

Forestville Central School District
Athletic Handbook
2025-2026



Forestville Central School District

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I. The Forestville Athletic Program

A. Organization and Structure

The athletic program is one of several extra-curricular activities the Forestville Central School District offers to secondary students. This Handbook sets forth the District's philosophy on interscholastic athletics, establishes rules and standards for student-athlete conduct, and includes other information regarding the District's athletic program of which parents/guardians, and students should be aware. In addition to familiarizing themselves with this document, parents/guardians are encouraged to attend any parent meetings held by coaches. In the event parents/guardians have questions regarding the District's athletic program or this Handbook, the Athletic Director can be contacted during work hours at 965-2742.

B. Philosophy:

Forestville Central Schools' athletic philosophy is based on striving for the highest level of achievement both for the individual and the team while maintaining a positive attitude regardless of the outcome. Our program encourages a competitive attitude and takes great pride in winning, however, Forestville Central School does not approve a "winning at all costs" attitude. We discourage any and all pressures that lead to poor sportsmanship and words or actions that contradict the Forestville Middle and High School mission. Participation in interscholastic athletic activities is a privilege, not a right. Plainly speaking, students must work to earn and keep the privilege of being a member of a team.

Goals:

- To have a primary interest that focuses on the safety and welfare of our students.
- To bring our sports program to a level that is recognized as a fundamental part of the school's total educational program.
- To coaches and volunteers foster student growth and achievement, while also modeling positive character traits.
- To provide opportunities for individual growth and development.
- To provide robust opportunities for student participation.
- To aspire to achieve and maintain high levels of athletic performance, within a moral and ethical framework.
- To have its many parts work cooperatively toward a single goal; coaches and student athletes from all sports are expected to support the efforts of their peers and colleagues.
- To involve the community, parents, faculty, friends and other students with

the program.

- To strive to make each student's athletic experience a positive, healthful and enjoyable part of Forestville Middle and High School.

C. Modified Interscholastic Athletic Program

Interscholastic athletic competition for students in seventh and eighth grades, and between the ages of 12 and 14, has been modified by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). The program has been approved by the member schools and is based on several decades of experimentation and implementation, with safety as the overriding interest.

The Modified Program is designed as a means of enriching the competitive athletic program for younger boys and girls. The Modified Program is designed to offer student-athletes the opportunity to engage in a more highly competitive experience than is found in intramural/recreation programs, but not as involved as those found in Junior Varsity and Varsity interscholastic competition.

D. Athletic Placement Process

The District permits exceptional seventh and eighth grade student-athletes to participate on Junior Varsity and Varsity teams, provided that they have demonstrated they possess the requisite physical maturity, physical fitness, and sport skill to do so through completion of the Athletic Placement Process (APP). The APP has been designed for the few student-athletes who would be served by playing on a higher level team than age and grade might typically indicate. It is expected that there will be only a few middle school student-athletes participating on high school interscholastic teams. Information must be collected and evaluated by the Athletic Director before a student-athlete can participate under this program. The APP will be conducted, and the student will be evaluated, consistent with any and all relevant requirements and guidelines established by the State Education Department, NYSPHSAA, and Section VI.

II. General Considerations for Athletics

A. Relationship to the Academic Program

Academics are the fundamental purpose of schools. Athletics, along with other extra-curricular programs, are secondary in importance to academics. Coaches and teachers need to work together to assist student-athletes in being successful in their academic classes. The eligibility rule for extra-curricular sports and activities is contained in the Forestville Central School Student Handbook.

B. General Academic Eligibility for Participation

If a student is failing two or more courses, the student will be placed on an Ineligibility List (with the exception of seniors who will become ineligible whenever they are failing one or more graduation requirement course), and activities will be restricted beginning on the day the list is generated. An ineligible student will not be permitted to practice, scrimmage and will not be allowed to dress with the team to sit on a bench with teammates or to participate in a contest. An ineligible student should speak with his or her counselor to learn how to be removed from the list. The student-athlete may also refer to the Forestville Central Middle-High School Student Handbook section entitled "Academic Eligibility Rule" for more details about ineligibility.

