



Forest Area Community Schools

# Forest Area Focus

Serving the Communities of South Boardman and Fife Lake • Winter 2024

## Welcome Superintendent Mike Moran

Dear Forest Area School Families,

Happy New Year! I am incredibly thankful to the Forest Area Community Schools Board of Education for selecting me as your next superintendent. I am happy to continue serving the Forest Area community in this new role, and I am optimistic about the future of our schools.

My priority as superintendent of this district is to support our staff, students and families in an effort to provide the best educational experience possible for all students. This is a responsibility I take very seriously, and look forward to working closely with all members of the school community to ensure that this vision is realized. I have thoroughly enjoyed the time I have spent as principal at Forest Area Middle/High School and am impressed with the commitment and passion of our staff, the heart and determination of our students, and the pride that this community has in its students. I feel very fortunate to be a part of the Family!

In the second half of this year, I plan to spend more time throughout the entire district meeting all of our staff, students and families. As we plan for the future and set goals, I value input from the school community and I am committed to providing opportunities for all to have a voice in the future of the district. My door is always open.

As I begin this great opportunity to lead Forest Area Community Schools, I am eager to collaborate and build productive relationships throughout this community. GO WARRIORS!



Sincerely,  
**Mike Moran**  
Superintendent  
[mmoran@forestarea.org](mailto:mmoran@forestarea.org)



## Distinguished School

Fife Lake Elementary was selected as one of only two schools in Michigan recognized as a 2023 National Distinguished School, honoring the school's growth in academic achievement over the last two years. Congratulations to the staff and students!



## Family Meal

First graders enjoyed a Culture Celebration in December as an opportunity for students to sample foods from around the world. Volunteers and students enjoyed a sit-down meal featuring family-favorite recipes. They learned

about the many purposes of food, and the factors that impact what we eat such as family backgrounds, region, environment and celebrations.

## From Principal Eaker

Hello Fife Lake Elementary Families,

Thank you to the FA community for the exceptional support during the first half of the school year. Together, we have celebrated being named a National Distinguished School, a very successful fall book fair, and overwhelming volunteer participation at holiday parties that exceeds any in the last four years. Our staff is overjoyed with these successes and teamwork with the community. Thank you to the incredible Warrior staff, students and families!

We look forward to continuing to facilitate student growth this winter and spring. We will be testing students' academic progress through January and sending reports to families with more information. Families can support this effort by encouraging students try to their best each day, and especially during the NWEA tests. March is Reading Month and will be filled with reading challenges, prizes and celebrations. If you would like to donate time or other resources to support our initiatives, including reading month, celebrations or academic achievement, please contact me at [aeaker@forestarea.org](mailto:aeaker@forestarea.org) or (231) 879-3362. We welcome all partnerships in supporting our young Warriors.

Warm Regards,  
**Amberle Eaker**

Fife Lake Elementary School Principal  
[aeaker@forestarea.org](mailto:aeaker@forestarea.org) | (231) 879-3362

## 2023-2024 FACS Calendar

January 18-19.....	Half Day - End of 1st Semester
January 31.....	Half Day - Staff PD
February 19.....	Half Day - Staff PD
February 28.....	Half Day - Staff PD
March 7-8.....	Half Day
March 22.....	End of Third Quarter
March 25-April 1.....	Spring Break
April 2.....	School Resumes
May 27.....	Memorial Day - No School
June 4-5.....	Half Day - End of 2nd Semester

## FREE School Meals for ALL

ALL Forest Area Community Schools students are eligible to receive a breakfast and lunch at school at NO CHARGE during the 2023-24 school year.

### Breakfast

**FREE for ALL students**

### Lunch

**FREE for ALL students**

Lunch price for adults is \$4.00. Milk is \$0.35 without a lunch. No charging allowed.

**Lunch Menus** Visit [forestarea.org](http://forestarea.org) for monthly lunch menus. You may also download the FREE app, Nutrislice to see menus and nutritional information.

**Questions?** Contact Director of Food Service Shelly Ritchie at 369-4191.

## FACS Board of Education

The Board of Education meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the high school commons or via teleconference as needed. Special meeting dates/times/places as published.

