

# Mental Health & Wellness Forsyth County Schools

Rhonda Harris, Mental Health Coordinator

Jeff Cheney, East High School Principal

# “There is no health without mental health”

In the course of a lifetime,  
not all of us **will** experience a **mental illness**,  
but **all of us** will struggle or have a challenge  
with our **mental** wellness  
just like we all have challenges with our  
*physical* well-being from time to time.



Mental Health = services for students with mental illness. Then we will only focus on treating mental illness (Tier 3)

Mental Health = *positive state of functioning important for overall health (Tiers 1,2,3)*

*Mental health is about mental wellness –  
we all have mental health.*

Wellness is the 'Why' (human needs)

MTSS is the What, Where, When, and How data-based decision making/progress monitoring occurs for needs to be met.

Academic

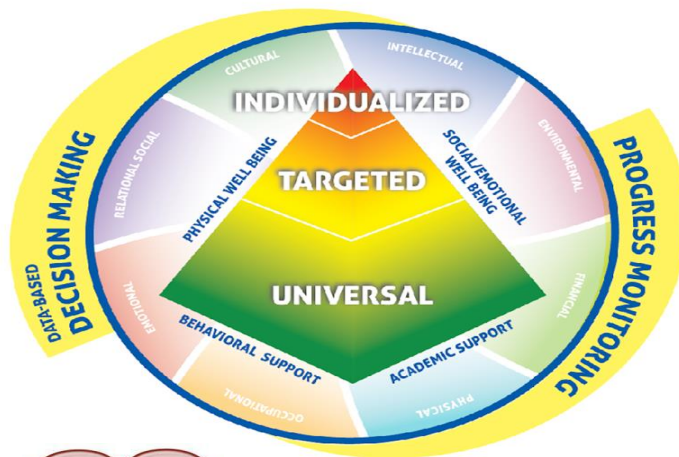


Family and

Community  
Care



MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)



