



The thinking behind the council was to provide a way for teens to share ideas and give them a voice in the community—something that Nordelis strongly felt was lacking, especially as schools went remote during pandemic times. The council also serves as the project for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Her advisor for the award is Senator Sue Serino.

The council voted to make their focus “mental health” this year and organized a panel with two mental health professionals. “We are hoping to share it with schools that are part of the council,” says Nordelis. The group also conducted a mental health survey and received 1,300 responses. Seventy-four percent of respondents said their mental health had been affected by the pandemic.

To keep your spirits up, Nordelis recommends finding things you enjoy doing. “Take time for yourself. During finals, take five minutes to decompress and take your mind off of things. Walk away, talk to your friends and people you’re comfortable with, don’t keep things inside.”

Over the past few months, Nordelis has been in the community spreading the word. This past week, she met with County Executive Marc Molinaro and presented her ideas to the County Legislature for Mental Health Awareness Month.

At Spackenkill, Nordelis is a member of the crew team and Spack Onstage. Congratulations on this exciting project.

#### **Mental Health Resources:**

You are not alone. If you or someone you know is in need please reach out or contact the following numbers:

Dutchess County Helpline: (845) 485-9700 or (877) 485-9700

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-TALK or (800) 273-8255

#### **Student Assists Deaf Community**

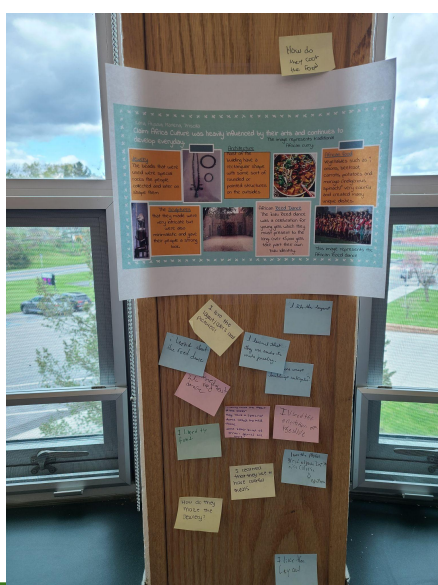


Spackenkill High School junior Maya Joy organized an online event last week attended by 21 people from the deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing communities. The event was hosted by Taconic Resources for Independence, which also provided American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.

“We’re all here today to discuss important information and answer any questions that you might all have about important issues that are going on with COVID,” said Maya to the group. She then introduced Dr. Valerie Cluzet, an infectious disease specialist from Nuvance Health, affiliated with Vassar Brothers in Poughkeepsie. John Nelson, also of Vassar Brothers/Nuvance, joined in the discussion.

In addition to general COVID questions, helpful topics came up such as how interpreters are being scheduled at vaccine sites and how the deaf let the staff know at registration that they need communication access to interpreters.

Members of the Todd ASL Club attended the event as well to practice their sign language skills.



#### **Global Gallery Walk at SHS**

Mr. Daley's ninth grade Global classes studied Sub-Saharan Africa in a two-week-long project in the library, where they researched primary and secondary sources and created an infographic on what they learned.

The posters from all three classes were posted around the library, and everyone had the opportunity to read and respond to their classmates' research using Post-it notes. It was a fun, socially distanced

opportunity to get the students up and moving. Thank you to Mrs.Grillo for helping to make it happen!



### Signs of Spring

Hagan teachers Mrs. Stout and Mrs. Scoralick hatched chicks with their remote students as part of their study of the life cycle. Many of the eggs were donated by Hubbell Spring Farm in Pine Plains. "It was so awesome to have the opportunity to have our kids and their families in person to meet the chicks," said Mrs.Scoralick. Other Hagan students also enjoyed meeting baby chicks this past week. A few photos follow:





### **Elementary Staff Gets a Treat**

Nassau and Hagan staff enjoyed a visit from an ice cream truck in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.



### Spack Onstage Spring Show

# SPACK ONSTAGE

If you haven't gotten your tickets yet for "The Wedding Singer," act now before it's too late. The production has limited seating and will be presented on the HS football field on May 13, 14, and 15 at 8 pm each night. You will be screened, temperature-checked, and seated with all the members of your party, six feet apart from other groups on the bleachers. Come join us for an evening of live theater under the stars! Tickets will not be sold at the door, so buy now online at: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/49511>

### COVID-19 Update and Dashboard

Since we started the school year, we have had 99 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.



Yesterday was National Nurses Day. A shout-out to our team:

- Elizabeth Giancaspro, BSN, RN (SHS)
- Alyssa Karcz, RN (Todd)
- Sharon Dooley-Russo, RN (Hagan)
- Nora Bergstraser, MSN, RN (Nassau):

We couldn't have made it through without them!

Sincerely,

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