### Board of Education:

Dan Smith, President  
Chrissy Ingersoll, Vice President  
Krysta Beyer, Secretary  
Joanna Durfee, Treasurer  
Rich Steffe, Trustee  
Kevin Thayer, Trustee  
Travis Tracey, Trustee

### Meeting Dates:

Feb. 12, 2024  
March 11, 2024  
April 8, 2024  
May 13, 2024  
June 24, 2024





## Marching Band Fun & Games



The Forest Area High School marching band celebrated their successful season with a trip to Incredible Mo's in Traverse City. They enjoyed pizza, bowling, laser tag and arcade games.

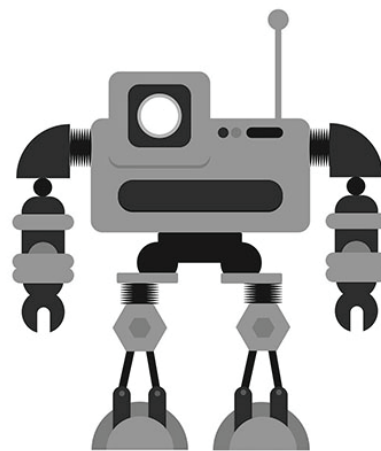


## Choir Party at SVSU

A group of Forest Area choir students traveled to Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) for a choir party. They learned all about SVSU and what participating in choir is like at the college level.

## Join Us for Forest Area Robotics!

Forest Area Robotics begins in January and students in grades 4 - 12 are welcome to join in! There is no fee to participate. The group will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and



Thursdays 3:30-4:30 p.m. The group is able to work around some student schedule conflicts, so no one should miss out on this fun learning opportunity.

Elementary and middle school students who want to participate in Robotics should also enroll in SEEDS so they can also receive snacks and meals (students are not required to participate in SEEDS outside of Robotics).

Parents who would like to help out are appreciated! Please email [ngillette@forestarea.org](mailto:ngillette@forestarea.org) to volunteer. Volunteers are required to provide a current background check to keep on file with the school.

## School Counselors Serving Students



Did you know that Forest Area has school counselors on staff?

Aimee Sandula at Fife Lake Elementary is a talented and compassionate professional who cares about serving students with a wide range of resources:

- Academic concerns
- Divorce, separation, family changes
- Educational planning
- Experiencing loss, death, grief
- Peer relationship issues
- Problem solving skills
- School adjustment issues
- Stress reduction and coping skills
- Study skills
- Difficulty getting to school

If a student is facing challenges or seeking support, reach out to the school counselor for assistance and to facilitate student growth and success.

**Aimee Sandula**  
Fife Lake Elementary  
[asandula@forestarea.org](mailto:asandula@forestarea.org)

## Cheer for the Warriors!

Visit the Warriors Athletics website to find school sports schedules, photos, videos, and more.

[forestareawarriors.com](http://forestareawarriors.com)



## Forest Area Fitness Center

The Forest Area Fitness Center is open to members of the community! Just contact the district office at (231) 369-4191 to make sure you have a waiver on file with the school. Users who have completed a waiver can enjoy the use of Forest Area exercise equipment and locker room facilities.

### Hours of Operation\*

M, T, W, Th, Sa, Su

5:30-7:30 a.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Closed Fridays

\*School events may affect these hours.



## A Homecoming to Remember

Followed by a week of fun events, the Forest Area homecoming dance was held at Hulwick Event Center. High School students danced the night away with friends, and celebrated a memorable week of spirit.

## After School Programs

Learn about opportunities for students to take part in free after school and summer programs:

### Programs for Grades 4-8

Contact Raina Hall - [rhall@forestarea.org](mailto:rhall@forestarea.org)

### Programs for Grades K-3

Contact Hannah Bird - [hbird@forestarea.org](mailto:hbird@forestarea.org)

## Contact Us .....

**District Office** • Ph 369-4191 • Fax 369-4153

Email [mmoran@forestarea.org](mailto:mmoran@forestarea.org)

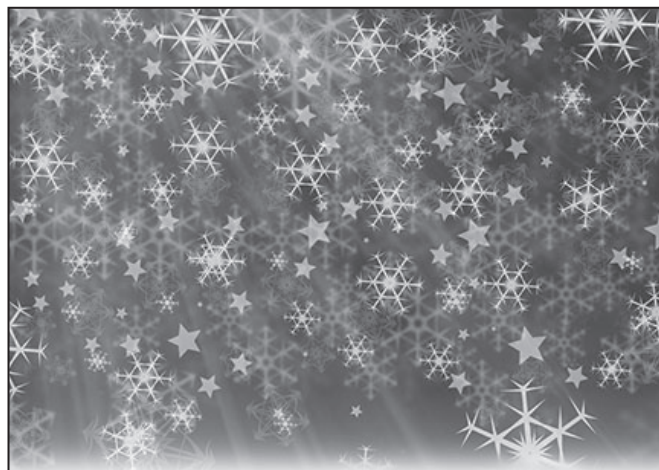
**Middle/High School** • Ph 369-2884 • Fax 369-3646

