

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood Community,

As we enter the final weeks of the school year, I'm reminded of the strong connections and alumni stories that unite and represent Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools. This time of year brings opportunities to celebrate both the accomplishments of our seniors and the many alumni who are making a positive impact on their communities and professions.



On June 1, we will be inducting five new members into the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Hall of Fame. Their contributions in the areas of business, journalism, community service and advocacy remind us of the true legacy of SPF.

We are also excited to start a new Alumni Spotlight series in this newsletter and on social media. Our first spotlight features Miles Roper, a proud member of the Class of 2021. Many of you remember Miles as our valedictorian; since that time, he has graduated with an undergraduate degree from the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology and a graduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He works as a Mechanical/Vehicle Engineer at Astra Space, working on launch vehicles in the aerospace industry.

We are incredibly proud of Miles, as well as the countless number of other alumni who have found success and are making a meaningful impact in our world.

SPFHS is interested in building the Alumni Association. Anyone who is interested in giving back, from taking part in school and alumni events to providing financial support for alumni and school initiatives, can fill out this form.

If you are an alum or know of one with a story to tell, please use [this Google Form](#) to share it with us. We will continue to highlight the many accomplishments of our alumni community in future newsletters.

Thank you for helping us celebrate our alumni. We can't wait to welcome the Class of 2026 into that special network and to see where their journeys take them!

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent of Schools

Alumni Spotlight: Miles Roper

SPFHS Class of 2021



From the track and field team at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School to now working on launch vehicles in the aerospace industry, Miles Roper makes an impact everywhere he goes.

Miles Roper, valedictorian of the Class of 2021 of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, is now a Mechanical/Vehicle Engineer at Astra Space, where he works on the upper stage of launch vehicles that help propel rockets and payloads into orbit. His passion for engineering centers on improving transportation and mobility through innovative technology, a focus that has guided his academic and professional path.



At Astra Space, Miles contributes to aerospace systems that support orbital transportation and launch vehicle development. Outside of work, he continues hands-on engineering through combat robotics, building and competing with 3-, 12-, and 30-pound robots.

Inspired by a lifelong interest in transportation and public transit in northern New Jersey, as well as his grandmother's work at Merck & Co. and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, he is driven to create solutions that improve everyday mobility.

"I want to create solutions that enhance the mobility of the common person," he said.

Miles credits Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools with helping him build both academic discipline and confidence to pursue rigorous STEM programs.

"Scotch Plains-Fanwood challenged me to be disciplined academically while also keeping an open mind to explore interests outside the classroom," he said.

He participated in cross country and track and field, including a conference championship season his sophomore year, and values the teamwork and friendships built through athletics and school events. Influential mentors such as Coach Koegel and Mr. Matthew Tiedemann provided academic and athletic guidance that extended beyond the classroom.



Miles earned his undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he built a strong foundation in advanced engineering and problem-solving. He graduated in May with a Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. His academic journey reflects a consistent commitment to pushing into challenging, highly technical environments while continuing to refine his expertise.

Miles encourages SPF students to explore and be intentional in building their futures. He advises students to join activities aligned with their interests and invest deeply when passions emerge.

"Work with intent," he said. "When you find something you're passionate about, don't be afraid to invest more time in it."

He hopes to continue advancing aerospace engineering and developing technologies that make transportation and mobility more accessible and efficient.

Referendum Updates

We are incredibly proud of the progress being made on the construction projects that voters approved last year. Thank you to the community for supporting Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools!

La Grande Elementary School

First and second floor renovations of the La Grande building are underway and on schedule to welcome SPF's pre-kindergarten program for the 2026-27 school year.



La Grande second floor classroom entry.



La Grande second floor classroom flooring installation.

Fire Alarm Systems

New fire alarm systems have been installed at Brunner, Coles, and School One. Preparations are underway at Evergreen and La Grande, with anticipated completion before the start of the 2026-27 school year.



New fire alarm control panel at Coles.



New fire alarm pull station at School One.

Package 1: Electric & HVAC Improvements

Construction began in March and is anticipated to be completed by August 2026 at Brunner, Evergreen and McGinn.



New electrical service piping being added at



A new electrical panel at Brunner.

Package 2: Electric & HVAC Improvements

Construction anticipated to begin in Spring 2027 and be completed by Fall 2027 at Coles, School One, Terrill, and SPFHS.

