

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

**8TH Grade Parents' Night
General Session**



≈ *Welcome* ≈

Dr. Warren Hynes, Principal

❖ Introduction

Dr. Brooke Kaska-Esposito, *Assistant Principal of Innovative Programs*

❖ Teaching Academy for Social Justice Academy

❖ PADI

Dr. Tim Donahue, *Assistant Principal for College and Career Readiness*

❖ Academics & Counseling Services

Dr. Wayne Mallette, *Supervisor of Music/Fine Arts & Physical Education*

❖ Elective Areas

Dr. Ryan Miller, *Assistant Principal of Athletics and Extracurriculars*

❖ Athletics

≈*Structure of Program*≈

- + This marks the start of the general session.
- + In the General Session, you will receive an overview of the high school programs.
- + **Some** of the **elective areas** will be covered in the current General Session.
- + After the General Session, you will have the opportunity to hear from the Core Content Areas: Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and World Language.
- + The Core Content Areas also offer electives and the supervisors will share this information with you.

STRUCTURE OF PROGRAM

- + Blue Cover -- Move to the MPR
- + Green Cover- Remain in Auditorium
- + Salmon Cover- Move to the Cafeteria

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

START-END TIMES	LOCATION	DEPARTMENT/DISCIPLINE
7:00-7:45	AUDITORIUM	GENERAL INFORMATION COUNSELING SERVICES ATHLETICS FINE and PERFORMING ARTS
CORE CONTENT PRESENTATIONS (1)		
7:50-8:00	MULTI PURPOSE ROOM	WORLD LANGUAGE
8:05-8:15	AUDITORIUM	ENGLISH/SOCIAL STUDIES
8:20-8:30	CAFETERIA	MATH/SCIENCE
QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION BY DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT		
8:30-8:45	AUDITORIUM	ENGLISH - DR. McKENNA SOCIAL STUDIES - Ms. Baxter
	CAFETERIA	MATH - Mr. Aurand SCIENCE - Ms. FARIA
	MPR	WORLD LANGUAGE - Ms. HOWARD
	171	SPECIAL EDUCATION - Ms. TOMESKO
	MUSIC ROOM	HEALTH/PE - Ms. IARUSSI
	CHORAL ROOM	FINE ARTS/MUSIC - Dr. MALLETT

What We Really Want as Parents

“At the core we all really want the same thing for our kids. When we are no longer around to guide them, we want them to live a good life, to have deep, life-sustaining connections, to feel the joy of living a life of meaning, and to leave this world a little better than they found it. We want them to feel valued by those around them and to help others - in their family, in their schools, in their communities - to feel valued as well. What we want for them is to live a life that truly matters.”

- Jennifer Breheny Wallace, *Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic - and What We Can Do About It*

What We Strive to Nurture as a School

Community

Belonging

Dignity

Humanity

Purpose

Curiosity

Rigor

Gratitude

Respect

Mattering

Civility

Empathy

Balance

Lifelong Learning

Critical Thinking

Perspective

Tools We Use to Do This

- Block Scheduling
- Support for Student Focus
- Active Learning
- Student-Centered Learning
- Responses to 21st-Century Educational Challenges
- Support for Varied Means of Growth
- Continued Professional Development
- Various Clubs & Extracurriculars
- Extra Help Before & After School

Team Approach

- Teachers
- Paraprofessionals
- Counselors
- Case Managers
- Principal, Assistant Principals
- Supervisors
- Coaches
- Club Advisors
- All SPFHS Staff

Graduation Requirements and Scheduling



Dr. Timothy Donahue
Assistant Principal for
College and Career Readiness

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Bell Schedule

Full Day

TIME		BLOCK			LENGTH (MIN)
Start	End		A-DAY	B-DAY	
8:08	9:25	1	1A	1B	77
9:30	10:49	2	2A	2B	79
10:54	11:40	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	46
11:45	1:02	3	3A	3B	77
1:07	2:24	4	4A	4B	77

Shared-Time Students

AM Vo-tech Students arrive @ 10:15 AM (Attend Lunch & Blocks 3 & 4).

Course Requirements for Graduation

- + Four credit years of English
- + Three credit years of Mathematics
- + Three credit years of social studies:
 - + US I
 - + US II
 - + Global Perspectives
- + Three credit years of natural or physical science
- + Two credit years of the same world language
- + One credit year of PE for each year of enrollment
- + One credit year in visual/performing art and one credit year in practical arts (21st Century Skills)
- + One half-credit year of Financial Literacy

Testing Graduation Requirements



- + Successful completion of a minimum of 120 credits
- + NJ Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) - 11th grade

Levels of Instruction

All required full-year
courses have varying
levels of instruction

- Honors
- College Prep

Most elective courses will be
college prep level.



Timeline for Course Selection

- + The Program of Studies will be posted online and sent home electronically in January 2025.
- + Selection of electives for the 2025-2026 school year will be made online through PowerSchool and with your Middle School Counselor
- + Middle School Counselors will record and post a presentation for parents and students regarding the online selection process.
- + Course recommendations and will be posted in PowerSchool on May 1, 2025.
- + All Course Recommendations and elective selections are final as of May 15, 2025.
- + Course levels, selections process - Program of Studies, pgs 6-8

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

- + Criteria is available in the Program of Studies.
- + Academic Performance— 3.75 GPA
- + 100 Hours of Community Service
- + Leadership and Character
- + Eligible Juniors and Seniors
- + Eligible Sophomores- Notified in Spring

9th Grade Programs



Dr. Brooke Kaska-Esposito
Assistant Principal of
Innovative Programming

Teaching Academy for Social Justice

Enable students to earn college credit

Provide teacher-training to students interested in the fields of education

Create a pathway for students to return to SPF as educators and educational leaders

Empower students interested in becoming advocates for social justice

Inspire more students of color to enter the teaching profession

Provide opportunities for students to be mentors to younger students.