C. General Regulations for Participation

Forestville Central School operates under the rules of the NYSPHSAA. The NYSPHSAA rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, insurance coverage, starting dates, use of school equipment, and other categories covered by the NYSPHSAA regulations.

A student-athlete must be a bona fide student enrolled in at least four (4) core subjects including physical education.

A pupil shall be eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons of such sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the ninth grade and prior to graduation, except as otherwise specified by the Commissioner Regulations.

In order to participate in interscholastic competition, a student-athlete must receive an approved physical examination by the Forestville Central School District physician (or the student-athlete's primary

physician) and may not practice or participate without this approval.

A student-athlete may be allowed to participate in more than one (1) sport at the same time in the same season. Dual sport student-athletes must sign a contract and place it on file with the Athletic Director.

Only uniforms authorized by the athletic department will be permitted to be worn for contests.

D. Attendance Related to Participation

Student-athletes are expected to attend all practice sessions. A student-athlete absent from school for illness may not practice unless the student is fully recovered from his or her illness and a legal excuse is submitted. When a student-athlete is in school but cannot practice for a legitimate reason, the coach (or Athletic Director, if the coach is unavailable) must be informed prior to practice time.

Practice time is critical. Unexcused absences or tardiness to practice will not be tolerated. Practices are often scheduled on Saturdays and vacation days. There are no practices or games scheduled on Sundays unless authorized by the Superintendent of Schools. Student-athletes should be aware that postponed athletic contests are usually rescheduled and played the next day.

Students must be in attendance for 75% of the school day (6 of 9 class periods with lunch) to be able to participate in any school activities such as:

- athletic practices
- athletic games
- dances
- extracurricular club meeting
- prom
- band/chorus event

For a student to participate in school events on days when school is not in session, the student must have met the attendance requirement on the most recent day of school. This includes weekends, breaks, and weekdays that school is not in session.

a. Legal Absences

1. Personal illness;
2. Illness, or death in the family;
3. Impassable roads due to inclement weather;
4. Religious observances;
5. Quarantine;
6. Required court appearance;
7. Attendance at health clinics;
8. Approved college visits;
9. Approved cooperative work programs;
10. Military obligations;
11. Road tests;
12. Other reasons as may be approved by the Board.

b. Vacation

1. Vacations by student-athletes during a sport season are discouraged.
2. In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, a student-athlete must:
 - i. Be accompanied by his/her parents or guardian while on vacation.
 - ii. Contact the head coach prior to the vacation.
 - iii. Be willing to assume the consequences related to his/her status on that team or squad as a starter, second string, third string, etc.

c. In-School Suspension

A student-athlete placed in I.S.S. (in-school suspension) for disciplinary reasons will be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities for the duration of the suspension to include the last day served in ISS.

d. Out-of-School Suspension

A student-athlete placed in O.S.S. (out-of-school suspension) will not be allowed to practice or participate in contests during the period of suspension. In cases where athletic contests are not scheduled during the suspension period, the student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled contest of the current sports season. Student-athletes, who are suspended from school on a Friday, shall not be eligible for a weekend/vacation contest.

E. Outside Team Rule

The NYSPHSAA allows for outside competition. Forestville Central School student-athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first, and outside competition should not be detrimental to a Forestville Central School team. There will be many circumstances where a student-athlete should not participate in an outside activity due to the possible effect on the Forestville Central School team. Student-athletes should not participate until they check with the individual coach in charge of the school team.

III. Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

A. Overview

Athletics are an important component of the District's educational program. This Student-Athlete Code of Conduct applies to student athletes from their first interscholastic participation through graduation. These rules are in effect from each stated seasonal beginning date (fall, winter, and spring) as approved by the CCAA and the NYSPHSAA through the completion of the regular sport season and post season that the athlete is participating in of each school year. These rules will apply to all student-athletes in grades seven through twelve.

