Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Principal

Dear SPF Community,

This past month was a super-busy month at the high school, and we are eager to share some highlights with you. Best wishes for an amazing May!

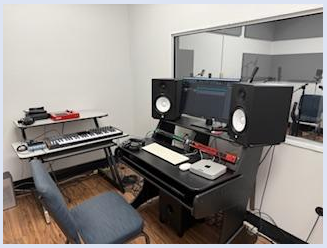
Sincerely,

Warren Hynes

Recording Studio Unveiled at SPFHS

On May 4, the Education Enrichment Foundation of Scotch Plains-Fanwood held a ribbon-cutting for a brand-new recording studio located in the Library Media Center of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Founding EEF member Johanna Rodriguez donated $10,000 to enrich the arts at our school. This recording studio will be used to record student performances, vocal or instrumental, or podcasts. Students will also be able to use industry-standard recording software ProTools and Logic, as well as keyboard and drum pad MIDI devices. At the ribbon-cutting, Ms. Rodriguez's children, David and Lisa, spoke and cut the ribbon. In addition, five SPFHS students put the studio to use: Senior choral singers Kayla McNair, Gayatri Phatak, Peyton Rose, and Cooper Pomponio sang the high school's alma mater, while junior Joe Furgiuele recorded the song, edited it, and replayed it for all who were present.







Art Show Displays K-12 Masterpieces

On April 29, SPFHS hosted the annual District Art Show, in which our art teachers displayed student work from Pre-K through Grade 12, and hundreds of community members gathered in our auxiliary gym to view and discuss these works of art. Members of the SPF Jazz Band performed as visitors explored the gallery, and students posed with their artwork for many photos. Thanks to all of our art teachers, including SPFHS teachers Mr. Jeff Gutterman, Mr. Jeff Drylewicz and Ms.Yolanda Chendak, for making this happen.










SPFHS Excels at Film Fest ’26

On April 30, members of the SPFHS Audiovisual Club won awards at Jackson High School’s One Week High School Film Challenge. In this festival, students received a prompt on a Monday at 8 a.m. and needed to submit a film by that Friday at 5 p.m.

“In Cold Hands,” directed by sophomore Max Mayer, won Best Sound Design and Best Visual Effects. “Locked In,” directed by senior Patrick Leone, won third place in the comedy division. It was also a great day of workshops, as topics ranged from the filming of breaking news to the use of art and music in film production. Thanks to Mr. Raymond Moskal for supporting all of the students in our AV Club.

Art and History Combine at SPFHS

On April 30, the SPFHS Social Justice Teaching Academy and Black Student Union joined with Maria Daniel’s iDance Ministry in an event that combined history and art. Titled “The Revolution Reimagined” and held in the Manya Ungar Auditorium, this program blended the performing arts, hip hop and history as part of New Jersey’s 250th celebration of the Declaration of Independence. By reimagining the American Revolution, the program sought to make it relevant and relatable. SPFHS was awarded a grant from the Union County Cultural Affairs Committee to bring in the iDance group for an in-school residency, and additional funding came from a variety of sources including Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo's RevNJ Committee. Students throughout the district created art for this event, and SPFHS students collaborated with iDance in drafting an updated declaration.









Music Accomplishments Abound

There were many vocal and instrumental music accomplishments announced during this past month. First off, several students were accepted into the 2026-27 All-State Choirs. Our mixed choir students are Logan Griffiths, Tanisha Magdum, Alexandra Martins, Knevin Pilley, Aaron Pinsky, and Anaya Sandhu. Our treble choir students are

Isabella Carissimo and Teresa Jackson. Congrats to Logan and Aaron on receiving top five scores in the state!

Our Moonglowers jazz band placed second overall at the New Jersey State Band Finals with less than 0.76 points between them and the first-place band. The Moonglowers won best rhythm section and best saxophones, and Mia Coscarello earned 1 of 4 best soloist awards of the evening.

