

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

February 5, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

I hope you were able to watch the Board meeting from this past Tuesday, February 2. We had a discussion of how to proceed with the remainder of the school year, trying to get more in-person time for students while also keeping an eye on the COVID numbers and keeping students and staff safe. Please refer to our [Board Video Archive](#) and click on the February 2 meeting for the full details. The secondary principals will be giving an update at the next Board meeting on February 9 at 6:30 pm. The focus will be on social and emotional learning, remote and hybrid instruction, and the implementation of our Hybrid 2 in-person schedule. Please tune in to the Livestream on the [Spackenkill website homepage](#) at that time. Currently, our website is not available; the vendor that hosts our website is aware of this, and it is affecting other districts in the area. The vendor is working to get everything back up and running, and we hope that the website is working by the time this newsletter reaches you.

Essentially, our goal is to implement a Hybrid 2 in-person schedule for all students while continuing our remote learning option. Additionally, we are excited that we are working on a full in-person model for Nassau K-1 students that would enable them to return five days a week, socially distanced. K-1 parents received an instructional choice questionnaire this week regarding their preference to remain in hybrid or remote learning for the duration of the school year, should we proceed with this plan. Please keep in mind that our survey results will help us gauge the feasibility of being able to bring K-1 students back full time.

Our county's 7-day rolling average positivity rate on the [New York Forward dashboard](#) remains below the 6 percent mark, which is really good news, as rates continue to trend downward after the post-holiday surge. As we continue to back farther away from the higher 8-9% rate and as more people receive vaccinations, we can feel greater optimism for the future. [Please check out this article](#) that appeared in the *Southern Dutchess News*, in which I and other superintendents spoke about the up-side of changes we made in education during the pandemic.

Communications Update

In other news, we have been informed by the SchoolMessenger Development Team that the previously reported issues with text message delivery have been resolved.

This afternoon we sent out an email to all parents/guardians with links to sites that parents or students might need to access while our website is down. In case you missed the email, here are the links:

Compass - <https://www.thelearningodyssey.com/>

Castle Learning - <https://cl.castlelearning.com/review/clo/account/logon>

Naviance - <https://id.naviance.com/>

Student Portal - <https://esd-studentportal.mhric.org/spackenkill> (this link will not be available from approximately 8 to 11 pm this evening due to an upgrade)

Parent Portal - <https://esd-parentportal.mhric.org/> (this link will not be available from approximately 8 to 11 pm this evening due to an upgrade)

COVID-19 Update and Dashboard

Since we started the school year, we have had 44 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.

Todd Art Students Explore Digital Techniques

Todd Middle School art students have been busy learning interesting new techniques. Sixth graders are using Chrome Canvas for a line drawing assignment and also finishing up glazing ceramics. Seventh graders are learning how to set up props for a Reflective Photography assignment. Eighth graders have been using Photoshop to create a Creative Complaint.



Next week will be a shortened week, with Friday, February 12, being the first day of the mid-winter break.

Sincerely,

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



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