



What's Right with Spackenkill!

**Spackenkill Union Free
School District**

A tradition of excellence with a
vision for tomorrow

Dear Spackenkill Community,

Frankly, I'm a bit overwhelmed with the positive response to our weekly newsletter. I can't possibly make mention of all the events that are chronicled this week and the accomplishments of our students, our staff, and our community partners. I do want to make mention though of Athletic Director Marco Lanzoni's initiative—with the support of our track coach, Stan Garratt, and a number of parents—to recognize our track and field champions over the years. Fortunately, I was able to attend this event and was quite surprised (considering that it was rescheduled) that over 90 percent of those record holders were able to return to the district to be recognized. It's a great boost for Spackenkill's legacy and a nudge toward our current track team to someday better those accomplishments themselves. Qualifying for DI scholarships is such a rare event in high school athletics, so we salute Chris Stamper and our soccer program for opening the door to such a great school as Binghamton University. Vincent Li just keeps piling on the honors. Congrats, Vincent! I hope I get to know Camron Abalos and personally find a way to acknowledge his 1,000-point milestones. Great accomplishment, Camron. Let me also just take note that we're including our college acceptance updates because we thought our families and the public would be interested in viewing a list of all the new acceptances that our guidance department and our students have accumulated. It's quite a list! I apologize for not mentioning all the other accomplishments, but Mary Forsell has done a fantastic job as usual of accompanying our student achievements with some really interesting photos. Thank you for continuing to identify *What's Right with Spackenkill!* It is with great honor that I continue to serve as your Superintendent.

Sincerely,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Track & Field Program Unveils Record Board and Honors Athletes

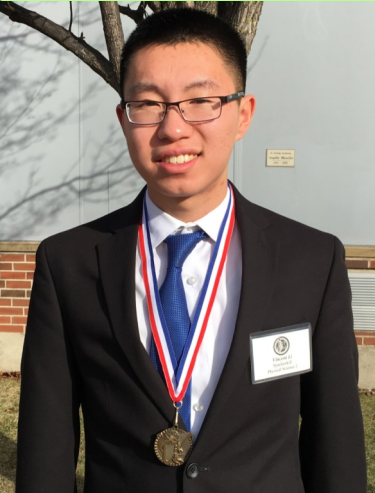
On January 30, The Spackenkill Track & Field program unveiled its new record board in a special ceremony. The Athletics Department invited past track and field record holders to be recognized for their outstanding individual accomplishments and contributions to the program. A reception for track record holders was held before the Varsity Girls Basketball game against Pine Plains. At half-time record holders were called to center court and presented with commemorative relay batons personalized with their school records. The record holders ranged from 1975-2017 graduates. Thank you to Director of Athletics Marco Lanzoni for organizing the event with high school staff Cathy Mahoney and Karen Baker. Thank you to Track Coach Stan Garratt and the following community members for fundraising: Jerry Fiore, Trish Fiore, Ian Fiore, Jeff Celestino, Ken Jelinek, Scott Carlin, Deirdre Cross, Eric Schmauch, John Long, and Allen Delmar.



Above left: School Board President Thomas Keith, Jr. (at left), shown with Athletics Director Marco Lanzoni, was one of the track and field honorees. He is a record holder for Outdoor Boys Track 4 x 1600. Above right: Record holders pose at center court. [Click here for a complete list of record holders as a pdf](#)

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Science Symposium Winner



Vincent Li, above, earned first place in physical science research at the Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Burnt Hills - Ballston Lake High School on Saturday, January 28. He presented on his research project "Ultrafiltration Using Cellulose Nanocrystals," performed at SUNY Stony Brook this past summer. The high school senior will move on to the state competition at SUNY Albany in March.

Senior Signs Letter of Intent



Best wishes to high school senior **Chris Stamper**, who signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at Division I Binghamton University next fall. He received an athletic scholarship. *Pictured with Chris above* are his parents and Boys Soccer Head Coach Manny Blanco.

1,000-Point Scorer Honored for Two Sports



The Athletics Department recently honored **Camron Abalos** (above) for reaching the 1,000-point milestone for basketball and for rushing over 1,000 yards in football this fall.

College Acceptances Update

Here is the latest list of college acceptances from Mrs. Chaoussoglou-Rotter in the High School Guidance Department. We'll update you periodically.

Binghamton University

Binghamton University (School of Management)

Binghamton University (Watson School of Engineering & Applied Science)

Buffalo State College of SUNY

D'Youville College

Georgia Institute of Technology

University of Delaware

Hartwick College

Hofstra University

Johns Hopkins University (School of Engineering)

Keuka College

Marist College

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Michigan (Engineering)

Mount Saint Mary College

Northeastern University (College of Engineering)

Northeastern University (D'Amore-McKim School of Business)

Ohio Northern University

Ohio University

Rider University

Sage College of Albany

Saint Leo University

State University of New York at Albany

SUNY Alfred State College

SUNY College at Brockport

SUNY College at Cortland

SUNY College at Oneonta

SUNY College at Potsdam

SUNY Stony Brook

The University of Texas, Dallas

The Ohio State University

University at Buffalo The State

University of New York

West Virginia University

Widener University

Walkill District Tours Todd Chromebook Program



On February 2, representatives from the Walkill Central School District visited Todd Middle School to witness the Chromebook program in action. After meeting with Principal Dan Doherty, Director of Technology Brett Hasbrouck, and Technology Integrator Marcella Byrne, the group toured classrooms to observe students at work (*above left*) and visited with staff in a Q-and-A session in the library (*above right*). "I am very proud of the work we've done at Todd, and I am happy to let other districts see what we do and know our experiences," said Mr. Doherty.

Todd ELA Teachers Collaborate



Above: The seventh and eighth grade ELA teachers spent Friday, January 27 at the District Office, continuing to map their curriculum with Mr. Bill Richardson and Dr. Lori Mulford.

Hagan Students Race STEM Lab Creations

Maker Space in Todd Library



Fifth grade students at Hagan Elementary made mint mobiles in the STEM Lab as part of their units on wheels and axles in simple machines and also to explore force and motion. The students used Wint-O-Green Life Savers for the wheels, as well as pipe cleaners, straws, craft sticks, coffee stirrers, and beads to make their mobiles. "Supplies are limited, so they can only use a certain number of things," said teacher Anne Riehl, who taught the students how to make the mobiles based on a workshop experience. Classes raced their mobiles and then participated in a Grand Prix in the lunch room. *Pictured above* are the classroom winners. **Kaitlyn Kurdi** (*at center, in purple*) of Mr. Murray's class was the Mint Mobile Grand Prix Winner!

There's always a lot going on in the Todd Middle School Library. Librarian Mrs. Cunningham reports that sixth graders **Aiden Taylor** and **Justus Grimes** (*above*) created a PAC-MAN controller using an index card, paper clips, and Makey Makey (an invention kit that turns everyday objects into touch pads). "Other students were enthralled," said Mrs. Cunningham.



Goodbye, Mrs. Gabel! Nassau staff gave Ann Gabel (*in yellow*) a sendoff on her last day, January 27.

Mission:

Inspired by a tradition of excellence and a spirit of continuous improvement, the Spackenkill School District will provide all of our students with the academic and social skills necessary to pursue their goals and become responsible citizens in an interdependent global community.

Please email newsletter submissions and ideas to Mary Forsell at mary.forsell@sufsdny.org

Issues of the newsletter are available on the Spackenkill website:

www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive

Vision:

All Spackenkill graduates will be lifelong learners who are inspired to pursue their dreams and contribute to the global society.