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Because of this, student-athletes are held to a higher standard. Students' participation in the District's athletic program is conditioned upon their adherence to the provisions of this Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. Additionally, all rules and regulations of the MS/HS Student Handbook, District Code of

Conduct, and District policy must also be followed. Failure to comply with the provisions of those documents may result in athletic consequences, including but not limited to being removed from an athletic team and/or being barred from further participation in interscholastic sports.

B. General Provisions

- i. A student-athlete who quits a team, or is suspended from or is permanently removed from participation because of rule infractions, shall not receive a letter or award for participation in that sport.
- ii. Acts deemed detrimental to the team athletic program, or the school district may result in disciplinary action and may result in suspension or dismissal from athletic participation.
- iii. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct by a student-athlete toward an opponent or official will result in disciplinary action by the head coach and may result in suspension or dismissal from athletic participation.
- iv. Any student-athlete who has committed an act of vandalism or theft, either at a Forestville school or at an opponent school while representing a Forestville team, may be suspended or dismissed from athletic participation.
- v. Student athletes are required to abide by any and all team rules established by their coaches.
- vi. *Student-athletes are expressly prohibited from:
 - a. Possessing or consuming any tobacco product, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vapor products;
 - b. Possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages;
 - c. Possessing or consuming illegal drugs, including look-alike drugs and/or controlled substances that have not been prescribed to the student by a licensed physician;
 - d. Attending social functions where alcohol and/or tobacco are

being used by minors or where controlled substances are being used unlawfully by anyone. The student-athlete must leave the site immediately upon learning that alcohol, tobacco, and/or controlled substances are being used.

****Rules apply on and off school grounds – including social media networks and other reliable media sources.***

Any student-athlete who violates any of terms in **sub-section B vi.** listed above may lose the privilege of participating on a team. This also applies to outside contests such as tournaments. Terms of violation penalties are listed below:

1st Violation – The athlete will be suspended from the team for the remainder of that sports season. The minimum suspension will be 30 days and will carry over to the following season of school year even if the next season does not occur until the following school year.

1st Violation Option – The athlete may ONE TIME in his/her athletic career, choose to receive appropriate counseling (Cost of counseling program will be at the cost of the student if using a private service) for the problem related to the offense. This counseling program must first be approved by the districts counseling department. The athlete will be suspended for 25% of the current season(s) games. The athlete's punishment would carry over if it took place at the end of the season into the next season during that specific school year (ex. Fall violation carries over into Winter season; Winter violation carries over into Spring season. Exception: Spring violation expires on June 30th and does not carry into the summer or the following school year). Students will be required to attend all scheduled practices and contests. The student **must show proof of enrollment and completion** in an approved counseling program. Student must also address his/her coach and team to apologize for his/her action(s).

2nd Violation – Athlete will be suspended from participation in all athletics for one calendar year.

3rd Violation – Athlete will be suspended from participation in all athletics for one calendar year as well as meet with the district superintendent for further disciplinary action.

Special exception with end-of-the-season cases:

Example: Student A is suspended during the last week of football (8 games scheduled) and serves a one game suspension. He/she would owe the remaining suspension time during the basketball season.

C. Individual Coach's Rules

The coach is responsible for all phases of the team. Student-athletes are expected to work within the guidelines of the coach. With approval from the Athletic Director, a coach of a sport team may set forth rules in writing which may be more stringent than those outlined in this handbook.

All student-athletes shall observe the following rules:

- a. Follow the instructions of the coach.
- b. Be present and on time for all practices and/or games.
- c. Participate in all academic classes.
- d. If an athlete should quit a team, he/she should not do so without first notifying the coach. He/she will not be allowed to participate in another sport during the same sport season unless authorized to do so by the athletic director after meeting with both coaches.

