Dear Community Members,

Forest Ridge School District 142 had another banner year. We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of our students, the commitment by our faculty and staff, and the deep relationships built between the school district and our families and community we serve. Our priority continues to be providing a safe, healthy and happy place for our students to learn and grow. This was most certainly accomplished this year with an increase in proactive and helpful communication, an increase in positive and appropriate student behavior, and a significant amount of growth in individual students and in our overall student achievement data. We could not be prouder of the work accomplished this year and are eagerly looking ahead to the 2019-2020 School Year.

The first day of attendance for students is Wednesday, August 28, 2019. As we use the summer months for planning for next year, we do so with a focus on creating the conditions by which students will want to come to school and where their educational opportunities are maximized. Within District 142’s positive environments, we will continue to treat students as individuals, who bring their own unique strengths to the classroom. By tapping into these strengths, sharing them throughout the classroom and schools, we will build confidence and enrich the lives of all students.

As a reminder, our Forest Ridge School District 142 Strategic Plan, called the Blueprint Strategic Plan 2015-2020, is found on our website at www.d142.org. For a look at what we have been working on over the past four years, this is a great document to read over. Parents, Community Members, Staff, Administrators, and more participated in crafting this plan and the documentation of accomplishing our goals is detailed for all to see. We believe this transparency allows for a better understanding and participation in the direction our school district is heading. We have completed this five-year plan a year early; therefore, this fall we will look to enter the Strategic Planning process again. We will update goal areas and take a look forward another five years, continuing to ensure that the education we provide our students is relevant, progressive, and meets the needs for their future.

Have a safe, happy, and healthy summer... we will see you in August!

-Dr. Paul McDermott

Dr. Paul McDermott
SUPERINTENDENT
Elizabeth Ehrhart
TO SERVE AS DISTRICT’S CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

District 142 is committed to recruiting, professionally developing, and retaining high-caliber, dedicated educators. Mrs. Elizabeth Ehrhart is an excellent example of someone who has already made her mark on the students, families, and staff at District 142. Deepening her commitment to the District 142 community, Mrs. Ehrhart begins the 2019-2020 School Year in the role of District Curriculum Coordinator.

While Mrs. Ehrhart leaves a highly-successful tenure as our Ridge Early Childhood Center’s much-loved Principal for the past five years, she is incredibly excited to share more of her knowledge, time, talent, and love for this district as Curriculum Coordinator. Mrs. Ehrhart has been an educator for 15 years, in the roles of teacher, working closely with ESL (English as a Second Language) students, Building Principal, and District Administrator. Mrs. Ehrhart holds a Bachelor’s degree in Education from Illinois State University, an ESL Endorsement from Lewis University, a Master’s in Educational Administration from Governor’s State University, and is currently completing her Master’s in Curriculum & Instruction at Concordia University.

Mrs. Ehrhart is deeply focused on researching and implementing the most effective teaching and learning methods and tools, and rigorous curriculum. As the Professional Development Leader, she will work closely with Building Principals and Teachers across the district with a disciplined, supportive approach to teacher growth — always moving toward excellence. At the end of the day and the trajectory of a teacher’s development, students are the ultimate winners. With that student-centered commitment and proven-successful approach, Mrs. Ehrhart will take District 142’s student growth and development to a higher level. We couldn’t be more proud or more delighted for all of our students, families, and teachers.

For the second straight year, the state of Illinois has set aside money for school districts in high need through the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act. Evidence-Based Funding has made a significant impact on our district, our overall financial health, and with reaching our ISBE adequacy target as quickly as possible. Forest Ridge School District 142 was deemed a Tier One School District and received over $600,000 in new revenues.

This year we are adding a new section of first grade at Kerkstra and second grade at Foster. We continue to add in new technologies across all grade levels, integrating technology with our curriculum. Last school year we successfully launched a new, rigorous Reading and Language Arts program, called EL Education in Grades 1-5. In the 2019-2020 school year, our middle school students will utilize state-of-the-art, flexible, learning-centered furniture. We continue to ensure that all students in all grade levels, benefited from this additional new revenue.

Forest Ridge School District 142 and the Forest Ridge Educational Association worked together and recently agreed on a three-year teacher’s contract for 2019-2022. The district also subscribes to a fiscally conservative methodology allowing us to not only post a surplus of revenues over expenditures the past four years, but have also received the State’s Highest Financial Recognition Status the past four years as well.

FINANCES
Kathrina Davis
WILL LEAD RIDGE
EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTER IN 2019-2020

During the June Board of Education meeting, Forest Ridge School District 142 warmly welcomed Mrs. Kathrina Davis as the new Ridge Early Childhood Center Principal.

This position became available as Mrs. Elizabeth Ehrhart, the former Ridge Principal, moves to the District Office to assume the Curriculum Coordinator role due to the retirement of Dr. Roberta Morris.

Kathy comes to us with over 20 years of professional practice, most recently from Peotone School District 207U where she served as Principal at a K-3 building. Also in her career, Kathy has spent time as a teacher, building leader, and the Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

She has a Bachelor's Degree from Indiana State University, a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Illinois, and a Master’s Degree in Administration from the University of St. Francis.

