



# Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

March  
2023

## A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood  
Community,

On March 28th I was joined by members of the Board of Education, administrators and community members at the spring *Ask the Superintendent* at Nettingham Middle School, hosted by the SPF PTA. The board and I appreciate the feedback we get from these casual, open conversations with the community.



Questions are submitted and organized by topic prior to the meeting to respond in a timely manner and to keep the dialogue efficient. We had a conversation this week that included discussion about:

- School Calendar for 2023–2024
- Health and Sex Ed. Curriculum
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Transportation
- Traffic & School Safety
- Communication
- Technology
- Clarification around the role of the BOE and its functions
- After school elementary clubs

Over the coming days, we will provide a summary of the topics discussed and share them with the community on the [website](#). Thank you for the continued dialogue!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Joan Mast, Superintendent

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## Middle School Students Earn Top Honors in National Math Competition

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Nettingham sixth grader Csongor Jakab, Nettingham eighth grader Robert Platts, and Terrill eighth grader Bowen Zhang earned top honors in the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 8 national math

competition, hosted by the Mathematical Association of America.

In total, 124 students from Scotch Plains–Fanwood Public Schools competed on Jan. 18. AMC 8 is a 25–question, 40–minute multiple choice mathematics examination for middle school students to test their problem–solving skills. Topics range from counting and probability to coordinate geometry to spatial visualization. The annual competition allows middle school students to develop positive attitudes toward mathematics and prepare for future careers.

Sarah Kaeli, Mathematics Supervisor of grades 6–12, said,

"The competition really complements the district's mathematics curriculum, which supports **critical thinking** at all levels and helps students develop **abstract and quantitative reasoning abilities, effective communication and analytical skills, and perseverance** in solving real–world problems."



**Congratulations Csongor, Robert, and Bowen!**



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## SPFHS Student Honored with Unsung Heroes Award

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SPFHS Senior Veronica Legerme was recently honored by the Union County School Boards Association with the 2023 Unsung Heroes Award.

This award recognizes a senior from each high school in Union County who is making outstanding contributions to their schools



and community. Legerme was recognized at a ceremony on Wednesday, March 8 at Kean University.

At the age of five, Veronica was diagnosed with a heart condition called anomalous left coronary artery. As a child she was in and out of the hospital, meeting with numerous doctors and surgeons. As she got older her condition worsened requiring emergency surgery. Less than a year after her first surgery she faced another emergency surgery due to complications from the first. Her cardiologist told Veronica, “It’s a miracle you made it eleven months, you could have overexerted yourself just one

day, which could have cost you your life.”

The isolation she felt after surviving complicated medical issues at such a young age made Legerme strive to connect with the world and the people around her and brought her to her love of volunteering. For the last four years, Veronica has volunteered at a soup kitchen in Newark, NJ. She prepares meals, care packages and nurtures connections with visitors.

“Despite all of her challenges, Veronica is an Honor Roll student always striving to do her best,” said SPFHS Principal David Heisey. “Veronica has not let her battles define her, but rather empower and motivate her.”

Legerme plans to attend Montclair State University and major in Social Media and Public Relations.

**Congratulations, Veronica!**

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## See How SPF Students are Shining Bright

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From plays and performances to awards and athletics, SPF students are doing amazing things across the entire district. See what they are up to!



Terrill Middle School Players presented Peter Pan Jr.



Nettingham Performing Arts Company presented High School Musical Jr.



Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School Repertory Theatre wowed audiences with performances of *The Drowsy Chaperone*.



Nettingham Middle School and Terrill Middle School band students performed during at the New Jersey Devils ice hockey games.

## Winter Athletes Stand Out for Dedication and Teamwork

The Scotch Plains–Fanwood Board of Education was pleased to recognize several winter athletes and coaches for their outstanding talent, dedication, and teamwork.

The following teams were honored at this month's board meeting:

**Bowling Team** – earned the Central Jersey Group III Sectional Championship (first in school history).

**Swim Team** – advanced to the semi-finals of the NJSIAA Sectional Meets.

**Ice Hockey** – earned the McMullen Divisions Championship.

**Girls' Basketball** – advanced to the final round of the NJSIAA Sectional Championship for the first time in over 15 years.

**Winter Track** – competed in high level meets in which several team members distinguished themselves.



# Featured Events

April 3 – 7 ENJOY SPRING BREAK!

April 12 – SPFHS College Athlete Commitment Celebration

April 13, 7 – 9 pm – Nettingham & Terrill STEM Expo at Terrill

April 14 and 15, 6 pm – McGinn Variety Show at Terrill

April 20, 7 – 9 pm – 8th Grade Music Showcase Nettingham & Terrill Instrumental & Choral

April 21, 7 – 9 pm – Evergreen Variety Show at SPFHS

April 22, 6 – 8 pm – School One Variety Show at SPFHS

April 26, 7 – 9:30 pm – SPFHS District Instrumental Music Festival

April 27, 8 pm – Board of Education Regular Public Meeting

April 28, 5 – 9 pm – SPF/Terrill Jazz Festival at Terrill

Full calendar of events: [Scotch Plains–Fanwood Public Schools / Calendar \(spfk12.org\)](https://www.spfk12.org/calendar)

# SPF PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public School District will begin accepting **preschool applications** for the 2023-24 school year on **March 1, 2023**.

The registration process is different than enrolling a student for kindergarten through grade 12 at SPF due to limited space. **There are three phases:**

1. Application (March 1, 2023)
2. Placement (May 2023)
3. Registration (June 2023)



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