

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

908-232-6161
Ext. 41102 or 41103

Joan Mast, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

July 14, 2021

Dear SPF Community,

It's encouraging to see children and families return to their favorite activities this summer! Like businesses fully reopening and COVID cases steadily declining, these are welcome signs that our community is regaining a sense of normalcy. Our opening plans for September also reflect this progress. Students will be back for full days with regular lunch periods and recess; lockers will be in use again; and masks will be fully optional for all students.

In the spring Governor Murphy eliminated virtual instruction moving forward. Both the CDC and the state Department of Education recently released updated guidance that emphasizes the importance of safely returning students to schools. The 2021-2022 school opening incorporates these guidelines.

Plan A and Plan B have been developed to support our plan to return to a more traditional school experience. Plan B was developed in the event that community transmission rates require a more cautious approach.

Plan A will be implemented if low transmission rates continue:

- Full day in person instruction
- Moving from a daily to monthly health questionnaire
- Mask-optional policy for all students
- Enhanced cleaning of high-touch surfaces
- In accordance with state regulatory authorities masks will be worn on buses by all drivers, staff and students with assigned seats
- Compliance with ventilation protocol
- A return to traditional lunch and recess periods
- Handwashing protocols and hand-sanitizer stations will remain
- Lockers:
 - High school will use all hall and gym lockers
 - Middle schools will allow hall lockers only
 - Middle school students will not change for gym
- Music programs to resume with COVID accommodations in place as possible

Plan B will be implemented at the direction of the local health department and in accordance with governing regulatory agencies if they believe transmission rates warrant it. Plan B will include:

- Full school day with increased safety protocols
- Masks may be required by all, regardless of vaccination status
- Increased cleaning schedules
- Return of the desk dividers
- Return to student pods for lunch and recess at elementary grades
- Reduced restroom occupancy

For those that are interested in receiving the vaccine, the district will be hosting the Union County Mobile Vaccine Unit the evenings of August 3rd and August 24th.

We will continue to share our plans for the school year as they develop. We are looking forward to starting off September with a full-day, rewarding educational experience for all. Continue to enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast

Superintendent of Schools