FOXTALES

Leaves are falling, and opportunities are calling!

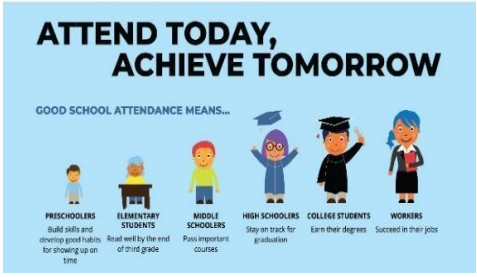
Important October Dates:

Thursday, October 8th: Fall School Pictures
Thursday, October 8th: Forwood Fall Festival 5-7pm
Tuesday, October 13th: Sense of Belonging Rotations
Wednesday, October 14th: 4th and 5th grade Panorama Survey
Monday, October 19th-22nd: PTA Fall Book Fair
Wednesday, October 21st: District Bocce Tournament at MPHS (parents are allowed as spectators)
Wednesday, October 21st: PTA's Trunk or Treat
Thursday, October 22nd & Friday, October 23rd: NO School- Parent/Teacher Conferences
Tuesday, October 27th: Wear pink for Breast Cancer Awareness
Friday, October 30th: Forwood's Halloween Parade 1:00pm

Looking ahead to **November**…
Monday, November 2nd: NO School- Professional Responsibilities Day/Report Card Marking
Tuesday, November 3rd: NO School – Election Day
Wednesday, November 4th: PTA meeting 6:30pm
Thursday, November 5th: Flag Football Game at BHS (w/Carrcroft and Lombardy)
Friday, November 6th: MTSS MP1 Incentive: Magician Joe Romano
Wednesday, November 11th: NO School- Veteran's Day
Friday, November 13th: 1st marking period report cards available
Friday, November 13th: Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day
Monday, November 16th: Forwood at BSD Board Meeting
Monday, November 23rd-Wednesday, November 25th: NO School (Offices Open)
Thursday, November 26th - Friday, November 27th: Schools and Offices CLOSED for Thanksgiving Break

Attendance Matters

It's a fact that students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful than students who do not. We need your help to make sure your child is in school, on time, every day (unless they are sick ☺). Attendance letters are automatically sent to families after students accumulate 5, 10, 15, and/or 20 unexcused absences. After 10 unexcused absences, a family may be required to have a conference with the principal. Our district visiting teacher will become involved after 15 unexcused absences.





Absence Note/Early Dismissal Online

Submitting an absence note or early dismissal request can be done right on the computer or your phone. It is easy and simple. Click on the link below, which will take you to the form to complete that is sent to our Attendance Secretary, Sharonda Spencer, and Principal Diana Golden. On this form, you will note if you are submitting an absence note or requesting an early dismissal. This form is also located on our school website and on Class DoJo.
https://www.brandywineschools.org/students-families/absence-request-form

Fall Festival- Mark your calendars!

Join us for an evening of fall fun at our annual Fall Festival on Thursday, October 8th from 5:00-7:00pm. Wristband pre-order forms were sent home for families to purchase wristbands ahead of time. Pre-orders are due to Mrs. Parker by Monday, October 5th. Wristbands can also be purchased at the festival for $5 per child. Adults and children under 4 are free. We will have carnival games and prizes, a craft, music from a DJ, food and bake sale, and more!



If you are willing to bake (or buy) something and donate it to our bake sale, it would be greatly appreciated. Baked goods can be dropped off at Forwood the day of the festival. Please send items individually wrapped or bagged. If items are gluten free or allergy friendly, please leave us a note! We appreciate your help!



Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will take place on Thursday, October 22nd and Friday, October 23rd. We believe in a strong partnership between families and our school. Together, we can work as a team to address your child's unique and individual needs while ensuring success for him/her. If you have not signed up for a conference, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Forwood's Halloween Parade

We invite all families to join us for Forwood's Halloween Parade on Friday, October 30th at 1:00pm. Come cheer on our students as they parade around our main circle in their costumes. The Mount Pleasant High School Marching Band will join us to provide music and entertainment. For safety, families will stay on the sidewalk to spectate.

