

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

Career Resource Highlight

Setting effective goals allows a student to have a clear picture of their desire for their future. For many students, documenting those goals in a clear and written way is the best way to maintain accountability.

Naviance, an online tool available to all students, allows students to document and track their goals throughout their time at Forest Park. Freshmen and sophomores will begin setting their academic and personal goals in *Naviance* this year. These goals should be something that a student wants to do and can do. To access this Success Planning Tool in *Naviance*, a student should go to the My Planner tab and click on Goals.

They can add as many or as few goals as they'd like to. This allows students to create both long term and short term goals. As the new year begins, students are encouraged to create a new goal or update a goal that they have already started working on. For many students, goals may be academic related such as improving grades or participating more in class. Goals can also be reflective of other aspects of life such as participating in community service or joining a new club or organization. As a reminder, goals should always be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-based.



Q & A With your College & Career Counselor

Question: What is career exploration?

Answer: Career exploration is the best way to find out what options are available for your future. To put it simply, students will use various forms of career assessments, job shadowing, career cluster research, and communication with employed adults to discover what career fields fit their unique preferences.

Question: What is the best way for a FP student to begin their career exploration?

Answer: Every student has access to *Naviance*, a comprehensive college and career readiness solution that helps students learn how their strengths and interests relate to their postsecondary options. Students can take multiple career assessments, research thousands of careers, and access hundreds of other resources available for them to explore their options. In addition, all students have access to their personal career counselor throughout their entire time at Forest Park. Mrs. Dilger is happy to meet with students and families individually to discuss their career aspirations.

Question: What kinds of experiences are available for students who want to gain first hand exposure to a career?

Answer: A job shadow experience can be very valuable. If a student needs help connecting with a local resource for a specific field to set up a job shadow, they're welcome to contact the guidance office. Also, for upperclassmen, an internship gives a student the ability to see daily tasks and understand exactly what specific jobs entail. Lastly, *Naviance* offers thousands of videos describing the different careers available to students.

Question: When should a student start mapping out their post-secondary plans?

Answer: Now! So many times students wait until their senior year to start making decisions about their plans for after high school. It is highly encouraged to begin having these conversations much sooner. Students can visit colleges much earlier and job shadow at a younger age. Most importantly, start reaching out to your resources. Mrs. Dilger is happy to work individually to discuss your plans.

Upcoming Information

Current and future high school students will begin scheduling for their 2022-23 classes at the end of the month. During this time, students will be given information from the guidance department regarding the following areas. It is encouraged for students and families to look over this information and contact the guidance office with questions.

-Scheduling/Class Information

-Multiple Diploma Designations

-Graduation Pathways
Requirements

-Course Titles

-Dual Credit Course Options

-ICE & Internship (WBL)
Information

-PE Waiver Policy

-NCAA Academic Eligibility

Students should expect to hear a presentation from FP counselors regarding this information. They will then have time to take this information home, share it with parents, and make decisions about their classes and experiences next year. When making these decisions, students should think in depth about their post secondary plans. For students unsure about their plans after high school, it is highly encouraged to allow themselves a variety of academic experiences. If parents have any questions about their student's academic planning, please reach out to the guidance office.



College & Career Student Spotlight

Forest Park Senior Ethan Hall

Meet Senior Student Ethan Hall!

Post Secondary Plans: Ethan plans to attend the University of Southern Indiana where he will double major in Accounting and Finance. He also plans to run cross country and track.

Future Outlook: In 10 years time, Ethan sees himself back in the local area working in accounting for a larger corporation like Jasper Engines or Kimball. He hopes to have a family, be active in his church and give back to his community by serving as a religious education teacher. Ethan mentioned that his religious education teachers have made a large impact on his life and he hopes to do the same for the next generation.

High School Influence: His cross country coaches, Phil and Karrie Wolf, have impacted Ethan by always encouraging him to be the best he can be. He also has truly appreciated Mr. Prusz and his willingness to meet before school to answer any questions he has.

On the Job Experience: Ethan is currently an intern at Jasper Engines, where he works in their accounting department processing invoices. He appreciates the fact that his supervisors have taught him the value in everything they ask him to do. He has enjoyed his time at Jasper Engines and will consider them as a potential employer when he graduates from college. Ethan also has worked at Rosie's Tavern in food preparation. There he learned the value of balancing a good work ethic, while still having fun and enjoying work.

Advice for Younger Students: Ethan encourages younger students to talk to many different people about their careers. He has learned that there is no such thing as a bad question. He also suggests that younger students take advantage of Preparing for College & Careers, a required class at Forest Park. He learned a lot from his job shadow experience freshman year, where he shadowed an accountant from Kimball. He also enjoyed taking the many career interest inventories in Preparing for College & Careers and feels that they benefit younger students who are starting to explore potential career options.

Patoka Valley Career & Technical Cooperative

The Patoka Valley Career & Technical Cooperative is the combined efforts of nine local school corporations, including Southeast Dubois School Corporation. This allows our students access to a broad spectrum of education programs that promote high skilled and high wage occupations. These programs include the following: Welding, Auto, Health Science, Criminal Justice, Precision Machining, Construction Trades, Culinary Arts, Computer Technology Support, Manufacturing, Aviation, Fire Science, Administrative Office Management, and Human & Social Services. This month, sophomores will learn about each of these programs during a presentation in English class from program director, Jarred Howard. Students will learn about the opportunities available to them as well as the application process. Sophomores and juniors will then have the option to apply for a program of interest.