Social-Emotional Supports

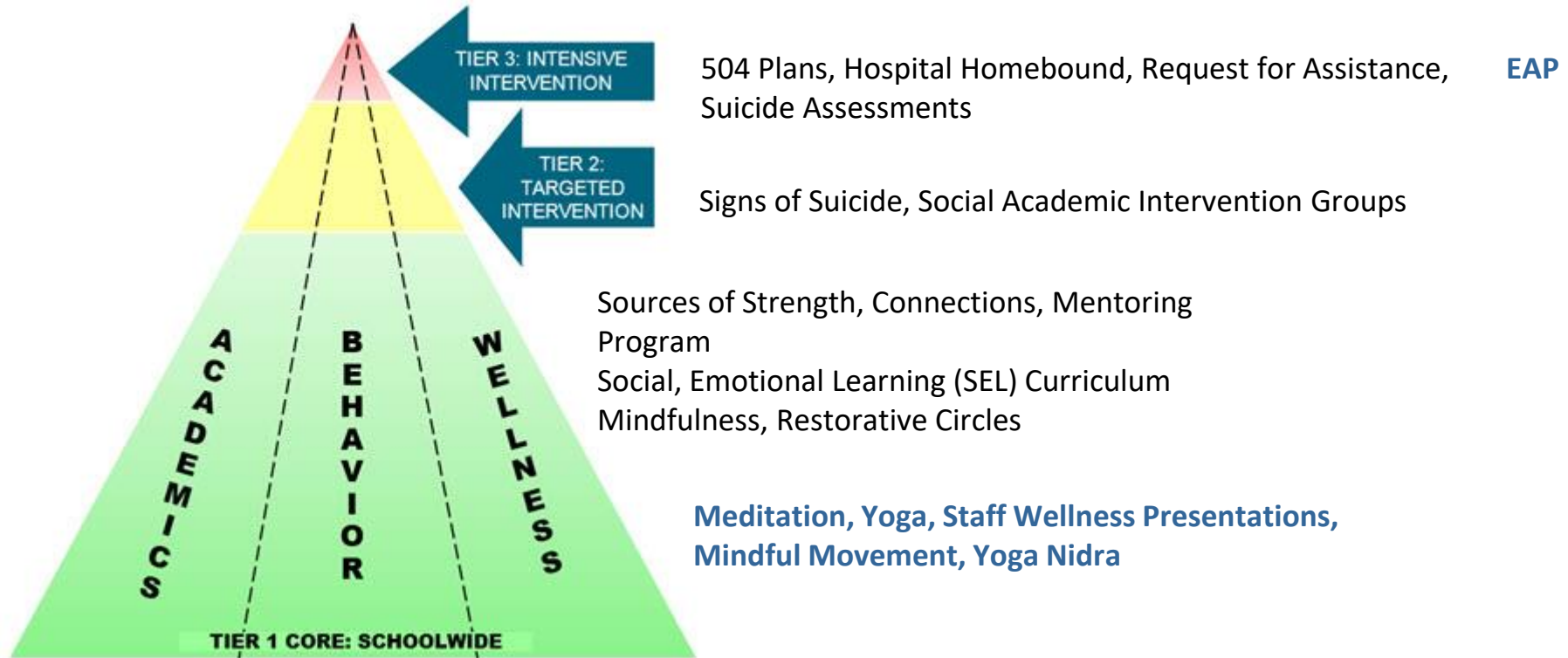


Physical  
& Mental  
Wellness

Safety &  
Security

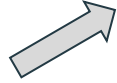


# The whole child approach means that each student is “healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged.”



Sources of Strength	5 Schools, 10 Grants/4 continuing, 6 ES on-boarding
Signs of Suicide	All 7th, 9th, 11th grades
SAIG Groups	25 Groups (3 bilingual)
<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>	
United Way Grant	39
Request for Assistance MH/SSW	289
Suicide Referrals/SSW	9
Crisis Interventions/SSW	39
Threat Assessment/Staff	69
Suicide Referrals/Staff	128
<b>Hospital Homebound</b>	<b>Highest Category/Psychiatric/56 students which represents 41% of all HHB. This is up 7% from last year.</b>
<i>Mindfulness</i>	
Coal Mountain	40
Denmark	24
Lakeside	30
Central	10

# School Based Mental Health Program

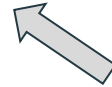


## ■ 2020-2021

- 39 Students served (3 on wait list)
- APEX Expanded with 2 New Agencies=12 schools
- Full Time Wellness Coordinator
- *Beginning Whole Child Wrap Around Centers in 4 HS*

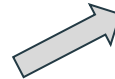
## ■ 2019-2020

- 17 Students Served (39 wait list)
- 96 students seen at school
- Full time MH Coordinator
- Part-Time Wellness Coordinator



## ■ 2018-2019

- 64 Students served with Grant
- 122 Served at School
- APEX Program-AVITA



## ■ 2017

- United Way Pilot Program
- 13 Students served with Grant



# East Forsyth High School

## Opening Fall 2021





# East Forsyth High School

East Forsyth HS (EFHS) will be Forsyth County Schools' 7th traditional high school. It is on an 89.47-acre tract and as constructed, can accommodate 2,125 students. A future addition will allow up to 2,475 students.

The land for EFHS was purchased in 2007 using SPLOST III/2006 Bond funds. The name was selected that same year by the Forsyth County Board of Education after conducting an online community survey. Originally projected to open in 2011, after the Great Recession (2007-09) and subsequent recovery, EFHS construction funding was not secured until the 2017 Bond.

In 2018, the architect was approved, and the school colors and mascot were selected by the high school principals. EFHS' primary school colors are navy blue and orange, with gray as an accent. The mascot is the broncos.

# Mr. Jeff Cheney - Principal

**Welcome to East Forsyth High School,  
Home of the Broncos!**

We are excited about the amazing opportunities that EFHS will offer beginning in August 2021. We invite you to learn more about our pathways, including our Bronco Design theme, and other programs that encourage all students to commit to **Building for the Future.**

We are asking all Broncos to Connect with our school, Collaborate for purposeful growth, and Care for yourself and others in our community. So c'mon, what are you waiting for? **Join The Herd and #Head2East!**





# Construction Progress May 2021





## Construction Progress May 2021



**EAST**  
FORSYTH



## Construction Progress May 2021



# Athletic Facilities Progress May 2021



# Bronco Arena & Performing Arts Center



**EAST**  
FORSYTH

Blazing the Trail...

East Forsyth High School



Class of

2023

Trailblazers



Class of

2024

Trailblazers



Class of

2025

Trailblazers





East Forsyth High School  
**STAFF**  
*will*



**#HEAD2EAST**

**CONNECT**  
and engage with families and  
the school community

**COLLABORATE**  
with the East Vertical Team to  
align our work and core values

**CARE**  
for kids while holding high  
expectations



East Vertical  
Team



- East Vertical Team Principals
- East Vertical Strategic Planning Team
- Community and School Engagement Team
- Student, Parent, and Community Teams



**ONE EAST**  
est. 2021



## Entrepreneurship



**PATHWAY COURSES**  
Introduction to Business and Technology  
Legal Environment of Business  
Entrepreneurship

Students focus on recognizing a business opportunity, starting a business, operating and maintaining a business. Students will align business goals that focus on planning, organizing, coordinating, and controlling the resources needed to produce and provide goods and/or services that lead to owning and operating a small business. They will learn statutes and regulations affecting businesses, families, and individuals.



