

Exceptional Children Information for Parents

August 5, 2020

North Carolina Teacher of the Year 2020

North Carolina chooses a candidate who is “dedicated and highly skilled, a candidate proven capable of inspiring students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.” The NC Teacher of the Year is recognized at the school, regional, and statewide levels. (For more information visit: [Burroughs Wellcome Fund NC Teacher of the Year website](#)).

This year the EC Division is proud to share that the North Central Teacher of the Year is a special education teacher: Carol Forrest! It is awe-inspiring to be nominated as a teacher of the year by your colleagues but especially as an adapted curriculum special education teacher. When asked about her nomination, Ms. Forrest had this to say: “Being recognized as my building, district and region Teacher of the Year has been a great honor. I represent some very talented and dedicated teachers! These colleagues are like a crown to my career, but my team is my heart and my students are the soul of who I am as a teacher! I want to inspire young teachers to be all they can be and encourage my team, my hall and my building to be the best in our county! I love those I work with and know I am smarter and better because of them. I hope they catch some of my love and passion for my students and their success as they teach alongside of me.”

Ms. Forrest has been teaching since 1977; thirteen of those in special education. She currently teaches at Long Mill Elementary in Franklin County where she pushes her students to be as independent as possible, equips them to accept challenges, and teaches them how to make and interact with school friends. Rigor in her classroom is championed and she is always there to help her students excel and grow to reach their potential.

In her own words, “I absolutely love my students and their families. I cannot be simply their teacher, but I am their advocate and partner with their parents and families...”



Check out previous newsletters for other resources.

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/parent-resources/parent-newsletter-2020>



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov>

Important Links

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [N.C. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- [N.C. Department of Public Instruction](#)
- [No Kid Hungry](#)
- [NCDPI-COVID-19 Responses & Resources](#)

Getting Back to Normal

As we get closer to the start of the 20-21 school year in August many are wondering what will “normal” look like. The State Board of Education has developed [Lighting Our Way Forward: Summary Document](#) as guidance for districts to follow; however, each district will look different. If you have any questions or concerns, please check local websites and/or contact the districts EC director. A list of EC directors can be found [here](#).

Additionally, the NC Department of Health and Human Services developed [Strong Schools](#) as a required guidance document to follow. This document provides the health practices districts must implement to ensure a safe re-opening of school buildings.

Upcoming Events

- [Online Study Skills Course](#) (self-paced)
- [Autismo: Como ayudar a mi hijo durante la pandemia del Coronavirus](#) (Aug 5)
- [P&R de su Viaje en Carretera](#) (Aug 6)
- [After the Diagnosis: Get Answers, Get Help, Get Going – Triad area families](#) (Aug 11)
- [Autismo: Estrategias para el comportamiento difícil](#) (Aug 26)

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