

Forest Park Jr/Sr High School: College & Career Readiness

Career Resource Highlight:

Naviance, available online for all Forest Park students, offers a series of career assessments that help students uncover multiple career options based on their interests and skills. A

great starting point for younger students to begin with is the assessment called **Career Cluster Finder**. This assessment is based on Holland's interest codes. The results of the assessment include the student's strongest fields of interest, matching them to one or more of the 16 National Career Clusters.

From there, they can explore a variety of potential careers within their matched clusters. This tool is a great place to start when beginning your career exploration journey.

Students as young as 7th grade should start by taking the **Career Cluster Finder** to see how their interests can be translated into a career. Students can also take this multiple times and navigate how their interests may change over time.



Forest Park Explores Post Secondary Options

Students at Forest Park spent the last month exploring options outside of the traditional four year college and university experience. It's important for students to know that they have options for their future. Traditional college is certainly not for everyone and there are some great options available, both near and far.

In October, the freshmen class went to Vincennes University. For many, this was their first time on a college campus. The students started their day at the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center, where they learned about the various programs VU has to offer including certificate programs, associate and bachelor degree programs. The students then were divided into small groups and toured campus. A highlight for many students was bumping into a former Forest Park student studying in the library! It was great to see a past graduate in action.

After exploring campus, students learned more about campus life and enjoyed lunch in the dining hall. Freshmen had a great day learning about options available at VU. Some students even noted how surprised they were with what options were available within their desired career path. One freshmen even said that after visiting, he could already see himself going there after high school.

Another option students explored last month were the various paths available in the military. Representatives from the military came to present to freshmen and sophomores in Preparing for College and Careers class. Interested juniors and seniors were then able to meet with reps during study hall. The reps then stayed in the cafeteria during lunch periods to meet other students, answer any questions, and talk about career options available in the United States Military.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, November 1st:
College application deadline for early decision

Sunday, November 7th:
College Goal Sunday at Vincennes University Jasper Campus. Seniors and parents can get one on one assistance with filing their FAFSA.

Friday, November 12th: A representative from John Deere Agriculture Tech Program will be here during study hall to meet with interested juniors/seniors.

Monday, November 22nd:
Junior resume creation day in Naviance

Various Dates in

November: Junior Achievement program in Preparing for College & Career Classes

Thursday, December 2nd:
Freshmen/sophomore resume creation day in Naviance



College & Career Student Spotlight

Amy Nelson
Forest Park Senior

Meet Senior Student Amy Nelson!

Post Secondary Plans: Amy has signed with the United States Army. Amy wasn't certain what her future would hold. After meeting with an Army recruiter, it was finally clear. She will leave for basic training on June 6th at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. After basic training, Amy will receive education on truck driving, her chosen career.

Future Outlook: In 10 years, Amy still sees herself being an active member in the military. She hopes to have a family. She would love to live outside of the United States and travel as much as possible.

High School Influence: Amy has been involved in music throughout high school. A standout moment was when Mr. Bradley asked her to be a part of the school musical in 7th grade. Amy has appreciated his mentorship. Mr. Gayso and Mr. Obermeyer also pushed her in marching band, guiding her to do what she thought was impossible. Music has always been her focus and she plans to continue that as a hobby. Amy states, "Music will always be a part of my life, but I have to close that chapter and start a new one."

On the Job Experience: Amy has worked at Holiday World for the past two summers. She recalls one specific day when she couldn't get a ride to start. Her manager came to help and told her that "some things just don't work without the help of other people."

Advice for Younger Students: Amy suggests that younger students know that they don't have to follow a certain career path just because their parents did. She encourages younger students to explore other options besides a direct college route and find something that gets them excited about their future.

College Goal Sunday!

College bound students wishing to receive federal aid for their college or university will need to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). For current seniors, the application opened on October 1st and will remain available until April 15th. This task can be daunting for families. Thankfully, there is local expertise ready to make this a seamless process for students and parents. On November 7th, Indiana will host its largest FAFSA Filing Event across the state. Vincennes University Jasper Campus will be a host site for College Goal Sunday from 2:00-4:00p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend to receive one on one support from financial aid experts. As a reminder to all senior families, post secondary planning should be exciting, not stressful. There are a handful of resources available to help guide you through the process, one step at a time. For those unable to attend, VUJ will host another College Goal Sunday on February 27th.