

January 2019

# Forestville

## Forestville Central School District Newsletter

### Expanded UPK Program

We have been awarded \$111,105 in funding to expand our existing four-year-old Pre-Kindergarten Program. Our students will now join us in a full day program. Transportation will be provided to all the students in this program. Besides riding the school bus, students will be eating breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria.

Our half-day Pre-K program began at 8:30 and ended at 11:00. Parents had to arrange for their own transportation for pick up and drop off two times a day. Now with this funding we will have a full-day Pre-K program that will begin at 7:50 to 2:35.

Before the grant was submitted, all parents with students currently participating in the half-day Pre-K program at the district were contacted. We are so grateful that 100% expressed support for and commitment to district conversion to a full-day program this school year based on student learning needs, parent work schedules, and other family needs.

The full-day program began shortly after winter recess. Leading up to the program moving to full-day parents were highly involved with meetings. Our students went to the bus garage to learn more about bus safety thanks to Mr. Gajewski. Our students also went into the cafeteria to learn about our breakfast and lunch program thanks to our cafeteria staff, Ms. Morrison and Mrs. Muck. Mrs. Devine, our Pre-K teacher, did an amazing job working with parents talking about the newly expanded program. Mrs. Marcinelli worked hard to coordinate everything before the program moved from half-day to full-day.

The full-day programming is aligned to the state Pre-K standards for ELA, Math, and other subjects. We are also including the Second Step curriculum, motor skills, speech, hearing, language development, cognitive skills, and social/emotional skills. We feel strongly that additional learning time at the Pre-K level is critical to ensure all students can be successful. We are doing our best to make sure our students have the ability to come to school ready to learn, make and keep friends, focus in the classroom, make positive decisions, and develop pro-social and emotional skills necessary for lifelong success.

We are so excited to have our youngest students join us in our full-day program!



***Excellence in Education***

## Superintendent's Message



**Renee Garrett**  
Superintendent

We are almost at the halfway point of the school year. Already, we have seen so much growth in our students. I especially notice it when I walk the halls and see how much they have matured and changed. I've always said we have such friendly and polite students. They have such a strong sense of respect. We thank you for that.

It has been a pleasantly busy year. We have spent a considerable amount of time applying for grants. As you can see, we have been highly successful. This edition of our newsletter highlights the recent grants that we have been awarded. With such a strong team effort, anything is possible.

We are beginning to reap the benefits of our hard work. We are able to purchase much needed equipment for our cafeteria and offer new and exciting options for our menus through the Farm to School grant (\$81,820.00 and \$99,236.00). Without the grant funding, we would have continued to have experienced rising maintenance costs on outdated equipment that was failing. We are so grateful that we were given this funding. The second round of this funding also has a strong instructional component that will impact our Pre-K-12 program.

We were also awarded the National School Lunch Program Equipment grant (\$20,000.00). This grant also provides new kitchen equipment for our elementary kitchen. Since we have this grant funding, we will not need to use our local school budget to replace this expensive equipment.

We are also very proud to have been awarded the expanded UPK grant (\$111,105.00). Before this funding, the parents of our pre-kindergarten (mainly four-year-olds) students needed to arrange for transportation to our half day program. With this grant funding we are able to offer a full day Pre-K program that includes transportation. These students are able to gain more academic support, participate in our breakfast/lunch program and many other benefits. This program offers a strong start for our newest students. Our parents of the children in this program are very pleased to have their children participate.

## Farm to School Grant Funding

As you may recall, last year we were awarded a two-year Farm to School grant in the amount of \$81,820. We have been using this funding to purchase some kitchen equipment so we can preserve locally grown fruits and vegetables. Some of the funding has been used to purchase equipment for our high school so we can offer our students smoothies.

We are so fortunate to have been awarded a second round of funding in the amount of \$99,235 to continue our Farm to School initiative. It is with this funding that we are able to continue to develop and grow our relationships with our local farmers. We are bringing a deeper awareness to our students on the importance of agriculture and the role it plays in their lives. We will be featuring our farmers in our newsletters, our local paper, posters, our school menu and in our social media. We will also be purchasing a new serving line for the elementary cafeteria. In addition, we will be purchasing panini presses for the high school so we can offer paninis with fresh vegetables to our students. This funding will also allow us to hire a nutrition integration educator.

