

# A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



## One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

---

November 6, 2020

Dear Spackenkill Community,

We have posted the results of our district-wide October survey on the [COVID-19 website](#). You'll note that people clearly asked for more in-school time. This week, the Elementary Principals sent out a survey to parents/guardians for their thoughts on a split-day schedule. Many parents responded that they'd prefer their children to be in-person more but the split-day schedule is unworkable. In a perfect world, we would have the students in every day for a full day. The Return to School Committee is meeting to review the survey results and discuss possible next steps. Please tune in to the Livestream of the Board meeting on November 10 at 6:30 pm for a discussion of our ongoing plans.

For the past two meetings the Livestream link did not work as a result of YouTube changing its Livestream linking process. Our Tech Department has been working to resolve this issue and we will have it up and running for the November 10 meeting. An updated link will be posted on [spackenkillschools.org](http://spackenkillschools.org). As always, a link to a recording of the meetings will be available on the website soon after the meeting.

After Tuesday's Board meeting, when we will provide information on our plans for returning to school following Thanksgiving break, all parents/guardians will receive an Instructional Commitment Form. This form will summarize the plans and ask families to let us know if students are seeking to change from fully remote to hybrid or vice versa. We appreciate your continued feedback to our questions, as we strive to create a plan that increases in-school attendance for students while providing our teachers and students with a do-able schedule. The goal is to have everyone together as much as we can in a safe environment. We also want to reassure fully remote families that we will continue with this option.

### **Welcome New Staff and Recognize Longevity**

This week, Dr. Fanuele visited the high school and middle school to hand out "welcome pins" to new staff and "letters-to-self" to teachers who began in the 2019-2020 school year.

Every summer during New Teacher Orientation, teachers are encouraged to take a few minutes to write letters to themselves describing their goals and giving themselves advice for navigating their first year at Spackenkill. Traditionally, the Superintendent takes those letters for safe-keeping and returns the sealed envelopes back to the teachers at the end of the school year. Due to the pandemic, that was postponed until this week.



*At the high school on Tuesday, Superintendent's Conference Day, clockwise from top left: New math teacher Taylor DeMarco displays her welcome pin. Science teacher Dylan Herman reads his letter-to-self. Another letter-to-self goes to math teacher Ellie Quinlan. The Superintendent and Principal Malkischer give Javeria Sultaan her letter. In case you didn't notice, Tuesday was "Flannel Day" of Spirit Week.*



*Clockwise from top left: Todd School Psychologist Kate Casucci displays both her 10- and 20-year pins. Tina Jarc, Todd Principal's Secretary, receives her welcome pin from the Superintendent. Dr. Fanuele delivers the letter Todd teacher Jessie Murphy wrote to herself back in August 2019.*

### **Orchestra Makes Spooky Music**



The high school orchestra didn't perform in the lobby for Halloween due to safety restrictions (the photo above is from last year), but they did make a few audio recordings this year in the spirit of the holiday.

[Listen to \*The Curse of the Rosin Eating Zombies\*](#)

[Listen to \*A Rockin' Halloween\*](#)

#### **Graduate Performs on NBC**

High School Music Teacher Holden Maiorana shared some exciting news about Baylee Kramer, class of 2020. A student at Montclair State University in New Jersey, Baylee studies music therapy and is a member of her school choir. "Baylee's choir at school has found some unique ways to continue performing during the pandemic, and because of this, they were asked to come onto the 'Kelly Clarkson Show' on NBC and talk about their experiences." Please enjoy this performance of the Montclair State University Singers singing "Ain't No Grave" at the school's amphitheater.

"Music is the thing that keeps us connected. It's a universal language that helps us process all sorts of emotion," Clarkson told the audience before introducing the University Singers.



Above: Spackenkill graduate Baylee Kramer performs with her choir on NBC. [Click here to watch the performance.](#)

#### **More Photos from around the District**



Donna Franzik's Cohort B physics students played a lively game of inertia ball this week.



Above: High School Spirit Week brought out hippies, sports fans, superheroes, princesses, and more.



The High School staff held an outdoor luncheon today under sunny skies. Valia's Wood Fire food truck provided pizza lunch. *Above left:* Mr. DeSouza and Mr. Malkischer pick up their orders. *Above right:* Dr. Fanuele chats with high school teachers.

Next week, November 11th is Veterans Day and there will be no school. Enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,

Paul M. Fanuele, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



---

**15 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603; 845-463-7800**