



Outstanding Middle/ Secondary Ag. Ed Program

Mike Miron, Veronica Ward and Ann Tauszell Forest Lake

“When all the critical components are implemented, the result is not only an engaged and successful learner, but the development of the “complete person” with the intrinsic motivation to achieve and serve others.”

Overview

- Forest Lake has an annual enrollment of 550 students and over 90 of these students are actively engaged in FFA.
- The high school staff and teachers travel to serve students in grades 9-12 at the ALC and the 8th and 9th grade students from the district's two junior high schools which has increased enrollment.
- Forest Lake has 24 course offerings which are aligned to MN Science and Literacy standards, Ag Economics to meet graduation requirements, along with 5 concurrent enrollment classes through the U of M and Hennepin Tech.

Experiential Learning

- Service learning is integrated into the curriculums in a variety of ways such as landscaping projects, tree planting, Ag in the Classroom activities, water quality monitoring and a horse show.
- Every student enrolled in an agriculture class is required to complete an SAE program using the AET.
- A course developed to meet student needs as they transition from high school to college by developing career profiles, applying to colleges and seeking scholarship opportunities.

Professional Growth

- Participate in all MAAE conferences and take leadership roles in MAAE.
- Serve as U of M and UWRF cooperating teachers, National Farm Bureau Excel in Ag Winner, Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Winner, NAAE recognition, ACTE and MnACTE Recognition

FFA Highlights

- In the past 8 years, Forest Lake has had 76 State Qualifying CDE Teams, 6 State Officers, 3 Regional Presidents, 19 MN FFA Degree Recipients, 5 American Degree Recipients, 3 State proficiency winners, 1 National proficiency winner and 4 National Science Fair exhibits.
- Top 10 Minnesota Chapter for 5 years
- Minnesota State Fair Landscape Champion

Partnerships

- Many partnerships have been formed to strengthen curriculum and improve community relationships.
- All instructors have received training from the Mayo Clinic to include lab activities into the classroom.
- In partnership with the Comfort Lake Watershed District, students have grown and installed aquatic plants to support the shoreline restoration projects
- During their annual “Ag Day” they invite businesses and commodity groups into the department to display and educate youth and community members.

“Each educator brings to the table a set of skills, that when combined, creates a team that is second to none.”

– James H. Caldwell– Principal

2018 MAAE Award Winner

Banner donated by the Minnesota Farmers Union

