



FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

April 2018 Newsletter

Principal Corner....Greetings Forest Families!

Each year all Minnesota public school students in grades 3-8 take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) in reading and math. Grade 5 and 8 students also take the MCA in science.

This year Forest 3rd-5th graders will take the test on the following dates:

- April 17th, 18th & 19th: Reading MCA
- April 24th, 25th & 26th: Math MCA
- May 1st & 2nd: Science MCA (Grade 5 only)

As a parent/guardian, you can help your student perform to the best of your student's ability on the important tests by:

- Encouraging good attendance
- Making sure your student gets plenty of sleep the night before the tests
- Making sure your student eats healthy meals, especially a good breakfast
- Allowing your student to bring their own headphones for the Math and Science tests
- Encouraging them to do their best

There are practice questions that your student can work on at home. Click on the links below to get access to the sample questions.

[Math Sampler](#)

[Reading Sampler](#)

[Science Sampler](#)

In April, we celebrate and recognize our GREAT volunteers that support our staff and students at Forest, we couldn't do it without you! Volunteer Recognition Week is April 15th – 21st. We will also have our annual Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on Friday, April 27th at 8:30. Volunteers will receive an invite with an RSVP. To all those who give so freely and abundantly of their time and energy, I offer my sincere appreciation and thanks!

Thanks for your support Forest families and together let's make it a great 4th Quarter for every student!
Mrs. Jackson

Important April Dates

April 10th: PTO Meeting (Topics: BYOD and the Family Picnic)

April 11th: 1st Grade Field Trip to Science Museum

April 13th: Read My Shirt Day (Wear a shirt with something to read on it)

April 13th @ 10:00: Assembly

April 17th – 19th: Reading MCA's in Gr. 3-5

April 20th: All District Orchestra students are on tour.

April 23rd: Author's Visit

April 24th – 26th: Math MCA's Gr. 3-5

April 27th: Volunteer Breakfast @ 8:30

SAVE THE DATE
Forest Family Picnic &
Talent Show
Friday, May 18, 2018



Math Corner

The web and app stores are filled with math games, but how do you know what is best. Here are a couple a quick tips on evaluating each game for yourself, as well as some top recommendations.

Top Tips for Evaluating Web and App Math Games:

1. No time pressure. Some of the recommended apps have the option of timing or the option of disabling the timer. I recommend disabling the timer in all cases. If you can't disable or mellow out the timer, don't use the app.
2. Conceptual modeling. There are plenty of apps that have flashcards embedded in sushi restaurants, caves, junk yards, etc. But I'm looking for programs that relate the concepts of the number and operations to the fact. This usually means some form of visual modeling (arrays, dots, etc.).
3. Productive handling of mistakes. They're opportunities to learn and should be framed as such. Also, competition is to be avoided for most students.

Source: [tzager. "A Totally Not Exhaustive Look at the Current State of Elementary EdTech". March 6, 2018](#)

Concept/Skill	Games
Number Sense	Numtanga Dragonbox Numbers Motion Math: Zoom Motion Math: Bounce Gate
Basic Facts (+, -, x, /)	Ten Frame Mania How Much? How Many? Math Limbo Kakooma Dragonbox Big Numbers Hungry Fish Bunny Times Motion Math: Match
Algebraic Thinking	Minus Mania SolveMe Mobiles Game Over Gopher Dragonbox algebra 5+ Dragonbox algebra 12+
Geometry and Measurement	Game about squares Symmetry Artist Coin Bubble

Minnesota ELA Anchor Standard 3

Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Kindergarten

- With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story. (L)
- With prompting and support, describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text. (I)

First Grade

- Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details. (L)
- Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text. (I)

Second Grade

- Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges. (L)
- Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text. (I)

Third Grade

- Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events. (L)
- Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect. (I)

Fourth Grade

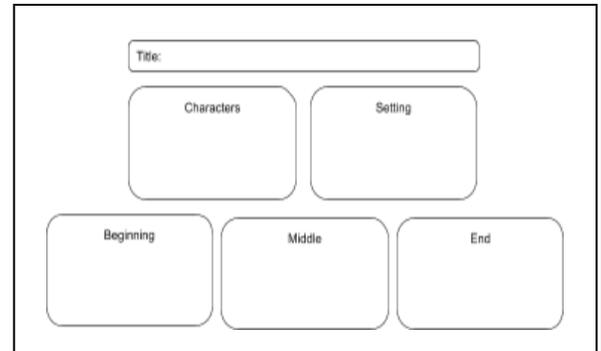
- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions). (L)
- Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. (I)

Fifth Grade

- Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact). (L)
- Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text. (I)

How You Can Help at Home

- Read with and to your child every day from a variety of genre, including literature, informational text, poetry, etc.
- Create a story map.



- Ask your child questions before, during and/or after reading, such as:
 - Who are the characters in the story? (L)
 - How are the characters alike? How are they different? (L)
 - What happened in the story? (L)
Where did the story take place? What is the setting? (L)
 - What was the problem in the story? (L)
 - How was the problem solved? (L)
 - Can you explain what is happening in the text? (I)
 - Why do you think it is happening? (I)
 - What is the first step in this procedure? (I)
 - What is the main idea in this text? (I)
 - What connections can the reader make between two (individuals, events, ideas) in a text? (I)

PBIS Corner

We had so much fun celebrating March Madness at Forest last month. We handed out over 3,000 Orange PAWS tickets and we ended the month with a Staff and Student basketball game on Friday. I know the kids enjoyed it just as much as the staff did!