We are so pleased to be offering all these much needed elements to our instructional programs. We are working hard to increase the amount and variety of local farm products purchased to include in our school meals. With this in mind, we are trying to help our local farmers grow and sustain. It is our hope that we can increase healthy eating habits among our students. This initiative offers a terrific opportunity to offer students more fruits and vegetables daily year-round. We are also hoping to introduce our students to a wide range of fruits and vegetables they can purchase right here in our community. We feel strongly that through this initiative, we will be able to communicate to students and their families the farmers who could sell these healthy foods to them.

## Featured Farmers

The DeGolier family of Forestville has been turning out fresh maple products for 7 generations. Tom and Chris are the owners of DeGolier Maple Products at 10826 Quarry Rd in Forestville.

Originally “Busy Maple Acres,” DeGolier Maple Products has a long standing reputation in Forestville having been founded in the mid 1950’s by Tom’s father Dexter DeGolier Sr. and his wife, Beverly. Syrup production happens in the spring but maple products are available for purchase year round at their home on Quarry Rd or at the Fredonia Farmer’s Market. The farm produces not only syrup, but maple sugar, cream, and vinegar.

Forestville has recently partnered with DeGoliars through the Farm to School initiative allowing the purchase of maple syrup to be used in the school cafeterias. You’ll notice maple syrup is a major feature on the January breakfast and lunch menus. From syrup to dipping breakfast pancakes in, to maple baked beans, and baked apples sweetened with local maple syrup. We are pleased to showcase DeGoliars maple syrup as part of our menu.

The Farm to School initiative, however, isn’t the first time Forestville CSD and DeGoliars have worked together. Annually, Forestville schools work with the DeGolier farm for the maple syrup/products fundraiser. The sale of maple products through the fundraiser helps not only student activities, but also gives the DeGoliars a different avenue for revenue.

The DeGoliars and Forestville are both very excited about the Farm to School extension to their previous partnership, and Tom and Chris “hope to have a long lasting connection” and want to be a part of “promoting healthier food for our children.”



## Farm to School Coordinator Brandi Pettit

Through the Farm to School grant funding we are able to hire a farm to school grant coordinator. Brandi Pettit, Health and Physical Education teacher at the Middle/High



School is working as the Farm to School Grant Coordinator. Ms. Pettit works closely with our Shared Cook Manager, Terry Brown to lead this grant. Together, they work diligently on increasing the amount of farm products purchased from local farms for our school meals. Ms. Pettit and Mrs. Brown also organize farm product procurement, coordinate with farmers, and collect data. Ms. Pettit is also responsible for all grant reporting. Mr. Hart, our Director of Facilities has been instrumental in purchasing new equipment for preserving and preparing farm fresh produce.

Another part of our Farm to School initiative is launching a promotional campaign—complete with student poster design contests, classroom presentations, and menu option creation challenges—to educate students about farm to school, local farm products, and their nutritional value. We are also implementing a meal program featuring locally produced farm products at regular intervals in the school meal program. In addition, we are establishing and implementing menus of meals that showcase farm products.

By the end of the grant period, we anticipate our district will have solidified and sustained district relationships with 14 farms!

## Board President's Message



**Carol Woodward**  
**Board President**

The holidays are now behind us as we begin another new year. Many of us set goals for the upcoming year. Some we achieve and some we don't. Change is seldom easy but we try to attain our goals. Let's not be too critical of ourselves but aspire to move forward in small ways.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight our Board of Education members. They are a dedicated group who work hard to give our students excellent opportunities. We don't always agree on every issue but in the end we come together to make the best decisions we can.

Sylvester Cleary is a board member who wears many hats. Currently he serves as president of the Chautauqua County School Board. He keeps us up to date on the current issues within our county. He is also a member of the New York State Caucus of Black School Board Members. Syl reminds us that we have to strive to do what is best for our students. His words keep us motivated and focused.

Amy Drozdziel serves as our vice president. She is very supportive of our school and students. Amy always sees the best in people, no matter what the situation. Her previous management skills have been invaluable in many situations. She actively supports our students as she feels they are our number one priority. She cares for some of the children in our community at her daycare.

