

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

June 25, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

What a year it has been! Though the downsides of staying at home and living with uncertainty are definitely something we will always remember, we also can be proud that our entire community pushed forward. The positive atmosphere at our end-of-year events, from kindergarten celebrations to High School Graduation, show that we have, for the most part, successfully navigated this school year. At these events, our teachers and administrators have thanked our parents and guardians again and again, acknowledging that the District could not have succeeded without you. Of course, the fortitude of our students made all the difference.

Graduation 2021

On Friday evening last week, High School Graduation was held on the Rudy Albanese Athletic Field. It was a beautiful evening filled with inspirational speeches. [Please click here to read the program.](#)

[Please visit this link to view the graduation.](#)





Speakers at the 2021 High School Commencement are pictured *above*, *clockwise from top left*: Valedictorian Emily Cohen, Senior Class President Caroline Currie, Salutatorian Emily Ma, Board VP Herman Lo, Board President Dr. Richard Horvath, High School Teacher/Acting Hagan Principal Clinton DeSouza, HS Principal Steve Malkischer, and Superintendent Dr. Paul Fanuele (*center*).



Above: Some highlights from the evening were a performance by the SHS Drum Line and Macy Hammond singing “God Bless America.”

Todd Students Look Ahead

There was a light drizzle in the air, but the mood was uplifting at the Orville A. Todd Moving Up Ceremony on Tuesday morning. Student speakers Isabella Sammon, Lena Abdelrahman, Katie Park, and Joyce Suarez did an amazing job delivering their inspirational speeches. Congratulations to the award winners and the entire Todd class of 2021! [Please click here for the program.](#)

[Please click here for the Todd Moving Up Ceremony.](#)



Above: The Todd Moving Up Ceremony was held outdoors behind the school so that parents and guardians could attend. At the end of the ceremony, Spackenkill High School Principal Steve Malkischer led the recessional for the SHS Class of 2025.

Hagan Students Move Up

Hagan students had their Moving Up Ceremony at Todd Middle School last Wednesday. It was a change from the tradition of holding the event in the Hagan gym, but now it looks like holding it outdoors at Todd might be a new possibility because it was so successful. Of special note: Many remote students attended the ceremony in person and enjoyed being with their peers. Principal John Farrell led the ceremony with 2021-2022 Acting Principal Clinton DeSouza also in attendance. Congrats to all the award winners! [Please click here to read the program.](#)

[Please click here for the Hagan Moving Up Ceremony.](#)

