



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

Jan.
2025

A Message From the Superintendent

**Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood
Community,**

Tomorrow marks a pivotal moment for Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools and the students, staff, families, and communities we are privileged to serve. Opportunities like this are rare. It's uncommon for a school building to come up for sale precisely when we need more space for our students. It's even more extraordinary for the state to offer \$11.4 million to support critical HVAC, electrical, and fire alarm upgrades across all our schools.



As the proud superintendent of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools, I've witnessed firsthand how much this community values and takes pride in our district. This shared commitment to education is why so many families are drawn here – and more students in our schools means we need more space.

The day-to-day reality cannot be ignored: we don't have enough classroom space for programs, we hold additional lunch periods causing children to eat early or late, and critical services and small group instruction taking place in shared spaces.

Since the vote in September, the Board of Education and I went back to the drawing board, and in collaboration with a citizen advisory group, developed a revised, scaled-back plan. The new proposal significantly reduces the costs for taxpayers, while still capturing \$11.4 million in state aid. And, while this new plan doesn't solve every issue, it represents a meaningful step forward, at a cost of approximately \$21-\$24 per month for the average assessed home in Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

This is a chance for Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents to shape the future of our schools and communities. Please remember to vote tomorrow, Tuesday, Jan. 28; polls are open from 2-8 p.m. Mail-in ballots must also be postmarked by that date. If you have any questions before then, please visit spfk12.org/future and email future@spfk12.org.

Your vote matters – every vote matters!

**Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast**

SEPT. 2024 PROPOSAL	VS	JAN. 2025 PROPOSAL
\$115 million in improvements - \$14.9 million in state aid		\$44 million in improvements - \$11.4 million in state aid
Tax impact: \$40-\$47 per month		Tax impact: \$21-\$24 per month
Purchase, renovation and expansion of La Grande		Purchase of La Grande with minimal renovation and no expansion
Redistribution of where students would attend elementary school		Only Pre-K classes would be relocated to the La Grande School
Upgrades to the HVAC, electrical, and fire alarms were contingent on passage of Q1		Upgrades to the HVAC, electrical, and fire alarms included in one ballot question
Budget vote for operating costs in the future		Budget vote for \$1.1 million annually in operating costs to be held at the same time

'Thank you!' to the Board of Education

January is School Board Recognition Month – a time to thank the members of the Scotch Plains–Fanwood Board of Education for their commitment and dedication! They play an essential role in students' lives.

Board Members:

- Evan Murray – Board President
- Tonya Williams – Board Vice President
- Amy Boroff
- Amy Winkler
- Sonali Barve
- Nancy Baur
- Deb Brody
- Karen Kulikowski
- Stephanie Suriani



Special thanks to our student representatives, Mac Bastable and Grace MacDougall, who share the student perspective.





SPFHS Model United Nations Students Earn Top Awards

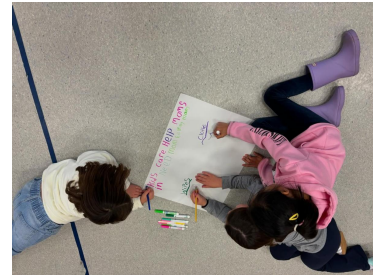
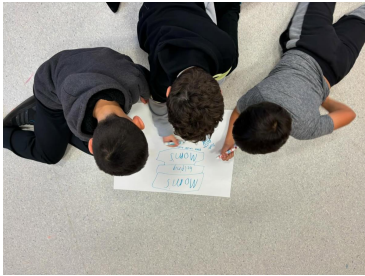
Congratulations to the SPFHS Model UN students and their advisors Mrs. Oels and Ms. Sassaman who participated in the yearly conference. In addition to earning the award of Outstanding Delegation, our students earned:

- Gabby Suriani – Premier Diplomat & was elected WHO chairperson for 2026 conference
- Emily Clarke – Outstanding Government Research Project (represented Romania in General Assembly)
- Leah Genato – Premier First Year Delegate in the International Court of Justice
- Liam Kendall & Lucy Panas – Premier Country for Japan (Liam) and Indonesia (Lucy). Liam served in the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee; Lucy was in the Economics & Finance Committee



School One Kids Care Club Makes a Difference

The School One Kids Care Club continues to make impactful differences in the community! Pictured are 3rd grade members creating signs for the *Moms Helping Moms Drive*. They collected a total of 4,806 wipes, 1,479 diapers, 264 items of clothing, 14 hygiene products, 3 blankets, and many other baby essentials!



