

# The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street  
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

September 30, 2021

Dear SPF Families,

In September of 2020, the Scotch Plains community lost one of its local heroes: Mr. Malcolm E. Nettingham. Mr. Nettingham, a resident of Scotch Plains for almost a century, passed away at 101. He graduated from Scotch Plains High School in 1936 and was a member of World War II's celebrated Tuskegee Airmen. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2007 for his military valor and was chosen to be the grand marshal of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade in 2014. Mr. Nettingham typified everything our community values: humility, service to others, inner strength, dedication to family and community, and so much more.

To honor Mr. Nettingham's memory and to preserve his legacy, we are excited to announce that the Board of Education passed a resolution on September 29th to officially rename Park Middle School "**Malcolm E. Nettingham Middle School!**" Park Middle is a fitting choice since it was once Scotch Plains High School, the school from which Mr. Nettingham graduated in 1936.

The district is thrilled to begin this process. We are planning a number of events to both celebrate and formalize the renaming. First, we are organizing educational experiences for ALL of our students, so they can understand the impact and contribution of the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Students will also learn about the life of Malcolm E. Nettingham, so they can fully appreciate the importance of our renaming.

Second, in order to continue to engage our students in the renaming process, we will officially kick off logo and mascot design contests! Park students will be invited to submit their designs for a new school logo in addition to submitting designs for an official school mascot. Students will be encouraged to draw inspiration from Mr. Nettingham's life and military service as they create their pieces. These new designs will be featured on t-shirts, our website, and more.

Finally, we are planning an official renaming event, which will take place on November 11th, Veteran's Day, this year. We will feature speakers from the community and welcome, as honored guests, our national armed forces for a few special surprises. To wrap up the day, we will announce the winners of the logo and mascot student design challenges.

We hope you will join us in some of these exciting events to celebrate the renaming of Park to Malcolm E. Nettingham Middle School!

Best,

Dr. Joan Mast, Superintendent  
Dr. Jocelyn Dumaresq, Principal