D. Responsibilities of the Student-Athlete

1. To cooperate with coaches, school authorities and teammates at all times.
2. To uphold and respect all rules of the school and team.
3. To strive for the highest degree of excellence.
4. To treat all officials and opponents with respect and dignity.
5. To accept victory and defeat with humility, grace, and good sportsmanship.
6. To follow the training rules.
7. To place primary responsibility to the team, not to yourself. There is no "I" in TEAM.
8. To be understanding of and helpful to others on the team or other teams. To be a backer of all the Forestville teams.

E. Bullying and Harassment

Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated by the Forestville Central

School District. This prohibition includes all forms of discrimination and harassment, including but not limited to sexual harassment, hazing, intimidation, and cyber bullying. In addition to facing discipline under the District's Code of Conduct, student-athletes who engage in such behavior may face athletic consequences, including possible suspension or removal from all athletic participation.

F. Due Process Procedures

The team coach, Athletic Director, MS/HS Principal and the Superintendent of Schools have the authority to enforce the district's Athletic Handbook. Such enforcement may include suspension, dismissal from a team or termination of the student-athlete's ability to participate in future athletics for violations of the Athletic Handbook and its Student-Athlete Code of Conduct, the District Code of Conduct, MS/HS Handbook, or District Policy.

Prior to the imposition of a penalty, the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have the opportunity to meet with the individual proposing the penalty and discuss any relevant underlying facts or circumstances.

G. Student-Athlete and Parent/Guardian Consent

All student-athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the athletic consent form. By doing so, they agree to abide by all the rules in this handbook and understand it will remain in effect for the entire year. The athletic/parental consent form must be signed and returned to the Athletic Director before the student-athlete may begin practice.

IV. Travel Regulations

A. Standard Procedures

All student-athletes shall ride to and from games in vehicles provided by the district. All student-athletes are required to travel to and from an

away athletic contest on the school bus provided by the District. Student-athletes cannot drive themselves or others to a competition or practice unless previously approved by the MS/HS Principal.

This is to be considered standard practice. There are times when it may be necessary for a parent to pick up a student-athlete after a game. This should be cleared with the coach prior to game time and a WRITTEN note to the coach from the parent of the student-athlete to be picked up will be required. This note will indicate who the responsible adult picking up the student-athlete will be. No student-athlete will be allowed to ride home with another parent/individual without prior approval. If the situation arises, the student-athlete must have written approval from MS/HS Principal.

B. Bus Regulations

All student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a fashion that will ensure the safety of all passengers. Traveling to and from games should be no different than other times on the bus. All safety rules must be followed. All regulations are also in effect during charter trips.

V. Care of Equipment and Uniforms

A. Lost Equipment

All equipment issued by the school will be the responsibility of the individual student-athlete. Any equipment not returned at the end of the season must be paid for by the student-athlete. A student-athlete may not try out for another sport team until all equipment has been returned or paid for.

VI. Medical/Permission/Physical Exams/Insurance

A. Requirements

All student-athletes who desire to participate in interscholastic athletics must be approved by the Forestville Central School physician.

B. Athletic/Parent Consent and Emergency Medical Authorization Form/Health History Form

The nurse will provide each student-athlete with a copy of the medical form(s) if needed. The student-athlete and the parent(s)/guardian(s) will completely fill out the form(s) by accessing the FamilyId online registration portal before participation in any athletic practice.

C. Physical Examinations

It is the responsibility of each student-athlete to sign up with the MS/HS nurse prior to the sports season. The MS/HS nurse will provide the student-athlete with the necessary forms to receive a physical exam.

The school nurse will notify student-athletes about the time of the physical exam appointment.