*The district split the electrical and HVAC projects into two packages, based on the complexity of the required electrical work and lead times for equipment.

The website spfk12.org is regularly updated with referendum progress, bid updates and photos. Please visit the site to stay up to date.

SPF Performing Arts Brings Home Top Honors

Congratulations to the students who were accepted into the 2026-27 All-State Choirs!

Mixed Choir:

Logan Griffiths
Tanisha Magdum
Alexandra Martins
Knevin Pilley
Aaron Pinsky
Anaya Sandhu

Treble Choir:

Isabella Carissimo
Teresa Jackson

Logan and Aaron both received top 5 scores in the state!



Congratulations to the Moonglowers who also placed 2nd Overall at the New Jersey State Band Finals with less than 0.76 between them and the 1st Place band.

They earned the best rhythm section and best saxophones, and Mia Coscarello earned one of four best soloist awards of the evening.

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



Both Nettingham Middle School and SPFHS brought home Foxy Awards in several categories. The Foxy Awards honor excellence and achievement in High

School and Middle School theater programs.

Nettingham - *Into the Woods*

Outstanding Performance by Featured Ensemble Actor in a Musical - Dalton Sikorski as Wolf/Cinderella's Prince

Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design for a Musical - Katherine Decker Lewis

High School - *Metamorphoses*

Outstanding Achievement by a Student Costume Technician
Julia Camargo, Samantha Savarese

Outstanding Achievement by a Dance Ensemble
Morgan Knight

Outstanding Achievement in a Direction of a Play
Morgan Knight

Outstanding Achievement by an Acting Ensemble
Morgan Knight

In addition, the High School Spring Musical production of *Guys and Dolls* earned 6 final Rising Star Nominations. Since they were nominated for Overall Best Production, they will perform on the stage of the Papermill Playhouse for the award ceremony on June 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Outstanding Performance by a Chorus
Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, *Guys and Dolls*

Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction
Brent Geyer and Trey Shore

Outstanding Achievement in Hair and Make-up Design

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group
Hot Box Girls

Outstanding Performance in a Female-Identified Supporting Role
Sophie Spencer as Miss Adelaide

Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical

SPFHS Celebrates Signing Day



Congratulations to the 20 SPFHS student-athletes who have signed Letters of Intent to continue playing at the collegiate level. These students were celebrated at the Spring National Signing Day ceremony, marking an exciting next chapter in their journeys.

[See the full list of student-athletes](#)

SPF AV Club Wins High School Film Challenge



Members of the AV Club won at Jackson High School's One Week High School Film Challenge, where students are tasked with creating and submitting a short film in just five days.

In Cold Hands, directed by Max Mayer, won awards for Best Sound Design and Best Visual Effects, with Max creatively using previously filmed clips outside car windows and a green screen set up in his garage to simulate driving scenes.

Locked In, directed by Patrick Leone, earned third place in the comedy division, showcasing a collaborative effort by students who brought creativity to the production.

In addition to the competition, students participated in workshops featuring NJ 101.5 Lead Meteorologist Dan Zarrow, who discussed breaking news and the February blizzard from

a reporting perspective. They also met with Chris Gillard, who spoke about audio and music in film production.

The event provided students with valuable learning experiences, opportunities to connect with professionals and well-deserved recognition for their hard work!

Student Recognition

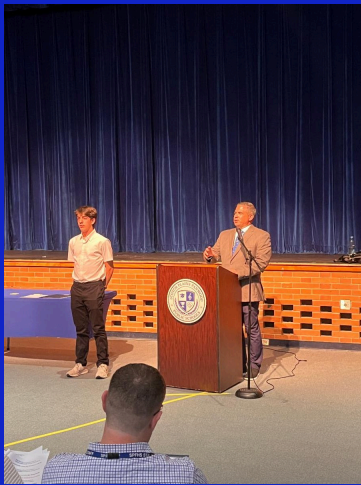
We proudly recognized student achievements across the district at a ceremony in May. Congratulations to all who were recognized!



