

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

November 13, 2020

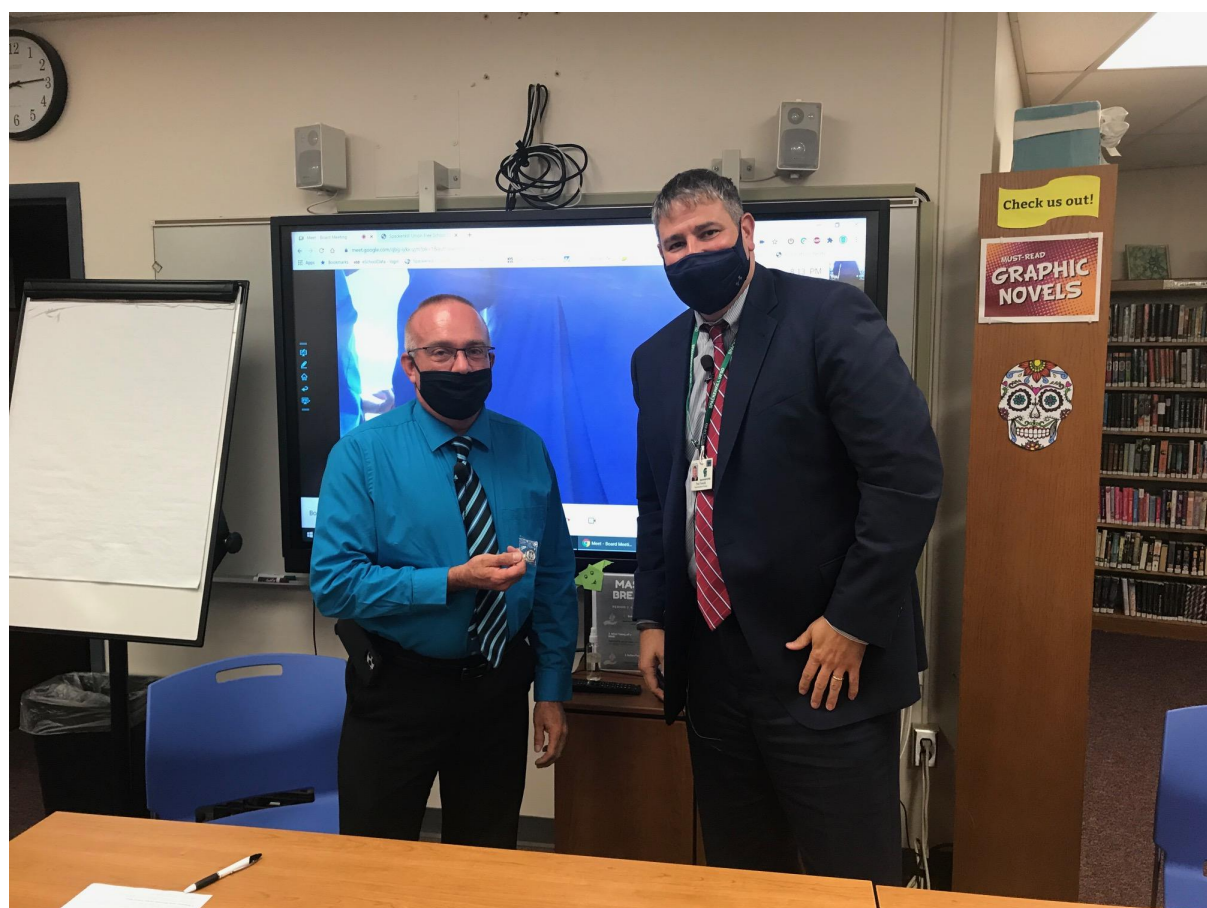
Dear Spackenkill Community,

We hope you tuned in to the Board of Education meeting on November 10, but in case you were unable to join the Livestream, you will find a recording on the [Livestream Link](#) on the home page of the district website and by clicking [here](#). Essentially, the elementary principals presented a plan that adds in-person time by having cohorts attend school on alternating Wednesdays. The principals presented secondary plans that have cohorts in school for an extra day each week. If after viewing the presentations you have any questions about the plans, please email your principals.

Parents/guardians will soon 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.

While we are doing a lot of work attempting to get students more in-person time, trends in COVID upticks might give us no choice but to be fully remote due to surrounding circumstances. We will plan for foreseeable outcomes that might have us in school remotely, but will hope for the best and continue to move forward.

At our previous BOE meeting on October 27, Board President Tom Keith, Jr., was presented with a 10-year pin recognizing his longevity on the Board (he is actually in his 11th year but Spackenkill present pins in 10-year increments). Mr. Keith has been Board President for seven of those years. Congratulations and thank you to Mr. Keith for his dedicated service.



Above: Superintendent Fanuele with Board President Tom Keith, Jr., holding his longevity pin.