The student-athlete must bring the completed health history form signed by the parent/guardian.

a. Fall Sports Physicals

All student-athletes should get a physical exam in May or June for fall sport participation. Specific dates will be announced at the MS/HS. For those unable to obtain a spring physical, or new students in the district, a physical exam may be obtained through a primary physician. All records must be reported to the MS/HS nurse.

b. Winter Sports Physicals

Physical examinations will be offered in school prior to winter sports participation. Any student-athlete without a current physical may obtain one prior to the start date with his/her primary physician. All records must be reported to the MS/HS nurse.

c. Spring Sports Physicals

Physical examinations will be offered in school prior to spring sports

participation. Any student-athlete without a current physical may obtain one prior to the start date with his/her primary physician. All records must be reported to FCS MS/HS nurse.

Note: Physical examinations are good for twelve (12) calendar months; however, prior to each season a health history form must be completed before the first practice.

D. Treatment of Athletic Injuries

The Forestville Central School coaches will render immediate first aid and provide sport injury emergency services for student-athletes injured during practices or games unless emergency medical service providers or medical staff (including but not limited to certified athletic trainers) provided by the District or the school district of the opposing team are on site to provide such services.

E. Accident Reports

All injuries should be reported to the coach immediately. Early care and treatment can minimize the physical restrictions from an injury. Student-athletes should give coaches all information so they can file the appropriate accident report. Injuries must be reported promptly.

F. Return to Competition After Injury

When a student-athlete receives an injury which requires medical treatment by a physician, the student-athlete must be re-qualified by the school physician or their own physician before returning to competition. This requirement is dictated by state law to prevent serious injury to the student-athlete from taking place. The MS/HS Nurse will need the original medical release from the physician in order to make arrangements for the re-qualification. Student-Athletes are not allowed to practice before the medical clearance form has been turned into to the MS/HS nurse.

G. The Board of Education has adopted Policy #7522, Concussion Management, which specifically addresses issues surrounding mild traumatic brain injuries (MTBI). Removal from athletic participation and return to competition after MTBI will be governed by that policy, which

can be accessed on the District's website at:

<https://www.forestville.com/cms/lib/NY19000591/Centricity/Domain/5/Forestville%20CSD%20Policy%20Manual%202019.pdf>

VII. Awards

A. Special Honors

At the seasonal athletics awards ceremony, an MVP (most valuable player) and other selected awards may be presented to a student-athlete of each squad at the discretion of the head coach.

B. Varsity Letter Qualifications

The following criteria will define who is eligible to receive a letter:

1. Varsity athletes who remain as members of the team and who are in good standing throughout the full season are eligible to earn a varsity letter (must meet conditions below).
2. Athletes who have participated in a given varsity program shall receive a varsity letter after they have completed their first season as a varsity member. Athletes that continue to complete additional seasons within the given varsity program will receive a service pin for each additional season completed.
3. Injured athletes who meet the "playing time" criteria for the contests held up to the time of the injury may receive a letter.
4. A student-assistant may receive a letter after his/her second season of service. This will be done under the direction of the Athletic Director.
5. Managers who have held the position for at least three seasons in the same sport may earn a letter. Only those who, in the judgment of the coach, have made a significant commitment of time and effort shall be awarded the letter.
6. Any student involved in the athletic program who does not receive a letter will receive a certificate of participation.

VIII. Sportsmanship

A. Student-athletes and coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship in all aspects of athletic competition. Consequently, students and coaches are prohibited from engaging in unsportsmanlike behavior, including but not limited to taunting, fighting, harassing, or intimidating others, or arguing with officials. Student-athletes and coaches who display such behavior will be subject to consequences (including but not limited to removal from the contest, a suspension from future contests, or removal from the team) under this Handbook, the District's Code of Conduct, and/or any applicable NYSPHSAA or Section VI rules.

