# Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

# A Message from the Principal

## Dear SPF Community,

We are almost to the finish line! We have lots to share about our past month of school activities, and wish everyone a smooth end to the school year.

Sincerely,

Warren Hynes

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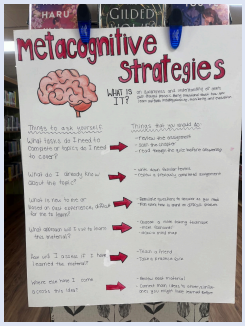
***Student Leaders Support Freshmen in Finals Prep***

On May 27, junior and senior SPFHS student leaders supported our freshmen with tips on preparing for their first set of final exams. This workshop, titled “Finals Unlocked,” was held in the library media center during unit lunch. Our upperclassmen offered tips for managing stress, studying efficiently, and excelling in finals. The event was a collaborative effort among the Student Council, Mental Health Awareness Club and Raider Peer Tutoring. One key component of the workshop was the Pomodoro Technique, a time-management method that breaks down studying into short, focused work sessions with brief breaks in between. All students are welcome to follow up on this workshop by attending Raider Peer Tutoring sessions, which are held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during unit lunch.










***Students Attain Seal of Biliteracy***

On May 20, a total of 57 students received the Seal of Biliteracy, an award given by schools to students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages. The event saw our students honored for their skills in Spanish, French, Italian, Mandarin and other world languages, in addition to their proficiency in English. Several students spoke about the importance of world languages in their lives, and three students also performed a traditional Chinese fan dance during the event.







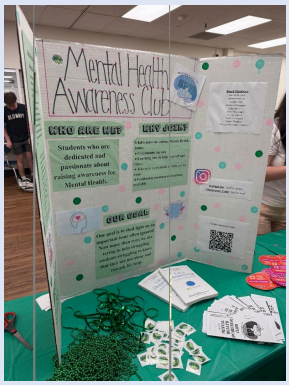




***Mental Health Awareness Club Hosts Fair***

On May 19, the Mental Health Awareness Club hosted a mental health fair, in which students were able to spend their lunchtime visiting tables in the library media center filled with various mental health-focused programs and organizations. These included the YMCA, Brave Minds, Imagine, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Union County. In addition, two therapy dogs were present thanks to Ms. Broadbent and Ms. Freudenfels. This was the second annual mental health fair that the MHAC

held for students during the school day. In the past, the club held this event for parents and community members in the evening.








***Math Honor Society Welcomes First Inductees***

On June 2, the high school's brand-new chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, the Math Honor Society, held its first induction ceremony in the Manya Ungar Auditorium. A total of 55 inductees joined Mu Alpha Theta in a ceremony supported by Dr. Joan Mast, our district superintendent and grade 9-12 math supervisor, as well as Ms. Melissa McGahan, SPFHS math teacher and Math Honor Society advisor. Salutatorian and inductee Gabby Suriani gave a powerful speech about the impact that math has had in her life, education and current advocacy work.







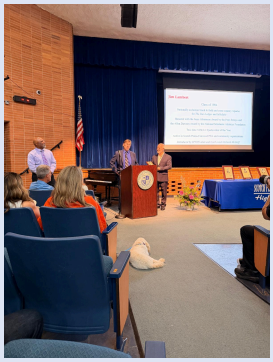




***SPFHS 2026 Hall of Famers Inducted***

The high school's Alumni Association welcomed five new inductees into the SPFHS Hall of Fame on June 1 in the Manya Ungar Auditorium. Hayward Gipson Jr., Charlie Newman, Jim Lambert, Steven Parker and Jason Parker were inducted in a ceremony hosted by SPFHS Hall of Famer Mike Marino. The inductees' plaques have joined our Hall of Fame hallway, and Alumni Association president James Checchio invited all

alumni to join the Alumni Association. Look out for the association's new website and Facebook page.







