

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

January 15, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

The Return to School Committee met yesterday to discuss our plans going forward. We're going to return in Hybrid 1 on January 19 as planned. The Return to School Committee will meet in a week or two to discuss when it would be appropriate to move to Hybrid 2, with the hope of a beginning date sometime in February. The long Presidents Day weekend includes two holidays (Friday, February 12, and Monday, February 15), and the committee discussed utilizing Wednesdays as a way to offer students more in-person time. After the Presidents Day holiday, we will have a string of five consecutive five-day weeks, which could logistically fit a move to Hybrid 2. More details are forthcoming.

In a meeting Wednesday with the Dutchess County Behavioral and Community Health Department (DBCH) and County Executive Marc Molinaro, we learned that over the next few weeks, we'll see a substantial increase in the allotment of vaccine doses available. Mr. Molinaro asks the public to remain patient. At the meeting, COVID testing of students and staff was discussed, but despite growing numbers in the positivity rate, we are unsure if we will need to test. However, the district has a plan in place if testing is needed.

Google Meet Issue

As you probably already know, Google Meet continued to present problems this week. Our Director of Technology, along with local BOCES and other schools that are experiencing issues with Google Meet, met with Google, which is now investigating the issue. Hopefully, the problem will be resolved soon.

COVID-19 Update and Dashboard

Since we started the school year, we have had 33 positive COVID-19 cases. [You can see the breakdown by school on the NY State Report card](#): Please continue to consult the NY State Report Card for updates. It's important that, even if they are remote, if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they should email their principal so that we know what's going on in the community and can continue to make informed decisions.

Athletics Update



Please watch an Athletics video update by clicking on the image above for winter sports and the other upcoming seasons.

Community Foundations Scholarships



Scholarships are available through the Community Foundations for graduating high school seniors and college students who plan on or are attending college.

2021 Scholarships Available!

Last year over \$350,000 in scholarships were awarded to students in Dutchess,

Putnam, Ulster, and surrounding counties to help pay college expenses.

[Click here to begin an application.](#)

As a reminder: Schools return to in-person learning in Hybrid 1 on Tuesday, January 19, and cohort A elementary students will attend school in person on Wednesday, January 21. The Martin Luther King Day holiday is Monday, January 18. As Dr. King said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." Now more than ever in this time of COVID-19 and societal unrest, we need to hear inspirational words like these.

Sincerely,

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



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