After Spring Break is a key time to reteach and review our PAWS expectations. Teachers and staff have been re-teaching expectations in the classroom, on the playground, cafeteria and especially in the hallway. We've created a Forest Elementary Voice Level chart and have been teaching all students that their voice level should be at a Level 1 (whisper) in the hallways. Parents and Guardians, quiz your student at home to see if they know this expectation at school and help us reinforce it!

Our monthly motivator this month is "Chewing Kindness!" In our main hallway, there is a GIANT gumball machine. This month, we are recognizing classrooms who are being kind to one another with a paper gumball. We are hoping to spread kindness through our entire building and see our gumball machine fill up this month. Watch for your student's class name in the main hallway!

Finally, this month, we will focus on efforts on giving back by teaming up with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for our annual 'Pennies for Patients' drive. Starting April 9th, we will be collecting pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and even dollars to fight the battle against blood cancer. Classrooms will each have a collection bin, so empty those piggy banks and check the couches and have your student bring spare change to school and help us give back to the community in the fight against blood cancer.

Nurse Notes

I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...					
I HAVE A FEVER	I AM VOMITING	I HAVE DIARRHEA	I HAVE A RASH	I HAVE AN EYE INFECTION	I HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL
					
Temperature of 100.0 or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Redness, pain, and/or "crusty" drainage from eye	Hospital stay and/or ER visit
I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM...					
Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication i.e. Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen	Free from vomiting for at least 24 hours	Free from diarrhea for at least 24 hours	Free from rash, itching or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor if needed	Evaluated by my doctor and have note to return to school	Released by my medical provider to return to school
<p>If you have any question please call the Forest Health office at 763-504-7905</p> <p>**Remember to call the attendance line daily to report your child's absence from school. 763-504-7910</p>					

From our Specialist Team!

Media Center

Forest students grades K-1 will have a visit from Northfield author Mary Bleckwehl on Monday, April 23! Mary has written 4 books for children, and will read from the newest book during her day with us. She will also share what it is like to be a writer, and students may order a copy of one of her books which she will sign that day. Book orders are optional, at \$15. Order forms have already been sent home but another will go home as we get closer to April 23. We can't wait for this special visitor!



We have received our book order for 2017-2018 and have a wall of shelves featuring our new books. Many of these are suggestions from our current 5th grade students. Please treat them very carefully and return them after 2 weeks in perfect condition so others can enjoy them. Our library is a space we all share.

Finally, parents of 5th graders, please be aware that all stickers located on your child's chromebook MUST stay on the device. Each is there for a reason, and we are having some difficulty with stickers being peeled off. Part of the responsibility for chromebook usage is to leave all stickers in place. Thanks for help you can give, and we hope the chromebooks have been a successful tool for your students to use in their education.

Mrs. Bailey

Physical Education

April is an exciting time for PE at Forest! We will be starting with some hula hut challenges, doing some throwing and catching games and also getting outside to work on our track and field skills. We are also always working on our fitness skills to improve our healthy bodies.

Keep up the hard work Forest Wolves!

Mr. Seiffert & Mr. Dooher

Music

Welcome back from Spring Break! The upper elementary students will be deep in testing mode for the next two months, so I like to have activities that get them moving. This year, we will be folk dancing and bucket drumming to name a few lessons. The fourth graders are getting ready for All District Choir (ADC) tryouts. ADC is an auditioned group of singers chosen from our elementary schools in the district who rehearse one morning a week before school and have various opportunities to perform throughout the school year. Students must be able to sing the scale, My Country Tis of Thee, and hold their part in the three part round of Row, Row, Row Your Boat. It's a great opportunity for them!

Finally, we will be taking some time to coordinate the Talent Show which will happen on FRIDAY, MAY 18 during our Family Picnic night! We are trying something different, so all grades can be represented. Each block of grades - K/1, 2/3, and 4/5 will have a 30 minute slot to show off their talents. Some music time will be set aside to give students an opportunity to practice their talent. This is a highlight for some of our students, and I am excited to try it in a different format!
Mrs. Lutz

April Art News

The Robbinsdale Area Schools Annual Spring Art Show was held at the Brookdale Library this year. A reception was held for the student artists, along with their families and friends, on March 15th.

I am proud to say that 87 Forest Wolves had their creations on display for all to enjoy and their artwork was spectacular! The Forest community, and the overall Robbinsdale Area Schools public, had an opportunity to view the show featuring artwork K-12 from all schools, with the exhibition running from March 13th-April 2nd.

This annual show moves between Brookdale and Ridgedale Libraries, alternating yearly. The show represents the culmination of our students' learning in art and shows the strength of our art curriculum. It is truly the visual arts highlight of the year!

Congratulations to all the hardworking and artistic Forest students that had their beautiful artwork selected to be on display!

Mrs. Wendy Wold
Art Specialist



A Great Family Opportunity



Windows & Mirrors: A Celebration of African American Authors, Artists & Storytellers

Date: Tuesday, April 10th, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Location: Northport Elementary
5421 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Please join us as we celebrate African American authors, artists and storytellers. Teaching artists from The Givens Foundation for African American Literature* will share diverse children's books and engage students in storytelling performances.

A light dinner will be served from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Click [here](#) to RSVP or go to <https://goo.gl/forms/0ZeTFCLDnj0Cqar93>. While this event is targeted to 3rd grade families, all K-5 students and their families are welcome to attend.

This event is offered in partnership with The Givens Foundation for African American Literature through a Minnesota State Arts Board grant and the Seven Dreams Education Foundation.

*Beverly Cottman, Danielle Daniel, Louis Porter, II, Lehman Riley, & Nothando Zulu