National Merit Scholars



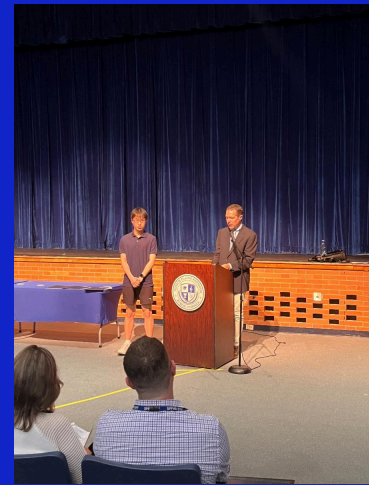
The Culmen



Scholar Athlete



Raider Core Values



Unsung Hero



The Moonglowers



All State Chorus

Celebrating Years of Service and Retirees



20 Years

Diane Ross - English/Language Arts Teacher
Matthew Giannacio - Health & Physical Education Teacher
Ellen Christiano - Math Teacher
John Luccarelli - Health & Physical Education Teacher
Harleigh Monti - 5th Grade Teacher
Marc Sabio - Head Custodian
Ryan Warner - Maintenance A
Stephanie Giannacio - Ed Media Specialist
Susan Bergenfeld - 7 hr Classroom Aide
Patricia DiFrancesco - 2.5 hr L/G Aide
Sweta Gandhi - Science Teacher
Kathleen Hahn - Basic Skills Teacher
Ryan McKenna - Social Studies Teacher
John McManus - School Counselor
Katherine Santos - Math Teacher
Nicholas Tropeano - Math Teacher
Jillian Zarr - English Teacher
Charity Morris - Basic Skills/Gifted & Talented
Mercedes Korn - Special Ed Teacher
Driss Senhaji - Health & Physical Education Teacher
Giuseppina Petracca - Math Teacher
Laura Burns - 1st Grade Teacher
Andrea Tomesko - DOSS

30 Years

Suzanne Aguero - Special Ed Teacher
Durand Thomas - Music (Instrumental) Teacher
Debra Pincus - Elementary-2nd
Ann Spiegel - 7 hr Classroom Aide
Kathleen Dow - Conf Exec Secty
Kenneth James - Custodian (N)

35 Years

Carolyn Diamond - Math Teacher
Laura Friedman - Athletic Trainer
Robert Stevens - English Teacher

Retirees

Roberta Brown-Nizzardo
Patricia Moskal
Laura Smoot
Margaret Dunn
Emilia Treglia
Kathy O'Gara
Jennifer Passuth
Donna Root
Maria Treadwell
Penny Ehringer
Linda Dow
Denise Power
Nicholas Schoendorf
Donna DiFrancesco
Barbara Prestridge

25 Years

Daniel Doherty - Math Teacher
Marcia McCarthy - School Nurse
Jean Swartz - 2nd Grade Teacher
Dawn Yendrick - 1st Grade Teacher
Heather Filipski - Music (Vocal) Teacher
Michelle Londino - Math Teacher
John Gillick - Music (Instrumental) Teacher
Jennifer Jenkins - Music (Vocal) Teacher
Dorothy Keys - 7 hr Classroom Aide
Allison Weigel - English Teacher
Margaret Christopher - Special Ed Teacher
Christine Donnelly - Special Ed Teacher
Charles Jackson - Music (Instrumental) Teacher
George Aziz - Head Custodian
Michael Lo Giudice - Custodian
Jaclyn Duffy - 2nd Grade Teacher

Nancy Vicari
Susan Zazzara
Ana Cagnassola
Cristina Compierchio



June 1, 7-8 p.m. - Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at SPFHS

June 3, 7-9 p.m. - Nettingham 5th-8th Grade Chorus Concert

June 4, 6-7 p.m. - School One Art Show

June 9, 7-8 p.m. - Coles 4th Grade Spring Concert

June 9, 6-8 p.m. - Evergreen School Art Show

June 10, 7-8 p.m. - Terrill Spring Concert

June 11, 6-8 p.m. - Brunner Art Show

June 11, 7-8 p.m. - Evergreen Spring Concert

June 16 - McGinn Helping Hands Picnic

June 17, 8-9:30 p.m. - Board of Education Meeting in SPFHS Media Center

June 19 - Schools Closed (Juneteenth)

June 22, 6-8 p.m. - Terrill 8th Grade Evening of Recognition Ceremony at SPFHS at Perry Tyson Field

June 23, 6-7 p.m. - Nettingham 8th Grade Evening of Recognition Ceremony at SPFHS at Perry Tyson Field

June 23 - Single Session Day for All Schools

June 24 - Single Session Day for All Schools (Last Day of School)

June 24, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. - High School Graduation

[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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