

# The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street  
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Superintendent of Schools

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October 8, 2020

Dear SPF Community,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family doing well. Hopefully, you had the opportunity to experience one of the Back to School Nights hosted by schools throughout the district. The feedback received by myself and the building principals was overwhelmingly positive from both teachers and parents. Many shared that it was easier to “navigate the hallways” and less stressful than rushing to school after work. Teachers found this format to be a more intimate way to share their classes with you.

Our virtual start of the school year has provided our students with a robust remote experience, and we have learned valuable information about how our procedures and technology have worked in the virtual model. We are now in the process of scheduling the next phase of our reopening plan.

During the Board of Education meeting on September 30th, reports were given by the firms E.I. Associates and Environmental Safety Management Corporation. The findings of these reports provided us with the data necessary to continue to make the remediations which will ensure that our buildings are safe for the return of students and staff as described in Governor Murphy’s Executive Order 175. The reports are available on our [website](#).

These multi-paged reports use detailed building floor plans to show which rooms have been assessed. For security purposes, floor plans and room numbers have been redacted. Below is the Districtwide Ventilation Assessment Summary:

School	No Maintenance Required	Maintenance Needed	Structural Changes needed to provide ventilation
Brunner Elementary	55%	40%	5%
Coles Elementary	15%	75%	10%
Evergreen Elementary	56%	37%	7%
McGinn Elementary	25%	71%	5%

<b>Park Middle</b>	50%	43%	8%
<b>School One</b>	45%	55%	0%
<b>SPFHS</b>	59%	30%	11%
<b>Terrill Middle</b>	35%	51%	14%
<b>District Totals</b>	47%	45%	8%

Based on this information the repairs in our buildings have already begun. The ventilation remediations will be addressed in the priority based on the schedule of students that are returning. E.I. Associates will provide a final summary report which will inform the district short term and long term facilities plan.

We have already begun the return of some students to the classroom. Below is the anticipated planned schedule for opening our buildings utilizing the hybrid model in a phase-in approach for **all** students to our buildings.

- **PreK will begin hybrid instruction on October 22, 2020**
- **K - 1st grade will begin hybrid instruction on October 26, 2020**
- **2nd - 5th grade will begin hybrid instruction on November 9, 2020**
- **6th - 12th grade will begin hybrid instruction on November 16, 2020**

<b>Hybrid Model</b>			
	<b>Arrival Time</b>	<b>Instruction Begins</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>
High School	7:50 AM	8:00 AM	1:10 PM
Middle School	8:00 AM	8:10 AM	12:10 PM
Elementary School	8:25 AM	8:35 AM	12:40 PM
Preschool AM	8:25 AM	8:35 AM	11:05 AM
Preschool PM	12:30 PM	12:40 PM	3:10 PM

Please note: November 3, 2020 is Election Day. The NJDOE has mandated all school buildings that are polling locations to be closed for students and staff, therefore this will be a virtual learning day for all grades.

Currently, our teachers are teaching their classes virtually. As we phase towards the hybrid model, we will be returning to the model originally communicated in the [District Restart Plan](#) on pages 35-39. In the hybrid model, teachers will be teaching two groups of students simultaneously, one group at home and one group in the classroom.

As we work toward the next phase, we ask you to complete the [Return to School Survey](#) by Monday, October 12, 2020. The survey is critical for scheduling our students in groups and coordinating groupings with sibling assignments. Families will still have the choice for their child to continue with the virtual model. If you choose the hybrid model, and you want to return to virtual-only instruction you may do so at any time. Those that choose the virtual model will have the opportunity to switch to hybrid at the following times:

- Elementary: December 11<sup>th</sup> (End of Trimester)
- High School and Middle School: December 16<sup>th</sup> (Marking Per. 2 Progress Reports)

Thank you for your patience and support while we continue to take steps to move forward together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast  
Superintendent of SPF Schools