

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

Dr. Joan Mast, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

908-232-6161
Ext. 4001 or 4002

August 7, 2020

Dear SPF Community,

I hope this communication finds you well as we face the ongoing multifaceted challenges of the global pandemic. In our efforts to keep our community informed, we shared with you last week a draft of the district Restart Plan. Our administrative team along with the schools' Pandemic Response Teams and the District Restart Committee have continued to diligently refine and clarify the vision for education in SPF this September. The expertise and voices of many SPF parents, community members, doctors, engineers, therapists, counselors, teachers, PTA members and administrators have been a part of this arduous mission.

The NJDOE has charged every district to create opening plans for three scenarios including 1) All On-line Learning, 2) Hybrid Learning and 3) traditional Full-day In- School Learning. We were also given parameters that define a Standard of Care that we must implement for each scenario. The proposed SPF opening plans best meet these standards. Many people have communicated their reactions to the plans in a variety of ways, including a petition that appeared on change.org from the *Scotch Plains-Fanwood Parents in Support of In-School 5-day Single Sessions*. I feel empathy for the unique challenges that parents have had to face since March because Covid-19 has greatly disrupted school sessions. The pressure on working parents who need to find solutions to support their child's hybrid and virtual learning just adds additional burdens to what has already been a 'crisis of limits'. Be assured that, as the year goes on, we will continuously monitor and evaluate any current plan and we will pivot and adjust our approach in response to the existing available health data and direction given to us from the NJDOE and the Department of Health. The district will always make decisions prioritizing the safest environment for everyone. Please know that we all want the same goal: to ultimately have our students and our staff back in school full time for in-person learning.

Virtual district discussions on the Restart Plan will take place for the Elementary level at 7PM on Tuesday, August 11, and for the Middle School and High School levels at 7pm on Wednesday, August 12. These meetings will be open to parents/guardians, and will provide an opportunity to discuss any questions you may have regarding the Restart Plan. Details on how to join these virtual meetings will be emailed on Monday.

The next step in this process is for your family to express your enrollment preference by completing the [SPF Public Schools Hybrid or On-line Learning Selection Survey](#), no later than 12pm on Thursday, August 13. Your selections will help in our planning during the upcoming weeks. At this point in time, the full-time 5 day option is not available due to current NJ public health and safety concerns.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Restart and Recovery Plan can be found on the district website www.spfk12.org

The complete *Restart and Recovery Plan* contains detailed information. The outline of school schedules can be found in the complete document on pages 35 - 40. In order to condense the information for our families, we are including [FAQs](#).

I look forward to our open meetings next week as we seek to hear and understand one another and move forward united during these most difficult of times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools