest High School PTO is looking forward to another great year and we need YOU to accomplish this goal! Membership is our one and only fundraiser, so for all of you that would rather give a contribution than sell anything, this is your chance! Please help us make this membership drive successful so that we can maximize all of the educational opportunities that make Forest High School the finest high school in Marion County. In 2008-2009, Forest PTO purchased books for our media center, provided financial support for the county college expo, as well as the FHS Baccalaureate Service, and sponsored several teacher appreciation events for our hardworking teachers. You can help by joining PTO and/or volunteering for specific PTO projects. Opportunities exist to work after hours, out of your home, or on a one-time only basis - we need your help. If you have not already done so, please consider joining PTO and volunteering your time, no matter how small, it all is appreciated.

Membership envelopes were sent home at the beginning of the school year with your student. If you did not receive one, please pick one up at the front desk or contact the membership chairperson, Becky London @ 369-9126. Thanks in advance for your consideration!

SENIOR PARENTS

The race is on and graduation will be here before we know it. Each month a corner of our newsletter will be devoted to upcoming senior events and activities. We hope this will help you keep in touch with your senior and their needs. If you have any other questions please call, 671-4700 ext. 58605

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| Oct. 8 | Senior Class Meeting Information on Cap & Gowns and Announcements Given |
| Oct. 15-16 | Cap & Gown and Announcement orders, \$80 Deposit required/if order is less than \$80 it must be paid in full |
| Nov. 6 | Senior Ads for Yearbook Due with half payment |
| Dec. 8 | Senior Panoramic Picture Taken |
| Jan. 26 | Cap & Gown Pictures Taken by Appointment |
| Feb. 5 th | Final Payment for Yearbook Ad Due |
| Feb. 1-28 | Grad Bash Tickets on Sale |
| March/April | Announcement Delivery (bal due) |
| April/May | Cap and Gown Delivery |
| April 24 | Grad Bash @ Islands of Adventure/Universal Studio |
| June | Senior Luncheon |
| June 10 | Graduation Practice, 8:00am |
| June 12 | Graduation Day 8:00am, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion |

**FRANK EVANS,
TEACHER OF THE YEAR HONORED**

Frank Evans, Forest High School and Marion County Teacher of the year, was recognized as the Marion County High School Science teacher to receive the PRISM award. PRISM is an acronym for Promoting Regional Improvement in Science and Math. There are ten school districts that make-up the coalition. This coalition is dedicated to strengthen math and science education in Central Florida school districts. At the awards ceremony, held at Sea World's Ports of Call on September 24th, Mr. Evans received an engraved statuette, gifts and a monetary award from the PRISM organization. Our principal, Mr. Chester Gregory and Dr. Diana Greene, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for Marion County were there to support all of the winners from Marion County.

SENIOR ADS

Seniors, you can begin designing your Senior Ad. Prices will remain the same as last year. A full page is \$175.00. A half page is \$100.00. A quarter page is \$50.00. You may pick up the contract and directions from your English teacher. For your convenience, the flyers are also on the FHS home page. The first half of the money is due on Friday, Nov. 6th, and the second half is due on Friday, Feb. 5th. Submit the contract with the money to Mrs. Almgren in C-215 or Ms. Folsom in C-238.

OCTOBER TESTING DATES

The PSAT is October 14th for all 10th graders and it is free. Juniors can sign up in guidance for \$13.

FCAT Reading and Math Retakes are October 20th and 21st. Contact your Guidance Counselor or Erin Conner at 671-4700 if you have further questions.

**FAIR: NEW READING ASSESSMENTS FOR
FLORIDA STUDENTS**

New state reading assessments will be administered in Marion County Public Schools beginning this month. The Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading (FAIR) are a K-12 assessment system providing teachers with tools to guide reading instruction. FAIR provides information to teachers on specific elements of reading, including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Administered three times during the school year, FAIR will enable teachers to monitor the reading progress of students. Students in grades 3 through high school will take FAIR as a computer-based assessment.

FFEA NEWS

Florida Future Educators of America will sponsor Breast Cancer Awareness Week Oct. 12 – 16. Homerooms will have a Pink Ribbon Drive to help raise awareness at Forest High. A Walk is scheduled in Ocala on the 24th. For more info go to <http://www.cancer.org/stridesonline> and watch for upcoming morning announcements.

FLORIDA OFFENDER ALERT SYSTEM

FDLE encourages you to sign up for the Florida Offender Alert System. This system allows you to subscribe for e-mail alerts that will notify you when a sexual offender or predator moves into your neighborhood or near any other location you select. The system allows you to choose unlimited addresses to monitor, so consider registering your home, your child's daycare center, and anywhere else you or your family may frequent. Each time a sexual offender or predator moves within a certain radius of the address or addresses you selected, you will receive an e-mail notifying you. The system also enables you to monitor specific offenders or predators and be notified when that individual changes their address.

