

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

October 23, 2020

Dear Spackenkill Community,

This past Wednesday, we sent out a message to the community regarding upcoming dates and schedules. [In case you missed it, please click here to view the message.](#) We also sent out a survey to parents and secondary students yesterday. Here are the surveys for your convenience:

[Click here for the parent/guardian survey.](#)

[Click here for the secondary student survey.](#)

As noted earlier in the year, one of the goals of the Return to School Committee is to increase in-person time as circumstances allow. In order to move forward in our school year, we'd like to gather feedback from families about how the in-person and remote Hybrid 1 experience is working. Your answers today are nonbinding and not a commitment. They will help us formulate a plan to hopefully increase in-person learning. We were one of the first districts that was able to bring back students in person soon after Labor Day. Our opening was a success. Let's build on that momentum. Your feedback from the survey is vital for our continued success.

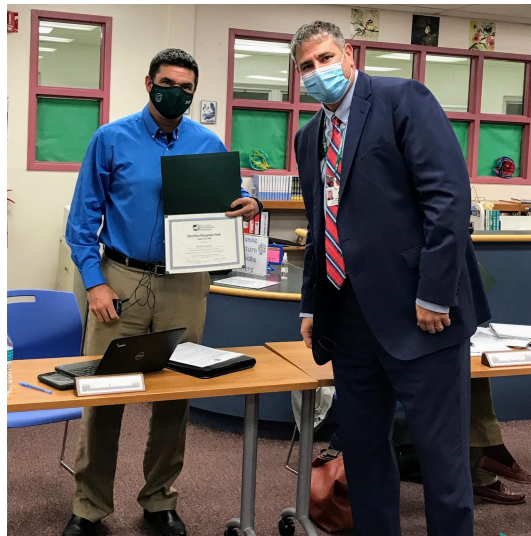
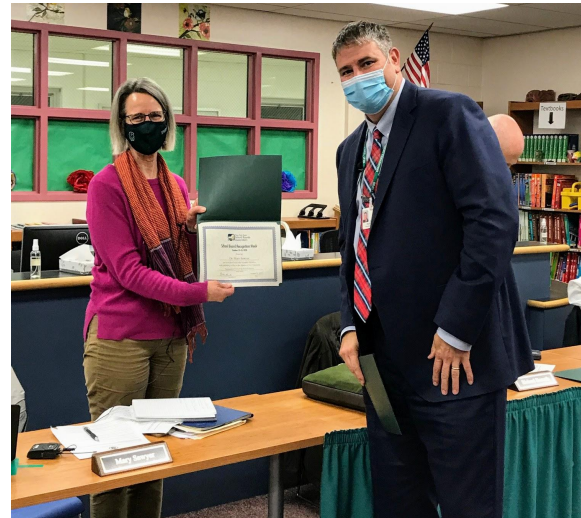
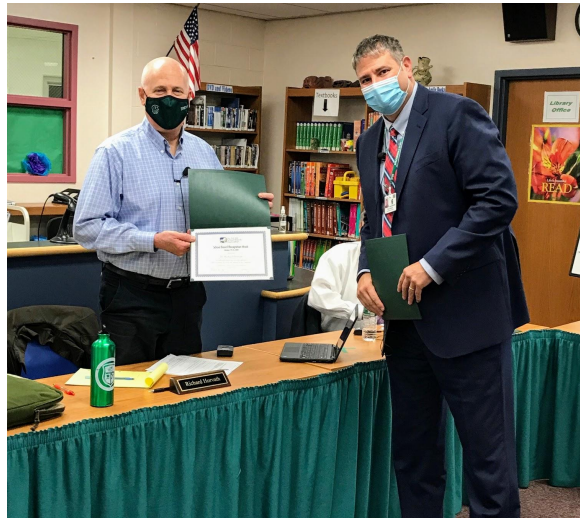
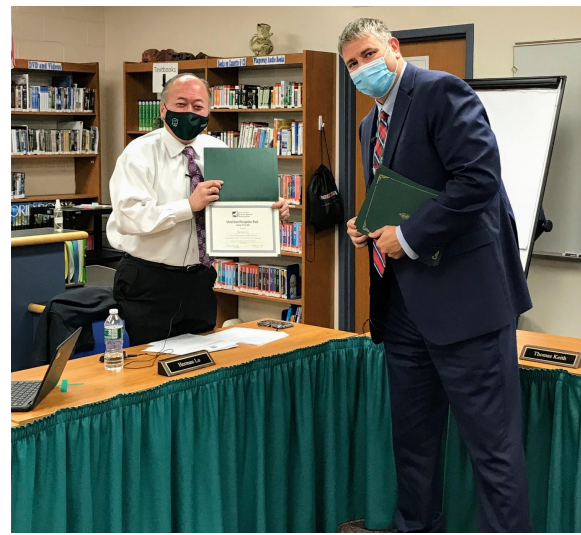
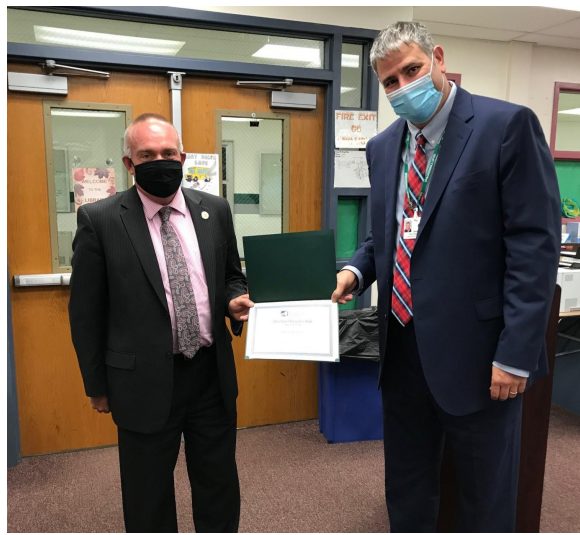
Please take the surveys by 12 pm on Monday, October 26, so that we can share the results with the Return to School Committee. Parents, we ask that you take one survey per child. Secondary students, in-person and remote, please share your thoughts. The committee will recommend a plan to move forward. Our principals will send out building surveys to parents/guardians soon after the recommendation. In those surveys, you will be able to make your choice of an in-person or remote plan to begin on November 30.

