

# A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



**One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence**

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January 29, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

This week's weather caused us to reschedule our Board meeting to February 2. Please tune in to the Livestream on the [Spackenkill website homepage](#) at 6:30 pm on Tuesday for a discussion of how COVID-19 has affected the District and how we are going to move forward. The Return to School Committee met yesterday to discuss scenarios for the remainder of the academic year and we will present their recommendations at the meeting.

There are many changes afoot with New York State guidelines. For example, the State has approved high-risk sports to happen. There have been changes in quarantine requirements. Social distancing guidelines are being discussed. We will cover these topics on Tuesday night and, as always, the recording will be available on our [Board Video Archive](#) afterward.

Our SchoolMessenger communication system has been experiencing occasional glitches with text messaging over the last few days. For the time being, please be sure to check your voicemail, email, or the district website for any change in schedules for weather-related events. We hope to have this issue resolved next week.

## **COVID-19 Update and Dashboard**

Since we started the school year, we have had 42 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.

## **Beloved Staff Member Retires**

Spackenkill High School's Geri Vasely, Secretary to the Principal, retired today. The high school staff held a celebratory socially distanced breakfast for her and an afternoon sendoff. Mrs. Vasely received so many flowers that her husband had to pick them up and bring them home because she couldn't fit them in her car. Mrs. Vasely has been with the district for almost 20 years and we will miss her.



Above, clockwise from top left: Mrs. Vasely with Superintendent Fanuele; Mrs. Vasely admires a retirement gift; staff personalized a throw inscribed with inspirational words; Mrs. Vasely and Principal Malkischer.

### Alumnus Gives Mini-Concert



Ms. Valentine's and Mrs. Franca's string students were treated to mini-concerts by Spackenkill alumnus Evan Bish, class of 2014. He studied Double Bass Performance at Vanderbilt University and Rice University and is currently a member of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra in Nashville, Tennessee.

For the Hagan students, Mr. Bish gave a lively presentation to students about the bass and how it has been used by great composers to convey different moods. "Bass is the canvas for the orchestra to play on," he said. The students were really excited for this special lesson and even said so in the chat. They were also excited to have Mr. Bish answer many of their questions at the end of the performance.





[Click here or on the above image to see Evan Bish perform with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra in the bass section.](#)

#### **Nassau Students on the Radio**



On your morning drive, try tuning into Q92, Wake Up with Joe and Michelle in the Morning. You might just hear past first graders at Nassau reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. They were recorded in previous school years and the radio station occasionally plays the recordings for their “Q in the Classroom” segment.

#### **A Note from Our School Nurses**

New York State has updated its health form, which must be used for any student in the district after January 31, 2021. Here is the link to the form in case you will be visiting the doctor’s office:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/health-exam-form.pdf>

Let’s hope the weather holds out for our Tuesday Board meeting!

Sincerely,

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