Signing up is quick and easy! Just visit www.flsexoffender.net and click on the "Offender Alert" yellow button.

Please note that the Alert system will only notify you when an offender/predator moves into an area you are monitoring. To search for all offenders/predators currently living in your neighborhood, click on the "Offender Search" button.

HOMECOMING WEEK OCT. 19-24

Homecoming Week 2009 is full of activities for the whole family. Mark your calendar with the following dates:

- Oct. 19 Powder Puff @ FHS Stadium, 7:00pm, tickets \$5 @ gate
- Oct. 22 Kats Kapers @ FHS Auditorium 6:30pm, tickets \$5
- Oct. 23 Homecoming Game 7:30pm vs. Sandlewood HS
- Oct. 24 Homecoming Dance FHS Cafeteria Patio 8-11pm
Tickets on sale Oct. 6- Oct. 16, \$10 each,
Dress for the dance is casual

*For those Juniors and Seniors wishing to bring a guest to the Homecoming Dance that does not attend FHS: A Guest Request Form must be filled out and approved prior to ticket sales. These forms may be picked up in the Student Activities Office B-162. All Forms are due by Oct. 9. Only Juniors and Seniors will be allowed to bring outside guests.

REPORT CARDS

Grades will be finalized October 30 for Quarter 1 and report cards should arrive home November 3 or November 5.

C2CSCHOOLS.COM

Please check out the website www.C2Cschools.com to access all of the school's athletic information beginning in October.

GUIDANCE INFORMATION

Parents, each month a list of scholarships received in our Guidance Office will be published for your student's benefit, along with scholarship-related websites. You may pick up a copy as well. Please take note of the requirements and deadlines for each scholarship. All applications for these awards are on file in the cabinet directly across from Mrs. Albright's counter. Feel free to ask your counselor or Mrs. Albright if you have any questions.

This month we want to inform you of the changes that have occurred with the **Bright Futures Scholarship program**. Eligibility requirements have not changed, and the SAT total is still only the Critical Reading section and the Math section. For the ACT, the subtests of English, Math, Reading and Science are combined for the best average. The writing tests are not a part of eligibility criteria at this time. The changes that have occurred are, of course, related to funding.

CHANGES: (from 2009 Legislative Updates)

++ Senate Bill 2600 – General Appropriations Act (GAA)

- Specifies Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program award **amounts per hour** in the 2009-2010 academic year. (See chart on next page)

++ Senate Bill 1696 – Conforming Bill

- Removes Bright Futures college-related expense awards for **Florida Academic Scholars**.
- Requires institutions to refund the state for any **Bright Futures** award amount received for course(s) which were **dropped or withdrawn after the drop and add period**.
- Amends Bright Futures Renewal Requirements:
 - **Requires students to **submit a refund** to their institution for any award amount received for course(s) which were **dropped or withdrawn after the drop and add period**.
 - **Allows students who **lose** their award due to **not earning the required hours** to restore the award in a subsequent academic year (available to students not meeting the hours requirement in the 2009-2010 academic year and thereafter).
 - **Revises credit hour requirements for **full-time** students to earn **24 semester hours** (or the equivalent) per academic year (and prorated for part-time enrollment).
 - **Prohibits the renewal of Florida Gold Seal Vocational awards to Florida Medallion Awards.

The reality of the funding changes to Bright Futures:

Many students and parents are understandably quite concerned about having to pick up a larger percentage of tuition than previously. Please refer to the following information for an estimated average amount that will be left for the family to pay.

Average tuition at our eleven state-supported, public universities is currently \$140 per semester hour, or approximately \$420 per 3-hour class.

Tuition at our local state-supported, public community college (CFCC), is currently \$87 per semester hour, or approximately \$261 per 3-hour class.

For students receiving the **Academic Scholars Scholarship**:

**If attending a four-year university, the tuition is \$140 per semester hour (or \$420 per class). This scholarship will pay \$126 per semester hour (or \$378 per class), leaving the family to pay approximately \$42 per class. Bottom line is that this scholarship will currently pay 90% instead of 100%.

**If attending a two-year community college, the tuition is \$87 per semester hour (or \$261 per class). This scholarship will pay \$78 per semester hour (or \$234 per class), leaving the family to pay approximately \$27 per class. Bottom line is that this scholarship will currently pay 90%.

