

Wednesday  
August 21st  
2024

# Scoop from the Supt.

Issue #1

Mr. Hess – Superintendent – Forsyth Public Schools

It's an exciting week. We have welcomed back students, teachers, and staff members as we kick off a new school year. This is always my favorite time of year; everyone is rested and refreshed (mostly) from summer, happy to see each other, and starting a new journey at school.

This year, I am excited to introduce a new initiative-weekly info letter. These letters will cover various topics at the school and highlight events throughout the year. I hope that they will keep you better informed about school happenings and be involved in the various issues the District faces.

It's already been an exciting start of the year as Forsyth Schools welcomed Rob Miller of Proactive Coaching to work with our teachers, coaches, parents, and students on character and leadership development. Mr. Miller joined us last spring to begin this process and was the guest speaker at the "Booster Bash," where he addressed parents on their role in their student's activities. Mr. Miller emphasized the need for parents to release their students to the activity. Activities are a fantastic opportunity for your student to solve problems, deal with failure and success, and learn accountability. You can find more information on Facebook by searching "Proactive Coaching" if you would like to learn more about the organization. You may also access their website at [www.proactivecoaching.info](http://www.proactivecoaching.info).

We also welcomed Norah Barney of School Services of Montana to work with our teaching staff on beginning the proficiency-based education process. Proficiency-based education is a concept that has been introduced previously; it has existed since the 1980s. However, it has gained national attention and is being implemented in the public education system in all 50 states. Montana recently passed legislation requiring schools to progress toward a proficiency-based educational model.

This is a very large topic, and this write-up will not nearly sufficiently detail its complexities. That being said, it is a relatively easy concept to understand. The basic premise requires teachers to prioritize the standards within their curriculum and build assessments where the students can demonstrate proficiency in that class's essential skills and knowledge. All of our teachers already utilize this model in various ways, and the District will continue to plan and discuss as we move closer to a proficiency-based model that fits our particular needs. We are moving towards a proficiency-based educational model, but it will take years to move over fully.

If you are a parent of an enrolled Forsyth student, you should receive Power Announcements via text message and email to communicate schedule changes and school events throughout the year. For non-parents and community members, please check out our social media pages on Facebook (Forsyth 7-12 School and Forsyth K-6 School) for updates on activities, our website ([forsythpublicschools.org](http://forsythpublicschools.org)), or our reader board located at the IGA parking lot.

As I enter my third year as Superintendent of Forsyth Schools, I am filled with excitement for the school year ahead. We are incredibly fortunate in Forsyth to have a wealth of resources-talented teachers, dedicated administration, supportive staff members, excellent facilities, and a wide range of activities. Your support and these resources are what make our school community so special. Let's keep this excitement growing and carry it through the year!