There is a lot of great news this week!

School Board Recognition Week



It's School Board Recognition Week! The Spackenkill BOE was honored at the Board meeting on October 13.



Dr. Fanuele presented each Board member with a certificate of recognition from Spackenkill and the New York State School Boards Association. The Superintendent is shown with (clockwise from top left) Board President Tom Keith, Vice President Herman Lo, Dr. Mary Sawyer, Dan Koehler, and Dr. Richard Horvath.

[Click here to visit the New York State School Boards Association website to learn about the role of the Board and their service to the community.](#)

HS Junior Composes Music & Spearheads Fundraiser



Spackenkill High School junior Vanessa Aagaard, a member of both concert band and chorus, has created a composition for flute. Vanessa plans on majoring in music in college. Congratulations, Vanessa!

Please click on the image below to hear her music:

The Music Of
Vanessa Aagaard

Cookies for Kids

Once again, Vanessa is partnering with junior Nadine Deeb for their annual Cookies For Kids Cancer fundraiser, which will take place next week. The cooking and baking tools company OXO is matching people's donations during the month of October. [Here's the link to the page.](#)

Our Spack community will also have the option to post pictures of homemade cookies on Spackenkill Leo Club's Instagram. People can upload a picture on their Instagram story of a baked treat they made to represent Cookies for Kids Cancer. Please include #TheCookieChain and #OXOGoodCookies while tagging @OXO, @Cookies4Kids and @spack_leo_club. OXO will donate a dollar for every cookie picture shared. In past fundraisers, Vanessa and Nadine have raised \$500 or more with the support of the community.

Spackenkill High School will have Green Shirt Day on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week to raise awareness of pediatric cancer.