Veterans Day at Todd

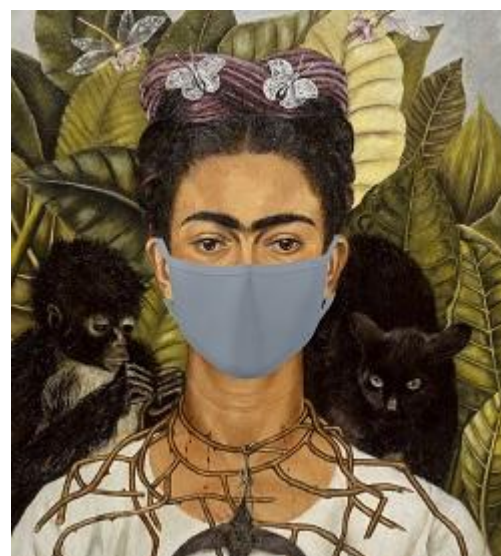
This week, we observed Veterans Day. It has been a Veterans Day tradition at Todd Middle School to pay tribute to those who have served and remind us all of veterans' sacrifices and the freedoms we might take for granted. Ordinarily, Student Government invites honored guests from the community to speak about their military experiences followed by a breakfast reception. This year, with the restrictions of COVID-19, Student Government has created a virtual presentation instead. Please enjoy it by clicking on the image below.



Click on the image above to enjoy a Todd Tribute to Veterans.

Masked Masterpieces

Mrs. Stong's graphic design students are using an online program called Photopea to create a "Famous Masked Portrait" series. Students learned the basic selection and color adjustment tools to create their striking artwork.





Clockwise from top left: Artwork by Andrew Speranza, Jarria Monroe, Chris Sulca, Jinwu Ahn, and two by Owen Murray.

Spack Onstage Presents Fall Production

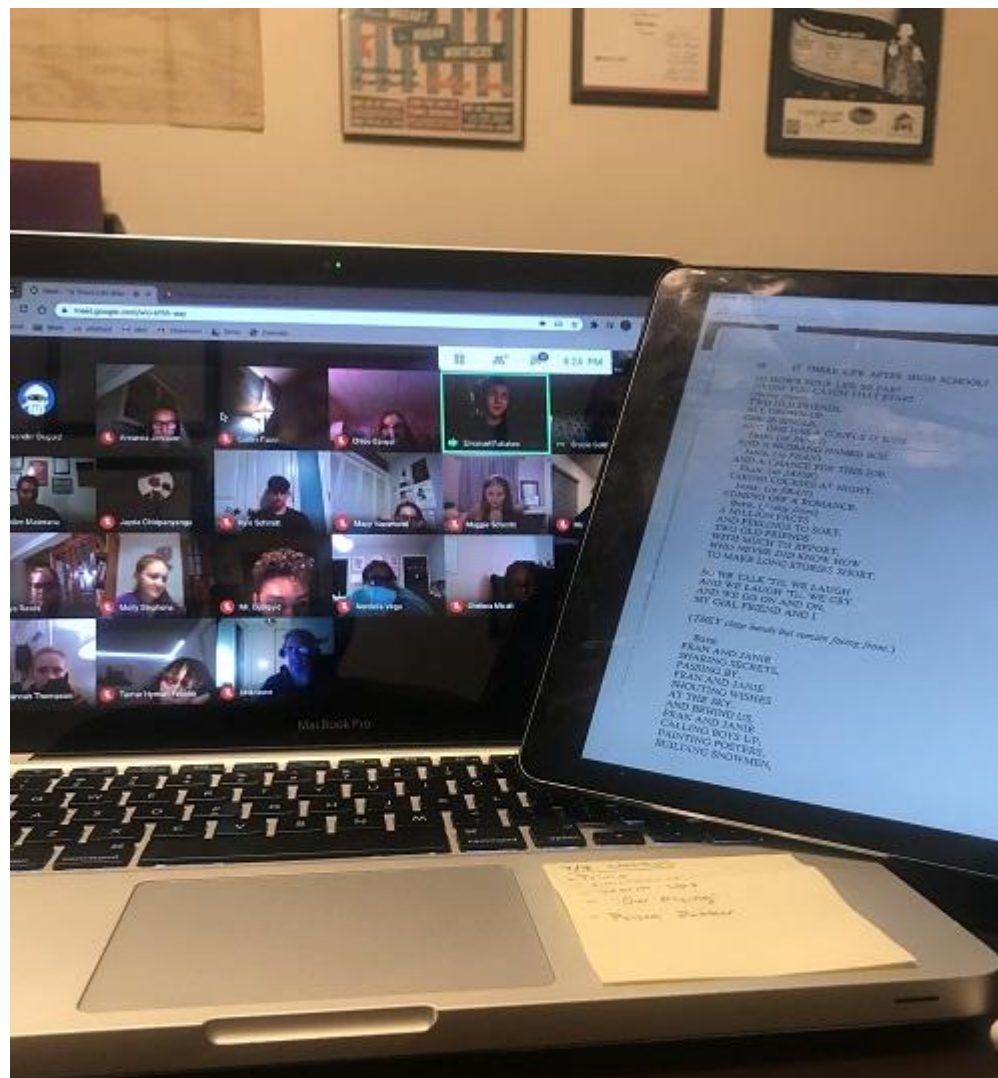


The high school drama club's fall production of "Is There Life After High School?" will take place virtually next week.