In the third weekend of April, the High School Music Department took 140 students to compete in the Festival of Music competition in Washington, D.C. During this event, several of our groups earned the level of superior rating: the Moonglowers, Wind Ensemble, RhythmSense, Concert Band, Chamber Choir, Virtuoso Voices, Select Choir, Concert Choir, and Fortis Forum. In addition, our SPF Jazz Band earned an excellent rating. In terms of section and individual accomplishments, our saxophones won Best Overall Jazz Section, Mia Coscarello won best soloist, and James Allen won best student accompanist.

Congratulations to Ms. Jan Allen, Mr. Durand Thomas, Ms. Kelly Ruggeri, Mr. John Gillick, and Mr. Charlie Jackson for their leadership and dedication on this trip, as well as trip coordinator Ms. Kelly Robertson as well as our volunteer chaperones and the entire SPF Music Booster Parent Association.

Mandarin Students Honored for Short Films

The New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association (NJCTA) honored several SPFHS students for their contributions to the 2026 NJCTA Short Film Contest. The Second Place Award went to the film “One Word, One World – Home” by Alexander Ho, William Liu, and Zhaoxiang Chen. The film “One Word, One World – Spring Rain ” by Joshua Tufuga, Anthony Villafrade won the Excellence Award. Congratulations!

Repertory Theatre Gains Foxy Nominations

Many in the SPFHS community were amazed by the Repertory Theatre’s fall production of *Metamorphoses.* This past month, that performance was honored with 13 Foxy Award nominations, in which Montclair State University recognizes theater productions at the high school and middle school levels.

The nominees: For Outstanding Achievement by a Student Costume Technician, Julia Camargo and Samantha Savarese; for Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design: Christian Confalone; for Outstanding Achievement in Scenic Design: Joseph Napolitano; for Outstanding Achievement by a Dance Ensemble: Morgan Knight; for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography: Morgan Knight; for Outstanding Achievement in Original Music Composition: Trey Shore ("The Kingfisher Song"); for Outstanding Performance by a Featured Ensemble Actress: Rebecca Noriega; for Outstanding Performance by a Featured Ensemble Actor: Joseph Estevez; for Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actor: Patrick Leone; for Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress: Alexandra Martins; for Outstanding Performance by a Leading Actress: Abigail Richardson; for Outstanding

Achievement by an Acting Ensemble: Morgan Knight; for Outstanding Production of a Play: Morgan Knight

The Foxy Awards will take place on May 21, with several of our students performing in the ceremony. Congratulations to all our students and supporting staff!

College Athlete Signing Day

On April 23, SPFHS hosted our annual College Athlete Signing Day to honor those student-athletes who have committed to continuing their athletic careers at the next level. Athletic Director Dr. Ryan Miller organized and hosted the event in the varsity gym, and each coach spoke for the 19 honored students. Families and school community members attended this celebratory event, which honored the following students: Alex Bolton (baseball, FDU); Joe LaRosa (baseball, TCNJ); Alex Tabares (baseball, UCNJ); Aiden Winters (basketball, Ramapo); Thomas Dowling (football, TCNJ); Logan Weiss (football, Norwich Univ.); Jack Colvin (golf, William Paterson); Caleb McDowell (lacrosse, Yale); Elissa Steingart (lacrosse, Lasell Univ.); Rocco Trainor (lacrosse, Drew); Ethan Heiberg (lacrosse, Penn State-Harrisburg); Natalia Lambert (soccer, Ramapo); Delaney Farley (track and field, West Chester Univ.); Abigale Laney (track and field, Ithaca); Dan Ennis (volleyball, NYU); Josh Tufuga (volleyball, Elmira); Hana Zamor (wrestling, Ithaca); Paul Boyle (wrestling, Wesleyan); and Nikos Zoganas (soccer, Salve Regina Univ.).



