

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

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

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October 22, 2020

Dear SPF Community,

Each one of us in the district is focused on supporting a successful transition from our mostly virtual learning model to the hybrid model previously described. The October 8, 2020 survey, to which 3094 families responded, resulted in 75% choosing hybrid learning and 25% choosing virtual learning. Through this transition, the health and safety of our students and staff will continue to be a central focus. As previously communicated, the district has completed a thorough district-wide ventilation assessment. In response to the recommendations, there have been both [short term remediations and identified areas for long-range facility upgrades](#).

Our maintenance department has been focused on accomplishing the needed short-term repairs to maximize the safety measures intended for the return of our students to their schools. These repairs are ensuring an increase in the amount of outdoor air brought into buildings and are designed to reduce the amount of pathogens in the air and minimize recirculated air. Additionally, opening windows in classrooms whenever possible introduces more fresh air and helps effective circulation. Air purification units have been set up in locations without windows. Because we are now confident that the air circulation is improved, we are ready to phase-back our students to *in-person learning* by implementing the hybrid model which was outlined in our District Restart Plan. The hybrid model reduces the number of students and teachers in the classrooms and shared-spaces, thus allowing for social distancing to the maximum extent possible.

Today we welcomed back our Pre-K students and we will continue with our previously communicated schedule for bringing in all our students:

- 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

As we move forward, we all share a deep commitment to supporting our students and staff in a successful return to *in-person learning*. We will continue to monitor all available data from the NJ Department of Health with guidance from the state to fully open schools in the future. We also recognize that there are possibilities of mandated school closures in the event of positive COVID cases. Any changes in our models will be made in consultation with our nursing staff and the NJ Department of Health.

Here are some ways we need your help in supporting your child's return. First, because we are introducing fresh air into our classrooms, the environment can be cool. Please have your child dress accordingly. Next, emphasize the importance of mask compliance, 6 feet social distancing, and hand washing. Also, reinforce how these behaviors are to be maintained both in and out of school.

You will be receiving specific communications from your building principal regarding the protocols in your child's school. Details of our safety practices and protocols are found on our website in our [District Restart Plan](#).

As a reminder, families that are remaining on the virtual model will have the opportunity to switch to hybrid at the following times:

- Elementary: December 11th (End of Trimester)
- Middle School and High School: December 16th (Marking Period 2 Progress Reports)

Thank you for all the ways that you are navigating the way forward with your child's school. These are challenging times, but we will keep moving forward together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent of SPF Schools