"We have been rehearsing since September and have held all rehearsals at home to comply with social distancing," says drama club advisor Holden Maiorana. "The kids have recorded all their parts from home and we are compiling the parts into a full-length production."

The event will be livestreamed at 7 pm on Friday, 11/20 and Saturday, 11/21. [Visit this website for tickets:](https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/42381)

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Tickets are on sale now: \$5 students/staff/seniors. \$10 general admission.



Above: A virtual rehearsal in progress.

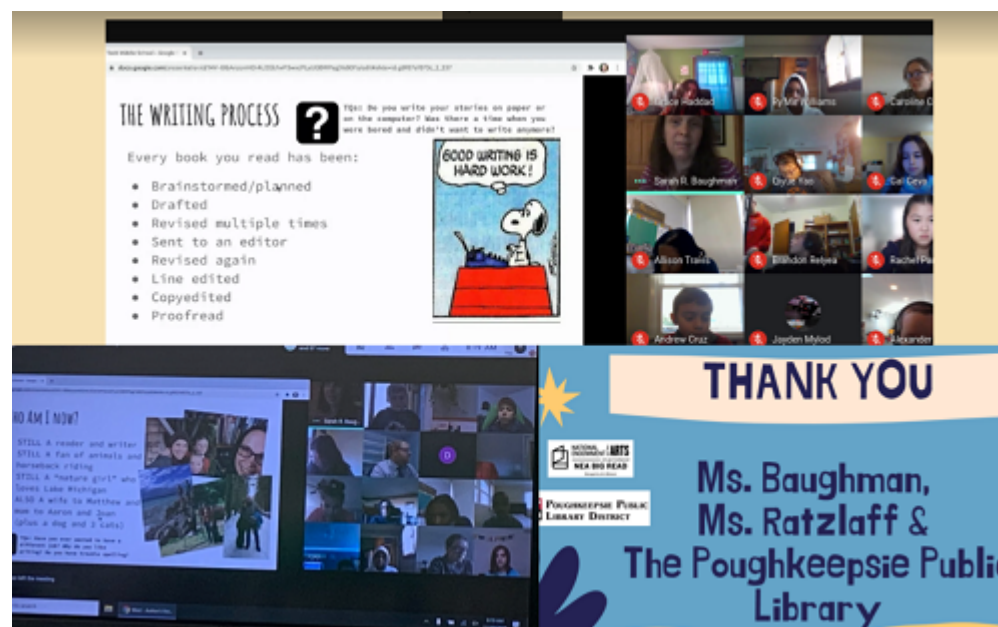
Todd Welcomes Author



The Poughkeepsie Public Library District and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) sponsored the Big Read once again this year, and Todd students joined in the fun! The middle grade title, *The Light in the Lake*, by Sarah Baughman (pictured at left), was read by students as enrichment in the classes of Ms. Travis, Ms. Ott, and Ms. Shields.

Jewel Ratzlaff, from the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, provided each student with a copy of the book and an amazing author visit on Tuesday, November 10th. In advance of the visit, students submitted thoughtful and engaging questions so Ms. Baughman could incorporate her answers into the presentation. Students learned about

her life as a writer, the writing process, and how books get published. It was a meaningful way to connect their work in class to the world around them. Thank you to Library Media Specialist Jenna Thorn for making this virtual event a big success!



Above: A collection of screenshots from the author's virtual visit.

More Photos from around the District



[CLICK HERE FOR A VIDEO OF THE DRONE SHOOT FOR SPARROW'S NEST & WORLD KINDNESS DAY](#)



Above, on top: To celebrate World Kindness Day, staff gathered on the Todd soccer field for a group picture wearing Sparrow's Nest gear. The gathering symbolizes support for this grassroots organization, which supplies meals and general support to Hudson Valley families affected by cancer. *Above, on bottom:* At the high school, Student Government Organization encouraged students and teachers to wear red and to practice simple deeds and acts of kindness to spread joy to others. For example, set an alarm three times during the day to text, email, or call someone and tell them how awesome they are. Thank you to Ms. Girard and Mrs. Oakley for spreading the good word!



Above: Students in Mrs. Strapec's second grade cohorts A and B enjoy the newly reopened Nassau playground. New features include sun canopies, a contemporary teeter totter, playable instruments, and cushioned walkways. Of course, swings will never go out of style.

We wanted the community to be aware of a phone scam targeting high school students preparing for college. The callers claim to be agents of testing organizations and know the students' names and the schools they attend. They ask for credit card information to pay for testing materials and services that the student never requested. Please protect your personal information and do not leave yourself vulnerable to such calls.

It's hard to believe that the elementary second quarter started this week and the secondary marking period begins on Monday. Elementary parent-teacher conferences are set to take place on November 17, 18, and 19. Let's continue to social distance, wear masks, wash hands, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

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



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