



# Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

March  
2025

## A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood  
Community,

Each spring brings an opportunity for the Board of Education and district leadership to work together to approve a budget that maximizes the community's investment in education and enhances programs and support services for Scotch Plains–Fanwood students. It is one of our most important responsibilities.

In March, the district's Business Administrator Christopher Jones presented the tentative 2025–2026 budget, which aligns with the district's goals to:

- Allocate resources to bring the district's [2022–2025 Strategic Plan](#) to a close while engaging the community in the development of a Strategic Plan for 2026 and beyond.
- Respond to a challenging economic climate without impacting instructional programs or services
- Ensure that our schools are secure, well-run and well-maintained

Please see [this presentation](#) if you would like to learn more about the 2025–2026 budget. Thank you for your continued interest in understanding how the budget supports and enhances education for all SPF students.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Joan Mast**  
*Superintendent of Schools*



## Valedictorian and Salutatorian announced



SPFHS has announced the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2025. Congratulations to Sophie Gingold and Thomas "Mac" Bastable, respectively!

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## SPFHS Unsung Hero recipient known for 'relentless optimism'

Senior Tyiane (TJ) Rasberry was recently honored by the Union County School Boards Association with the Unsung Heroes Award.

This prestigious award recognizes a senior from each high school in Union County who is making outstanding contributions to their schools and community. Rasberry was recognized at a ceremony on Wednesday, March 12 at Kean University.



Transferring into SPFHS during his sophomore year, Rasberry

immediately fit right into the culture.

“From the moment he joined our high school, he became a positive force,” said SPFHS Principal Dr. Warren Hynes. “Thanks to his infectious laugh and relentless optimism, everyone knew TJ in no time.”

SPFHS quickly became his home. Staff stopped TJ’s counselor in the hallway to share stories of his kindness and good nature, a custodian praised him for being one of the few students who voluntarily helped clean after lunch, and several teachers noticed that he sought out the lone students in a classroom. He gave high-fives and hugs as if it were his job.

Rasberry has persevered in both school and life, never letting hardships stop him, Hynes said.

“In school, he has achieved academic success through diligence and strong self-advocacy,” Hynes said. “He has thrived outside the classroom, as a starting running back on our football team and as an active member of our Black Student Union. His passion for business has been apparent in his principles of marketing class.”

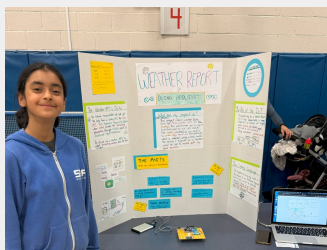
Rasberry’s hard work has paid off, and he’ll attend college in the fall.

## STEM Expo sparks creativity in middle school students

From using healthy ingredients to create natural makeup to powering a light using lemons, SPF middle school students showed off their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) skills at the STEM Expo.

Over 50 students from Terrill Middle School and Nettingham Middle School participated in the STEM Expo – showcasing 31 unique and inspiring projects. The SPFHS Robotics Team, SPFHS eSports, SPFHS AV Club, and Terrill Robotics also participated.

### Six projects were awarded:



**Best Example of a Coding Project Award:**  
Weather Report by



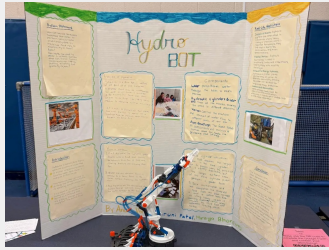
**Best Example of an Engineering Project Award:** Hydraulic



**Highest Impact on Society Award:** Behind the Scenes of Screen



Ahana Raghuvanski  
(6th grade NMS)



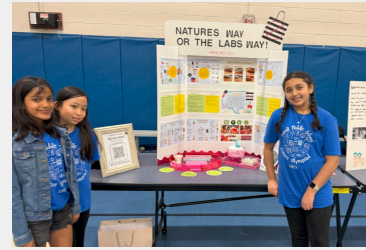
**Most Research Based Project Award:**  
Hydrobot by Ananya Verma, Miraya Bhadwaj, & Aaruni Patel (all 5th grade TMS)

Robotic Arm by Rento Motono (5th grade TMS) & Vihan Sukheja (5th Grade TMS)



**Highest Impact on the Environment Award:**  
Wind Power Express by Timothy Kosude & Ben Santos (both 5th grade NMS)

Time by Anika Rauniyar & Violet Ricks (both 7th grade NMS)