Senior Assembly Addresses Fire Safety, Decision-Making

On April 29, Shawn Simons returned to SPFHS to present his renowned “After the Fire” assembly to all seniors. In this assembly, Simons shared the story of how he and his best friend Alvaro Llanos experienced severe burns, near death, and ultimate survival from a dormitory fire at Seton Hall University in January 2000. The assembly addressed fire safety as well as responsible decision-making as many of our students prepare for more independent living in the months ahead. The assembly is sponsored by the Scotch Plains Fire Department, and we are deeply appreciative of the SPFD’s willingness to partner with us in bringing this assembly to the high school.





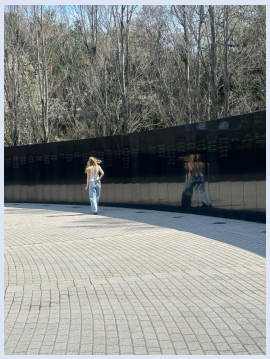




Sophomores Visit Vietnam Memorial

Across three school days in April, students in our United States History II classes took their annual field trip to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel. The highlights of this trip include seeing a helicopter that served two tours of duty in Vietnam, walking around the memorial in small groups with tour guides who are all Vietnam Veterans, finding names on the wall and learning about the architectural design of the memorial. We followed that with some time at the adjacent museum, looking at artifacts and photographs from the Vietnam War era and asking the veterans questions about their own personal experiences. It was a great way to connect what the students have been learning in both social studies and English, as many of them drew connections between the things they saw in the museum and the plot of the book *The Things They Carried*.

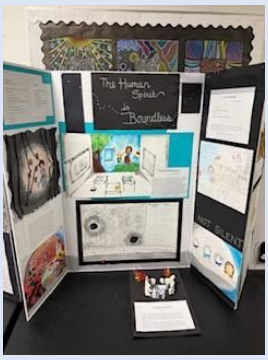


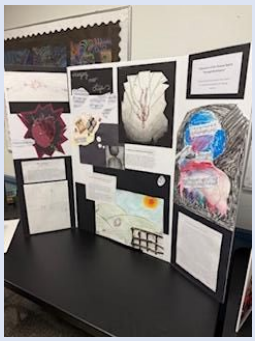


Yom HaShoah Ceremony Held at Nettingham

In partnership with the Fanwood Memorial Library, the Holocaust Resource Center of Kean University, and Westfield Public Schools, Scotch Plains-Fanwood hosted and co-sponsored a Yom HaShoah event at Nettingham Middle School on April 15. Titled "Community Observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day: Voices of Resilience with Fred Polak," the event featured a keynote address by Mr. Fred Polak, who shared the incredible story of his parents, who fell in love in a concentration camp. In addition, students and staff prepared a Holocaust timeline and a student art exhibit. The art exhibit featured work created by students in the high school's Racism, Genocide, and the Holocaust class through an arts integration experience facilitated by our Arts

Integration Specialist, Ms. Barbara Prestridge, and Social Studies teacher Ms. Rebecca DiBrienza.











"Sharing Stories" Explores Community at SPFHS

On April 20 and 21, Not in Our School hosted its second annual "Sharing Stories" event, in which students had the chance to hear and read narratives written by SPFHS students, staff and community members about times when they have witnessed or experienced discrimination or prejudice, or times when they have witnessed or experienced support and allyship. Classes visited the Library Media Center, where Not in Our School members read narratives and facilitated discussions. After the stories, students traveled to different stations in which they were able to read more stories, discuss ways of addressing biased remarks, and write notes of support for their peers, among others! Thank you to Not in Our School advisor Ms.Kelly Brock for making this happen.





