

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

November 20, 2020

Dear Spackenkill Community,

We, as a school district, have been through a lot over these past few months, and it is amazing that we have been able to get this far. We have all worked incredibly hard to keep our community safe. It is important not to let your guard down over the Thanksgiving break and the holiday season that follows.

Whenever there is a holiday, there is increased risk of COVID-19 transmission, whether it is because of family and friends gatherings, return of students from college, or travel in general. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has asked people nationwide to refrain from traveling for Thanksgiving, citing an exponential increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. We'd like to remind you that pursuant to the travel advisory, if you travel to a state on the travel advisory list for more than 24 hours, you will be required to quarantine for 14 days. However, the Governor recently announced that travelers will be able to exit the quarantine period early if they:

- Obtain a COVID test up to 72 hours prior to returning back to New York; and
- Quarantine for three days upon arriving in New York; and
- Obtain a COVID test on the fourth day of quarantine.

If both COVID tests come back negative, you will be permitted to exit quarantine early.

Also, please be advised that if you travel to a state on the travel advisory list for less than 24 hours, while you are not required to quarantine, you are now required to obtain a COVID test four days after you arrive back in New York.

Additionally, upon returning to New York from one of the states on the list, you will be required to complete a NYS Traveler Health Form. This form can be located at:

<https://forms.ny.gov/s3/Welcome-to-New-York-State-Traveler-Health-Form>

Please inform your student's principal if you need to quarantine. If we do not listen to the State guidance, it could result in moving to remote learning. Let's continue with mask wearing, hand washing, social distancing, and limiting gatherings. If students and staff stay safe and healthy, we have a much better chance to continue holding school in person.

SRP Recognition Day

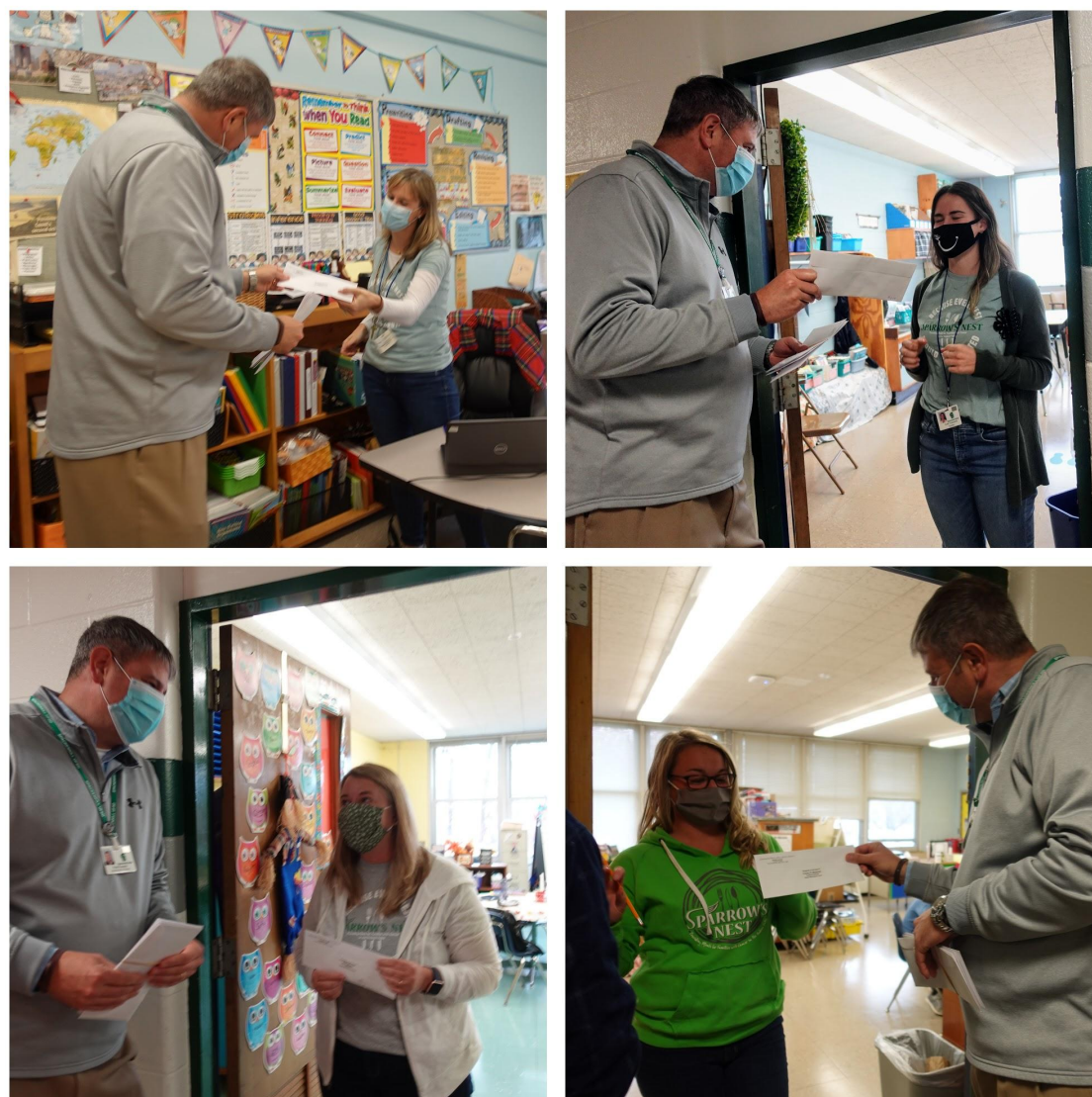
This week we are celebrating New York State School-Related Professionals Recognition Day. SRP Recognition Day acknowledges the contributions of School-Related Professionals in helping to educate the whole student. SRPs are the dedicated support staff that make public schools run smoothly. SRPs help educate, transport, and feed children while keeping them safe in school. They perform a variety of key roles in schools, working as bus drivers and attendants, aides, teaching assistants, cafeteria workers, secretaries, health service personnel, custodians, and in dozens of other job titles. Officially established as law in 2007, SRP Recognition Day falls on the third Tuesday of each November. We are fortunate to have our SRPs!



