

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street
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Joan V. Mast, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Ext. 4001 or 4002

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Dear SPF Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. We understand the disruption the pandemic has created in all of our lives, and the challenge it has presented to our normal way of life. This morning, Governor Murphy announced that New Jersey's schools will remain closed for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year. While we are disappointed that the end of our school year will look different than it has in years past, we recognize the significance of this announcement in keeping our students, families, teachers and staff healthy.

At Home Learning has continued to evolve. Administrators and teachers are working together to make the learning experience as beneficial as possible to all our students. We know that it is impossible to replicate the experience of being in a classroom, at home; however, we strive to provide each student with engaging materials, social interactions, and the opportunity to advance their learning. We also recognize the importance of not overwhelming students and parents during this challenging time. It's imperative that we keep communications open between home and school. Any future updates and new expectations regarding At Home Learning will be communicated to you through your child's principal.

In anticipation of not returning to school this year, administrators, teachers and the PTA have been planning how to adjust the format of some key end-of-year activities for students. Many of these seminal experiences will look very different virtually, but we intend to recreate as many of them as possible, such as Recognition Ceremonies and Graduation. We also realize that many of our students have personal property in the buildings and mutual arrangements will be made to retrieve the items at a later date.

We recognize this health crisis has disrupted the lives of our students and their families in many ways. We are continuously striving to provide resources to students and families to improve and support mental, emotional and physical wellness. A letter from our counselors and mental health experts, outlining mental health resources, will be sent out district wide this week.

We will continue to work together as a SPF community in supporting our students' success and educating resilient citizens of the world.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan V. Mast
Superintendent of Schools