Featured Events

Jan. 29 – Schools are Closed for Students (Staff Professional Development Day)

Jan. 30, 6:30 – 8 p.m. – McGinn PTA Global Family Night

Jan. 30, 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Brunner 4th Grade Winter Concert at Brunner

Jan. 31 – McGinn Day of Global Cultures

Jan. 31, 3 – 4:30 p.m. – Nettingham 7th Grade PTA Social at Nettingham

Feb. 3 – SOUPer Bowl Begins!

Feb. 4, 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Coles Winter Concert at Coles

Feb. 5, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. – SPFHS National Letter of Intent Signing in HS Media Center

Feb. 6 and 7, 12:30 – 2:40 p.m. – Nettingham 8th Grade Career Day

Feb. 7, 3:15 – 5:30 p.m. – Brunner Snowball Social

Feb. 7, 6 – 7:30 p.m. – School One PTA Family Skate

Feb. 8 – McGinn Family Skate Night (Time TBD)

Feb. 12, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – Nettingham 8th Grade Elective Assembly

Feb. 13, 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Evergreen Winter Concert at Evergreen

Feb. 17 – Schools are Closed for President's Day

Feb. 17, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Evergreen Family Skate Party

Feb. 19, 6 – 8 p.m. – School One PTA Multi-Cultural Night

Feb. 20, 8 p.m. – SPF Board of Education Regular Public Meeting in SPFHS Media Center

Feb. 21, 22, 7 – 9 p.m. and Feb. 23, 2 – 4 p.m. – Nettingham Musical in Nettingham Auditorium

Feb. 22 and 23 – SPFHS JSA Winter Conference

Feb. 28, 5 – 6:30 p.m. – Nettingham Staff vs. Students Volleyball Game
at Nettingham

March 1, 9 – 11 a.m. – McGinn PTA Super Science Saturday

[**View the full calendar.**](#)

Did You Know? SPF is Proud to Offer Free English Language Classes

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public School District is proud to offer FREE* English language classes to adult English learners. Classes are open to family members of students enrolled in Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools.

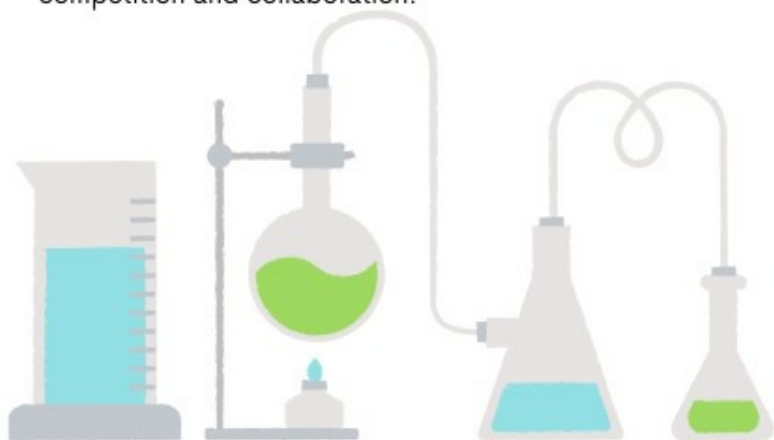
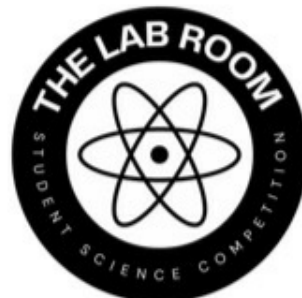
*Funding for these classes has been Federally provided.

[**See this flyer to learn more and to register.**](#)

THE LAB ROOM

◆ — SPF Student Science Competition — ◆

The Lab Room is a "Shark Tank"-style science competition for SPF students in grades 6 - 12 that aims to inspire scientific curiosity in the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Community. Participants will create their own science research experiment to be judged in front of a panel of scientists in a Shark-Tank-style format! The Lab Room empowers students to explore the wonders of science, realize their potential, and contribute meaningfully to society's scientific advancement through friendly and fun competition and collaboration!



IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, November 18th: *Project Submission Opens*

Friday, January 31st: *Project Submission Closes*

Friday, April 4th: *Final Event*

**LEARN HOW TO EARN YOUR SPOT IN THE LAB ROOM AT
WWW.THELABROOM.ORG**

📧 info.thelabroom@gmail.com

🌐 www.TheLabRoom.org

www.spfk12.org • (908) 232 6161
512 Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education | 512 Cedar St | Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 US

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