For students receiving the **Medallion or Gold Seal Scholarship**:

**If attending a four-year university, the tuition is \$140 per semester hour (or \$420 per class). This scholarship will pay \$95 per semester hour (or \$285 per class), leaving the family to pay \$135 per class. Bottom line is that these scholarships will currently pay 68%.

**If attending a two-year community college, the tuition is \$87 per semester hour (or \$261 per class). This scholarship will pay \$59 per semester hour (or \$177 per class), leaving the family to pay approximately \$84 per class. Bottom line is that these scholarships will currently pay 68%.

SO, EVEN THOUGH THE BRIGHT FUTURES IS PAYING LESS, YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER ECONOMICAL DEAL THAN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.

Attention Senior athletes:

Make certain that you have registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center. You have been told about this every year in the pre-school athlete parent meeting. In order to play college sports, you **MUST** be registered with the Eligibility Center.

<http://www.eligibilitycenter.org>.

Need some help preparing for SAT or ACT or CPT?? Try out this website:

<http://www.testprepreview.com>

On this website, the CPT is called ACCUPLACER.

Some VERY handy phone numbers and web

addresses: The Florida Virtual School Help Desk 1-800-374-1430, website: info@flvs.net

The Office of Student Financial Aid (for Bright Futures' questions) 1-888-827-2004, osfa@fldoe.org

ROTC NEWS

**Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
2009-10 State Scholarship & Grant
Appropriation & Program Award Amounts**

	2009 - 10
Program Title	Award Amount
Merit Programs	
Florida Bright Futures Scholarship	Per Semester Credit Hour (or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours)
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)	4-year - \$126 2-year - \$78 Community College Baccalaureate - \$87 Career / Technical Center - \$64
Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)	4-year - \$95 2-year - \$59 Community College 2-year Associate - \$78 Community College Baccalaureate - \$65 Career / Technical Center - \$48
Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (OSV)	4-year - \$95 2-year - \$59 Community College Baccalaureate - \$65 Career / Technical Center - \$48

NHS APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED!

The application for membership into the Forest High School's Honor Society (freshman and sophomore) and the Forest High School's chapter of the National Honor Society (juniors and seniors) is available on the National Honor Society's website, located off the FHS website. The deadline for the application is Friday, October 30th at 3:00 p.m. **There will be an informational meeting regarding the application process on Wednesday, October 7th at 3:00 p.m. in Building 1, Room 260 – perspective applicants are encourage to attend this meeting!** If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Schultz-Nourse at therese.nourse@marion.k12.fl.us.

JUNIOR CLASS NEWS

The Junior Class will be hosting a spaghetti supper on November 13th at 5:30pm before the Vanguard game in the cafeteria. Interested? Please contact Miss Lipscomb in building 11 room 3 or email courtney.lipscomb@marion.k12.fl.us

After a successful start to another school year at Forest, the cadets of the AFJROTC FL-931st continue to impact their community for the better.

Huge thanks go out to all the teachers and staff for their compliments on the September 11th ceremony. Over 250 cadets were in formation in front of the school at the flag staff to commemorate the tragedy that occurred eight years ago. The ceremony was aired live on WCAT. The service included an honor guard with flag detail and a twenty-one gun salute by the rifle team. It was a very moving event and appreciated by all.

On September 15th and 16th, cadets attended Maplewood Elementary School's open house and assisted with various activities. Pizza and drinks were served to the teachers, staff, students, and families who attended the event. We always look forward to helping our adopted elementary school (Maplewood).

The teacher supply assistance program "Tools for Teachers" has continued from the previous year into the 2009 school year with the sustained support from our cadets. Volunteers sign up and regularly lend a hand at the Thelma Parker Center at the days of distribution. Cadets there help move school supplies and organize the materials into portions for the teachers to take and use in the classroom.

Congratulations to all the cadets who tried out for the Spec Ops Team and especially those who passed the test to train with this elite group in ROTC. Requirements included a 1.5 mile run in under 12 minutes, 42 pushups in a minute (32 for girls), 42 sit-ups in a minute (32 for girls), and a minimum of 5 pull-ups (30 second flexed arm-hang for girls).

Coupons for Education booklets go on sale this month for \$12 each. All proceeds benefit the Forest JROTC program and the Public Education Foundation. Each cadet was issued two booklets and asked to sell them. The profits from these booklets are used in numerous ways to support our many functions and activities throughout the year. If you would like to purchase a booklet, ask any known ROTC cadet or contact MSgt. Fletcher at 671-4700.