## Architecture/Drafting and Design



**PATHWAY COURSES**  
Introduction to Drafting and Design  
Architectural Drawing and Design I  
Architectural Drawing and Design II

Students will learn about safety, geometric construction, fundamentals of computer-aided drafting, and multi-view drawings. They will also learn drafting techniques through the study of geometric construction and the basic terminology, concepts, and principals of architectural design. The pathway also places emphasis on the design process, site plans, electrical plans, and plumbing plans.



## Construction/Carpentry



**PATHWAY COURSES**  
Industry Fundamentals and Occupational Safety  
Introduction to Construction  
Carpentry I

Students will learn the basic knowledge to function safely on or around a construction site and provide them a solid foundation in carpentry skills and knowledge. The pathway introduces students to four construction craft areas and allows them to gain Level One Industry Certification in one of the craft areas. Students will learn the history and traditions of carpentry, masonry, plumbing, and electrical craft trades and the care and safe use of hand and power tools as they relate to each trade.



## EAST FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL

8910 Jot Em Down Rd., Gainesville, GA 30506  
[www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/effs](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/effs)

## Interiors, Fashion, and Textiles



**PATHWAY COURSES**  
Foundations of Interior Design  
Fundamentals of Fashion  
Textile Science

Students will learn the fundamentals of design and the interior design profession, including the fascinating world of how textiles are woven into the fabric of everyday life. The pathway will allow students to advance skills in the selection, purchase, design, care, and construction of textile products and about textiles for apparel, interior furnishings, and industrial applications.



## Marketing Communications and Promotions



**PATHWAY COURSES**  
Marketing Principles  
Promotion and Professional Sales  
Marketing Communications Essentials

Students will focus on the performance of key responsibilities required in a retail environment and develop skills in pricing, visual merchandising, advertising, special promotions, professional sales, and customer service. They will also better understand the communication aspects of business in relation to customer/consumer relationships. Students develop knowledge and skills in advertising, direct marketing, public relations, sales promotions, and digital marketing communications.



# BRONCO DESIGN



## Building the Future



**East Forsyth High School  
Opening Fall 2021**

**Let's Connect!**



**/EastForsythHS**



**@EastForsythHS**



**@EastForsythBroncos**

[www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/EFHS](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/EFHS)

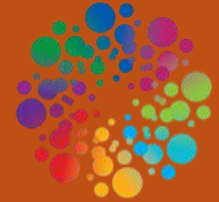
**#head2east**

**HEA**



**AS**

# What is Wraparound/Wellness?



A school-based approach to promoting students' academic success by developing, securing and coordinating services and supports that target



Academic  
&  
Non-Academic

***Remove Student Articulated Barriers***

# Whole Child Model School Certification

- **Engages the community** (business and industry, parents, faith based/civic organizations, nonprofits) in a meaningful way
  - **Aligns the goals** of both the community and the school with a community-school needs assessment and asset map
  - **Brings together the voices** of students, parents, and educators to drive the direction of the school
  - **Coordinates academic and non-academic supports** around the individual needs of students
  - **Expands access to academic opportunities** (AP, IB, STEM/STEAM, fine arts, computer science, etc.) **and non-academic supports** (nutritional, physical, mental/behavioral health)
  - **Transforms schools into community hubs** where facilities, resources, and services are harnessed throughout and outside of a traditional school day
-

# Whole Child Model School Certification

## Whole Child Model

### School Readiness



**Hire or assign a dedicated staff member to lead community school process groups.**



**Initiating a school-community needs assessment and asset map.**



**Integrating into current strategic plan with key stakeholders in alignment with school/community vision.**



# The Four Community Pillars

(Graphics from The Learning Policy Institute)

## School Pillars

(Graphics from The Learning Policy Institute)

