

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools



A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood Community,

There is always something special about the start of a new school year. It's a time filled with excitement and the reminder of what makes Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools so special: our students, educators, staff, and families.



This year, that excitement was especially meaningful as we welcomed La Grande Elementary School into our school district community.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for our new school, I looked around and saw the many people who helped make this moment possible. I saw community members who collectively approved the referendum and made it possible to purchase the building. I saw the hard work of those who planned and renovated the building. I saw the dedicated staff who are welcoming and nurturing our youngest learners.

Most of all, I saw what can happen when a community comes together around a shared vision for its children. La Grande represents an exciting new chapter for our district. It reflects the vision, commitment, and partnership that makes our community so strong.

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, we will continue to share updates about the progress made across our schools through the referendum and the many stories and accomplishments that make our schools special.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent of Schools

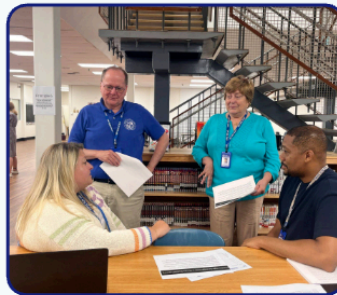


Are you or someone you know an SPFHS alumnus who is making an impact in the field or community? We'd love to feature you or them in an upcoming Alumni Spotlight. Alumni can submit their information through [this form](#).

From Summer Prep to the First Day of School

Administrative Council Summer Retreat

Administrators gathered this summer for the Administrative Council Summer Retreat to focus on planning for the 2026-2027 school year and beyond.



Creative Summer Workshop



Students also benefited from the Creative Summer Workshop program with a variety of enrichment opportunities.

Welcome to SPF!

SPF welcomed 61 new staff members this school year, including 1 new principal, 25 teachers/certified staff, 33 support staff, and 2 coaches. Welcome to SPF!

Administrators: 1 Principal
Teachers/Certified Staff: 25
Support Staff: 33
Coaches: 2
Total: 61



Thank you to the Buildings and Grounds staff!



Thank you to the Building and Grounds staff for making sure our facilities were ready for the first day of school!



2026-27 Convocation

The 2026-27 school year kicked off with a special convocation featuring presentations and performances from members of the SPF community.



Welcome, La Grande Elementary School!





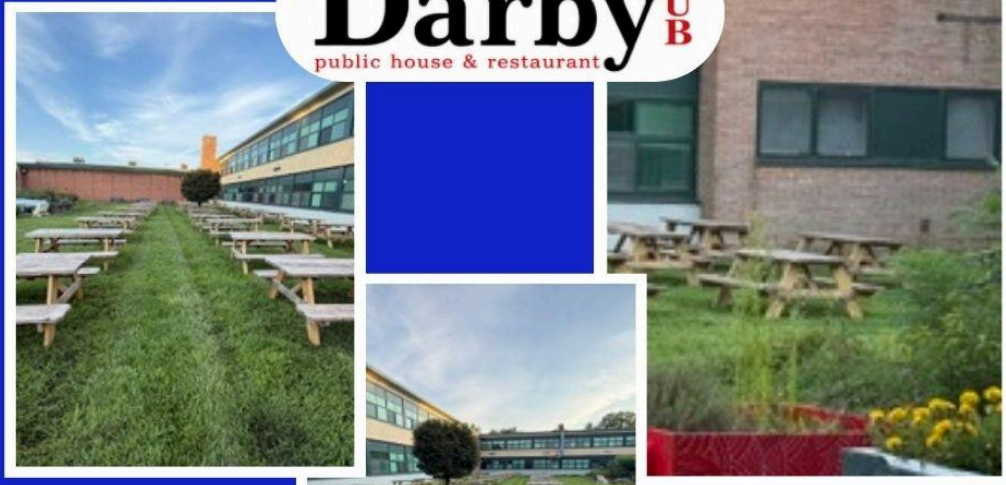
We celebrated the completion of renovations at La Grande Elementary School with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the newly transformed early childhood education center.

The event marked the official opening of the renovated school at 330 South Avenue and was a precursor to the school welcoming approximately 180 pre-kindergarten students for the 2026-2027 school year.