***Students Kick Off Pride Month with Chalk the Walk***

Not in Our School and SAGA co-hosted the high school's second annual "Chalk the Walk" on June 2 outside the high school. Dozens of students and staff gathered with chalk to share messages of support, hope and love on the sidewalk outside Door 1. With ice pops in hand and music filling the air, students shared in this community event. Not in Our School also hosted a discussion on June 1 during unit lunch to reflect on the history of the LGBTQ+ experience, moderated by NIOS member Arianna Hamilton.



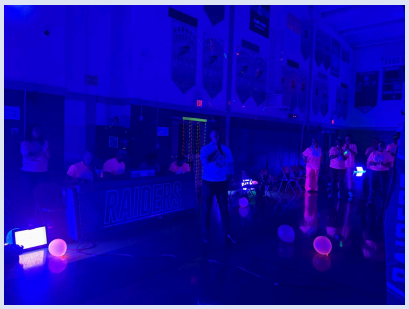






### *SMAC Glows in the Dark*

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC), which originated in 2001 at our high school. Now with 18 chapters in New Jersey and beyond, SMAC started its anniversary year with a fund-raising celebration at SPFHS, where the organization began. A student-faculty volleyball game is common for schools, but this event took it a step further, as SMAC held a glow-in-the-dark volleyball game on May 15. Students and families from throughout the district attended this evening event. Mr. Dave Baumwoll, SPFHS alum and SMAC chairman, attended and thanked all who attended and participated. Mr. Marc Fabiano, SPFHS teacher, coach and SMAC advisor, hosted the event.








### *Valedictorian & Salutatorian Honored*

The Union County Superintendents' Roundtable held its annual recognition breakfast for outstanding scholars on May 18. At this event, our valedictorian, Isabella Mirenda, and salutatorian, Gabriella Suriani, were honored along with their parents. We look forward to hearing more from Isabella and Gabriella when they speak at our commencement ceremony.



### *Music Department Presents Spring Concerts*

On May 6, the various SPFHS choirs joined for a spring choral concert in the Manya Ungar Auditorium. Chamber Choir, Select Choir, Fortis Chorum, Virtuoso Voices and Concert Choir all performed, with songs ranging from Mozart's "Requiem" to Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely." The concert also featured a slideshow celebrating our senior singers.

On May 13, our SPFHS bands gathered in the auditorium for our annual spring instrumental concert. RhythmSense, the Moonglowers, the Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, SPF Jazz Band, Symphonic Band and all our combined concert bands performed everything from our alma mater to jazz standards to Spanish concert music.







***Esports Teams Travel for In-person Competitions***

Members of the SPF esports team closed the year out with two big in-person competitions in May. The Super Smash Bros. Ultimate team traveled to Plainfield High School and competed against some of the best teams in the state in a one-day tournament on May 2. Additionally the Marvel Rivals, Mario Kart, and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate team went to Cranford High School on March 29 for what will hopefully be a yearly tradition of the two schools coming together and getting multiple esports teams together in-person to face off head to head. Although the SPFHS teams did not come out on top in these competitions, all of these teams are filled with freshmen and sophomores playing on the varsity level, so the future is bright for SPF esports.




***Freshmen Taste Authentic French Food***

On May 28, our ninth-grade French students embarked on an unforgettable cultural adventure to Le District, a lively French marketplace in the heart of New York City. Students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in authentic French culture while exploring a variety of traditional foods and specialties. They enjoyed delicious pastries, sandwiches, crêpes, ice cream, macarons, and many other French culinary delights. Beyond the food, the visit provided a meaningful cultural experience,

allowing students to discover the flavors, traditions, and atmosphere of France in an authentic setting. Field trips like this bring language learning to life by connecting classroom lessons with real-world cultural experiences. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and returned with a greater appreciation for French culture and cuisine. The trip was chaperoned by SPFHS French teachers Madame Gilbert and Madame Ozdemir, and by Terrill Middle School French teacher Madame Emanuel.








