

# Report Card Narratives

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## SCOTCH PLAINS FANWOOD HS (39-4670-050)

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School is a four-year comprehensive high school with an enrollment of 1542 students (2012-2013) reflecting the diversity of the nation at large. In order to qualify for graduation, students must complete one hundred and twenty (120) credits of course work. The school's academic and co-curricular programs are designed to foster the aptitudes and talents of our students. The success of this effort is evident in the overwhelming participation of our students in clubs, athletics, service organizations, and music programs. In the Class of 2012 there were 5 National Merit Commended Students and 1 National Merit Finalist. Ninety-three percent of the Class of 2012 continued their education beyond the secondary level. Continuing education is a priority in our school community where a well-educated staff models the benefits of being life-long learners.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School strives to be a harmonious educational community committed to excellence in developing each member's potential. Within our environment, we consider students to be valued individuals, with unique aptitudes, attitudes, interests, and needs. In order to foster these individual potentials, we have a comprehensive high school providing programs and opportunities for academic, emotional, creative, physical, and social worth and growth. In addition to our strong academic program, we have an extensive array of co-curricular activities. The High School Jazz Band, the Moonglowers, has been named one of the top high school jazz bands in the state for the last several years. Our Repertory Theater is known for its sold-out productions each spring, and in 2012 featured the musical, Anything Goes. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Organization has one of the largest student enrollments of any high school in the state. Our DECA (Distributive Education Club of America) students continue to excel in both the state and national competitions. The high school newspaper, the Fanscotian, and our yearbook, the Culmen, have both been recognized at the state and national levels for their quality publications, and our literary magazine, the MUSE, has also been ranked as one of the best in the state. This past year, the Fanscotian won the award for Best in Overall Excellence from the NJ Garden State Scholastic Press Association. Many of the co-curricular clubs are dedicated to service based initiatives within the SPF community, state, nation, and throughout the world. Each year our Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC) raises over \$100,000 for the American Cancer Society in an effort to find a cure for this terrible disease. The Interact Club raised money for young women in Uganda and the Students Concerned for the Needy continues to stock the shelves of many local food pantries. Our Model UN continues to be recognized as one of the top delegations at the annual competition. These are just a few of the thriving student organizations that we offer at SPFHS.

While we clearly understand our strengths are supported by an outstanding staff, involved community, and superior academic and co-curricular programs, we also recognize the need to

continually improve. We are committed to meeting the needs of all students. We are constantly examining the current research on teaching and learning and applying it to our needs. We feel it is important to embrace and celebrate our tradition of success while also looking to the future of our rapidly changing society.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School offers students a curriculum of substance and courses that require students to complete serious and relevant work. Teachers use instructional strategies that engage students, and the high school supports a climate that values teaching and learning. Taking into account these strategies and values, the New Jersey Monthly magazine's most recent rankings placed Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School as one of the top 75 high schools in the state.

We believe the educational process ultimately depends upon the combined efforts of administration, faculty, students, parents, and the community-at-large. We believe continuous evaluation is needed to assure that our resources are used wisely.

At Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, we are committed to educating and empowering our community of individual learners to be successful citizens of the world.

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