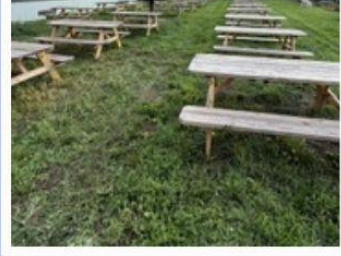
La Grande brings all the district's pre-kindergarten classes together under one roof, creating a dedicated early childhood education center and freeing up additional classroom space at the district's elementary schools. Voters approved the purchase of the building last year.

[Read More](#)

SPFHS Courtyard gets an upgrade, thanks to Darby Road



THANK
YOU



When Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students returned this year, they found a refreshed courtyard with new outdoor seating thanks to a generous donation from local restaurant owners and SPFHS alumni Joe Mortarulo and John "Skip" Brandli.

Following a series of World Cup watch parties hosted at Darby Road, their popular restaurant in Scotch Plains, Mortarulo and Brandli donated 40 picnic tables to the high school. The addition transforms the central courtyard into a flex space, giving SPFHS the capacity to seat roughly 240 students at a time.

"We are deeply grateful to Mr. Mortarulo, Mr. Brandli, and everyone at Darby Road for this incredibly generous contribution to our school community," said Principal Dr. Warren Hynes. "Our courtyard is a unique place, and these new tables give our students a wonderful outdoor space to eat lunch, socialize, and get fresh air during the day."

[Read More](#)

SPFHS Environmental Club Earns Green Flag Recognition



Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Environmental Club has earned Green Flag Status through the Eco-Schools program, an international environmental education and certification program that engages students in environmental action and helps develop the next generation of environmental stewards.

SPFHS Environmental Club received its official Green Flag on Sept. 9 during a presentation from Dr. Roberta Hunter of NJ Audubon. The recognition follows a year of hands-on environmental projects and initiatives led by members of the Environmental Club Board.

Eco-Schools is an international program supported by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and implemented in partnership with environmental organizations including the National Wildlife Federation and NJ Audubon. Participating schools complete a variety of environmental actions to earn points and achieve different levels of certification, including Bronze, Silver and Gold; SPFHS Environmental Club worked toward the highest level of recognition: Green Flag Status.

[Read More](#)

Ten Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Students Recognized in National Merit Scholarship Program



Left to Right: Ava Baumbach, Molli Giles, Madelyn Valera, Leah Genato, Jane Fisher, Alexandra Chung, Braden Steer, Matthew Iannotta, Hriday Sadhvani, Lucas Read, SPFHS Principal Dr. Warren Hynes.

Ten Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students have been named Commended Students in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The students are:

- Ava Baumbach
- Alexandra Chung
- Jane Fisher
- Leah Genato
- Molli Giles
- Matthew Iannotta
- Lucas Read
- Hriday Sadhvani
- Braden Steer
- Madelyn Valera

"Congratulations to these 10 students who have demonstrated outstanding academic success," Superintendent Dr. Joan Mast said. "The entire Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools community is incredibly proud of their success and looks forward to cheering them on in their future pursuits."

Students entered the National Merit Scholarship Program, a nationwide competition recognizing and awarding high-achieving students, by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) last year. The National Merit Scholarship Program identified the 50,000 highest scoring students nationwide and notified their high schools.

Although these students will not continue in the 2027 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, they are recognized for placing among the nation's top scorers.

Congratulations to our SPFHS Commended Students!



SPIFFY SAYS

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

Featured Events!

Oct. 1 - SPFHS Single Session Day at High School

Oct. 2, 7:30-8:30 p.m. - Evergreen Welcome Back Movie

Oct. 2, 2:45-4:30 p.m. - Nettingham Color Run

Oct 5-9 - La Grande Fire Prevention Week

Oct. 10 - SPFHS Homecoming Dance

Oct. 12 - Schools are Closed (Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day)/Staff Professional Development Day

Oct. 13, 6-7:30 p.m. - Brunner Multicultural Night

Oct. 15, 7:30-9 p.m. - Board of Education Meeting at SPFHS Media Center

Oct. 16, 3:20-4:30 p.m. - Coles Color Run

Oct. 16, 3:10-5 p.m. - McGinn Color Run

Oct. 16, 3:15-4:15 p.m. - School One Color Run

Oct. 22, 2:45-4 p.m. - Terrill 5th & 6th Grade Halloween Social

Oct. 26, 7 p.m. - Ask the Superintendent at La Grande

Oct. 27, 6-8 p.m. - Financial Aid Night at SPFHS Multi-Purpose Room

SPF 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.



www.spfk12.org | (908) 232 - 6161
512 Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, Nj 07076



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!