There will be alternative enjoyable activities for students not participating in the parade.

Early Dismissal: If you are planning to take your child home early from the parade, please send a message to your child's teacher by the morning of Friday, October 30th.



Flag Football

We are thrilled to have a Flag Football club after school for 4th and 5th grade students. We are appreciative to Dr. Lowman for leading this program. We invite Forwood families to join us at our upcoming scrimmages and our final scrimmage against other BSD elementary schools.

Scrimmages with Forwood Foxes vs Lombardy Tigers vs Carrcroft Crocs: November 5th

6-8pm at Brandywine High School

Music

Chorus has begun meeting on Fridays for 4th and 5th graders! Our first performance will be for Veterans Day. We'll sing for the residents of Forwood Estates, to thank them for their service to our country. This has become a valued tradition for us, and the residents so look forward to us coming each year! Permission slips will go home by Friday, 10/2. Students in grades 3 have begun to study the recorder! They'll perform these for families during their regularly scheduled music classes in early May. Students in grades K-3 have already begun preparing for their winter musicals! This year, grades K-1 will perform Go Fish, and grades 2-3 will perform Pirates. All performance dates, times, and locations will be sent home by Friday, 10/2. It's bound to be another exciting, musical school year! Forwood has once again been asked to perform at the Philly 6ABC Dunkin' Thanksgiving Day Parade! Registration is online this year and is due no later than October 20th. Please reach out to Ms. O'Connor on Dojo or via email at amanda.oconnor@bsd.k12.de.us with questions. This is an amazing opportunity, and we're looking forward to another great turnout!



All grade levels are invited to participate!
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dAJ1SQzC8g8z2lHLmq8k_oEkSfwL6ARiTPe1k9b6MNk/edit?usp=sharing

Equity

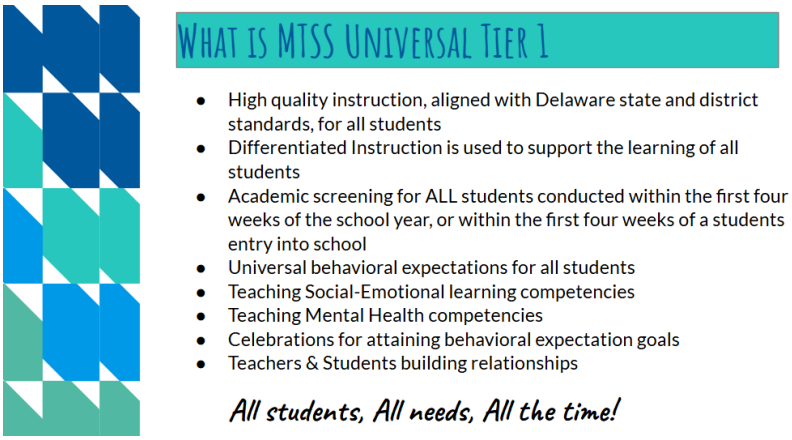
On September 24th, nine 4th and 5th grade students represented Forwood Elementary at the district's Student Voice Advisory Conference. At the conference, students participated in various team-building activities. In addition, students went over our school's Panorama Data. Students also planned ways they would like to support various events such Ruby Bridges Day and the Wrapped Wishes Collection. Meeting with the Student Voice Advisory members was an inspiring experience. They have a lot of wonderful ideas! It will be exciting to see where those lead.



We are in the middle of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Classes have celebrated with flag decorations, learning dances, and reading about notable figures who have contributed to the rich history and culture in our country

MTSS Tier 1

Multi-Tiered System of Support, or MTSS, is a proactive approach that helps schools support students before concerns become bigger challenges. Teachers and staff use student information to make thoughtful decisions about instruction, interventions, and behavioral support. This approach helps connect each student with the academic, social-emotional, and behavioral resources they need. Tier 1 provides support for all students, all the time. At Forwood, our MTSS goals are to reduce the total number of referrals, increase educational opportunities for all students, and improve the school climate for everyone. Some of our supports include our school-wide expectations matrix and lessons, alignment with equity goals, family engagement activities, quarterly assemblies and incentives, monthly attendance incentives, and student cash out opportunities.