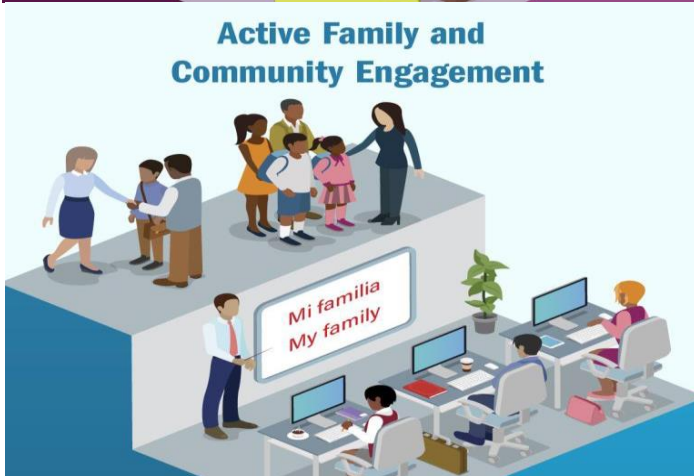
### Integrated Student Supports



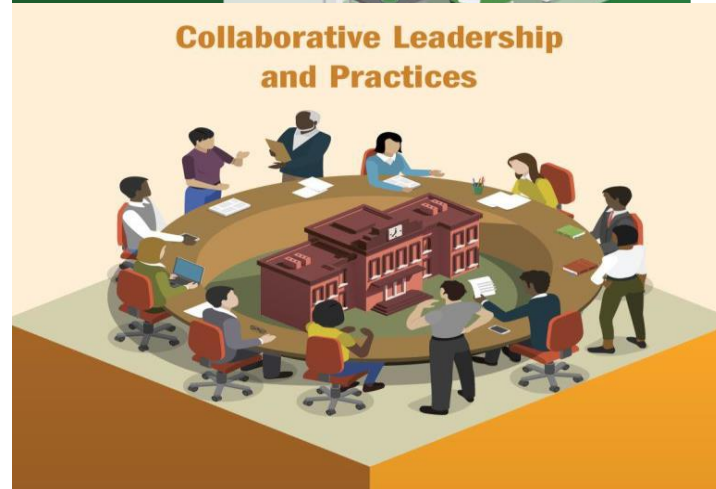
### Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities



### Active Family and Community Engagement



### Collaborative Leadership and Practices



# Community School Center

*What is a Community School?*

“It is the hub of its neighborhood, uniting educators, community partners, and families to provide all students with top-quality academics, enrichment, health and social services, and opportunities to learn and thrive”  
(IEL Coalition for Community Schools, 2017).

# Community School Center

A Community School provides three types of student-centered opportunities:

1. Powerful learning
2. Integrated health and social supports
3. Authentic family and community engagement

# Community School Center

Through collaboration, East is developing partnerships with *Mentor Me North Georgia*, *Family Ties Inc*, and *The Place of Forsyth*.

The community partners will be working with the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator to match families with supports and services.

# Community School Center

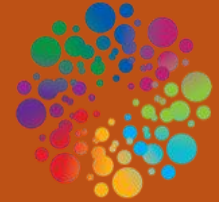
Our goal is for East Forsyth High School to be the hub of the East community. The Community School Center will be available to all students, staff, and families.

With the motto "Be Better", EFHS will serve the community by connecting, collaborating and caring with all stakeholders

# Community School Center

*Family Ties* will offer support through the APEX grant and offer direct therapeutic services to students and/or student/families groups based on need.

# Community School Center



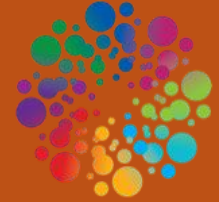
Our *Community School Center* will be a comprehensive, full-service wraparound center informed from student voice. The table below is a summary priority list created from student feedback collected within the East Forsyth vertical cluster of schools, as well as demographic data.

# Community School Center

Academics, Future Planning & Success	Social & Emotional Wellness	Family Support Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Study Time/ Study Period</li> <li>-Interactive Lessons</li> <li>-Tutoring</li> <li>-Time Management</li> <li>-Extra Learning Opportunities</li> <li>- Information About Scholarships</li> <li>-Money management</li> <li>-Preparing for college</li> <li>-Learning to be Professional</li> <li>-Future Profession</li> <li>-More Pathway Work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Outside Time</li> <li>-Comfortable Environment</li> <li>-Opportunities for Social Time</li> <li>- Positive Social Environment</li> <li>-Meditation/Relaxation Room</li> <li>-Learning to Manage Emotions</li> <li>-Culture Appreciation</li> <li>-Life Skills (how to live on our own- Home Economics, financial planning, banking, auto care)</li> <li>-Need hope for future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Good Lunch Provided to Students</li> <li>-Extra School Supplies Provided</li> <li>-Money</li> <li>-Preparing for College/technical school options</li> <li>-Family Events</li> <li>-Supporting Those in Need (giving)</li> <li>-Donations and Fundraising for Other Students</li> <li>-Support for Students Not on Track to Graduate/ Plan to Drop Out</li> <li>-Information on Substance Abuse</li> <li>-Technology and Internet Support</li> <li>-Family counseling through issues</li> </ul>