David Caccamise contributes much to our board, as he is a teacher at BOCES. He guides us by giving a teacher's perspective on school matters. Another one of his attributes, is that he guides us to be fair and consistent in school issues. He is mindful of the financial status of our school. Dave always listens to everyone's opinion and keeps an open mind.

Stacey Mierzwa is one of our most enthusiastic board members. This is evident in the way she took the lead for the Wellness Committee. They are moving forward with many new ideas that will be highlighted in the near future. Currently, she is working on a wellness fair at our school. For many years, she has been active in the musicals and the music boosters club. Quite the worker bee!

Michael LoManto is a member that also is a teacher at BOCES. He is dedicated to his students and inspires his students achieve their best. Mike gives 100% to the board committees he is on and is always prepared at meetings. Mike is also extremely interested in the mental health of our students. He has attended many workshops on this issue and regularly updates the board with current education on mental health in schools.

Our newest board member is Michelle Merritt. She has an extensive background in mental health. Michelle has brought much valuable information and contact connections that she shares with our board. She also attends many of our county school board meetings. Michelle is a great addition to our board. We are very fortunate to have a board member with a background in mental health.

It may appear that I am bragging about our school board and you are probably correct. I have said many times that we have "the best board ever." They are a dedicated group of members and it is important to give credit for the good work they do. In conclusion, congratulations to our school being awarded the Pre-Kindergarten grant this year and another Farm to School grant. These grants are very competitive and involved. Thank you to our administration and staff for ambitiously applying for these grants. We applaud your hard work and dedication.

The Board of Education and administration will continue to work together to achieve great things for our school community.

Thank you,  
Carol Woodward

## Conference All-State



Madison Miller participated in Conference All-State from November 29th – December 2nd. Over 6,500 students from 15 different regional zones in New York State auditioned. Madison was selected to be one out of the seven first clarinets in the symphonic band. The Conference All-State Symphonic Band was made up of approximately one hundred and fifty of the best high school instrumental musicians in New York State. This is one of the highest honors a high school musician can achieve. During this weekend, Madison was able to meet and work with many different student musicians, play under the direction of world-renowned conductor, Dr. Cynthia Johnson Turner, and perform professional level repertoire far beyond what she is used to in Concert Band here at Forestville. The Symphonic Band also had the opportunity to have the composer Roshanne Etezady, work with them while they prepared her piece, Shoutout. This was an incredible learning experience for Madison, and a well-earned honor.

## Spanish Club

Spanish Club students gathered to make authentic Mexican masks to commemorate El Dia De Los Muertos or Day of the Dead. Students decorated masks with tissue paper to replicate the intricate artwork of the calaveras (skulls) seen throughout Mexico.



## Deck the Tree

The 7-12th grade students participated in the school's annual "Deck The Tree" contest. Each class met with their class advisors and picked a charity. The students then met after school and decorated their tree as a "Tree of Giving." The students decided on their own theme, decorated the tree, and collected items to donate to an organization they selected. National Honor Society members collected the goods and dropped them off to the charities! Student Council students put up and took down all of the trees. The students donated to the following charities: The Forestville Food Pantry, North Chautauqua Canine Rescue, Buffalo Strong, The Kathleen Mary House, Humane Society Chautauqua County, and Blue Star Families.



Student Council will be hosting the annual blood drive on Friday January 18, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Please note this date is different than the date stated in the school calendar. Please come out and give the gift of life and help those in need. All are welcome to come and donate.



## Principal's Message



**Daniel Grande**  
**MS/HS Principal**

It's amazing to me that I sit here today and write this article with half of the school year behind us! The school year is moving at a rapid pace. Before long, I will be writing about the end-of-the-year events and graduation! Scary! Well, the year is off to a great start! This past fall, Mrs. Press, Mrs. Hazelton, and Deputy Grant moved into a central location in the building with the addition of a brand new counseling suite and School Resource Officer (SRO) office.

As you are aware, Forestville has a full-time resource officer that splits his time between the high school and elementary school. Deputy Grant has been a wonderful addition to the Middle/High School team! Seeing him in action is great! When I think of the work that he does, the word "resource" comes to mind first.