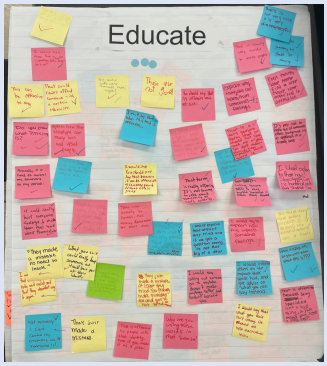




Terrill PALS Program Gathers with SPFHS Student Leaders

On April 27, members of the SPFHS Student Council and Not in Our School gathered with Terrill Middle School eighth-graders in our library media center as these eighth-graders prepare to mentor fifth-graders in their school. As they had done in March with Nettingham eighth-graders, our high school students led a workshop on leadership that focused on the different ways we can speak up when we hear biased remarks (interrupt, question, educate and echo). The high school and middle-school students enjoyed learning with and from one another. Thanks to SPFHS teachers Ms. Swati Bulusu and Ms. Kelly Brock for coordinating this workshop.







Senior Spencer Martin Selected for DAR Good Citizen Award



On Monday, April 13, Spencer Martin, class of 2026, was presented with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award by the local Westfield Chapter.

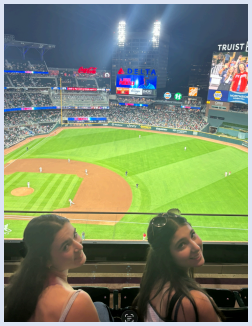
This award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. Spencer's contributions to our school and the surrounding areas have made him an outstanding choice for this recognition. Congratulations, Spencer!

DECA Competes in Atlanta

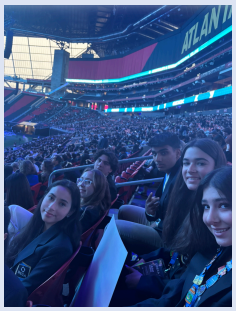


Last week, the SPFHS chapter of DECA took 11 representatives to the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta. Students competed in various categories such as Project Management, Career Development and Personal Financial Literacy. These students had previously made it to the top nine in their

respective categories at the state level. In addition to the competition, students got to experience attractions around Atlanta including World of Coca-Cola and an Atlanta Braves game. Representatives included nine 11th-graders (Jane Fisher, Leah Soifer, Ava Handler, Sanvi Khurana, Matthew Lindo, Hayley Sackett, Isabella Pacheco, Anshul Rajadhyax, and Devasrigauri Lokesh) and two 10th-graders (Emma Pisarchik and Enzo Primiano).



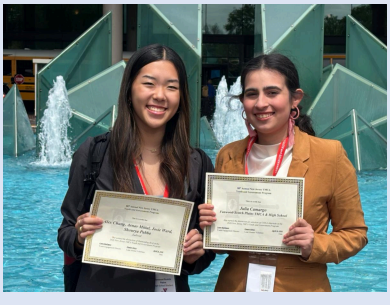




Civics & Debate Competes at YAG

Congratulations to the Scotch Plains Civics and Debate Club for their first participation in YMCA's Youth and Government Convention. The chapter won an award for outstanding delegation. Julia Camargo earned a nomination for the Conference for National Affairs and Alexandra Chung earned an award for outstanding brief in the court portion of the convention. Congrats to all members who attended! In addition, keynote speakers included current Lt. Governor Dale Caldwell and former New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal.





SPFHS Welcomes Korean Students

On May 1, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Ewing, Ms. Stayvas and five SPF classes hosted 100 Korean students from the Suwon Academy of World Languages (SAWL). Throughout the year SPF and SAWL students wrote letters, connected over social media, sent cultural videos and participated in a Zoom call. During the morning, students were entertained by school presentations and performances by the SPF cheerleaders and

SAWL dance team. The rest of the day consisted of conversation circles, a tour, lunch and a classroom visit. All students had a great day and look forward to a continued partnership.











Italian Club Hosts Food Drive

During the month of April, the Italian Club, in collaboration with the local UNICO chapter, hosted a schoolwide food drive for the St Bart's food pantry. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



French Students Savor Quebec

From April 24-26, a group of French students and teachers embarked on an unforgettable field trip to Québec City, where they stepped back in time and experienced the rich history and vibrant culture of French Canada firsthand. The trip was not only educational but also filled with exciting, hands-on activities that brought learning to life.

