

# A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



**One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence**

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April 16, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

[A new scientific study by university researchers](#) finds that communities who stay bonded and support one another are more likely to survive and thrive during COVID times. This finding applies to our approach here at Spackenkill. As I've said before, the only way to get through uncertainty is to stay together. This has served us well as we navigate the demands of the pandemic. This same approach relates to other challenges that exist in society, such as the tragic course of recent events in the Midwest. Staying empathetic and understanding multiple points of view, showing kindness to others, finding strength in unity, and rejecting violence are all key to navigating these difficult times.

## **District Music Program Honored**



We are proud to announce that for the ninth consecutive year, Spackenkill has been named a Best Communities for Education by the NAMM Foundation. This honor is due to the nonstop efforts of our amazing music department, as well as the hard work of our students and the support they receive from their families. Thank you.

## **Kindergartners Learn Dance Moves**

Last week, Jacqui Frederick, owner of Wappingers Dance Educators, came to Nassau to teach a dance lesson for each kindergarten class. The collaboration with Ms. Spiegel and our physical education department was initiated by Trinity Rosado, a sophomore at Spackenkill High School. Trinity is working on her Girl Scouts Gold Award, which is the highest award you can earn as a Girl Scout. The goal for Trinity's project is to incorporate dance into physical education classes. She met with Mr. Lanzoni and Ms. Spiegel to develop her plan and schedule the dance lessons. Ms. Frederick taught a dance lesson for each kindergarten class during their physical education class. She led students through a series of movements to music. The students worked on rhythm, balance, footwork, and spatial awareness and, most importantly, had a blast!



Above: Nassau kindergartners practiced new dance moves last week.

### Todd Students Bring Shakespeare to Life

Like so many events this year and last, we are finding new ways to carry on traditions. For the last 15 years, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (HVSF) has been working with our Todd Middle School students by bringing performance to the classroom. This year, our seventh grade students worked with teaching artists from the HVSF in a Google Meet. Students of Mr. Shanks, Mrs. Morehead, and Mrs. McGuire recreated scenes and worked as an ensemble to bring the words of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* to life. Seventh graders have been immersed in "The Scottish Play" in their English classes and the teaching artists from HVSF were able to build upon their knowledge and experience by asking students to consider how gesture, power words, and sound effects work to make a written scene become a fully realized performance. Though we missed having the HVSF teaching artists and all of our students together in one classroom, we proved that virtual classrooms can (at least for now) substitute for physical togetherness.



Above: HVSF teaching artists worked with Todd seventh graders on the nuances of *Macbeth*.



### Military Spirit Week - April 12 - 16<sup>th</sup>

**Month of the Military Child** is observed each April to honor and celebrate military children and youth for their service, commitment, and sacrifice in support of the military.

The April 2021 observance has the theme, "**Military Children and Youth: A Resilient Force in a Changing World.**"

**Please join the fun and help us celebrate Month of the Military Child!**

- **Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - Camo Day!** Students and staff will wear camo to support our military students.
- **Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> - Red, White, Blue Day!** Students will wear red, white, and blue colors to show their love for USA!
- **Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> - "Military Parents are our Superheroes."** Wear your favorite Superhero look!
- **Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> - Purple Up Day!!!** Everyone wears purple! Purple is the combination of all military branch colors.



## Hagan Observes Military Spirit Week

There was pride in the air at Hagan this week, as students and staff alike dressed in patriotic colors to observe the Month of the Military Child.

The week was particularly special for third grader Peyton Steele, whose father, Mike Steele, is an active duty Marine and has been for the last 16 years. He is the airframes division chief at Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452. It made Peyton proud to be able to wear something special each day.



*Top:* Peyton Steele proudly wears his military child t-shirt. *Bottom:* Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 452 is pictured in Newburgh.

## Outdoor Classrooms Going Strong



*Above:* Mrs. Strapec's second graders working hard in their outdoor classroom.

## District Art Show Kicks Off Today

The virtual District Art Show is officially open for viewing. [Please click here](#) or on the image below to see the show.



## COVID-19 Update and Dashboard

Since we started the school year, we have had 91 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 when 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.

**Please note: Daily health screening questions that you receive each week-day morning will be changed as of Monday, April 19 to align to updated New York State guidelines.**

## Summer Workers



Spackenkill Union Free School District is now accepting applications from college students who are graduates of the district and high school juniors and seniors for the Summer Jobs Program, which runs from June 29 to August 27, 2021. Must have a valid NYS driver's license. [Applications for positions to assist custodians and grounds are available for download by clicking here.](#)

Applications should be submitted to:

Mrs. Deirdre Caamano  
Spackenkill District Office  
15 Croft Road  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

Applications can also be dropped off in the mailbox outside of the District Office.

Deadline: May 21, 2021

Let's continue to keep a positive attitude of unity.

Sincerely,

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



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



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