**Most Creative & Innovative Award:**  
Nature's Way or the Lab's Way by Haruki Motono, Zia Shah, & Meera Pillai (all 5th grade TMS)

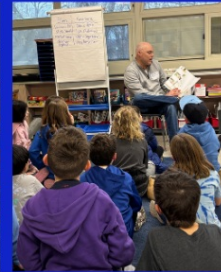
Thank you to David Knoblock, TMS 8th grade science teacher, and Melissa Marano, NMS 7th grade science teacher, who were responsible for organizing and running this event! The following teachers were also present at the night event: Suprit Dharmi, Dr. Melissa Kearns, Jessica Tavares, and retired Terrill Science Teacher Donna Gomez. Dr. Sasha Slocum (McGinn Principal) along with Dr. Brian Kearns (Dr. Melissa Kearns's Husband & Scientist) were guest judges.

## Celebrity readers inspire students during Read Across America Week

Scotch Plains–Fanwood Public Schools celebrated Read Across America Week from March 3–7 with a variety of theme days, guest readers and other activities to celebrate and encourage a love of books.

Each elementary school planned a variety of activities, ranging from days for students to dress like a detective or superhero to guest readers, including Board of Education members Dr. Karen Kulikowski and Deb Brody, Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo, Superintendent Dr. Joan Mast and other district administrators.

“Read Across America Week is a time each year to come together to inspire a love of reading in our students,” said Dr. Mast. “These celebrations were a wonderful way to reinforce the importance of literacy. Thank you to the guest readers, teachers, and staff who made this a very special week for SPF students.”



# Featured Events

**March 31** – Schools are Closed for Eid Al-Fitr

**April 4, 6:30–8 p.m.** – School One PTA 1st Grade Movie Night

**April 9, 6 p.m.** – National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at HS Media Center

**April 9, 6:30–8 p.m.** – Coles Multicultural Night

**April 9, 7–9 p.m.** – Terrill & Nettingham 8th Grade Music Showcase (Instrumental & Choir) in Terrill Auditorium

**April 14–18** – Schools Closed for Spring Recess

**April 23, 10 a.m.** – HS Athletic Commitment Celebration Day in HS New Gym and HS Media Center

**April 23, 5–8 p.m.** – SPF District Festival of Music (Choir, Band, & Jazz) at SPFHS

**April 24** – Take Your Child to Work Day

**April 24, 8 p.m.** – SPF Board of Education Regular Public Meeting in

April 25, 7–9 p.m. – Evergreen Variety Show at HS

April 25 – McGinn Be You Belong Career Day

April 26, 6–8 p.m. – School One PTA Variety Show

April 30, 7–9 p.m. – District Art Show in HS Old Gym

[View the full calendar.](#)

## Preschool registration to begin April 5



The district will begin accepting online preschool applications for the 2025–2026 school year on Saturday, April 5 at 10 a.m. The Preschool Program uses the Creative Curriculum, which fosters children’s learning through exploration and discovery. Preschool classes are comprised of general education students and students with special needs, as determined by a district evaluation.

- Applicants must be residents of Scotch Plains or Fanwood.
- Proof of residency status and an original birth certificate will be required for new students enrolling in the program.
- The child’s age as of October 1, 2025 will determine placement in a 3-year-old or 4-year-old class.
- Typically, 3-year-olds attend the morning session from 8:25–11:20 a.m. and 4-year-olds attend the afternoon session from 12:20–3:10 p.m.
- All classes meet five days per week.

Tuition for the half-day program will be \$430 per month. A 10% sibling discount is available. In addition, free or reduced tuition may be available for families who qualify per federal guidelines or a district review.



Online applications will be available at [www.spfk12.org/preschool](http://www.spfk12.org/preschool) beginning Saturday, April 5 at 10 a.m. For additional information, please contact the Preschool Office at (908) 889-8600 x31402 or [preschool@spfk12.org](mailto:preschool@spfk12.org).

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# WE ARE HIRING

## DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

- Provide leadership and vision for the special education department.
- Foster strong partnerships between families and the schools.
- Supervise special education programs and special services for grades Pre-K - 12.



Job Search:

**APPLY TODAY**

**[applitrack.com/spfk12/onlineapp](http://applitrack.com/spfk12/onlineapp)**

[www.spfk12.org](http://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

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