Kathy demonstrates passion, integrity, and a quest for excellence and we could not be happier that she is joining our team.

Ridge Early Childhood Center will be hosting a Meet and Greet with Mrs. Davis on Tuesday, August 20 from 4:30-5:30pm at Ridge. Please mark your calendars and we hope you can make it.

Amanda Graczyk
SELECTED AS AN APPLE
DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR
CLASS OF 2019

Kerkstra Elementary School added yet another honor this spring. The Cougars are now home to an Apple Distinguished Educator. Amanda Graczyk, an Instructional Technology Specialist, was selected this spring as an Apple Distinguished Educator for the Class of 2019. She will join her ADE class of 2019 this summer to exchange ideas, empower other educators in a global manner, and to build technology competencies with students.

The application process included a creative, two minute video to showcase the innovate ways that Kerkstra teachers and students use the iPad in all subjects and specialized areas, with activities tailored to curriculum, standards, and students’ needs.

Now in its 25th year, the Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) program recognizes K–12 innovators who are using Apple technology to transform teaching and learning. Amanda develops lessons to make learning deeply personal for every student in all content areas. She also works with all teachers providing inspiration for such technology projects.

Amanda has created personalized books through iBooks Author to bring learning to life on the iPad. Students read the books and use interactive widgets about Oak Forest, weather, the water cycle, simple machines, and habitats. There are featured vocabulary words and interactive games students can play within the books as well.

Amanda is now a part of a global community of over 2,500 educational leaders. She will be able to collaborate and lesson plan with Apple and an elite group of educators all while bringing back new, technology-driven instruction to Kerkstra, colleagues, the community, and our school district.
FOREST RIDGE RECOGNIZES STAFF RETIREE S AND ANNIVERSARIES

On May 3, Forest Ridge School District 142 was proud to honor our five retirees and countless other staff members for their years of dedication and service. A dinner was held at Midlothian Country Club to celebrate their service and dedication to the students of our district. It speaks volumes to the support and educational practices and mission of our district when faculty serve our kids for this length of time. These faculty members truly are an example of Where Children Always Come First!

WE WISH OUR RETIREE S ALL THE BEST IN THEIR NEXT ADVENTURE:

BARB EDEUS
30 years of service,
Physical Education Teacher at Foster Elementary School

MARIA LYNCH
25 years of service,
Art Teacher at Kerkstra Middle School and Hille Middle School

TERRI MOISAN
20 years of service,
Special Education Teacher at Kerkstra Middle School and Hille Middle School

ELLEN ROSSI
20 years of service,
Paraprofessional at Ridge Early Childhood Center and Kerkstra Elementary School

DR. ROBERTA MORRIS
4 years of service,
School Psychologist at Foster Elementary School and 6 years of service, District’s Curriculum Coordinator

HILLE WEL Comes BACK CLASS OF 2015 AT SECOND ANNUAL ALUMNI EVENT

On May 6, Hille Middle School held the Second Annual Alumni Pizza Party with the Hille Class of 2015/OFHS Class of 2019 graduates. This event is a Community Relations goal of the District’s Blueprint Strategic Plan 2015-2020 as a means to increase alumni involvement within the District. We welcomed back over 50 graduates who were able to catch up with many of their old teachers and reminisce about many of their favorite Hille memories. We wish our former Hille Huskies best of luck in all their life’s endeavors.

A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

"Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber, and future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honor for me."

Pictured: Dr. Roberta Morris, Maria Lynch, Terri Moisan and Ellen Rossi
A School Year in Pictures
Important Dates to Remember

AUGUST

1 School Main Offices Reopen
12 District Registration @ Hille: 2:00 – 6:00 PM
20 Meet and Greet Mrs. Davis, Ridge Principal @ Ridge: 4:30 – 5:30 PM
   Board of Education Meeting @ District Office: 7:00 PM
21 Hille Locker Walk Thru @ Hille: 9:00 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
22 Hille Locker Walk Thru @ Hille: 9:00 – 11:00 AM, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
26 Teacher Institute Day – NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE
   Ridge PreK AM Open House: 4:30 – 5:00 PM
   Ridge PreK PM and Kindergarten Open House: 5:00 – 6:15 PM
   Kerkstra Open House: 6:30 – 7:45 PM
   Foster Open House: 6:30 – 7:45 PM
27 Teacher Institute Day – NO STUDENT ATTENDANCE
28 First Day of School – ALL STUDENTS ATTEND
   Ridge PreK Orientation

SEPTEMBER

2 Labor Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
4 Kerkstra and Foster Picture Day
5 Ridge Kindergarten Curriculum Night: 6:00 – 7:00 PM
   Hille Open House: 6:30 – 8:15 PM
6 Ridge Picture Day
17 Board of Education Meeting @ District Office: 7:00 PM
18 Hille Picture Day
19 SIP Day – HALF-DAY STUDENT ATTENDANCE
23 Ridge PreK Screening

GET IN TOUCH WITH DISTRICT 142

www.d142.org  info@d142.org  https://twitter.com/ForestRidge142  https://www.facebook.com/ForestRidge142