



A Message From the Superintendent

**Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood
Community,**

We once again embark on another exciting school year! I always love this time of year as we warmly welcome students, staff, and their families back. To our staff, thank you for working diligently to start the school year on a positive note. To our parents and guardians, thank you for partnership and trust as we work together to ensure your child(ren) achieve their fullest potential. To our students, let's make this the best year yet!



As the school year gets underway, I also want to address last week's vote. The referendum, unfortunately, did not pass. We heard through the election results and the community conversation that the community wants to create a different path – built together.

In the coming weeks, the volunteers on the Board of Education and I will need time to listen to the community's feedback and consider next steps.

This process will be important to the future of our district. The issues that existed before the referendum still exist today. Our schools are still over capacity, and class sizes are creeping up. Our schools still have critical needs – HVAC, electrical and fire alarm updates that cannot be ignored. The simple fact is that we need space: not just a few classrooms or a few modular units – but real space for SPF students.

I'm disappointed by the election results, but I'm confident that we can come together and still build SPF for the future. It's a future that our students, parents, teachers, staff, and community can be excited about – and hopefully agree upon.

Thank you again to everyone who voted! I look forward to sharing updates throughout the school year.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent of Schools

Back to School Safety Reminders

As the school year gets underway, we want to remind everyone that nothing is more important than the safety of our SPF families!

Drivers



Slowdown in school zones – obey the posted speed limits.



Be alert for pedestrians – Look out for children walking to and from school.



Follow school bus traffic laws – Stop when you approach a school bus with its red lights flashing and arm extended.

Walkers



Use marked crosswalks – Always press the button and wait until traffic has stopped before crossing.



Walk on sidewalks – If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.

Let's make this a safe school year for all!

Administrative Council Summer Retreat

SPF administrators came together this summer to prepare for the 2024–25 school year by discussing a variety of topics from diversity and social justice to counseling to AI to student access to devices.



Meet the Candidates Running for the Board of Education

Four candidates are running for three 3-year terms on the Board of Education. The SPF PTA Council is presenting a **Board of Education Candidates Night** on Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the SPFHS Media Center, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains. All questions must be submitted in advance. [Click here to submit your question.](#)

John Greenblatt

I moved to Scotch Plains for several reasons, one being the school system. Thus far my experience with the schools has been mostly positive, but like any business or institution there is always room for improvement. I believe with my background in human resources (learning & development) consulting, and as a business owner of a career development company, I can help streamline processes, build effective communications, and provide greater transparency into district happenings. I also believe that we should renew our focus on performance and make sure that we ready our students for a rapidly evolving marketplace.



Karen Kulikowski

When I moved to Scotch Plains 24 years ago, I joined the PTA at my son's school. I served as co-chair and then Committee chair for School

One's Fun Fair. I was elected PTA President at Park MS and served for three nonconsecutive years and PTA Council President for one year. I felt it was a natural progression to continue to serve the district and my community by being on the Board of Education.



Deb Brody

I have been on the board for a few years. My aspirations of being on the Board of Education stemmed from my involvement in the PTA while my children were in school. I want to help continue the positive work of the district in educating our children and being good community partners. Two of my four children have moved back here to make a life for themselves and raise their children. The school system was a large part of their decision. I want to keep up the standards and continue to improve the school system.



Tonya Williams

I am running for a 4th term on the Board of Education to continue to advocate for our students and teachers. I want to ensure equitable access to educational opportunities and curriculum. My passion is health and wellness. Wellness equity in the school system is critically important because it directly impacts the physical, emotional, and academic success of students. Wellness equity ensures that every student has access to the necessary resources and support for their well-being, regardless of their socioeconomic background. I want to continue to see us move forward in providing positive mental health and nutrition programs.



[*Read this article to learn more about the candidates.*](#)

Welcome Back to Staff and Students

We kicked off the 2024–25 school year with a special convocation ceremony at SPFHS, followed by the first day of school. We love seeing all the smiling faces of students!

We also warmly welcomed 72 new staff members who joined Scotch Plains–Fanwood Public Schools this year. That includes one administrator, 39 teachers/certified staff, 30 support staff, and 2 coaches.



New Classrooms at Evergreen

In an ongoing effort to provide the space that SPF students need, we

converted the Central Offices at Evergreen into eight new instructional spaces for students. The district offices have moved to 313 South Avenue in Fanwood.



Remembering 9/11 Across the Entire District

Our schools commemorated the solemn anniversary of 9/11/2001 by holding moments of silence during announcements; dressing in red, white, and blue; reading books about heroes and first responders; and holding patriotic events that included poetry from students, flag salutes, and more.

The boys' lacrosse team also ran the bleachers for an hour before school in honor of all those who passed away. TAPinto Scotch Plains-Fanwood ran a special story about the tribute.

[Read the article on TapInto](#)



Featured Events

Oct. 1, 6 p.m. – SPFHS Back to School Night (SPFHS Students Only – Single Session Day)

Oct. 2 – National Walk & Bike to School Day

Oct. 3 and 4 – Schools Closed – Rosh Hashanah

Oct. 7 – 11 – Week of Respect

Oct. 7 – 11 – McGinn Take Your Parent/Guardian to PE

Oct. 14 – Schools Closed for Students

Oct. 15 – Coles – Respect Assembly

Oct. 16, 8 a.m. – School One PTA Donuts and Grown Ups

Oct. 17, 8 p.m. – Board of Education Public Meeting in SPFHS Media Center

Oct. 18, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Nettingham 8th Grade Family Night at Nettingham

Oct. 18, 7 – 9 p.m. – Brunner Family Halloween Party

Oct. 18, 6 – 8 p.m. – School One PTA Grade 4 Movie Night

Oct 21 – 25 – School Violence Prevention Week

Oct. 23, 2:45 – 4 p.m. – Terrill Grades 5 & 6 Halloween Social

Oct. 24, 6 – 9 p.m. – HS Homecoming Dance in SPFHS New Gym

Oct. 25, 3 – 4:30 p.m. – Nettingham 6th Grade Social

Oct. 25, 6 – 8 p.m. – School One PTA Fall Festival

Oct. 25, 7 – 8:30 p.m. – Evergreen EverScream

Oct. 25, 7 p.m. – Homecoming Game at SPFHS Tyson Field

Oct. 29, 7 – 9 p.m. – Ask the Superintendent at Nettingham Middle School Media Center

Check the calendar for Halloween parades at the schools on Oct. 31!

Full calendar of events: spfk12.org/



www.spfk12.org ● (908) 232 6161
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