

# A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



**One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence**

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April 30, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

Tomorrow will be May 1, and that means we're entering the month of our budget and trustee vote, which will take place at Spackenkill High School on Tuesday, May 18 from 7 am to 9 pm. This year, we have two candidates for two Board seats: Jeffrey W. Cohen and Sasha Barnes. You can read their profiles on the website by clicking below:

[Read about Candidate Jeffrey W. Cohen](#)

[Read about Candidate Sasha Barnes](#)

## **BOE Update**

At the Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30 pm, which will be streamed live from the District website homepage, [www.spackenkillschools.org](http://www.spackenkillschools.org), there will be the 2021-2022 Budget Hearing. Please use the link that will appear on the District homepage under the Livestream icon to submit any questions you may have during the hearing. The hearing will last approximately 20 minutes in total. Please note that, in accordance with Board meeting law, you will need to submit your name and address on the question form in order to ask a question and your name and address will be announced before we read the question, as is standard practice. The link will be active for the duration of the hearing.

## **Student Earns Girl Scout Gold Award**



Sara Adler recently earned her Girl Scout Gold Award for her project titled "Leveling the Playing Field." The project combines her participation in both Girl Scouts and softball since she was six years old.

Over the years, Sara and her teammates noticed a difference between the boys' baseball and girls' softball fields. The boys' fields had batting cages, scoreboards, and lights. Many of these amenities were made possible with the help of corporate sponsorships. Sara set out to give the girls in her community equal amenities on their fields.

For her Gold Award she fundraised over \$9,000 and acquired two scoreboards for softball. This involved over 90 hours of community service and attending monthly status meetings with the Board of the Town of Poughkeepsie Girls Little League.

On April 17 she unveiled her project to the Town of Poughkeepsie Girls Little League at Stanley Still Park/McPeck Girl's Softball Field. Also in attendance were Senator Sue Serino (*shown with Sara in photo above*), Town Supervisor Jon Jay Baisley as well as her major supporters, including the Rotary Club. In her speech, Sara summarized her reason for her project: "I hope to inspire the young girls on this field to reach for equity

and to fight for the same opportunities handed to those with the same talent as you all. With time and hard work you can Level the Playing Field.”

Afterward, Sara reflected on her accomplishment: “One of the best parts after the ceremony was when the girls were coming off the field, and a little girl gave me a high five. Seeing how much the field has grown since I grew up there, I can only imagine how much it’s going to change once they grow up.”

Sara will receive her Gold Award from the Girl Scouts in a ceremony on June 5. Dee Holt, Spackenkill Service Unit manager for the Girl Scouts (and her grandmother!), is organizing the ceremony.

At Spackenkill High School, Sara plays on the softball and volleyball teams and is also a member of National Honor Society, Band, and LEO Club. She will attend University of New Haven in the fall and plans on playing sports on the club teams. She will likely be a public health major. Congratulations to this exceptional student!



[Please click here](#) or on the image above to view a video of Sara Adler’s speech on April 17.

### **SHS Named Best High School (Again)**



Spackenkill High School earned high national and metro-area rankings in 2021 Best High Schools, which U.S. News & World Report released this week. Please visit the school’s updated U.S. News profile page, with details about its rankings:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/new-york/districts/spackenkill-union-free-school-district/spackenkill-high-school-13576>

### **Spack Onstage Fundraiser & Spring Show**



Just a reminder that Spack Onstage, the Spackenkill High School drama club, is thrilled to bring live theater back to Spack with our first-ever outdoor production! Based on the hit Adam Sandler movie, *The Wedding Singer* follows rock star wannabe Robbie Hart, New Jersey’s favorite wedding singer. He’s the life of the party until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar. Enter Julia, a winsome waitress who wins his affection. As luck would have it, Julia is about to be married to a Wall Street shark, and unless Robbie can pull off the performance of a decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever.



The production has limited seating and will be presented on the HS football field on May 13, 14, and 15 at 8 pm each night. You will be screened, temperature-checked, and seated with all the members of your party, six feet apart from other groups on the bleachers. Come join us for an evening of live theater under the stars! Tickets will not be sold at the door, so buy now online at: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/49511>

Would you like to show your support for Spack Onstage? We are currently selling masks, sweatshirts, t-shirts, and other items featuring the Spack Onstage logo to help raise funds for future productions. The past year has not been easy for the arts, but every dollar raised goes directly toward providing our students with meaningful theatrical experiences and our community with high-quality performances. All orders and payments must be received by April 30th using this link:

<https://forms.gle/hg4xg1jRPxsFYttn7> Please contact Mr. Maiorana ([holden.maiorana@sufsdny.org](mailto:holden.maiorana@sufsdny.org)) with any questions!



Above: Members of the cast of *The Wedding Singer* rehearse outdoors.

### COVID-19 Update and Dashboard

Since we started the school year, we have had 94 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.

### Pfizer Vaccines Available

A Pfizer vaccine clinic for ages 16+ will be held at Roy C. Ketcham High School next Wednesday. Please visit this link to sign up: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/211164960388157>

### Fun Nassau Math Tour

Just for fun, go on a [Nassau Click-Through Adventure](#) reinforcing math skills. The slideshow was created by first grade full-remote teacher Donte Calabrese. For students who haven't been physically in the school, this is an awesome way of connecting! You'll need to download the file in order to click your way through it.

Welcome to Nassau School! Inside, you will find an interactive walk through of our school. You will also find many familiar faces! Click through the school using the buttons on the slides, and answer all of the teachers math questions! Enjoy exploring!



### SRO Visits Nassau



School Resource Officer Steve Doughty brought a new officer and his lieutenant to visit our second grade classrooms this past Wednesday. The officers did read-alouds, had a question-and-answer session, and went on student-led tours.

This upcoming month will go by quickly, so make the most of it.

Sincerely,

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



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