



# Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

Oct.  
2024

## A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood  
Community,

October proved to be a busy month filled with celebrations of culture, respect, and, of course, fun fall activities. It truly is amazing to see the vibrancy and enthusiasm that our SPF teachers, staff, students, and their families show this time of year. #SPFProud is alive and thriving on our athletic fields, in our classrooms, and at all fall activities!



Earlier this month, I felt that pride immensely as I attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new wing of Evergreen Elementary School. It was a special moment to see my office and my colleague's offices converted into classrooms for students – knowing that quality teaching and learning is happening there. Check out photos from the ceremony below.

Also, please remember that on **Tuesday, October 29 at 7 p.m.**, members of the Board of Education, district leaders, and I will be at Nettingham Middle School to meet with the community and answer questions. The robust conversations that occur at these “**Ask the Superintendent**” sessions are always something I enjoy and value. If you would like to ask a question or attend, please submit through the [Google form](#). You can also ask questions during the event. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Joan Mast**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## Four SPFHS Students recognized in National Merit Scholarship Program



Four Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School seniors have been recognized as Commended Students in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are Everett Boris, Sophie Gingold, Saman Zeb and Shaheryar Zeb. Congratulations!

## New Evergreen Elementary learning spaces officially open



Students, teachers, and staff were filled with smiles and pride as they officially celebrated the opening of eight new learning spaces in a wing of Evergreen Elementary School at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 9. Amid increasing enrollment and district-wide space constraints, the district moved its Central Offices to a rented space at 313 South Avenue in Fanwood last spring. The summer months were spent renovating and converting the offices.

“We are so excited about the new possibilities afforded to us in this space, and we’re grateful to the Board of Education and Dr. Joan Mast for putting Scotch Plains–Fanwood students first,” said Evergreen Principal Erin Mullman. “This addition means so much more to us than a few extra classrooms. It means that Evergreen students now have space throughout the entire school to learn, grow, and thrive.”

The renovated space includes classrooms for second grade, multi-age special education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech services. This alleviated space constraints in other parts of the school and allowed music and Spanish instruction to have dedicated classrooms, rather than being held in a multi-purpose room or moving from classroom to classroom on a cart. It also freed up space for basic skills, ESL and additional speech services.



[Read more on Tap Into](#)



**SPF celebrates principals and newly tenured teachers/staff**



The Board of Education recognized 23 teachers and support staff for achieving tenure at the Oct. 17 Board of Education meeting.

“Achieving tenure is a special moment for our teachers and staff in Scotch Plains–Fanwood Public Schools,” said Superintendent Dr. Joan Mast. “This accomplishment recognizes the hard work and dedication that our teachers and staff show to SPF students every day.”

Among the 23 newly tenured teachers and staff were district leaders, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Robert McGarry and Business Administrator Christopher Jones. “I especially want to congratulate Dr. McGarry and Mr. Jones whose contributions to the district’s leadership team are valued and appreciated,” Mast said.

The board also recognized and thanked the district’s eight principals for National Principal’s Month: Dr. Warren Hynes (SPFHS), Dr. Jocelyn Dumaresq (Nettingham), Dr. Kevin Holloway (Terrill), Sandy Fehte (Coles), Erin Mullman (Evergreen), Dr. Sasha Slocum (McGinn), Scott Bortnick (Brunner), and Justin Fiory (School One).

The tenure recipients are:

Dr. Robert McGarry  
Christopher Jones  
Samantha Mascari  
Rahama Alvi  
Kristen Majaros  
Jenna Pellegrino  
Erin Mullman  
Neelambari Save

Sara Durand  
Susan Kobylarz  
Megan Maddalena  
Ashley Overeem  
Brandon Rickert  
Melissa McGahan  
Cathy Truncale  
Kristine Iarussi

Karolina Bishop  
Alex Passucci  
Reginald Dinson  
Lisa Wilber  
Caraline Smith  
Nicole Muraski  
Kelvin Stradford

**SPF is Making Headlines**



*N.J. girl scores historic touchdown in boys varsity football, shattering gridiron's glass ceiling*

More coverage: *News12 NJ*



*Scotch Plains–Fanwood Gymnasts Secure Sixth Straight County Crown*

*Scotch Plains–Fanwood SPFK12 District Observes Diwali for the First Time*



*Scenes from the 25th Annual Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School Marching Band Festival*



# Referendum News

## Referendum Updates Coming in November

At the Board of Education's October meeting, the district announced plans to hold a scaled-back referendum on January 28 based on feedback we heard from the last vote. The Board is currently seeking community feedback and anticipates finalizing details at its November Board meeting. At this initial stage, please:

1. Visit [spfk12.org/future](http://spfk12.org/future) to learn about the proposal that is under consideration.
2. Email feedback to [future@spfk12.org](mailto:future@spfk12.org).

We look forward to sharing more information as it becomes available in November!

## Featured Events

Check the calendar for Halloween parades and Thanksgiving food drives!

**Nov. 1** – Schools Closed – Diwali

**Nov. 5** – Schools Closed – Election Day

**Nov. 7 – 8** – Schools Closed – NJEA Convention

**Nov. 11** – American Education Week

**Nov. 12 – 14** – Elementary School Parent-Teacher Conferences (Grades K-5 ONLY have a Single Session)

**Nov. 12, 6 – 8 p.m.** – SPFHS National Honor Society Induction in HS Auditorium

**Nov. 13, 6 – 8 p.m.** – Nettingham & Terrill Middle Schools Grade 5 Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences

**Nov. 14, 6 – 8 p.m** – Elementary School Parent-Teacher Evening Conferences

**Nov. 14, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**– SPFHS College/Career Night at HS

**Nov. 15, 6 – 8 p.m.**– School One Grade 4 Movie Night

**Nov. 15, 7 – 9 p.m.**– Evergreen Grade 4 Movie Night

**Nov. 19** – Coles author visit

**Nov. 21, 8 p.m.**– Board of Education Regular Public Meeting in SPFHS Media Center

**Nov. 22 and 23, 7 – 9 p.m. and Nov. 23, 2 – 5 p.m.**– SPFHS Fall Play in HS Auditorium

**Nov. 27** – All Schools Single Session

**Nov. 28 – 29**– Schools Closed – Thanksgiving Weekend

**Full calendar of events:** [spfk12.org/](http://spfk12.org/)



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



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