



# Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

February  
2022

## A Message From the Superintendent

### Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood Community,

It is my privilege to share that the Board of Education approved the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan at last week's board meeting. I am confident that while our schools are built on a *strong foundation*, this plan will lead us to an even *stronger future*.

We heard from hundreds of students, parents, and community members at three Strategic Planning sessions in the fall. Their feedback was instrumental to developing goals for the district's future.



I encourage you to visit the [district's website here](#) to learn about the goals and objectives for **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Educating the Whole Child, Community Partnerships and Engagement, and Facilities and Infrastructure.**

Thank you to everyone who contributed. You are helping build a stronger future for Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools!

Sincerely,

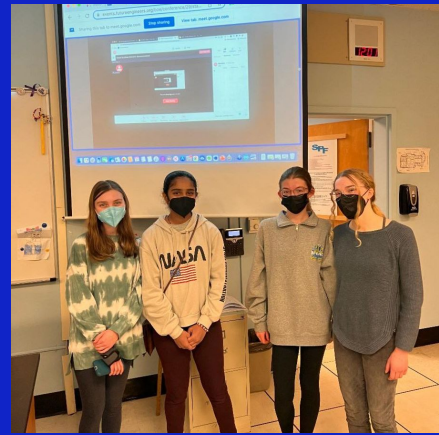
**Dr. Joan Mast**  
**Superintendent**

## Students' Experiments Take Flight in NASA Contest

A team of four students from Scotch Plains Fanwood High School was one of the 57 teams selected nationwide to have their experiment tested on a suborbital rocket as part of the inaugural [NASA TechRise Student Challenge](#). Nearly 600 teams applied, representing 5,000 students in grades 6 through 12 from across the country.

The winning Scotch Plains Fanwood team designed an irrigation system for microgravity that they hope will pave the way for providing fresh produce to astronauts on the International Space Station. Their experiment will be flight tested in early 2023.

Congratulations to Madeline Marcovecchio, Audrey Ricks, Sophia Seith, and Saanvi Suresh and their advisor and biology teacher, Lauren DeNicola!



## Featured Events

Thursday, March 3, 7:30 pm

*Coffee & Conversation* with the Superintendent and Board of Education members

Pre Registration is Required



March 1–5: Read Across America Week, all schools

March 3, 6:30 pm: School One Science Fair

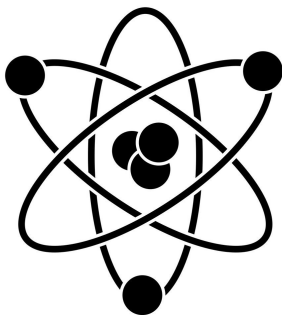
March 5, 10 am: McGinn Super Science

March 11, 6:30 pm: Evergreen Science Fair

March 18 & 19, 7 pm, and March 20, 2 pm: Nettingham Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.

March 25 & 26, 7 pm, and March 27, 2 pm: Terill The Wizard of Oz

March 31, April 1 & 2, 7:30 pm, and April 3, 2 pm: SPF High School Les Miserables



## District Calendar

## Raider Robotics Heads to State Championship

Let's cheer on Raider Robotics as it heads to First Tech Challenge's New Jersey State Championship, *The Garden State Rumble*, on March 6.

The high school's robotics club won at the NE Edge League Tournament in February allowing the team to advance to the state championship. The team also took home first place for the Innovate Award and second place for the Inspire Award.

Go, Raider Robotics!



## Two Students Named National Merit Finalists

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Students Aidtya T. Phatak and Victoria R. Solsky have been named as finalists for the annual National Merit Scholarship® Program.

As finalists, they are in the running to receive a Merit Scholarship® award of \$2,500 or a corporate-sponsored or college-sponsored award of varying amounts. Awards are chosen from the finalist group based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments.

Congratulations, and good luck to Aidtya and Victoria!



## NJ Honor Choir Welcomes 19 SPF Students

We are pleased to share that 19 student vocalists from Coles Elementary School, Nettingham Middle School, and Terrill Middle School were selected for the New Jersey Elementary and Junior High School Honors Choirs.

The young singers, in grades 4-8, will perform in the 29th annual festival on May 7 in Flemington. Internationally recognized music expert, Dr. Susan Brumfield, will conduct the Elementary Choir while Scotch Plains Fanwood Director of the Chorus





Activities & General Music, Jennifer Jenkins, will conduct the Junior High Choir.

Visit [TapInto Scotch Plains/Fanwood](#) for additional coverage and a list of the student vocalists.



## Three-sport Athlete Represents National Girls' and Women in Sports Day

Senior Emily Friscia is the high school's representative for this year's National Girls' and Women in Sports Day (NAGWS). She received the honor along with 140 other student athletes from New Jersey.

Emily is a three sport athlete who participates in high school soccer, basketball, and track. She is captain of the girls' basketball team and the top hurdler for the spring track program. She was nominated by one of her coaches due to her academic and athletic accomplishments, as well as her leadership in the classroom and on the athletic field.



## Meet the Board

### Nancy Bauer - Board Member

Committees: Chair of Personnel Committee, Member of Curriculum, Finance, and Community Relations Committees. She also represents Board of Education as Vice President at the Garden State Coalition of Schools.

Profession: Director of Professional Development and School/Community Partnerships at William Paterson University

Children attended School One, Park Middle School (now Nettingham) and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

What do you enjoy most about being on the Board of Education?

**"I enjoy being able to make a difference in our community. We are very fortunate to live in communities where people are committed to our children and are willing to listen to one another."**



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