

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

**512 Cedar Street
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Opening Statement Dr. Mast, Superintendent Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education Meeting February 25, 2021

Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us tonight. I would like to recap the main points from last week's meeting:

- All Elementary schools will be back to five half days on March 15, 2021.
- Both Middle Schools and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School are adding alternating Wednesdays in March, starting March 3, 2021.
- Our plans for April through the end of school in June will be communicated on March 30, 2021 for all schools.
- We will continue to use the rate of transmission, the color coding by region and consult with the Department of Health as our guide.
- We plan to open for full time, in person school in September. We will communicate the detailed written plan on April 30, 2021.

For the elementary schools, each principal sent out a communication outlining the new procedures which supports the successful return for five days. Parents meeting sessions have also occurred.

- We will maintain 6 feet of distance whenever possible. When not possible, students will be separated by a desk shield. These will be in place prior to March 15, 2021.
- All other safety measures will remain in effect, including mask wearing, daily health screening, frequent hand washing, and careful entrance and exit procedures.
- To the extent possible, short snack breaks will be taken outside. In the event students eat indoors, they will take turns in the classroom.

We will continue to inform the school community of any positive cases of COVID-19.

- Based on feedback, we have also added language to our COVID emails that clearly states that we have not seen school-based transmissions, which will hopefully balance the transparency and anxiety that comes from seeing the COVID positive information from our school community.

We continue to meet with the Department of Health to discuss the next steps in bringing more students back into our schools.

We continue to meet as an administrative team to plan forward and design plans to bring more students back in grades 5 – 12.

Our BOE, administrators, teachers and entire staff look forward to welcoming students back to more in person days in school. We will continue to move forward and apply what we learn works best in our school system. This will help inform our plans for the remainder of this school year and September.