***Muse Hosts Final Open Mic Night of School Year***

The Muse literary magazine held its final open mic night of the school year on May 29 in the SPFHS cafeteria. Students gathered to share poetry, music, stand-up comedy and personal reflections. Muse editors Hannah Fox and Emma Telpis spoke about the impact that Muse has had on their development as students and individuals, with special thanks given to Muse advisor Mr. Brian McKenna. Afterward, all attendees gathered for an end-of-year photo.



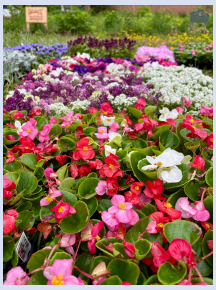


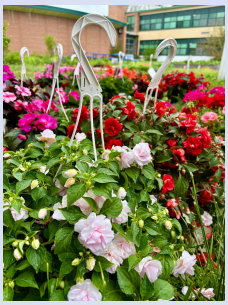

***Environmental Club Holds Plant Sale, Earns National Honors***

This spring, the Environmental Club proudly hosted its first Mother's Day Plant Sale Fundraiser. Partnering with Dreyer Farms in Cranford, the club organized a plant sale to provide students, staff, and families with a wide variety of flowers, herbs, hanging baskets, and vegetable plants. Board members worked together to advertise the event and coordinate the pickup for customers. The fundraiser was a big success with all proceeds supporting future activities of the Environmental Club and its upcoming trip to Shenandoah National Park this fall.

In addition, this year's Environmental Club applied for certification from Eco-Schools, which is a program run by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) that offers a certification program for environmental learning and climate action. Schools complete various actions to earn points that can be used to achieve different rankings. Our club

went for the highest possible level of certification: Green-Flag Status, and earned it. Congratulations to the club for such hard work and accomplishment!





***SPFHS Theater Nabs Awards and Nominations***

On May 20 and 21, the annual Foxy Awards were held at Montclair State University to honor excellence and achievement in high school and middle school theater. The SPFHS cast and crew of our fall play *Metamorphoses* were nominated for several awards in their categories, and received the following awards:

- Outstanding Achievement by a Student Costume Technician: Julia Camargo, Samantha Savarese;
- Outstanding Achievement by a Dance Ensemble;
- Outstanding Achievement in Direction of a Play (Mr. Morgan Knight)
- Outstanding Achievement by an Acting Ensemble.

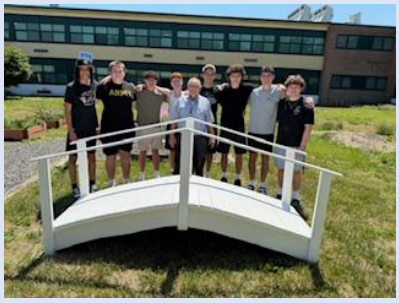
In addition, the cast and crew of our spring musical, *Guys and Dolls*, received six nominations for the annual Rising Star awards, which will be held at the Paper Mill Playhouse on June 9. In addition, the cast has been invited to perform on the playhouse stage for the awards ceremony. The nominations are:

- Outstanding Performance by a Chorus;
- Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction (Mr. Brent Geyer and Mr. Trey Shore);
- Outstanding Achievement in Hair and Makeup Design;
- Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group;
- Outstanding Performance in a Female-Identified Supporting Role (Sophie Spencer as Miss Adelaide);
- And, last but not least, Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical.

Congratulations to all our theater students, staff and parents!

***Woods Class Builds Bridge***

Mr. Gavino Maccanico's woodworking students crafted a garden bridge for our school's courtyard. The bridge will complement the many plants that our environmental students have planted in the courtyard along with their teacher, Mr. Zachary Rittner. The woods students gathered for a quick photo in the courtyard as they dropped off the bridge.