The adventure began at the breathtaking Montmorency Falls, a spectacular natural wonder even higher than Niagara Falls. Students were amazed by its beauty and power, making it a perfect introduction to Québec's landscape. Students then visited a traditional sugar shack, where students had the unique opportunity to make their own maple taffy on ice while discovering the traditions of Québec cuisine.

Throughout the trip, students explored the history of Québec from its origins to the present day through an immersive virtual reality experience, followed by interactive games on tablets that reinforced their learning in a fun and engaging way.

One of the highlights of the trip was a guided visit to the iconic Château Frontenac, often known as the most photographed hotel in the world. With a special tour guide, students explored the inside of this magnificent landmark while learning about its history and significance.

The trip was a wonderful success, with students returning on time, enriched by meaningful cultural experiences, strengthened connections, and lasting memories.






BSU Takes Civil Rights Tour in Harlem

On April 16, more than 20 members of the Black Student Union traveled to Harlem for a Civil Rights tour throughout this historic Manhattan neighborhood. The organization Welcome to Harlem led our students and chaperones on a walk that included the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and included learning about various organizations, artists, writers, and musicians who made Harlem one of our country's cultural capitals. Students enjoyed a lunch at Harlem Shake to round off their visit.





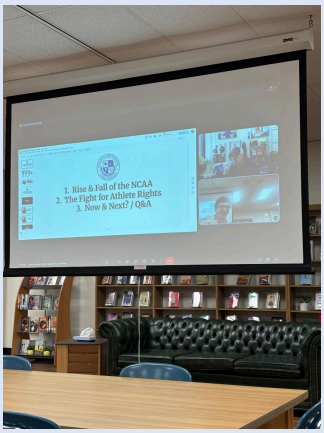


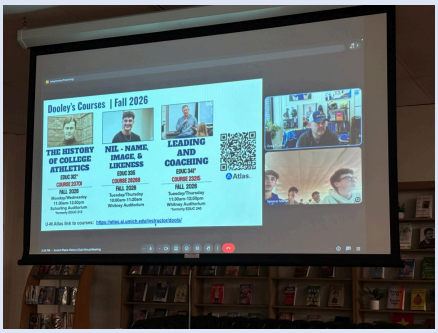




History Club Hosts NIL Expert

On April 22, the SPFHS History Club hosted a virtual talk with Professor Greg Dooley of the University of Michigan. At Michigan, Dooley teaches courses in athletics history, sports leadership, and NIL (Name, Image & Likeness). During his talk with the History Club, Professor Dooley focused on NIL, tracing its development through a highly engaging exposition on the history of the NCAA and collegiate athletics. The talk culminated with a conversational, student-driven Q&A session.









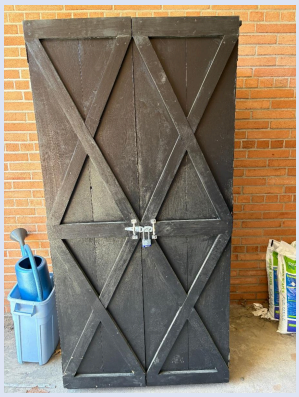
Physics Students Earn Swag and Equipment

SPFHS Team Quarkenbush received their prize of T-shirts and cloud chamber particle detector this month for placing among an elite group of 50 finalists from 508 entries representing 72 countries worldwide in the 2024-25 edition of the Beamline for Schools (BL4S) competition, organized by CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory. This competition challenges high school students to design proposals for experiments that could be conducted at a particle accelerator beamline. The team was founded by current senior

Spencer Martin and is advised by SPFHS physics teacher Mr. Adric Quackenbush. 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. The team participated in the 2025-26 edition of BL4S and are eagerly awaiting news of the results for their proposal.

Woods Students Build Shed for Courtyard

Woodworking teacher Mr. Gavino Maccanico and his students built and painted a shed for Environmental Science teacher Mr. Zachary Rittner and his students, as they maintain various gardens in portions of the courtyard. Thank you to the woods students and Mr. Maccanico for this great addition to the space.





