

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

March 19, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

It was heartbreaking to learn of the senseless shootings in Atlanta on March 16, which resulted in the deaths of eight people. Six of those victims were women of Asian descent. Though the suspect has been arrested, the threat of violence and racism is still among us. Spackenkill will continue to honor the uniqueness and diversity of our students and community and promote an inclusive culture that fosters empathy and compassion for one another. This tragic event underscores the need to come together as a community and reject racism of all kinds. Our differences are never settled by violence. Only open dialogue and a willingness to embrace diversity can help us move forward and prevent the scourge of hate incidents. If you have any concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher, principal, and counseling staff for support.

Return of Hagan and Todd Students

This week, Hagan's third and fourth graders came back full time on a five-day schedule. Sixth grade came in four days at Todd. It was fun to see them filling the hallways, respectfully interacting with their classroom teachers, and participating in PE class. One highlight of my visit to Todd was speaking with Mr. Colon about the students' return. To welcome all students back in their new schedules, inspire them to do their best for the rest of the school year, and continue to observe pandemic precautions, he created a musical video with one of his classes. Some photos of the students are below:



Above: Mrs. Darcy's fourth grade in PE class this week.



Above: Mrs. Murin and Ms. Farrell's third grade class in action.



Above: Students dressed for St. Patrick's Day in Mrs. Talleur's class.



Above: Dr. Fanuele checks in with Mr. Rawls and chats with a sixth grader between classes.



Above: Sixth graders enjoy PE.



Above: Mr. Colon and Dr. Fanuele after watching a clever video that Mr. Colon and his students made to welcome everyone back.

BOE Update

At the Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 pm, which will be streamed live from the District website homepage, www.spackenkillschools.org, there will be a presentation for the 2021-2022 school year budget. After the presentation, there will be Community Input Regarding Budget and Discussion. Please use the link that will appear on the District homepage under the Livestream icon to submit any questions you may have during or after the presentation. 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 forum. For the purpose of time, there will be a question-and-answer period of 20 minutes. All other questions will be answered either by email or at the next Board meeting. There will be a budget hearing at the May 4th meeting.

Travel Advisories

Please take note of the latest travel advisories for New York State and plan accordingly for the spring break. Remember, we're all in this together:

It was recently announced by the Governor and the NYS Department of Health that effective April 1, 2021, domestic travelers will no longer be required to quarantine after entering New York from another U.S. State or U.S. Territory. While quarantining will no longer be required, the NYS Department of Health still recommends that individuals returning from domestic travel quarantine upon their return as precaution. Please note, however, that individuals will still need to quarantine upon return from international travel. All travelers must continue to fill out the [Traveler Health Form](#). Individuals should continue strict adherence to all safety guidelines to stop the spread - wearing masks, socially distancing and avoiding gatherings.

While the quarantine requirements will change on April 1st, until then, domestic travelers must still comply with the following quarantine requirements until March 31st:

- Staff/students will need to have a test within 3 days before leaving your travel destination to come home **and**
- Staff/students will need to quarantine in NY upon return **and**
- On Day 4 of quarantine, you must test again in NY.
- If you choose not to test or do not get both tests, staff/students must quarantine for the full 10 days.
- Staff/students do not need to quarantine if they have been completely vaccinated within the last 90 days and their return to New York is at least two weeks after the final vaccination dosage, provided they give proof of vaccination to the building nurse.

- Staff/students who have tested positive for COVID 19 within 90 days of their return to New York do not have to quarantine, provided they give proof of a prior COVID diagnosis to the building nurse.
- Students who are traveling with fully vaccinated adults still need to quarantine.

Please remember that regardless of quarantine status, all individuals exposed to COVID-19 or returning from travel must:

- Continue daily symptom monitoring through Day 14;
- Continue strict adherence to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including hand hygiene and the use of face coverings, through Day 14 (even if fully vaccinated);
- Must immediately self-isolate if any symptoms develop and contact the local public health authority or their healthcare provider to report this change in clinical status and determine if they should seek testing.

This memo is informational only, and does not relieve any individual of the responsibility of being familiar with any restrictions or parameters necessary for personal travel.

Information regarding the travel restrictions can be found at:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

Please contact your building administrator or school nurse if you have any questions. We hope that your spring break is enjoyable!

COVID-19 Update and Dashboard

Since we started the school year, we have had 64 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.

Spring Sports



Online registration for spring sports is now open on [Family ID](#). At this time, we plan to offer Modified, JV, and Varsity levels. This is dependent on the interest level of our students and league participation. The season is scheduled to start April 19, 2021.

Boys Golf - Varsity
 Baseball - Varsity, JV, Modified
 Softball - Varsity, JV, Modified
 Crew - Varsity, Novice
 Spring Track - Varsity, Modified
 Boys Tennis - Varsity

Nassau Staff Takes a Hike



Nassau staff met for a fun and challenging hike up beautiful Mount Beacon last weekend. It was a great opportunity to be together in the fresh air and experience nature.

The school will be challenging its families to complete this hike this month and then will choose a different one for next month.

Spartan Fundraiser

ONCE A SPARTAN, ALWAYS A SPARTAN



To boost morale among K-12 students, faculty, and staff, the Class of 2023 is launching a two-week "Once a Spartan, Always a Spartan" fundraiser. Class advisors Kristin Oakley and Jenn Fahy have worked with a local business, Arlington Ink, to create a few affordable pieces for our school community. The fundraiser runs until March 28. All orders

are placed online, and customers can either pick up their item(s) at Arlington Ink on Raymond Ave or have the item(s) shipped directly to their homes. Items will be ready and shipped on April 7.

[Click here to shop the fundraiser](#)

St. Patrick's Day



Above left: At Hagan, the office tree was decked out with shamrocks this week. *Above right:* Third graders wrote and illustrated stories about leprechauns.

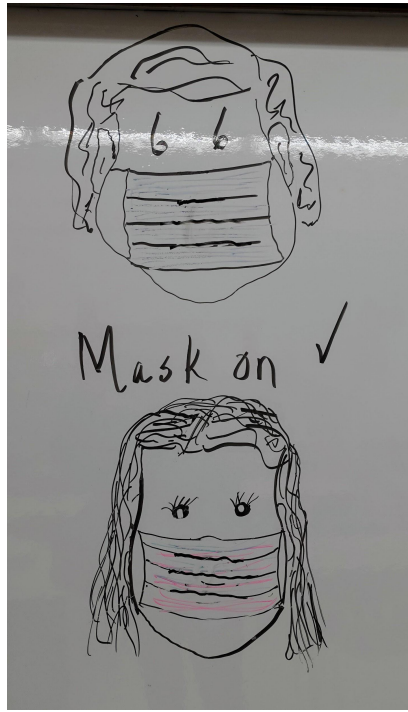
Happy St. Patrick's Day from Todd Middle School's Orchestra Students!

[Click here to listen to the following selections:](#)

6th Grade Orchestra - John Ryan's Polka

7th Grade Orchestra - The Flowers of Edinburgh

8th Grade Orchestra - Drowsy Maggie



Looking ahead: Monday, March 22, completes our previously announced plan, and all grade levels will be fully in person, if they have chosen in-person instruction. Students in grade 5 will be back five days and students in grades 7 through 10 will also return following a four-day schedule.

Remember, the pandemic is still here and we still have to wear our masks and practice social distancing and handwashing. Let's hope that everything continues to go well as we approach spring break.

Above: Illustration on Mr. Colon's whiteboard about the importance of mask wearing.

Sincerely,

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



15 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603; 845-463-7800