

Scotch Plains- Fanwood

High School



A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Principal

Dear SPF Community,

Welcome to our first SPFHS newsletter of the 2025-26 school year. We will send this newsletter out monthly with lots of information about what we've done and what we're doing in the high school community. As is custom in the beginning of the year, we have a lot of things to share with you. We'll start with more businesslike items at the start of this month's newsletter, then we'll shift to sharing updates and photos on school activities.

Sincerely,

Warren Hynes, Principal

Back-to-School Night

All parents are invited to SPFHS Back-to-School Night on Thursday, October 9. An email about this was sent out already, but we look forward to seeing you as BTSN begins at 6:30 p.m. on October 9. The bell schedule is listed below again.

SPFHS

Block 1A 6:30-6:40 p.m.

Block 1B 6:47-6:57 p.m.

Block 2A 7:04-7:14 p.m.

Block 2B 7:21-7:31 p.m.

Block 3A 7:38-7:48 p.m.

Block 3B 7:55-8:05 p.m.

Block 4A 8:12-8:22 p.m.

Block 4B 8:29-8:39 p.m.

Field Trip Policy

Our school's field trip committee, in conjunction with administration and faculty, have clarified some aspects of our field trip policy that needed such clarification - namely areas related to field-trip eligibility and makeup work. Those are included in our student handbook now and are listed [here](#). Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Drop-Off Bins

If you have items to drop off for your students, we ask that you use the brand-new plastic bins outside Door 1, label the item if you haven't already (using Post-It notes provided), then ring the bell to inform the hall monitor at Door 1 that you've made a drop-off. That hall monitor will then retrieve the item and bring it into the attendance office so that your student can pick it up.

Raider Peer Tutoring

Our Raider Peer Tutoring program has begun its first full year. All students are welcome to stop into the library media center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to meet with peers for extra help on assignments or in studying for exams. Students can either drop in or schedule a time in advance - here is the [link](#) for making appointments. We are thrilled to have this program in place to provide equity for all students who need additional help beyond seeing their teachers after school.

Raider Relief

All families are invited to support the Raider Relief Fund, which is designed to support Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School staff, students and their families when they experience significant hardships that create immediate financial need. These hardships may include illness, family loss, weather-related crises and other unexpected financial struggles. We shared a letter with families about this fund in the summer back-to-school packet, but the letter is again included [here](#), complete with information about how to make a contribution.

Not in Our School

All parents are welcome to join Not in Our School, a nationwide program designed to empower students to forge inclusive environments that stand up to bullying, bigotry and all forms of intolerance. Students are encouraged to be upstanders who act to stand up for themselves and for others. A Not in Our School campaign strives to nurture a school culture and climate in which students feel safe, respected and understood. A Not in Our School chapter at

SPFHS can include students, staff, parents, and the community at large. Not in Our School chapters are encouraged to be student-led, and we have a number of active members as we begin our second year with this program. Not in Our School meetings will take place every other Monday in the library media center during the second half of lunch (11:10-11:40 a.m.). If any parents are interested in being part of this program, please reach out to Dr. Hynes at whynes@spfk12.org so we can share with you our meeting dates.

Governor's Educator of the Year Nominations

A letter was sent to all parents, guardians, students and staff this week calling for nominations for the annual Governor's Educator of the Year awards for SPFHS staff. In case you missed it, the nomination letter again is [here](#).

Opening Staff Barbecue

Our administrative team and PTA welcomed SPFHS staff back to school on September 2 with a barbecue lunch. Our assistant principal team of Dr. Donahue, Mr. Gerace and Mrs. Rutkowski teamed with our athletic director Dr. Miller to grill burgers and hot dogs, and our supervisors served desserts. Thanks to our PTA for helping make this possible, as it was a great way for staff to reconnect and start off the year as a community.



Opening Pep Rally

All of our SPFHS students and teachers gathered at Perry Tyson Field on September 5 for the annual opening pep rally. The pep rally featured performances from our cheerleaders, marching band and chorus, while also including speeches from Student Government and Senior Council leaders. The theme of this year's pep rally was "pushing beyond boundaries," and student leaders shared some of the ways in which their SPFHS experience has supported them in accomplishing things they never would have thought they'd do when they started as freshmen. Dr. Hynes encouraged students to discover new things about their own interests and skills in the year ahead.



Student Author

SPFHS senior Vince Larbi recently self-published his first book, a young adult science fiction story titled *The Time Runner Adventures: Origins*. The story follows a teenager named Jake who finds himself with super powers that his father once had, and has to manage the responsibilities that come with this power in support of the greater good. Vince's sister, SPFHS sophomore Michelle Larbi, drew the illustrations for this book. Congratulations to Vince and Michelle!



National Merit Commended Students

The National Merit Scholarship Program honors students with recognition and scholarships based on PSAT scores. This year, seven SPFHS students received National Merit Commendation. The students are: Venny Ebrahim, Karoly Jakab, Joseph Lambert, Isabella Mirenda, Annie Ricca, Garet Su and Emma Telpis. Congratulations to these students!



