



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

May
2025

A Message From the Superintendent

**Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood
Community,**

As we approach the final weeks of the 2024-2025 school year, there is a sense of excitement and celebration in the air. The end of the school year is always a special time in SPF schools – a time filled with meaningful milestones, well-earned recognition, and special traditions.

From graduation ceremonies and award assemblies to picnics and celebrations of learning, these events reflect the hard work and growth of our students and the support and dedication of their teachers and families. Each event is a reminder of the many reasons for us to be #SPFProud!

Together, let's cherish these moments!

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent of Schools





Milken Educator Award winner Emily Litz recognized by NJ State Board of Education

Nettingham fifth-grade teacher Emily Litz continued to bring pride to Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools. On May 7, she was formally recognized by the New Jersey State Board of Education (NJSBOE) for winning the Milken Educator Award, often referred to as the ‘Oscar’s of Teaching’.

“We recognize you. We value you and we thank you,” said NJSBOE Division of Teaching and Learning Services Assistant Commissioner Dr. Jorden Schiff. Other NJSBOE members also spoke about how Litz is a dedicated teacher who worked hard to earn this recognition and how she is a “bright light” in the teaching profession.

The Milken Family Foundation honors 45 teachers nationwide every year, and in 2024 Litz was the sole winner in New Jersey. Recipients of the award receive a \$25,000 cash prize and have access to mentorship and networking opportunities through the Milken Family Foundation. Watch a video of the ceremony [here](#).

Board of Education Members Honored for their Years of Service



We are incredibly proud that the New Jersey School Boards Association recently recognized Amy Winkler and Karen Kulikowski for 15 years of service and President Evan Murray for 10 years of service.

Volunteering to serve on a Board of Education shows tremendous commitment to our schools, students, and community. It requires countless hours of preparation, thoughtful decision-making, and a deep dedication to public service and student success. Thank you, Amy, Karen, and Evan!

We also recently recognized at a Board of Education meeting, Thomas (Mac) Bastable for his two years of service as the Student Board Representative during his junior and senior year. He'll be attending Boston College in the fall. Thank you, Mac!



Five teachers recognized for Orton Gillingham certification

The Board of Education was pleased to recognize five teachers who completed their certification to become Orton Gillingham Teachers. Congratulations to:

- Kim Loschiavo - Coles, grade 4
- Christine Cucci - Coles, grade 1
- Brianna Norcross - Coles, special education
- Christine D'Antuono - School One, grade 2
- Elizabeth Yesalavich - Nettingham, special education



Board of Education seeks applicants to fill vacancy for Fanwood

The Board of Education is seeking a new board member to fill a vacancy following the resignation of Amy Winkler, effective June 1, 2025. This qualified applicant from Fanwood would serve until the next annual school election in November 2025.

Qualified residents interested in being considered for this appointment must submit a letter of interest and resume by **3 p.m. Friday, June 6, 2025** to Board Secretary Christopher Jones (313 South Ave, Suite 200, Fanwood, NJ 07023; cjones@spfk12.org). The letter should outline the candidate's qualifications, reasons for seeking appointment and what they believe they would contribute to the district.

Formal interviews for the open position will be conducted in public session during the June 17 Board of Education meeting located in the Media Center of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Following interviews, existing board members will deliberate, and a candidate will be selected and approved during the same meeting.

Those interested in seeking a 3-year term in November must obtain 25 signatures of qualified voters living in the district, one of which may be your own, to be included on the ballot. Interested individuals can gather support for candidacy by communicating their goals and aims for the schools to the electorate. The election will be held on Nov. 4.

Visit the SPF website for eligibility requirements.

Thank you to the SPF PTA!



The Board of Education recognized the PTA at its May 6 meeting. We are so grateful for the partnership between the district and PTA. These volunteers put in countless hours to create fun, memorable events for students, teachers, and families throughout the school year. Their dedication to SPF is appreciated!

SPFHS students win Best Comedy Film and Sound Design in film competition

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students won Best Comedy Film and Sound Design in the Digital Media High School Film Challenge at Jackson Liberty High School. The competition pitted New Jersey teams against each other for five days to conceptualize, film, and edit a short film based on a creative prompt. The prompt required them to have a character named Robin, a close up of an envelope, and a theme of “Out of Place”.

The winning film was directed and written by Patrick Leone. Other students involved in the production were Paul Vlkovic, Noah Liebermann, Joey Estevez, Gabe LePano, Peyton Rose, and Joe Lambert. [The winning film can be viewed here.](#)

Two other films also placed in the Top 25 – one by freshman Maxwell Mayer and another by senior Nicholas Mongold.



SPF in the News

Read the #SPFProud headlines!

[Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS Student Among Winners of Light Opera at 'NJ](#)

[Stars of Tomorrow' Competition](#)

[Nettingham Middle School Student Raye Panas Receives the National PTA's](#)

[Award of Excellence for Literature](#)

[Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS Students Plant 'Pocket Forest'](#)

Featured Events

- **June 3, 7 – 8 p.m.** - Nettingham Grades 5 & 6 Chorus Concert in Nettingham Auditorium
- **June 3, 8 – 9 p.m.** - Nettingham Grades 7 & 8 Chorus Concert in Nettingham Auditorium
- **June 5, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** - School One Art Show
- **June 6, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.** - Brunner Color Run
- **June 10, 7 – 8:30 p.m.** - McGinn Spring Concert at Terrill
- **June 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.** - Coles Spring Concert at Terrill
- **June 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.** - HS Meet the Coaches Night in HS Auditorium & HS New Gym
- **June 12, 7 – 8 p.m.** - Evergreen Spring Concert at Nettingham
- **June 13, 9 – 10 a.m.** - Coles 4th Grade Celebration of Learning
- **June 13, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** - HS Senior Picnic
- **June 13, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.** - McGinn PTA 4th Grade Picnic
- **June 13, 11:50 a.m. - 1 p.m.** - School One PTA 4th Grade Picnic
- **June 13, 1:30 – 3 p.m.** - Evergreen Faculty vs. 4th Grade Kickball Game
- **June 13, 6 – 7:30 p.m.** - Brunner Art Show
- **June 18** – HS ONLY Single Session Day
- **June 18** – Terrill and Nettingham End of Year 8th Grade Trip
- **June 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** - School One 4th Grade Celebration of Learning
- **June 19** – Schools Closed for Juneteenth
- **June 20** – HS ONLY Single Session Day
- **June 20, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.** - Brunner 4th Grade Picnic
- **June 23** – HS ONLY Single Session Day
- **June 23, 6 – 8 p.m.** - Nettingham 8th Grade Recognition Night at Perry Tyson Field
- **June 23, 7 – 8 p.m.** - Terrill 8th Grade Awards Assembly
- **June 24** – Single Session Day All Schools
- **June 24 – 9:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.** - McGinn Celebration of Learning
- **June 24, 9:30 – 11 a.m.** - Evergreen Celebration of Learning
- **June 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** - HS Senior Project Gallery Walk
- **June 24, 6 – 8 p.m.** - Terrill 8th Grade Recognition Night at Perry Tyson Field
- **June 25** – Last Day of School
- **June 25, 9 – 11 a.m.** - Nettingham 8th Grade Award Ceremony
- **June 25** – HS Graduation 6 – 8 p.m.

- **June 25** – See calendar for clap outs and other events!

Link to full calendar: [Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools / Calendar](#)



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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