October is an exciting month with many community services and fun activities planned for the cadets. The following is a list of some of the events:

October 9th – Sheriff's "bad to the Bone" Swat Challenge (Spec Ops Team)

October 9/10th – Chili Cook off (Livestock Pavilion)

October 13th & 24th – Druid Hills Pumpkin Patch

October 19th – Powder Puff (FHS Stadium)

October 24th – Cross Country Conference

October 29th – Maplewood Fall Festival (Maplewood Elementary)

October 31st – Flight Challenge (FHS Stadium)

All parents are reminded that all events are open to them as well as their cadets. We encourage you to take an active part in your cadet's success.

**OCTOBER
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Oct. 01	Freshman & JV Football	Vanguard	Away	5/7:00 p.m.
	Bowling	Lake Weir	AMF East	4:30 p.m.
	Girls Golf	North Marion	Away	4:00 p.m.
	Boys Golf	North Marion	Shores	4:00 p.m.
	B & G Swimming	West Port	CFCC	4:30 p.m.
	JV & V Volleyball	St. John	Away	5/6:00 p.m.
Oct. 02	B & G Swimming	Swim-a-thon	CFCC	3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Oct. 03	Cross Country	Whispering Pines	Citrus	6:00 a.m. (bus)
	B & G Swimming	Mid Fl conf meet	Orlando YMCA	9:00 a.m.
	9th gr. Volleyball	Clearwater tournament	Away	TBA
Oct. 05	Bowling	Belleview	AMF Central	4:30 p.m.
	Girls Golf	Villages	Away	4:00 p.m.
	9th/JV/V Volleyball	West Port	Away	5/6/7:00p.m.
Oct. 06	Boys Golf	Vanguard	Shores	4:00 p.m.
Oct. 07	Cross Country	Wildcat Run	Greenway	5:00 p.m.
	Girls Golf	North Marion	Away	4:00 p.m.
	Slowpitch Softball	Belleview	Away	6:00 p.m.
	9th/JV/V Volleyball	Vanguard	Home	5/6/7:00 p.m.
Oct. 08	JV Football	Dunnellon	Home	7:00 p.m.
	Bowling	Vanguard	AMF East	4:30 p.m.
	Girls Golf	Lecanto	Home	4:00 p.m.
	Boys Golf	Belleview	Shores	4:00 p.m.
	Slowpitch Softball	Vanguard	Home	6:00 p.m.
	B & G Swimming	Leesburg/Villages	CFCC	6:00 p.m.
	9th/JV/V Volleyball	Santa Fe	Away	4/5/6:30 p.m.
Oct. 09	Varsity Football	Mandarin	Home	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 10	Cross Country	Disney Classic	Disney	5:30 a.m. (bus)
Oct. 12	Boys Golf	County	TBA	TBA
	Slowpitch Softball	Lake Weir	Away	6:00 p.m.
	Bowling	West Port	AMF Central	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	Girls Golf	Lake Weir	Away	4:00 p.m.
	Boys Golf	County	TBA	TBA
	9th gr. Volleyball	Lake Weir	Home	5:30 p.m.
	JV & V Volleyball	Springstead	Home	6:30/7:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	9th/JV/V Volleyball	Eastside	Away	5/6/7:00 p.m.
	Slowpitch Softball	Dunnellon	Home	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 15	Cross Country	Wildcat Run	Home	5:00 p.m.
	Freshman & JV Football	Lake Weir	Away	5/7:00 p.m.
	Boys Golf	West Port	Shores	4:00 p.m.
	B & G Swimming	North Marion	CFCC	4:30 p.m.
	9th/JV/V Volleyball	Trinity Catholic	Away	5/6/7:00 p.m.
	Slowpitch Softball	West Port	Home	6:00 p.m.
Oct. 16	Varsity Football	Lake Weir	Home	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	Bowling	North Marion	AMF Central	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	JV & V Volleyball	St. Francis	Home	6/7:00 p.m.
	Freshman Football	Belleview	Home	7:00 p.m.
	Cross Country	Belleview	Belleview	5:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	9th/JV/V Volleyball	Belleview	Home	5/6/7:00 p.m.
Oct. 22	Bowling	Lake Weir	AMF East	4:30 p.m.
	B & G Swimming	Trinity Catholic	CFCC	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 23	Varsity Football	Sandalwood	Home	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	Cross Country	Conference	Home	TBA
	B & G Swimming	Belleview/Vanguard	Jervey Gantt	10:00 a.m.
Oct. 30	Teacher Workday – NO SCHOOL			
	B & G Swimming	Districts	Jacksonville	9:00 a.m.
Oct. 31	Cross Country	Last Chance	Santa Fe HS	TBA

The School Board of Marion County, FL
Forest High School
5000 SE Maricamp Road
Ocala, FL 34480

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