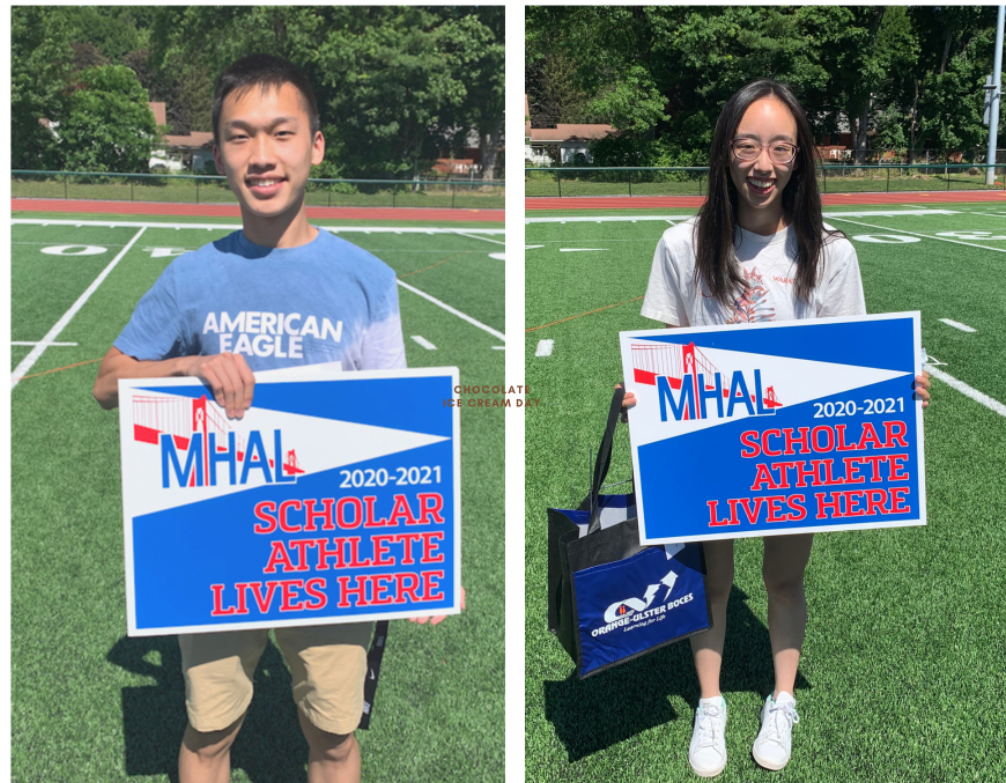


Above: Fifth grade teachers spoke about their students at the ceremony and led their students in the processional and recessional. Todd Principal Dan Doherty symbolically led the entire line (*top right*). Hagan 2021-2022 Acting Principal Clinton DeSouza stands with Hagan Principal's Secretary Pat Sample and John Farrell (*above left*).

MHAL Athletes

Seniors Emily Ma and Alexander Zhu are the recipients of the Mid-Hudson Athletic League (MHAL) Scholar-Athlete Award. They also submitted an essay and were selected by members of the MHAL Council for the Carmen Congelli Sportsmanship Scholarships. Congrats!

MHAL SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD RECIPIENTS



CONGRATULATIONS TO EMILY MA AND ALEXANDER ZHU

National Junior Honor Society Induction

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society is an honor earned by a student for outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. On June 21, 2021, the 18th Annual National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place. [Please click here for the program and the names of students inducted during this live virtual event.](#)



Above: Todd students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in a virtual ceremony with advisor Rebecca Chaoussoglou-Rotter.

French Club News

High school French Club members taught kindergartners the color words in French through screen sharing, songs, and videos. The kindergarten students, who were learning remotely, came prepared to their lessons with objects from their households in specific colors that they then shared about using the French color words. The lessons concluded with a free drawing session where students used the specific colors they learned in French to create artwork.



Above: Remote KinderFrench lessons in progress.

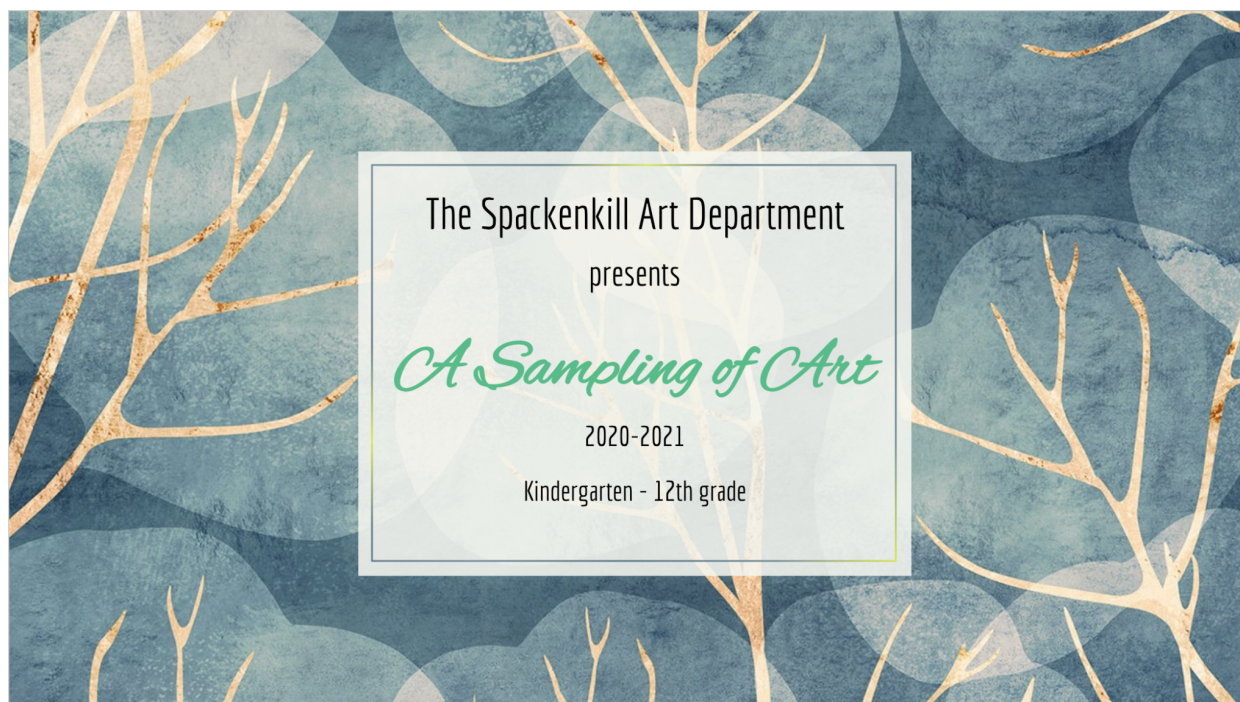
On the last day of school for high school students (Monday, June 21), the French Club, in conjunction with the upper-level Spanish classes, hosted a combined picnic on the high school soccer fields. The French side of things, "Pique-nique et pétanque," highlighted traditional French foods (cheeses, charcuterie, cornichons, baguettes, etc.) and a lawn game called pétanque. The Spanish side of things, "Jamón y jai alai," highlighted traditional Spanish foods (jamón serrano, cheeses, olives, roasted red peppers, etc.) and a version of the sport jai alai. Every attending student brought a dish to share, and it really was a feast! It was a wonderful end to the school year that brought the foreign language students together as one group.