The District reserves the right to issue more severe penalties than are required by NYSPHSAA as circumstances warrant. Relevant provisions of the NYSPHSAA sportsmanship standards regarding coaches and student-athletes are provided as follows:

A.Coach:

1. Any coach excluded by a certified official from an interschool competition for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, is ineligible to coach any interschool competition in that sport until after the next previously scheduled contest at the same level (e.g. Junior varsity, varsity, etc.) has been completed. In individual sports, a multi-day contest is considered to be a contest.

Disqualification from one season carries over to the next season of participation. The coach may not be present at the game site nor communicate in any manner during the contest with any person present at the site.

NOTE: "Not being physically present at the site" means a disqualified coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet. (See definitions)

Any coach that does not serve the penalty for violating the Sportsmanship Standard will be ineligible to participate in the next two regularly scheduled contests. If the coach continues to not serve the penalty, the matter will be referred to the Section for further action. If the coach is involved in the NYSPHSAA playoffs, the matter will be referred to the Executive Director of the NYSPHSAA.

Any coach:

- a. Who receives a disqualification penalty in a sport shall not participate in the next regularly scheduled contest;
 - b. Who receives a second disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season shall not participate in the next two regularly scheduled contests; and
 - c. Who receives a third disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season will not be allowed to participate for the rest of the season (regular season or post schedule play), the Section Athletic Council will assess the penalty carrying over into the next season of participation.
 - d. The Section Athletic Council will have the authority to extend the period of ineligibility in those cases where the actions of the individual that was disqualified from a contest or scrimmage are warranted. The period of ineligibility cannot exceed one year from the date of the disqualification.
2. A coach who strikes, shoves, kick or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass or intimidate another person (e.g. official, another coach, player, fan) shall be expelled immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for a period of time to be determined by the Section not to exceed one year from the date of the offense.

Player:

1. Any member of a squad disqualified by a sport official for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, or for a flagrant foul shall not participate in that sport in the next previously scheduled contest with a member school or in NYSPHSAA tournament play. In individual sports, a multi-day contest is considered to be a contest. The contest in which the athlete was disqualified must count in the total maximum number of contests permitted. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season of participation. (See definitions section)

Any Player:

a. Who receives a disqualification penalty in a sport shall not participate in the next regularly scheduled contest;

b. Who receives a second disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season shall not participate in the next two regularly scheduled contests; and

c. Who receives a third disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season will not be allowed to participate for the rest of the season. If the third ejection takes place in the last contest of the season (regular season or post schedule play,) the Section Athletic Council will assess the penalty carrying over into the next season of participation.

d. The Section Athletic Council will have the authority to extend the period of ineligibility in those cases where the actions of the individual that was disqualified from a contest or scrimmage are warranted. The period of ineligibility cannot exceed one year from the date of the disqualification.

2. Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass or intimidate an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sports for a period of time to be determined by the section not to exceed one year from the date of the offense. NOTE: Members of the squad includes player, manager,

score keepers, timers, and statisticians.

The NYSPHSAA sportsmanship rules can be accessed in their entirety online at: <http://www.nysphsaa.org/>

In addition to the rules regarding student-athlete and coach sportsmanship, the District has developed the following rules regarding spectator behavior:

The team bench and team sideline areas are off limits to all parents, guardians, and spectators until the completion of the contest. Only authorized school personnel are permitted. (E.g. Statisticians, chain crew, scorekeepers, clock operators, media, unpaid coaching assistants, and managers.)

Spectators at Forestville sporting events are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and refrain from engaging in any harassment, taunting, intimidation, bullying, or any other mistreatment of officials, players, or coaches. The District reserves the right to remove any spectators from the contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or behavior.

IX. Officials

All officials are certified by New York State and are deemed to be competent. Officials are to be treated with respect at all times. Student-athletes, coaches, and spectators are prohibited from arguing with, intimidating, harassing, or otherwise mistreating officials.

X. Press/Media Relations

Student-athletes will follow the guidelines of the individual sport coaches. Always be careful of making inappropriate statements. If there is any doubt about talking with reporters, consult your coach first.

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)