Marking Period 1 Incentive

Our first marking period incentive is a Joe Romano assembly which will take place on November 6th! Between September 2nd and November 6th, students will need to earn 75 Fox Points, have less than 2 referrals, and 0 suspensions in order to earn this incentive. Students with behavior support plans will have parameters set by their case managers. We shared the behavior incentive with students during our Code of Conduct Assemblies the first week of school.

New Awards This Year

SAFE Campaign - Based on our referral data last year, we are focusing on decreasing the number of referrals for inappropriate touch and inappropriate language this school year. We have launched our Fred the Fox SAFE campaign focusing on having safe hands, always respecting personal space, friendly choices, and everyone deserving respect. Each month, classes with 0 referrals for inappropriate touch or language earn a Golden Paw and are entered into a raffle. One class will be chosen randomly where both the students and the teacher will earn a reward.

Golden Principal Award - Mrs. Golden will be choosing 1 class at every MTSS assembly throughout the year to win the Golden Principal Award to celebrate the classes that go above and beyond in attendance, behavior, and academics. Winners will celebrate their success as Mrs. Golden comes into the classroom for 30 minutes to take over, teach a lesson, and spend time celebrating with the class!

MTSS Tier 2/3 (PST Team)

Hello, Forwood families! Our school's Problem Solving Team (PST) has already begun to meet and is here to support you and your children. PST is part of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) program for Tiers 2 and 3. Students are typically referred to the team when they are in need of behavior, mental health, and/or academic supports that are more intense than can be addressed at the Tier 1 level (which supports all students). The team meets weekly to discuss student needs and to put appropriate interventions into place. These include, but are not limited to, social skills groups, individual or group counseling, Check-In Check-Out (where students work 1:1 with a teacher mentor using a point card to self-monitor their daily progress), reading and math groups, Brotherhood Club, Lunch Bunch, and more. All students are entitled to receive Tier 2/3 supports as needed, and their progress is measured using data collected by the assigned staff member. Parents will be notified whenever their child's name is brought to the PST, and we will work in partnership with you to help your child become the best that they can be and have a positive educational experience. If you have questions about this valuable resource, please don't hesitate to contact the team lead, Ms. O'Connor via Dojo or email at amanda.oconnor@bsd.k12.de.us

Attendance is key to achieving a solid education! As part of our MTSS Tier 1 initiative, all students will be incentivized to attend school on a regular basis. Grade levels with the highest attendance rates per month will be rewarded with things such as extra recess, hot chocolate, and more! If a student misses 3-5 days, they will be referred to Ms. O'Connor, our SAIP lead, who will work with the family to establish a Student Attendance Intervention Plan (SAIP), where the individual student will be provided individualized supports and incentives. Letters will also be sent home by Ms. Sharonda Spencer and contact may also be made by Mrs. Golden. It's our goal to help make your life easier and to help you overcome barriers to attending school consistently. If a student misses 6-7 days, they will receive a prereferral to our Problem Solving Team, and if they miss 8-9 days, they will receive an automatic referral to the same. One new initiative that Brandywine School District has implemented this school year is allowing mental health days to the students as needed. Please be aware that these cannot be consecutive, and parents will need to send Ms. Spencer a note stating that the missed days were "Justified Days." Absences that are considered Justified will not be included in the SAIP absences. If you find that attendance is an issue for you or your child and that you need additional supports, please feel free to proactively reach out to Ms. O'Connor either via Dojo or email at amanda.oconnor@bsd.k12.de.us



Forwood School Counselor News~ Mrs. Ward

It has been a wonderfully busy start to the 2026-27 school year! It is a pleasure meeting students who are new to Forwood this year, and welcoming our precious Foxes back to school! This marks my 28th year as the school counselor at Forwood; what a joy it is to do what you love! You may see me at the crosswalk, on the playground at recess or hear me on the morning announcements, but what I hope sticks is when your child shares with you the lessons I teach in their classroom or the time spent talking together.