Above: Scenes from a world languages feast.

Art Department Shares K-12 Creations

This year, student K-12 artwork was amazing, as usual. Our art department sent along a presentation for you to enjoy!



[Please click here or on the image above to view a presentation of K-12 art.](#)

Experimental Eggs

To cap off their science curriculum for this school year, students in Mrs. Wilcox's and Mrs. Zanca and Christolon's classes worked together on a STEM activity this week outdoors. They were given various materials (including cotton balls, cardboard, straws, tape, tissue paper, egg cartons) to design and build a contraption to protect an egg from a high fall. The contraptions with the eggs were dropped from heights of 40, 68, and 100 inches. Two contraptions survived all three falls!! Students then reflected on what they would do differently and worked well about their designs.



Above: Second grade students worked on their protective egg case designs and then tried them out with their teachers.

Second Grade Sendoff

On a picture-perfect morning, second graders and their teachers walked the halls of Nassau Elementary one last time. Afterward, each student left a rock that he or she

painted outside the front garden beds for future students and staff to enjoy. Parents and guardians attended and heard the second graders sing "The School that Built Me."

[Please click here to watch the Nassau Second Grade Sendoff.](#)



Above: Nassau second graders placed memory rocks in the front garden beds and paraded through hallways and around the school. They got to meet their new Acting Principal, Mr. DeSouza. Afterward, there was a singalong.

Kindergarten Memories

Mr. Curtis and Mrs. Ravas held their Kindergarten performances this week. Students in Mr. Curtis's class performed a pirate song and also presented a fun dance. It was impressive how many lyrics and dance moves they had memorized!

Students in Mrs. Ravas's class sang a funny song about being a fish and sang "What a Wonderful World." Afterward, they presented their parents with a book of the same name that each student illustrated.



Above: Mr. Curtis's class gave an energetic performance.



Above: Mrs. Ravas's class entertained parents. *At top right*, Mrs. Ravas shows a page from a student's "What a Wonderful World" book.

Scenes from the Elementary Schools

This past week, there were fun activities at both elementary schools. A few scenes are below:



Above, clockwise from top left: The Superintendent visits with Hagan students at the ice cream truck; the first grade picnic; last day excitement; Hagan teachers waving goodbye to the school buses; friends saying goodbye; fifth graders at dismissal for the last time.

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/11aUWu5QxUEwlicd4owxd7S6aR3OSNAGlaQVjjCXiUBw/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/spackenkil-ufsd-athletics>

Start Date for Fall Sports:

JV/Varsity - August 23, 2021

Modified - September 9, 2021

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](#): This could very well be our last COVID-19 Dashboard as we return to normalcy for the next school year.



Sincerely,

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



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