Bring Your Child to Work Day

On April 23, students and staff at SPFHS combined content with instruction as they hosted children of high school staff on Take Your Child to Work Day. Among the activities on this day: Chemistry classes helped students make their own Silly Putty; environmental science students introduced visitors to our ducklings, fish and terrapins; forensics students hosted a mini-mock crime scene; STEM students hosted 3D printing and Computer-Aided Design; physical education students supported ropes courses; and TV students guided students through the process of a TV interview — just to name a few! Thanks to Mr. Michael Abadir for again coordinating this day of sharing and learning.

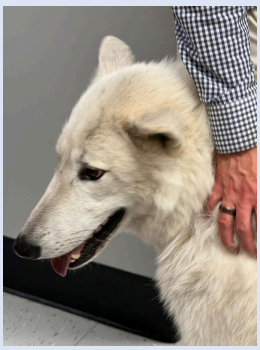






Wolves Descend Upon SPFHS

The Environmental Club had the opportunity to host an exciting live animal event, with Howling Woods Farm, during Bring Your Child To Work Day. This event gave students, staff, and their children to learn about wolves and their importance to ecosystems. Attendees could meet, pet, and take pictures with the wolf-dogs, making it a once-in-a-lifetime hands-on learning opportunity. In addition, the kids were able to meet our rainbow trout, Diamondback terrapins and newly hatched ducklings, elevating their experience and portraying the Environmental Club's dedication to preservation.



Ice Cream for Seniors!

The Senior Student Council supported 12th-graders on April 10 with ice cream and Italian ices during Unit Lunch. Our seniors enjoyed the treat and the time together.









Honor Roll Upperclassmen Enjoy Breakfast

On May 1, the Superintendent & Principal's Advisory Committee hosted an Honor Roll Breakfast for all upperclassmen who had earned honor roll or high honor roll during the third marking period. With many seniors wearing their college commitment gear, many students took photos while enjoying their breakfast together.









Autism Awareness Month Spreads Kindness



As part of Autism Awareness Month, our special education department encouraged us all to be the “I” in “kind” through a display in the Door 12 foyer. Italian teacher Ms. Sandra Kudron took it upon herself to be that I in this photo, as did many others.

May Calendar

May 4-15 AP Testing
May 6 Spring Choral Concert, 7 p.m.
May 13 Spring Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m.
May 15 Student Movement Against Cancer event, 7 p.m.
May 20 Seal of Biliteracy Ceremony, 6:30p.m.
May 21 Senior Movie Night, 7:45 p.m.
May 25 Schools Closed
May 27 Senior Music Awards Night, 7 p.m.
May 28 Senior Scholarship Night, 6 p.m.
June 1 SPFHS Hall of Fame Induction, 7 p

Hall of Fame Induction on June 1

As you can see from the calendar above, the high school’s Alumni Association is hosting its biannual Hall of Fame induction ceremony on June 1 in the Manya Ungar Auditorium. We are thrilled to induct five new members of the high school’s Hall of Fame, who have impacted our community in areas such as business, journalism, community service and advocacy. You are invited to join us for this wonderful ceremony. The nominees:

- Charles (Charlie) Newman (Class of 1975): Paralyzed on the home field during an SPFHS football game in 1973, Charlie became an advocate for the disabled throughout his life, including working to ensure passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act.
- Hayward Gipson Jr. (Class of 1963): Former president and CEO of Playtex Apparel and an executive for Corning, Inc., Mr. Gipson also was the first African-American varsity letter winner at Princeton University.
- Steven & Jason Parker (Class of 2002 and 2005): These brothers are co-founders and co-CEOs of K9 Resorts, and have turned their teenage dream of a luxury pet hotel into a franchise.
- Jim Lambert (Class of 1984): One of the most decorated track and field journalists working today, Mr. Lambert has won many awards for his 37 years covering track, including the prestigious Jesse Abramson Award.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education | 512 Cedar St | Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!