***Business Honor Society Inducts First Members***

Ten students were inducted into the newly formed SPFHS chapter of the National Business Honor Society. In order to be eligible for membership, students had to take six credits of business classes (the equivalent of three full-year classes) and maintain a 3.5 GPA or better in those classes. In addition, the students must also have maintained a 3.0 or higher for their overall GPA. The National Business Honor Society is a division of the National Business Education Association. The organization recognizes student academic achievement as well as leadership and service. The following students were inducted into the organization: Gregory Baerson, Sydney Bethune, Max Entin, Sydney Klein, James Lester, Edward Orellano, Vance Slack, Leah Soifer, Jeremy Solis, and Michael Tafur.

In addition, 26 business students have qualified to earn certification from the American Marketing Association. The Associate in Marketing Management Certification allows students who earn 70 percent or higher on the DECA state or national level exam to receive this certification. The following students are eligible: Millie Saltzman, Jordanna Silverstein, Sloan Gulas, Vandit Bhatia, Jane Fisher, Ananya Chaudhari, Mahnoor Chaudhary, Ben Lipsky, Hayley Sackett, Cassidy Fitzgerald, Ava Handler, Emmalyn Hunsinger, Sofia Bucciol, Maxwell Kumparatana, Neela Darmarajah, Anabella Nizner, Leah Soifer, Maddie Huber, Izzy Hofmann, Dillon Gannon, Sami Marku, Kaylin Gonzales, Braden Slifer, Maddie DeBernardis, Sanvi Khurana, and Anshul Rajadhyax.
Congratulations to all our business students!



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***Judge Quraishi Visits Social Studies Students***

On May 22, students enrolled in the AP U.S. Government and Politics and the You and the Law electives had the privilege of connecting with Judge Zahid Quraishi, a 1993 SPFHS alum and member of the SPFHS Hall of Fame, who currently presides as a federal court judge in Trenton. Judge Quraishi first told the students a little about himself and his journey from SPFHS to his current position, then opened up a 90-minute Q&A session from the students. Drawing on his diverse background as a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG)

in the military, and now a federal judge, students were able to learn all about different concepts and practices of American and New Jersey law. Our students peppered him with sharp, thoughtful questions as many hope to one day enter the legal world. Plans are currently being discussed for a possible field trip next year to visit Judge Quraishi's courtroom in Trenton. A huge thank you to Judge Quraishi for giving back to his alma mater and inspiring the next generation of legal minds!

***Talking Cup Café Fills Staff Orders***

Ms. Elizabeth Dzuro, SPFHS speech teacher, has collaborated with her students this year to start a café called The Talking Cup, where students make and deliver coffee, espresso and tea to staff members. The students work on answering the phone and jotting down orders. Thank you to the Talking Cup team for adding to our school community!



***Seniors Savor Movie Night***

On May 26, SPFHS seniors gathered at Shady Rest Country Club for the annual Senior Movie Night. Our senior class advisors, Ms. Amanda Moser and Ms. Katie Phelps, coordinated this event along with the Scotch Plains Department of Parks and Recreation. Students brought blankets and sat on the green to watch *Pitch Perfect* while also enjoying pizza.









***PTA Honors Staff with Luncheon***

On June 3, the SPFHS Parent-Teacher Association honored the incredible work of our staff with the annual PTA staff luncheon, held in the library media center. Our educators were treated to a feast of delicious food and were able to spend time with one another and with our parent leaders. Many thanks to the PTA!







**June Calendar**

June 5  Junior Prom, 7 p.m.
June 8  Senior Athlete Dinner, 6 p.m.
June 12  Senior SPPD Presentation, Clap Out, Picnic, 8-11:45 a.m.
June 16, 17, 18, 22. Final Exams
June 16-22 Senior Project Presentations
June 18  Senior Prom, 6:30 p.m.
June 19  Schools Closed
June 23  Commencement Rehearsal, 9 a.m.
June 23  Senior Project Gallery Walk, 12 p.m.
June 23  Senior Sunset, 7:45 p.m.
June 23 and 24 Single-Session Days (June 24 last day of school)
June 24  SPFHS Commencement, 9:30 a.m.

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

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