I imagine that in some school districts, a Resource Officer is viewed as a disciplinarian or a police officer on patrol at a school. Not in Forestville! Don't get me wrong, he can assist the administration in disciplinary situations that are deemed to be serious offenses. However, the bulk of his time in our schools is spent networking with students and staff; thus building relationships and trust. This is a vital component to the work he does here. Through relationship and trust building, students have another person in the school, aside from teachers and counselors, that they can go to for advice with personal situations they may be experiencing or concerns they may have that are tied to their own needs or the well-being of our school.

Next, I'd like to share some of the "new" work our counselors are doing as a result of having a dedicated space to meet with groups of students. If you were to stop by the counseling suite throughout the school day, you might observe Mrs. Press or Mrs. Hazelton offering students a variety of sessions that are tied to student anxiety, stress, social skills, or career counseling. If you were to stop in midday, you most likely would see students eating their lunches, studying with peers, playing games for stress relief, or just enjoying the peace and quiet of the room! Because the room is equipped with technology, students have a distraction-free location to fill out their college applications.

It's no doubt that the new counseling suite and SRO office is a huge hit with our students!

## Spanish Club Observes National Hispanic Awareness Month

The Spanish Club celebrated National Hispanic Awareness month by taking all the 7th-12th grade Spanish students to see the Latin American spectacular performance at Cardinal O'Hara High School. Students participated in an immersive bilingual performance of traditional Mexican folklore, the African influences represented in the Colombian Cumbia, exciting Caribbean Salsa and Merengue, the intense Argentinean Tango, and the Brazilian samba.

Spanish Club also hosted the 6th Annual Club La Luna Dinner and Dance. Forestville aims to provide Spanish Club members with the opportunity to try authentic Puerto Rican food and enjoy a night of Spanish Dancing. Each year, our program grows while reaching out to various schools in Chautauqua County. Brocton, Panama, Cassadaga, and Gowanda Spanish Club members joined us for an unforgettable night!



## Athletic Highlights

### Szumigala Earns Multiple Awards on the Gridiron!

Luke Szumigala of the SC/FCS Black Knight football team was recently recognized at the Western New York High School Football banquet. Luke was named as a First Team All-Star in the Class C North division as an offense lineman, the Class C North Defensive MVP sponsored by WGRZ Channel 2, the All-Football Weekly 2nd Team All-Star Defensive team, the WNY All-Academic Team sponsored by the Buffalo Bills, and was named as a two time WNY Trench Trophy Honoree during the fall of 2018. Congratulations Luke on an outstanding high school football career!



### 9th Annual Spike Out Cancer Event a Success

The FCS Hornet Volleyball program continued to exemplify the qualities of community involvement and unselfish acts as they hosted the 9th Annual Spike Out Cancer event during the fall season. The Lady Hornets entertained the Fredonia Lady Hillbillies in a match that ultimately displayed quality play, sportsmanship, and awareness of a greater cause. The Modified, Junior Varsity, and Varsity squads all took part in another memorable night as they raised over \$2,800.00 for a great cause. With that amount, the nine-year total has grown to \$29,708.00! Thank you to all the caring individuals, sponsors, parents, fans, and athletes that helped support this amazing event!



## Band and Chorus Holiday Trip

On December 21, the Concert Band, High School Jazz Ensemble, High School Choir, and selected National Honor Society students paid a visit to the Chautauqua Nursing and Rehab Center, the Lakeshore Drive Resource Center, and the Chestnut Street Resource Center for a Christmas visit to their residents and staff. The High School Concert and Jazz Band, as well as the High School Choir, performed and sang many Christmas carols, many of which the residents were able to dance to. The National Honor Society students handed out personally decorated ornaments and Christmas cards to the residents while the groups performed. Max Caccamise dressed as Santa to spread even more holiday cheer. This was a great way to bring joy into the community and kick off the holiday season.



## Principal's Message



**Lindsay Marcinelli**

**Elementary Principal** Students who will be age four or five by December 1, 2019 are able to sign up for our UPK program or Kindergarten. Please contact the main office (965-2742) with your child's information, if you haven't already done so. Our Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for April 16th. The UPK Orientation will be held May 16th.

As the holiday season often brings new electronic devices and cell phones, please note the elementary school's policy on these items. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or electronic devices during the school day. If a staff member sees a student with such a device, they will confiscate that device for the remainder of day. Repeat offenses will result in the confiscation of the device and a parent/guardian will be contacted to pick it up in the office at the end of the school day. The school is not liable if a device is lost, stolen or broken. This policy is located in the Elementary Handbook in its entirety.

