

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear SPF Community,

Welcome back! September always brings a renewed sense of excitement and possibility, and I am looking forward to all that we will accomplish together during the 2025-2026 school year.

One of our goals this year is to celebrate and share more of the great things happening in our classrooms, on our fields and stages, and throughout our communities. To help us highlight these #SPFProud stories, we invite you to share your story ideas via this form. We may feature it in this newsletter, on our website, or on the district's Facebook and Instagram. Your input all year long will help us shine a light on the many ways our students and staff are making a difference each day.

Thank you for your continued support of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools! Here's to a wonderful year filled with learning and growth.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent of Schools



Have a SPF Story? Share it!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3d1zQYtHX3pADGNjVpH_DwPnEvku45juvv86zIR36B6Fr6Q/viewform

**Welcome Back Staff and
Students!**



The beginning of the school year brings new energy! The 2025-2026 school year started with a special convocation ceremony at SPFHS, followed by the first day of school.

A Warm Welcome for New Teachers and Staff



The teachers and staff of SPF are what make this a truly special environment for students to thrive. Please help give a warm welcome to the 53 new staff members, including two new administrators, 30 new teachers/certified staff, 19 new support staff, and two coaches!

Hispanic Heritage Month press release

(insert paragraph & photo here)

Seven Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Students Recognized in National Merit Scholarship Program

Seven Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School seniors have been named Commended Students in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program. The students are Annie Ricca, Emma Telpis, Gareth Su, Isabella Mirenda, Joseph Lambert, Karoly Jakab, and Venny Ebrahim.

They are among the 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

"Congratulations to Annie, Emma, Gareth, Isabella, Joseph,



Karoly, and Venny for excelling academically and making the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools community proud," said Superintendent Dr. Joan Mast. "With their hard work and dedication, these students are bound to achieve continued academic success, and we'll be cheering them on through every accomplishment."

Students entered the National Merit Scholarship Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards conducted by National Merit Scholarship Program, by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) last year. In April, NMSC identified the 50,000 highest scorers and notified their high schools.

Although these seven students will not continue in the 2026 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, they are recognized for placing among the nation's top scorers. Congratulations to our SPFHS students and all the Commended Students nationwide!

Administrative Council Summer Retreat

SPF administrators prepared for the 2025-2026 school year by discussing a variety of topics from strategic planning to storytelling to current and future frameworks for teaching.



Facilities and Infrastructure Updates Happen Across the District

The district has undertaken a variety of facility and infrastructure updates that will benefit students and staff. Updates include:

Infrastructure

- New Nettingham Life Skills Room
- Nettingham flood remediation and rebuild
- Nettingham Generator
- High School Main Office moved to the front of the school; relocation of Child Study Team
- High School CST Space
- Flag poles replacements at Nettingham and Brunner and repairs across the district
- HVAC Replacements

Maintenance

- Various room touch ups
- Concrete/pavement/pothole repairs throughout the district
- Playground Repairs

Other

- Stage curtain replacements, repairs, treatments
- Bobcat purchase to increase efficiency of operations

The district also worked closely with its architects to plan for the La Grande School renovations and the referendum projects. We look forward to sharing more updates about this work on

<https://www.spfk12.org> and in the October newsletter!

Arts Integration Leadership Conference

An Arts Integration team from SPF attended the Arts Integration Leadership conference in Princeton this summer. The conference was an opportunity for New Jersey educators to learn and plan for the arts in the coming school year.





SPIFFY SAYS

*“Stay up to date with
District events using
the calendar!”*

Check out the District Calendar

Events to watch out for:

- Oct. 2 – Schools Closed for Yom Kippur
- Oct. 3 – Homecoming Game
- Oct. 6, 6-7:30 p.m. - How to Support Someone Coping with Loss 101:
Understanding Loss, Grief and Mourning at SPFHS Room C-101
- Oct. 13 – School Closed for Students/Staff Professional Development Day
- Oct. 16, 8-9:30 p.m. – Board of Education meeting at SPFHS Media Center
- Oct. 20 – Schools Closed for Diwali
- Oct. 29, 10-11 a.m. – Ask the Superintendent at Fanwood Memorial Library

See more events for each school: <https://www.spfk12.org/spf-district-calendar>

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