Above: We simply couldn't function as a district without our SRPs, whether nurses, food service workers, secretaries, or custodians. The top left photo shows a food truck that visited the schools this week to provide lunch for SRPs.

Marking Milestones

Superintendent Fanuele continues to hand out pins to Spackenkill staff who have achieved longevity. He also is distributing "letters-to-self" written by new teachers during their orientation back in summer 2019. Last week, he visited Hagan Elementary.



Clockwise from top left: Stephanie Skerritt receives her 20-year pin; Leah Tomasetti is

ready to read her "letter to self"; Cassi Diamond has reached the 10-year mark. Julie Moren has achieved 30 years at Spackenkill. Congrats to all of you!

French Flair

After school on Friday, November 13, the Spackenkill French Club hosted its annual Crêpe Day event. This year, the event was called Cars for Crêpes and it was held as an outdoor "drive through" so that the appropriate health and safety measures were in place. All crêpes were sold in to-go kits with toppings packaged separately. All participants wore masks and practiced social distancing. "We made over 100 crêpes and sold out within 25 minutes!" says Club Advisor and French teacher Brittany Hart. Congratulations on this cleverly created event!



HS Editor Visit

Mr. Calderone and Mr. Romani welcomed Ruta Rimas, an executive editor at Penguin-Random House books, to the most recent meeting of Pegasus, Spackenkill High School's art and literary magazine and creative writing club. Mrs. Rimas spoke to students about what her job as an editor entails, shared some projects she is working on, and answered questions from our aspiring creative writers.



Above: Remote meeting of Pegasus with book editor Ruta Rimas.

Get Your Tickets NOW for Spack Onstage



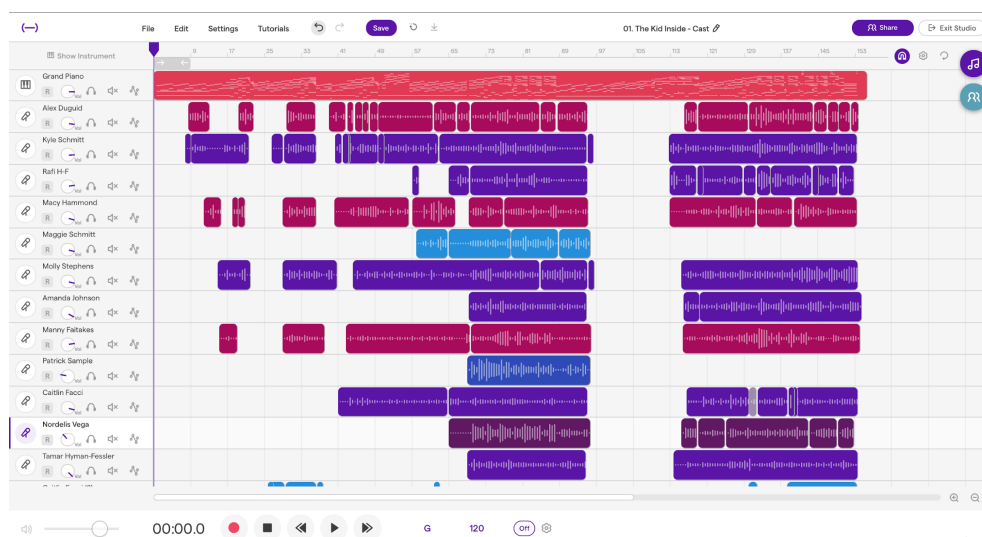
The high school drama club's fall production of "Is There Life After High School?" will take place virtually **TODAY and TOMORROW!**

The musical follows several characters as they live through the highs and lows of high school and look back upon the experiences that shaped them. All songs and scenes were rehearsed, recorded, mixed, and edited from home to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Please support this project that the students have worked so hard since September to make happen!

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 screenshot of a program called Soundtrap. Mr. Maiorana uploaded piano parts and the students recorded themselves singing music from the show from their respective homes using only their Chromebook microphones. Each line on the left side is a student track that they recorded and edited themselves.

Have a wonderful weekend and remember to stay safe.

Sincerely,

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