# Family Ties



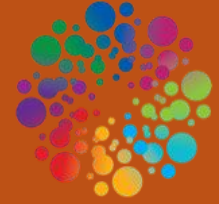
## ABOUT FAMILY TIES



**Founded in 1994**

- In 2014 began offering school-based behavioral health services and as of 2020 servicing 6 school districts and over 80 schools
- In 2020, became a provider of the APEX Grant to provide services to 15 schools across 4 districts
- Providing in-school counseling groups for students and parents
- Facilitates the coordination and linkage of resources to families
- Offering psychiatric services and medication management

# Family Ties



## APEX PROGRAM GOALS



Increase **access** to mental health services for children and youth

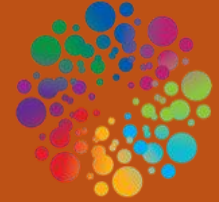


Providing **early detection** of child and adolescent mental health needs

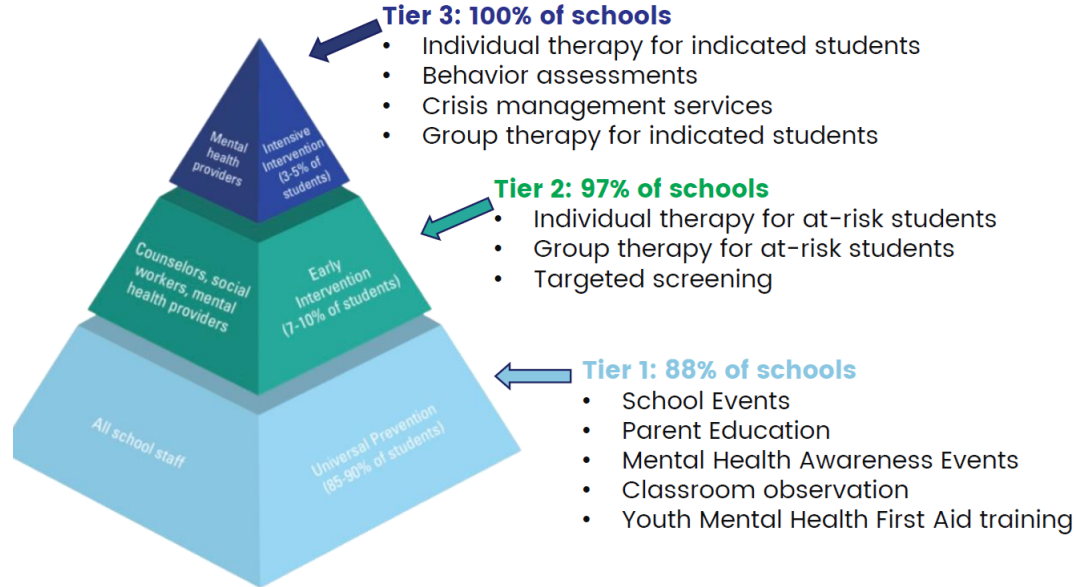


Strengthening **coordination** between community based mental health providers and local schools

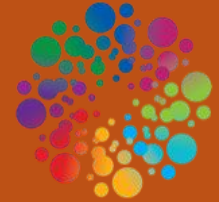
# Family Ties



## HOW MENTAL HEALTH WILL BE PROMOTED IN APEX SCHOOLS



# Family Ties



## **FAMILY TIES + APEX**

### **KEY FAMILY TIES POINTS**

- We are a full-service agency
- Year-round service availability
- Cultural sensitivity and diversity
- 25 years providing mental health services
- Home/Family/Community Engagement= Our Core Model

### **KEY APEX POINTS**

- Strong collaborations with schools
- Year-round activities
- Parent presentations
- Student groups/chats
- Classroom observations/interventions

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Creation of a communication plan for schools, administrations, faculty and parents
- Identify specific needs of Forsyth Schools

# Community School Center

The Community School Center at East is an equity strategy designed to improve the educational and life outcomes for students. The three EFHS feeder schools – Chattahoochee Elementary, Chestatee Elementary and Little Mill Middle School – are all Title I schools. Many Title I families have experienced lifelong barriers that have negatively impacted their lives. These barriers can significantly impact their well-being: food insecurity, housing instability, unemployment, mental health issues, substance use and abuse, and generational poverty. These types of environmental stressors can negatively impact student learning and behavior in school.