

2026-2027



School Profile

470 Searls Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959
530-265-4823

Executive Director, Peter Sagebiel
Assistant Director, B.J. Hatcher
Assistant Director, Kate Sutton
Assistant Director, Britani Brackett

Counselor, Sarah Quine
Counselor, Anya Stanger
Academic Dean, Dawn Anthney

CEEB code number: 052226

MISSION STATEMENT

Forest Charter School (FCS) is committed to nurturing the love of learning in all students through parental choice in education. By cultivating a staff of dedicated personnel, Forest Charter School pledges an ongoing and expansive environment of educational excellence. The cornerstone of FCS's Personalized Learning Program is positive collaboration of students, parents, and professional educators. The ultimate goal of Forest Charter School is to honor the students' individual learning styles through the selection and implementation of effective curriculum to prepare them for success in the 21st century.

THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

Forest Charter School was founded in 2002 as a public TK-12 Personalized Learning Independent Study program. FCS currently serves 845 students, and 284 of whom are 9th-12th graders. Each supervising teacher (the teacher assigned to guide each student's program) holds a caseload of 25 students. Personalized Learning is an approach to public education that honors and recognizes the unique gifts, skills, passions, and attributes of each child, through a blend of classroom, online, and home study courses..

Located in the rich historical region of the Sierra Nevada foothills, we serve students from four counties: Nevada, Placer, Yuba, and Sierra. High school students participate in one of three learning centers: Nevada City, Truckee, or Auburn.

ACCREDITATION/MEMBERSHIP/AWARDS

Forest Charter is accredited by WASC, and is a member of WACAC, CCSA, and the APLUS+ Network (the association of Personalized Learning Services). Forest Charter is a 2005 California Distinguished School, Honorable Mention, and a 2007 CCSA Certified School.

GRADING SYSTEM/RANKING

Forest Charter operates on a semester basis, using a standard 4.0 grading system. The grade point average is based on all courses taken from 9th to 12th grade; courses taken for pass/no pass credit are not included in the grade point average. Classes taken as college prep courses are designated with a (P) after the course title.

Due to the personalized nature of each student's course of study, Forest Charter does not rank students.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn a minimum of 220 units to graduate, which exceeds the minimum California high school graduation requirements.

Subject Area	Credits Needed
English (9, 10, 11, 12)	40 credits
History (World History, US History, Government, Economics)	30 credits
Mathematics (3 years, must include Algebra 1)	30 credits
Science (1 year life, 1 year physical)	20 credits
Physical Education	20 credits
Health	5 credits
Visual or Performing Arts or World Language, or Career Technical Education	10 credits
Career Prep	5 credits
Electives	60 credits

FCS allows students to choose to accelerate the rate at which they acquire units (e.g., they can earn up to 10 units per semester in a subject through independent study or Dual Enrollment/Academic Enrichment at a community college).

TEST RESULTS

2024 CAASPP: 33% proficient in ELA, 21% proficient in Math.

HONORS AND AP

Forest Charter currently offers the following AP classes: Biology, US History, English Literature and Composition, and Calculus AB. Students may also take dual enrollment courses through community colleges and receive weighted grades if the course is transferable, and listed on the lgetc.list. Courses are designated on their transcript with an "H" or "AP" after the course title.

ATHLETICS

Forest Charter School does not offer a formalized sports program. Students, however, choose from a broad range of community-based sports activities such as Kuk Sool Won, mountain biking, swim teams, gymnastics, equestrian events, and skiing. In fact, several students train for the US Ski and Snowboard Team each year.

GROWTH/MOBILITY/DEMOGRAPHICS

Forest Charter School has experienced steady growth since it opened in 2002. Since 2010- and especially since the 2021-2022 school year, FCS has seen steady enrollment growth.

A major issue impacting Forest Charter School, specific to the Nevada County area (which is categorized as rural), is a very transient population. This fact, coupled with the traditionally high mobility rates in charter schools, leads to a high mobility rate at Forest Charter.

