

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

June 18, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

As we wind down the school year and the COVID restrictions from New York State continue to be lifted, it appears that we are heading toward full in-person instruction for next school year with no remote instruction. Governor Cuomo has said, "With the way our COVID numbers are currently trending, there is no reason why our students should not get back to in-person learning as usual and we look forward to welcoming them back. If there is a change in the trajectory of the virus, we will revisit the decision." If things do change and the New York State Department of Education *requires* remote instruction, we will once again meet the needs of our students. We expect guidance to come out in the near future that will further inform our protocols for the fall.



Above: Mrs. Turner's remote students gathered in the Nassau classroom to paint rocks for the 2nd Grade Sendoff.

We have also been gearing up for full in-person learning. The elementary schools have had in-person days for remote students and it's gone really well. For example, last week we ran an article about Mrs. Turner's remote students gathering in the Nassau outdoor classroom to paint rocks for the Second Grade Sendoff. This week and next week, at the elementary level, remote students have been given the opportunity to come in for various activities. Students at the secondary level also have the option to come in. If students who are remote this year want to access their building over the summer, please reach out to your principal. Hopefully, this will help us return to normalcy and see everyone's smiling face in early September.

Thank You, Herman Lo

At our Board of Education meeting last Tuesday, we thanked Board Vice President Herman Lo for his service. We will certainly miss Mr. Lo, and we also look forward to our new Board member, Mrs. Sasha Barnes, joining us on July 1 at the Board's Reorganizational Meeting.

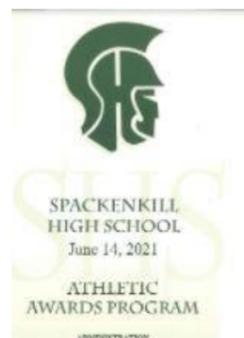


Above: Herman Lo holds a watercolor collage of Spackenkill Schools, a gift to him as he completes his five-year BOE term. Congratulating him are Daniel Koehler, Dr. Mary Sawyer, and Dr. Richard Horvath.

Senior Athletic & Academic Awards

On Monday evening, the Senior Athletic Awards took place at Spackenkill High School. Athletics Director Mr. Lanzoni pointed out that it's been two years since there was an Athletic Awards evening, so this was a very special night, especially considering that just five months ago, we weren't even sure we would hold this event. Mr. Lanzoni and coaches presented. At the end of the evening, Mr. Lanzoni honored athletics secretary Cathy Mahoney, who will be retiring at the end of this school year.

The Senior Recognition & Awards came next. Principal Malkischer kicked off the event, saying, "I'm grateful that we have the opportunity to celebrate this event in person. These last 15 months have been difficult for staff, teachers, and families, yet we're here to celebrate seniors' accomplishments despite all of these setbacks"



[Click here to read the Athletic Awards program.](#)



[Click here to read the Recognition & Awards program.](#)





Above: Scenes from the 2021 Senior Athletic Awards.





Above: Scenes from the 2021 Senior Recognition & Awards.

Information on Fall Sports Registration



Interscholastic athletics are open to all students in grades 7-12.

We are trying to gauge interest for sports this upcoming fall season. Please complete the following form indicating the sport you would like to play.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11aUWu5QxUEwlicd4owxd7S6aR3OSNAGIaQVjiCXiUBw/edit?usp=sharing>

Official online registration for fall sports opens on the following dates this summer:

JV/Varsity Sports – July 24, 2021

Modified sports – August 10 2021

<http://www.familyid.com/spackenkill-ufsd-athletics>

Start Date for Fall Sports:

JV/Varsity - August 23, 2021

Modified - September 9, 2021

Remembrance Walk

Thank you to all who attended our Remembrance Walk. It was a beautiful evening for all. One of the highlights was releasing lanterns in memory of those who had passed away. Please see photos below:





Above: Releasing lanterns at the Remembrance Walk.

Senior Completes Congressional Internship

Back in January, this newsletter ran a story about Spackenkill High School Senior Liam Vaitkus serving as Sergeant of Police Explorer Post 108. The Police Explorer program, a community-focused law enforcement program of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, is in its second year. Sergeant Vaitkus served as the first cadet to hold this position within the squad.

In the final chapter of his journey with the Police Explorer Program, Liam received a commendation from Dutchess County Sheriff Adrian "Butch" Anderson and also completed a year-long congressional internship. In addition, Sean Patrick Maloney gave him a proclamation on behalf of his congressional internship. Kudos to Liam!



Above, clockwise from top left: Officers Reilly and Wasilewski present plaque; Liam with Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney; Congressional Proclamation; Dutchess County Sheriff Commendation.

Leaving Behind Memories

Mrs. Strapec's second graders have been working on their "Only One You" rocks. After listening to the book *Only One You*, by Linda Kranz, Mrs. Strapec's students created their own unique rocks to represent something special about them. These rocks will be placed in a garden bed at Nassau School for all to admire. Scenes of the students decorating their rocks are below:



Kindergarten Students Celebrate the School Year

Last Wednesday, kindergarten students in the classes of Mrs. Davis, Mrs. West, and Mrs. Lombardi put on performances outdoors for their parents and relatives. Each presentation was special and really captured the personalities of the different classes. Even though it was a pandemic year, the students were able to reminisce about many beautiful memories.



Above: Each student in Mrs. Davis's class had a speaking part. In the top left, Mrs. Davis with Superintendent Fanuele and Principal Lynch.



Above: Mrs. West's class sang and danced under the playground oak tree.



Above: Students in Mrs. Lombardi's class presented their favorite kindergarten memories. One included meeting Principal Lynch, while another was the time that Mrs. Lombardi pretended to be a student!

Nassau Fun Day Ice Cream Social

On Nassau Fun Day yesterday, all grade levels were outside together as a full group for the first time since March of 2020. Full remote students were invited to the building for this event as well! During this time students had a picnic lunch out back, followed by the appearance of two ice cream trucks (compliments of the PTA), and an extended recess on the playground together. Photos of second graders enjoying the ice cream experience are below:



Summer Grab & Go Meals



During the summer beginning on June 28th until September 3rd, the Spackenkill School District will be providing free breakfast and lunch to all students every Monday through Friday at Spackenkill High School between the hours of 8 am and 9 am. Meals will be packed together in grab-and-go bags. Parents can pull up to the cafeteria side entrance to the building, where the meals will be distributed.

If you are going to use this service, you must contact Lisa French, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, at 845-463-7836 or foodservice@sufsdny.org no later than June 23, 2021, to reserve your child's meal. You will be asked to provide your child's name and school. Should you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to call. All calls and distribution information is confidential.

COVID-19 Update and Dashboard

Since we started the school year, we have had 100 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.

Graduation is this evening at 5:30 pm. We are so proud of the Class of 2021! [You can view the graduation on this livestream link](#), also available on the Spackenkill High School home page.

Sincerely,

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



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