I would like to thank our students and teachers for a great first half of the school year. I cannot wait to see what the second half of the year has in store for us! As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

## Woodwind Quintet Visits Forestville

On Tuesday, December 18th, a student-run woodwind quintet from SUNY Fredonia performed for the sixth grade band. Student musicians included: Maggie Mariotti (flute), Mateo Mendez (oboe), Erin Carpenter (clarinet), Olivia Davie (horn), and Lauren Henning (bassoon). They performed an assortment of Christmas Carols for the sixth graders. Then, they spoke about studying music in college, what it takes to prepare a large amount of music as a group, and spoke about the different instruments they played. The sixth graders loved to hear this music and had very thoughtful questions for the performers. It was exciting for the students to see instruments such as the French horn and bassoon, because there are no students who play those instruments at the elementary level, but it is an option for them once they are in the Middle and High School bands.



## New York State Cookies

Our fourth graders recently finished a unit studying New York State geography. For the finale, the students decorated cutout cookies shaped just like New York State. Students took the time to mark major landforms and bodies of water found within our state. Students in the Erie 2 BOCES culinary arts program baked the cookies for our fourth graders to use in this unit. The best part about this project is that it was edible!



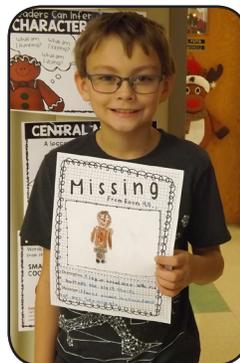
## 6th Grade Science Project



The sixth grade students have been studying chemical building blocks. Students have been introduced to the periodic table of elements. They are learning about elements, pure substances, mixtures, solutions and compounds. Included in this curriculum is identifying different states of matter – solids, liquids and gases. As a culminating activity, students made Christmas ornaments mixing different things together. The ornaments consisted of cinnamon, glue and applesauce. It did not take them long to realize that they could change the liquid ingredients into a solid by mixing them together. The students enjoyed changing matter.

## Missing Gingerbread People

Oh no...It seems that the Gingerbread People in a story Mrs. Szumigala's third grade ELA students were reading ran away! The students placed missing posters around the school and talked to staff members about the missing people. They shared parts from of the story that explained why they thought the gingerbread would visit each person: the nurse - the gingerbread man broke his toe so the nurse glued it back on and placed a band aid on it; the secretaries - the gingerbread man visited the principal and they thought the people would go there to find our classroom; the gym - they thought the gingerbread man could end up on a ball in the gym; and to the cafeteria - where the gingerbread man had ended up in someone's lunch! They found the gingerbread girl in the cafeteria, but she escaped again and ended up in the craft supplies in Mrs. Patton's room. The gingerbread boy was in the Christmas tree, the smart board in the library, and finally in the hallway next to the artwork. The students also decorated gingerbread cookie ornaments as the final activity.



## Monopoly Tournament



The annual eighth grade Monopoly tournament took place Thursday and Friday in Mr. Langworthy's room before the holiday break. This occasion is looked forward to by the students every year as we wrap up a large chapter on big business and the creation of "monopolies." We have a number of monopoly games going on each period, played on the floor, table and chairs. Some teachers even took part in the annual event. The kids love having teachers stop by and join a game. It's really a great experience, and the kids have fun putting their understanding of a monopoly to the test in their quest for world domination.

## La Navidad

Middle School students learned about the traditional piñata art form in Spanish speaking countries. A piñata is a decorated container, usually made of papier-mache, that is filled with candy and then broken as part of their custom. Students had the opportunity to make and break piñatas in class to experience the custom of La Navidad. Aprender espanol es muy divertido!