Marching Band Home Show

On September 20, the SPFHS marching band hosted a competition at its annual Marching Band Home Show. Ten high schools competed in the event, and the SPFHS marching band performed an exhibition at the end of the

show. The event is a part of the fall marching band competition season, while also serving as a fund-raiser for our marching band program. This year's SPFHS routine is a show-stopper, climaxing with band and color guard performing Benson Boone's "Beautiful Things."



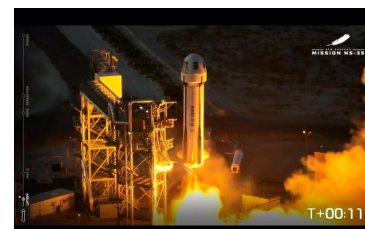
Lacrosse 9/11 Bleacher Run

On September 10, the SPFHS lacrosse program took part in its annual 9/11 Bleacher Run at Perry Tyson Field to honor the memory of all who were lost on September 11, 2001. The program has a personal connection to the events of September 11 through Brian Kloepfer, who is a senior and the youngest of four boys who all played lacrosse at the high school. Brian lost his uncle Ronnie, who was an NYPD officer and went into the towers to help save people but unfortunately never made it out. Ronnie was also the captain of the NYPD lacrosse team. To this day, the NYPD team still wears patches and stickers that read RK7.



Space Gals Take Flight

A group of SPFHS students known as the Space Gals experienced an incredible triumph in scientific research this month. A few years ago, the NASA TechRise Student Challenge awarded these students \$1,500 to design and build an experiment that would be sent to space on a Blue Origin Rocket for testing. The students' experiment was an irrigation system for space to help astronauts have a sustainable source of food. Almost 4 years to the date the Space Galls started their NASA Space Farming project, their hard efforts went up into microgravity. When the commentators were talking



about student payloads they even mentioned Space Farming as one of the many projects! There is a replay of the entire [webcast](#). What an amazing moment for our recent graduates (Saanvi Suresh, Sophia Seith, Audrey Ricks, Madeline Marcovecchio, and Virginia Nanton). Now we wait for data to come back from NASA. As advisor Lauren DeNicola shared, we are so proud of this team of incredible young women!



Physics Superstars Shine Internationally

SPFHS Team Quarkenbush entered the Beamline for School (BL4S) competition, organized by CERN — the world’s largest particle physics laboratory — for the second year in a row. This competition challenges high school students to design proposals for experiments that could be conducted at a particle accelerator beamline. The team, founded by current senior Spencer Martin and advised by SPFHS physics teacher Adric Quackenbush, earned its place among an elite group of 50 finalists from 508 entries representing 72 countries worldwide. The 2024-25 team included current seniors Spencer Martin, Ryan Zuckman, and Codeylia Frimpong, current junior Morgan Moloney, and 2025 grads Jeremy Montgomery, Matthew Mui, Damien Lariviere, and Varun Chauhan. This team was formed in early December and met twice per week, brainstorming ideas and emailing professional scientists to vet their ideas and solicit feedback.

Senior Sunrise

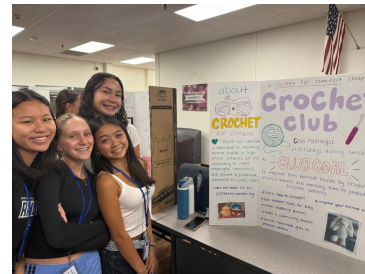
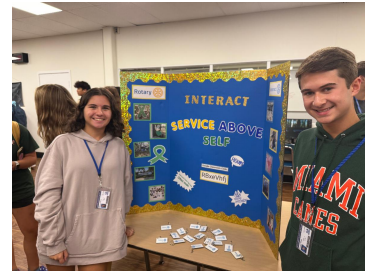
The SPFHS senior class welcomed in the 2025-26 school year with a Senior Sunrise on the morning of September 9 at Perry Tyson Field. Dozens of seniors gathered on the field, with hot chocolate in hand and blankets on the turf as the sun rose on the last year of their K-12 education. Thank you to the PTA and to senior class advisors Mrs. Amanda Moser and Mrs. Katie Phelps for making this possible.



Club Fair

On September 19, SPFHS students were

welcomed in the library media center for our Fall Club Fair. Dozens of student leaders and staff advisors gathered in the library with trifold, slide shows and flyers to share information about their clubs and activities for all who were interested. Hundreds of students made their way into the library to learn more about our clubs.



Upcoming Events:

- Oct. 2 No school for students and staff (Yom Kippur)
- Oct. 3 Homecoming Football Game, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 4 Homecoming Dance, 7-9:30 p.m.
- Oct. 9 Back-to-School Night, 6:30-8:40 p.m. (single-session day for students)
- Oct. 13 No school for students (Columbus Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day, staff PD)
- Oct. 15 Grade 11 PSAT, 8 a.m.
- Oct. 20 No school for students and staff (Diwali)

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