

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood Community,

Our district is fortunate to have teachers and staff who are making a positive impact in the lives of our students.

While we are grateful for their dedication year-round, Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4-8) offers a special opportunity to recognize and celebrate their impact.

We invite you to share a "thank you" message using this [form](#). Written shoutouts are always appreciated, and you are welcome to include photos or short videos to help bring your message to life.

Submissions will be shared on the district's Facebook and Instagram pages throughout the month of May.

Thank you for your support in celebrating the outstanding educators and staff who make us #SPFProud!

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent of Schools



Have a SPF Story? Share it!

Terrill Middle School student wins 22nd Legislative District essay contest



Terrill Middle School student Livia Lavelli was named one of three winners in the 2026 Student Essay Contest hosted by the 22nd Legislative District. Livia's submission stood out among entries from across the region for her thoughtful response to the prompt, "What do you think America will be like 100 years from now?"

As a contest winner, Livia received a gift card and an invitation to a "Chat and Chew" discussion with Senate President Nicholas P. Scutari, Assemblyman James J. Kennedy and Assemblywoman Linda S. Carter. During the event, she will share her perspectives directly with the legislators.

Congratulations to Livia for the creativity and effort displayed in her winning work!

Nettingham and SPFHS nominated for Foxy Awards



The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools theater programs earned statewide recognition as Nettingham Middle School was nominated for 12 Foxy Middle School Awards and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School was nominated for 13 Foxy Awards.

The prestigious program, which honors excellence in school theater productions throughout New Jersey, will host its ceremony at Montclair State University's Memorial Auditorium on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Nettingham Middle School received 12 nominations for its production of "Into the Woods." The nominations spanned multiple categories, including outstanding production of a middle school musical and individual honors for direction, choreography and design.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's production of "Metamorphoses" followed with 13 nominations. The production was recognized for its acting ensemble, original music composition, and outstanding production of a play. Several students and staff members earned individual nods for leading performances and technical achievements in lighting and scenic design.

[See Full List of Awards](#)

Nettingham student wins Healthy School Lunch Challenge



Elise Patel, a Nettingham Middle School student, was named a Grand Prize Winner in the seventh annual Healthy School Lunch Challenge, standing out among entries from all school districts served by Pomptonian Food Service. Elise earned the top honor for her original Berry BBQ Chicken Bowl recipe, which creatively met the contest requirements by featuring lean protein, whole grains and the seasonal "fruit of the month," blackberries.

The challenge, held in honor of National Nutrition Month, encouraged students to develop recipes that could be replicated in school cafeterias to promote balanced eating habits. As a Grand Prize Winner, Patel will have her winning meal featured on the school lunch menu for the entire student body to enjoy.

[Read About Elise's Meal](#)

SPFHS takes home top honors from Festival of Music

The SPFHS Music Department took 140 students to compete in the Festival of Music competition in Washington D.C. The students represented Scotch Plains-Fanwood with dignity and professionalism.

Moonglowers - SUPERIOR RATING
Best Overall Jazz Section (Saxophones)
Best Soloist - Mia Coscarella

Wind Ensemble - SUPERIOR RATING

Rhythmsense - SUPERIOR RATING

SPF Jazz - EXCELLENT RATING

Concert Band - SUPERIOR RATING
Best Student Accompanists - James Allen

Chamber Choir - SUPERIOR RATING

Virtuoso Voices - SUPERIOR RATING

Select Choir - SUPERIOR RATING

Concert Choir - SUPERIOR RATING

Fortis Forum - SUPERIOR RATING

*Congratulations to **Jan Allen, Durand Thomas, Kelly Ruggeri, John Gillick, and Charlie Jackson** for their leadership and dedication. Thank you to the trip coordinator (**Kelly Robertson**), the volunteer chaperones, and the entire SPF Music Booster Parent Association, who made this trip a huge success.*

Science Olympiad sparks creativity and teamwork

From rubber-band catapults to designing systems that prevent an egg from cracking when dropped, Science Olympiad gave 5th and 6th grade students at Terrill and Nettingham Middle Schools a chance to explore STEM through hands-on challenges and teamwork.

This year, 20 students from Terrill and 20 students from Nettingham participated in an in-district competition held on March 26 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Led by Science Olympiad Co-Advisors Adrienne Stack and Kayla Kowalenko, the program focused on problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration.

"Students learn to be comfortable not always having the answer and instead focus on finding solutions," Mrs. Stack said. "The students love creating and stepping outside their comfort zone."

High school students served as judges this year, providing further guidance throughout the competition.

At the competition, students took on a range of engineering challenges and science tests, including aerodynamics, mystery powders, and designing systems to keep an ice cube from melting. A highlight of the competition was the 15-foot-tall newspaper towers and a competition to float a clay boat. Each event emphasized teamwork and critical thinking in a fun environment.

With strong interest each year, Science Olympiad continues to be a favorite opportunity for 5th and 6th grade students to build skills, confidence, and a love of STEM.



Preschool Registration Now Open



Applications for the 2026–2027 preschool program are now open.

Classes are held at LaGrande Elementary School in Fanwood for Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents. Sessions are half-day, five days a week, with placement based on age. Tuition is \$450/month, with discounts and financial assistance available.

Online applications are available on the website (www.spfk12.org/preschool).

For additional information, please contact the Preschool Office at (908) 889-8600 x31402 or preschool@spfk12.org.

For information about kindergarten and Grade 1 registration, visit spfk12.org/enrollment.



**SPIFFY
SAYS**

WOOF!

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

April 30, 6 – 7:30 p.m. – A Night of Social Justice: The Revolution Reimagined at SPFHS

April 30, 8 p.m. – Board of Education Meeting in SPFHS Media Center

April 30 – Coles BMX Assembly

May 1, 7-9 p.m. - Brunner Variety Show at SPFHS

May 2 – School One 4th Grade Family Game Night Somerset Patriots

May 6, 2:45-4 p.m. – Terrill Grades 5 & 6 Spring Social

May 7, 8-9:30 p.m. – Board of Education Meeting in SPFHS Media Center

May 18 – McGinn Opera Assembly

May 19, 3:30-4:30 p.m. – Staff Recognition in SPFHS Auditorium

May 20 – 7-8 p.m. – Nettingham Band Concert

May 25 – Schools Closed (Memorial Day)

May 26, 6-8 p.m. – Evergreen School Art Show

May 27, 7-8:30 p.m. – High School Senior Music Awards Night

May 28, 6-8 p.m. – High School Senior Scholarship Night

[See more events on the Calendar](#)

Community Members can Sign Up for the Newsletter, too!

Do you know any community members who are interested in receiving SPF news? Our monthly newsletter is open to everyone – alumni, residents, and community members.

Subscribe to stay connected to student achievements, district updates, post-bond referendum updates, and all the good happening across SPF.



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