## PE Grant Equipment

Earlier this year the Physical Education Department was awarded a "GoodSports" grant for PE equipment. "GoodSports" gets donations from manufacturers and then allows organizations around the country to claim anything available, only having to pay for shipping. Through the grant, the Physical Education Department has gained hundreds of dollars of equipment at minimal cost to the school. The gear which totals almost 100 new items includes new weighted fitness balls, core rollers, two 12'x6' goals, weighted drag bags, resistance bands and handles, agility ladders, exercise sliders, stability balls, defensive mannequins, and new rubber bases. The equipment is used by students in PE for fitness activities. Members of the basketball teams have been using the defense mannequins for drills, and students who utilize the weight room after school have also been testing out the new athletic supplies. This was the first shipment the department has ordered. The grant allows the school to make requests up to two times per year, and Forestville has the grant through April 2020, so there is lots of time and opportunities for the acquisition of more equipment!



## Newsies



The eleventh and twelfth grade students attended a performance of Newsies on November 6th at the JCC College theater. Following the performance, the students were broken into four groups and given a tour of the campus including the housing facilities and the science building. They all then went to the Honest John's for a buffet lunch before returning to school.

## Ugly Sweater Contest

The elementary staff really got into the holiday spirit with an ugly sweater contest. The winners were 1st Mr. Hazelton, 2nd Mr. Greenough and 3rd Mrs. Brewster. Our students love to see their teachers have fun!



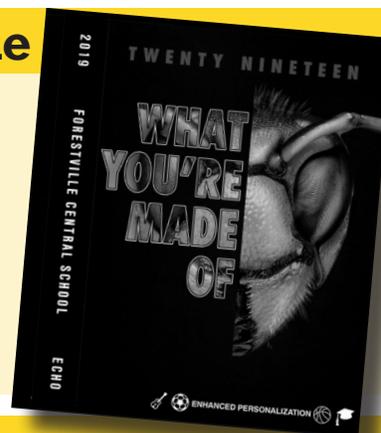
## First Grade Turkey Tie Off



The elementary school recently held their 3rd annual, First Grade Turkey Tie Off. The object of the competition is for all the first graders to be able to tie their shoes before Thanksgiving. During the month of November, the students practice daily. On Turkey Tie Off day, we have a little friendly speed competition. In the first round, the kids have 45 seconds to tie both shoes and if successful, move onto the next round which is 5 seconds less. If both shoes are not tied in that amount of time, they move to the red line and are out. When only two students are left, they have to tie the teacher's shoes (it's more difficult to tie someone else's shoe) and whoever ties the fastest, WINS! Afterward, all the students get to enjoy a Thanksgiving themed treat with their friends. This year's winners were Olivia Borrello from Mrs. Ruffo's class and Zariah Franklin from Mrs. Kwilos' class. This year, they also added in Double Knot December where the kids got an extra little treat for learning how to double knot.

## ECHO Yearbooks Now On Sale

The 2019 edition of the ECHO Yearbook is already in development and is for sale at the Fall-Winter discounted price of \$59 plus tax. Save money and purchase the book early to reserve your copy for the spring delivery. Please order online at [Jostens.com](http://Jostens.com) for fast and convenient service. Don't forget you can save money by placing a business ad in the yearbook! If you have any questions please email Mike O'Leary at [moleary@forestville.com](mailto:moleary@forestville.com).



**Board of Education**

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**Thank you for your generosity!!**

The 4H Club, the Fredonia Star Riders, would like to THANK the children and families of the Forestville Elementary School for their generosity in donating food items, scarves, mittens and toys for the Forestville Food Pantry during the food drive on December 7th-19th. We did not count nor weight the donations, but there were many boxes delivered on December 19th to the pantry, so the needy in our community would have a Merry Christmas! Thank you ALL for helping make this season a joyful one for those in our own community! Hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Non-Discrimination Statement**

The Forestville Central School District does not discriminate in its employment and admission to programs and activities as applicable, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, veterans' status, political affiliation, domestic victim status, use of a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, disability, or other classifications protected under federal or state law, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The designated district compliance officers will coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, and the New York State Human Rights Law.

The Forestville Central School District Compliance Officers are: Superintendent, 12 Water Street, Forestville, NY 14062 (716) 965-6539, MS/HS Principal, 4 Academy Street, Forestville, NY 14062 (716) 965-2711, Elementary Principal, 12 Water Street, Forestville, NY 14062 (716) 965-2742.

Complaints may also be filed with the Office for Civil Rights, New York Office, U.S. Department of Education, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005-2500, phone (646) 428-3800, fax (646) 428-3843, email: OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.