[Click here to see a flyer with all the info in one place.](#)

2020 National Honor Society Induction



The National Honor Society held its virtual induction ceremony on Thursday evening. Congratulations to the inductee!

[Please click here or on the image above to watch the ceremony.](#)

[The link to the evening's program to download and print is here.](#)

Staff Spotlight



Meet Jenna Thorn, the new Todd Middle School Library Media Specialist. A native of Ulster County, Ms. Thorn has lived all over the country, from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to Cincinnati, Ohio, to Denver, Colorado.

We spoke with Ms. Thorn about what inspired her to become a library media specialist and come to Spackenkill.

You earned your undergraduate degree in Business Administration, specifically logistics and transportation. How did you end up in the library?

This is sort of a second career. After I met my husband and started a family, I homeschooled our kids for a while. When homeschooling, I used the library so much for resources and programming. When we were in Cincinnati, there were many homeschool groups and I did a lot of teaching, so this career seemed like a good fit. I got my Masters in School Librarianship from the University at Buffalo and began work as an elementary librarian in Hyde Park. I also did student teaching in Red Hook and had an internship in the Arlington District. All those positions were elementary, so I'm new to middle school and loving it.

The role of librarian has changed over the years. What are some of the things you do at Todd?

I push into classes to co-teach and support the teachers and students. I can infuse the skills students need to help them with research, source validation, and understanding the media we consume. For example, this week I'm pushing into Spanish to go over how to use databases for their research project. I'm also trying to nurture a love of reading and find fun ways to engage students in reading as a community. We'll be voting on Book Characters for President in November. I'll also be advising the Library Club and Dungeons and Dragons this year. It will be interesting to see how the clubs evolve in a virtual environment.

Are Todd students still able to check out books, even during the pandemic?

Kids have been able to come in at lunch time and Todd Time. They're able to check out books and there is curbside pickup for the remote students. I've also taught them how to use the reading app Sora to get e-books, a collection through Dutchess BOCES, that every district in Dutchess gets to share, so they have that option, too. We've also had classes for all three grade levels in the library, mostly ELA.

Will there still be an NEA Little Read program this year?

On November 10th, we're doing an author visit for 6th grade with Sarah R. Baughman, who wrote *The Light in the Lake*. The whole thing will be virtual. She's going to share some of her writing techniques and students will be able to ask questions about her writing process and creating characters. We've been using the book as enrichment in 6th grade, as well as Ms. Ott's and Ms. Shield's classes.

Why did you choose to work at Spackenkill?

What I liked about Hyde Park was the close knit community, which is similar to Spackenkill. I kept feeling like I enjoyed teaching the upper-level 4th and 5th grade classes because I could delve more in-depth with skills and content. That's what made me want to come to middle school.

How do you spend your free time?

I like to do yoga and run, and I do a little knitting, making bookmarks. Obviously, I like to read—and travel.

Winter Sports Registration!



[Spackenkill UFSD Athletics](#)

We are holding signups for the winter 2020-2021 season, but the season cannot start without the Governor's approval. High-risk sports, including basketball, are currently on hold in New York until we receive further guidance from the Governor.

Students can register for a winter sport on the Family ID website. The winter season is scheduled to start November 30th for all Varsity and JV sports and modified sports is TBD.

Online winter sports registration opens:

October 30, 2020 for all high school sports (JV and Varsity)

November 7, 2020 for all middle school sports (modified)

Click on the link below to register:

<http://www.familyid.com/spackenkill-ufsd-athletics>

More Photos from around the District



Above: Weather permitting, Mr. Maiorana's chorus students meet every week on the tennis court, where they can sing safely in a socially distanced space. Here they're practicing a holiday song. [Listen here.](#)



Above: At the middle school, Mr. Fau's sixth grade chorus students rehearse socially distanced in the dining hall. [Listen to a vocal warmup.](#)



Above: Mrs. Burgess has middle school students spaced apart in the band room.

Finally, with October 31 fast approaching, [please click here to read Governor Cuomo's Halloween Guidance.](#)

Sincerely,

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



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