As a percent of the total population, SED students have increased to the extent that they are now a numerically significant population. This population has continued to increase over the past few years and fluctuates between 40-50%.

CHALLENGES AND CIRCUMSTANCES

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, Forest Charter School has experienced steady enrollment growth, which has led to the hiring of 21 additional full time employees, from 53 to 74 total. Included in this is a brand new College and Career Counseling team, as our two long-term college counselors both retired in June of 2026.

In addition to ongoing growth in the past five school years, we have seen an increasing number of students with learning loss, meaning that they are working below grade level in both ELA and Math. Forest Charter School also serves a disproportionate and growing number of students with disabilities of various kinds, and more than 17% of our student population have a special education plan. At the same time, we have a high percentage of SED students. In the 2024-2025 school year, this group made up 45% of our total student population. Despite these very real challenges, our students at Forest continue to thrive, and to feel a part of a very unique academic community.

Dual Enrollment

We encourage our students to take advantage of community college classes, whether in person or online. At our Nevada City learning center, we partner with Sierra College to bring Entrepreneurship to life while gaining college credit. Other students have taken online courses from the various community colleges in California, and even some in Nevada, close to our Truckee learning center.

Graduates

23% of the Class of 2026 plan to attend a four-year college or university, and 18% of the Class of 2026 plan to attend a two-year college or certificated program.

American University of Paris Arizona State University Art Institute of Chicago Azusa Pacific University Berklee School of Music Bethany College Bimm University Biola University Boise State University Boston Conservatory Carnegie Mellon University Colgate University College of the Atlantic Colorado State University Colorado School of the Mines Columbia College of Chicago Columbia University Cornish School of the Arts CSU Chico, Fullerton, San Jose CSU Cal Poly SLO, Humboldt CSU Channel Islands, Long Beach CSU Sacramento, San Diego CSU San Francisco, Sonoma, Monterey Dartmouth College Dominican University Ecole des Beaux-Arts Elizabethtown College Evergreen State College Florida Gulf Coast University George Mason University Glasgow College Grinnell College Goucher College Hampshire College Harvard University Harvey Mudd College Hawaii Pacific University Hope College Idaho State College Institute of the Arts, Barcelona Ithaca College ITT Technical Institute Joffrey Ballet School Keiser College Linfield College Lewis and Clark College Liverpool Institute Long Island University Loyola Marymount University Manhattan School of Music Marymount Manhattan College	Marlboro College Menlo College Midway Women's College Mills College Montana State University Mount Saint Mary's University Mountview Academy New York Institute of Technology Northeastern University New York University Northern Arizona University Northwestern College Occidental College Oregon State College Otis College of Art and Design Pacific University Pacific Union College Penn State Pepperdine University Pitzer College Point Loma Nazarene University Portland State University Puget Sound University Purdue University Prescott College Reed College Rhodes College San Francisco Conservatory of Music Santa Clara University Savannah College Seattle Pacific University SOKA University of America Stanford University St. John's College St. Mary's College of CA Temple University The Master's University Theater Arts Preparatory School Underwood International College Universal Technical Institute U of British Columbia U of Colorado Boulder UC Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, LA UC Merced, Riverside, San Diego UC Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz University of Colorado University of Denver	University of Greenwich University of Hawaii, Manoa University of Idaho University of Maine University of Massachusetts University of Michigan University of Montana University of Nebraska University of Nevada, Reno University of Nevada, LV University of New England University of New Hampshire University of New Mexico University of New Orleans University of Oregon University of the Pacific University of Puget Sound University of San Diego University of Southern California University of the Pacific University of Portland University of Utah University of Vermont University of Washington University of Wisconsin Vassar College Vanguard University Wagner College Westminster College Western Washington University Westmont College Whitman College Willamette University William Jessup University Woodbury University
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