PADI program

Performance Assessment Design Initiative

Cross-Curricular
English/History experience

Citizenship Focus

Community Experiences

Speaker Panels

Work Ethic/Self Confidence

Collaborative Group Environment



Electives



ELECTIVE COURSES

- + Business Education
- + Financial Literacy
- + Visual/Performing Arts
- + 21st Century Life / Practical Arts
- + Turn together to p. 25 in Program of Studies
- + The majority of the courses are 2.5 credits, meaning they are a semester in length.
- + The supervisors will discuss the various electives found in their disciplines.

BUSINESS EDUCATION

Courses available to 9th Graders

Consumer Finance

Credit & Debt

Responsible Consumerism

Introduction to Business Management

Elements of Management

Virtual Business Simulations

Business Technology

Multimedia Presentations

Information Technology

Spreadsheets

FINANCIAL LITERACY

- + All students are required to meet the Financial Literacy Requirement:
 - + Consumer Finance
 - + Economics (Social Studies Course)
 - + AP Economics (available in grades 10-12)

MUSIC/Performing Arts

- + Concert Choir/Band-9 (2.5 Credits)
- + Concert Band/Choir-9 (2.5 Credits)
- + Chorus 9 (5 Credits)
- + Concert Band 9 (5 Credits)



After-School Performing Arts

Moonglowers

SPF Jazz

Rhythmsense (Percussion)

Marching Band

Winter Guard/Color Guard

Chamber Choir

Select Choir

Virtuoso Voices

Fortis Chorum

Fall Play

Spring Musical (Rep Theater)



Visual Arts

- + Drawing I
- + Global Art Immersion
- + Digital Design
- + 3D Design



Athletics



Dr. Ryan D. Miller
Assistant Principal-Athletics

Fall Sports Offered

- Boys'/Girls' Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Football*
- Gymnastics
- Girls' Volleyball*
- Girls' Tennis
- Boys'/Girls' Soccer*
- Cheerleading



**Freshman Level Offered*

Winter Sports Offered

- Boys'/Girls' Basketball*
- Ice Hockey#
- Bowling
- Wrestling
- Boys'/Girls' Indoor Track
- Boys'/Girls' Swimming
- Cheerleading

**Freshman Level Offered*



Spring Sports Offered

- Baseball*
- Softball
- Boys'/Girls' Track
- Boys' Tennis
- Boys' Lacrosse *
- Girls' Lacrosse*
- Boys' Volleyball*
- Golf

**Freshman Level Offered*



9th-Grade Teams

- + Football, Boys'/Girls' Soccer, Boys'/Girls' Volleyball, Boys'/Girls' Basketball, Baseball, and Boys'/Girls' Lacrosse
- + Freshmen are eligible for Varsity, Junior Varsity, or Freshman teams
 - + Parent/child involved in discussion
 - + Academics and social well-being are considered

Education-Based Athletics

- + High School sports exist to provide students with the opportunity to grow, learn, achieve, and fail in a low-risk environment.
- + Expand the horizons of each student
- + Promote fitness
- + Build better citizens through participation
- + Equip students to handle adversity
- + Develop grace under stress

Education-Based Athletics

3 Goals

- + Student athletes had an enjoyable experience
 - + Learned something about competing/winning/losing
 - + Learned more about the sport they are in
-
- + We win through sports if we develop athletically successful individuals and teams.
 - + We need to participate and play in a variety of sports to create a well-rounded experience.

Please Consider . . .

- + As your child develops in high school – be mindful of the pressures placed on them; academically, athletically, and socially.
- + Understand that they have a relationship with their coach.
- + Students tend to exaggerate praise and criticism.

Winning

- + Players should strive to win -
 - + 60-65% Athletic Ability
 - + 20-25% Coaching
 - + 10-20% lack of injuries, weather, scheduling, luck.
- + Winning is not limited to the result of the contest and should be based on the improvement of the student and team.

Getting Started in 9th Grade Athletics

Fall Sports start early August

Physicals and Registration must be completed and submitted mid - end of July

Submit in person at SPFHS, through Door #1 Drop Box, or Mail

(SPF is not responsible for the US Post Office)

****Make a personal copy of your Physical****

Physical must be on NJ Pre-Participation Form and stamped by the Doctor's Office

Our School Physician must approve all physicals after your doctor

Physicals are good for 365 days

Online registration is mandatory - ar-scotchplains.rschooltoday.com

(Do not print the registration form out, it is electronically submitted)

Optional, open summer workouts start in June and last into August (select sports and levels)

Fall Sports will start in August - plan accordingly - we cannot move or alter tryouts

In Closing

- + When working through athletics – ask your child...
 - + What are your goals?
 - + Do you enjoy the sport?
 - + Are you learning something?

97% of students have high school as their last team sport activity.

How can you help them to make it a lasting positive memory?

CONTENT-AREA SUPERVISORS

- + The Content-Area Supervisors will now present important information related to their academic discipline.
 - + English
 - + Social Studies
 - + Mathematics
 - + Science
 - + World Language