October is National Bully Prevention Month

During the months of October-Nov. I teach weekly Second Step Bully Prevention Unit (BPU) lessons to grades 1st-5th. SS teaches that: “Bullying is mean behavior, done on purpose, it usually happens more than once, and the person it’s happening to, is not able to make it stop.” Students are taught the difference between conflict that can be solved easily and bullying behaviors that require the help of a caring adult. The 3 big Rs: Recognize, Refuse and Report are essential steps to preventing bullying in our school and community.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to visit www.secondstep.org using the following activation keys for more information and Home Links discussion guides for the Second Step BPU were sent in Class Dojo.

Kindergarten: **BPUK FAMI LY00**
First grade: **BPU1 FAMI LY01**
Second grade: **BPU2 FAMI LY02**
Third grade: **BPU3 FAMI LY03**
Fourth grade: **BPU FAMI LY 04**
Fifth grade: **BPU FAMI LY 05**

Before starting the bully prevention lessons, students in 1st-5th grades review Kelso's Choice Conflict Resolution steps to empower them with strategies to solve small problems (annoying, bothersome, or frustrating situations) before they become BIG problems; problems that are scary, dangerous, or if someone could get hurt. Encourage your child to try 2 Kelso strategies to solve small problems independently. Big problems must be reported to a caring adult right away! Click on the link for more information. https://kelsoschoice.com/about/for-parents/?srsltid=AfmBOopYU93q3XRFyVma4SWCfXQFBFPdT7LclPq8OltMEubk7cO1E7a9

**Kindergarten students will complete Kelso lessons first, before BPU lessons!*

Please let me know if you have any questions, it is my pleasure to help your child have the best experience possible at Forwood Elementary.

Student Green Team



We have nearly 2 dozen 4th and 5th grade students volunteering to be part of the Forwood Student Green Team! Green Team members choose to work on either the vegetable garden or the newly re-imagined Sensory Garden one recess period per month during the growing season. Students may be planting, weeding and/or maintaining these special green areas of our school. Thank you!



Nurses Notes by Sheila Pickering & Angela Richardson

Welcome back! We are very excited to be back working with your children again! We are in the process of vision/hearing screening for KN, 2nd, and 4th grade students. If you have any questions/concerns regarding your child's screening, please reach out to us.

Every day of school matters. When students miss too many days, they risk falling behind academically, socially, and emotionally. Missing 10% of school days (2 days per month) — excused or unexcused — can add up to a child being considered chronically absent. However, there are times when children need to stay home and should not be in school due to illness. We request and expect that you have a backup plan for picking up a sick child if you are called to do so.

https://www.attendancemattersri.org/health
https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/too-sick.html

Please make sure your children's vaccines are up to date.

With the recent measles outbreak, vaccination against measles with two doses is 97% effective, so people who are sure that they have received two doses do not need a booster. A person who received only one dose or is not sure if they received two doses should seek out a second dose in order to be fully protected. People born before the 70s or outside the US where a single dose of measles vaccine is routine may be affected.

The CDC recommends that all children receive the two dose MMR vaccine series, beginning at ages 12 to 15 months, followed by a booster dose at 4 to 6 years of age. Speak with your health care provider if you or your child is behind on vaccinations, has not been vaccinated, or if you are unsure of your vaccination status.

For more information:

https://publichealthalerts.delaware.gov/measles-frequently-asked-questions/
https://www.cdc.gov/measles/vaccines/index.html
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf

October is Food Allergy Awareness Month.

Did you know that 1:13 children have a food allergy?

The Teal Pumpkin Project is a worldwide movement to create a more fun and welcoming Halloween for all kids. To find out more, see below:

https://www.foodallergy.org/our-initiatives/awareness-campaigns/teal-pumpkin-project

https://www.foodallergy.org/living-food-allergy

Featured Teal Pumpkin Books

- Happy Halloween, Teal Pumpkin!
Author/Illustrator: Cynthia Platt (Author), Shauna Lynn Panczyszyn (Illustrator)

- Miriam's Teal Pumpkin: A Halloween Story About Being Inclusive of Kids With Food Allergies
Author: C.R. Martin