**Fife Lake Elementary** • Ph 879-3362 • Fax 879-4825

**Website** • [www.forestarea.org](http://www.forestarea.org)

## Yearbook Needs YOU!

The Forest Area MS/HS yearbook team wants photos from your winter break! If you have pictures you would like to share for the yearbook, send them to any member of the yearbook staff or email them to Mrs. Metzger at [rmetzger@forestarea.org](mailto:rmetzger@forestarea.org).



## Snowcoming Week January 22-27

Student Council is busy planning for a fun Snowcoming Week, including the game on Friday, Jan. 26 and a dance on Saturday, Jan. 27, 7-10 p.m. at the high school. Watch for details coming soon!



## Great Start Readiness Program FREE Preschool

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is a FREE preschool for children four years old on or before Sept. 1. Families must meet income eligibility and/or risk factors for the free program. Families with income *above* GSRP guidelines may still qualify for the program and be asked to pay tuition based on a sliding scale. Contact Michele Knight at (231) 879-3362 or [mknight@forestarea.org](mailto:mknight@forestarea.org).

GSRP Offers:

- State-licensed preschool
- Transportation available
- Breakfast, lunch and snack provided daily
- Speech and special education support available
- Play-based, child-initiated curriculum

# January - March 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JANUARY</b> 15	16	17	18 Half Day	19 Half Day End of First Semester	20
22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31 Half Day Staff Professional Development	1	2	3
5	6	7	<b>FEBRUARY</b> 8	9	10
12 Board of Education Mtg, 6:30p	13	14	15	16	17
19 Half Day Staff Professional Development	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28 Half Day Staff Professional Development	29	1	2
4	5	6	7 Half Day	<b>MARCH</b> 8 Half Day	9
11 Board of Education Mtg, 6:30p	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22 End of Third Quarter	23
25	26	27	28	29	30
No School Spring Break through Monday, April 1					

Dates and times subject to change



**WARRIORS**

## School Day Start/End Times

### Fife Lake Elementary

Start Time 8:00 a.m.

End Time 3:00 p.m.

1/2 Day 8:00-11:45 a.m.

### Forest Area

#### Middle/High School

Start Time 8:25 a.m.

End Time 3:20 p.m.

1/2 Day 8:25 a.m.-12:05 p.m.

## Visit Websites

[forestarea.org](http://forestarea.org)

Lunch Menus

School Calendar

Staff Directory

[forestareawarriors.com](http://forestareawarriors.com)

Sports Schedules

Event Results

Photos

**Forest Area Focus** is provided periodically during the school year and on our website ([www.forestarea.org](http://www.forestarea.org)) for residents of the Forest Area Community Schools District. Staff, students and community members write the articles. Newsletter editing and layout is provided by the Communications Department, Northwest Education Services. Printing for the newsletter is provided by Forest Area Community Schools. Questions about the newsletter should be directed to the Superintendent at (231) 369-4191.

### Administration:

Mike Moran,

Superintendent,

Middle & High School

Principal

Amberle Eaker,

Elementary Principal





Forest Area Community Schools  
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Fife Lake, MI 49633

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## Forest Area Community Schools Celebrates...



### Honors Band Thriving

Forest Area High School band members traveled to Petoskey for the MSBOA District ensemble. For two days they rehearsed with guest conductor Chris Kauffold. They were joined by students from more than a dozen schools in the region for a great experience learning and collaborating with other band members. To top it off, they also enjoyed a hotel stay, swimming and working to become better musicians and bandmates.



### Grants to Support Students

Congratulations to Fife Lake Elementary staff members AErin Graves, Kate Wilson and Aimee Sandula for earning three grants from Grand Traverse Area Retired School Personnel and TBA Credit Union. Kindergarten teachers AErin and Kate will use their grant funds to purchase monthly Scholastic books for kindergarteners. Aimee will purchase equipment to help in her role as school counselor to support students' appropriate social interactions during competitive play at recess.