

Please see flyers below that might be of interest:

[Champion Youth Cheerleading Program](#)

[Cub Scouts Program](#)



**What's Right with  
Spackenkill!**

**September 1, 2017**

**A tradition of  
excellence with  
a vision for  
tomorrow**

Welcome Back Students and Families:

The 2017 – 2018 school year begins on Thursday, September 7 for students, so I wanted to update you on a few items of interest. All staffing positions have been filled and we welcome the following new faculty to the district:

Randy Calderone, English, Spackenkill High School  
Alyssa Ketcham, Art, Spackenkill High School (part-time)  
Diana Babington, Guidance, Todd Middle School (temporary)  
Alexander Houtman, Technology, Todd Middle School  
Emily Albers, ENL, Nassau Elementary School  
Kody Andreas, Music, Nassau and Hagan Elementary Schools  
Robyn Davis, Kindergarten, Nassau Elementary School  
Daniele Wilcox, Grade 2, Nassau Elementary School (returning)

Below are a few updates that I would like to highlight:

### **Capital Project**

The Board has continued to meet to finalize the scope of the project. We update all of the information that has been provided on the following link:

<http://www.spackenkillschools.org/capitalproject>

There will be a public hearing on September 25<sup>th</sup> and a vote on the project is tentatively set for Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the high school from 7 AM to 9 PM.

The scope includes new roofs (all roofs are leaking, have been repaired, and will no longer qualify for warranties) at each school; ADA compliance requirements, especially at the school entrances; mechanical needs such as HVAC / ventilation (current units are original school equipment); and finally upgrades to our high school field and track. This list of needs has been pared down as much as possible. We will mail out a brochure with detailed descriptions after the Board finalizes the scope after September 25th.

School board members, district staff, and myself will be attending all back-to-school nights to answer questions and provide information.

### **Parent Drop-off/High School**

We are having our high school buses drop off students in front of the auditorium for safety reasons. This will extend the available space for cars and hopefully segregate cars from buses. All of our schools were designed during an age when more students used school buses or walked and were less reliant on parent transportation. We ask you to consider using our school buses to reduce the back-up on Spackenkill Road.

### **Science Curriculum Updates in the Elementary Schools**

We have added a new program, Science 21, to the elementary science curriculum to conform to the new science standards and add a greater hands-on component to the science curriculum.

### **Tax Bills**

Tax bills are being mailed shortly (you may have received them). On average, a house valued at \$198,000 will receive a tax increase of approximately \$52. If you have any questions on your bill please call the Town of Poughkeepsie Tax Assessor's Office at 845-485-3600, extension 2740.


### **School Calendar**

The Commissioner of Education announced that half-day parent conferences do not qualify for days of school attendance. This new regulation enforcement will likely require us to shift the full day Superintendent Conference scheduled currently on November 7<sup>th</sup> to later in the month to allow for parent conferences and the availability of report cards. I anticipate announcing a Board-approved calendar change after the September 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting.



As I enter my second year with the Spackenkill Union Free School District, I would like to express my appreciation for your support. I have greatly enjoyed my time at Spackenkill and look forward to the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,



Mark Villanti, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## *Menus for School Lunch*

[Nassau Elementary Lunch](#)

[Hagan Elementary Lunch](#)

[Todd Middle School Lunch](#)

[SHS Lunch](#)

## *School Bus Routes*

Below please find links to the bus routes for the 2017-2018 school year. Information about the routes and stops, including approximate pick-up and drop-off times, is listed. **Please have your child at the assigned bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time and allow up to 10 minutes beyond the scheduled time for the bus to arrive.** During the first few weeks of school, delays may be possible as students adjust to their schedules. We ask for your patience during this time.

Parents concerned about bus schedules during first few days of school for any of our nine large bus routes may call this number for Total Transportation: 845-204-9660

Parents concerned about the schedules of the smaller buses (vans), please call District Office at 845-463-7800. Staff is available after 6:30 am.

[Elementary AM Routes](#)

[Nassau PM Routes](#)



[Hagan PM Routes](#)

[Todd Middle School Routes](#)

[Spackenkill High School Routes](#)

### ***Parents Can Link to Athletics Schedules***

Please visit the following scheduling website to access direct links to our sports schedules and to sign up for change notices that will automatically alert you to date, time, facility changes as well as cancellations.

<http://roia.ouboces.org/spackenkillschedulepage.html>

### ***What They Did on Their Summer Vacation***

Throughout the summer, Spackenkill teachers returned to the classroom. On the weeks of July 10th and 17th, Spackenkill partnered with the Dover School District for professional development in the area of technology integration. Twenty-four teachers from Spackenkill participated in technology think tanks and used new programs to improve the classroom experience.

Some 20 teachers met over the week of July 24<sup>th</sup> for the Writers Workshop and Literacy Summit at Hagan. They learned techniques for inspiring authentic writing.

On August 28th, new teachers (mentioned in Dr. Villanti's welcome letter) attended a day-long orientation. They took a district tour and worked with mentors to plan for opening day and the year ahead.







Clockwise from top left: Spackenkill teachers learn alternative ways to teach writing; collaborating with Dover teachers at the Technology Fellowship; led by Mentor Coordinator Karen Crichton, mentors meet with mentees at New Teacher Orientation; Board president Tom Keith welcomes new teachers to the district along with SRO Chris Hamel and Superintendent Mark Villanti.

***Welcome Back! Classrooms Are Ready for Students!***



15 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603; 845.463.7800

**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.

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

[Please submit story ideas to mary.forsell@sufsdny.org](mailto:mary.forsell@sufsdny.org)

Issues of the newsletter are available on the [Spackenkill website:](#)

[www.spackenkillschools.org/district\\_newsletter\\_archive](http://www.spackenkillschools.org/district_newsletter_archive)