

# A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



## One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

May 28, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

At the next Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, June 1, at 6:30 pm, we will be presenting our preliminary draft for using American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Plan (ESSER) funding. Similar to the CARES act, the federal government has provided this funding. This is good news, as this funding aligns with the Spackenkill District's instructional response that we have already spoken about at previous Board meetings. We will discuss how these funds will be expended and how we will prioritize spending through our programs and in our facilities. The meeting will be livestreamed on the district website homepage: [www.spackenkillschools.org](http://www.spackenkillschools.org). Also, on our COVID-19 website homepage, [www.spackenkillschools.org/COVID-19](http://www.spackenkillschools.org/COVID-19), we will post a feedback form for community input that will be active until June 6 at 5 pm.

Our June 1st Board Meeting will also include a Celebration of Successes, in which we honor retiring staff and our high school valedictorian and salutatorian. Please join us!

### Back to Bach Project



Last week, Ms. Valentine's Gold and Silver Strings orchestras at Hagan enjoyed visits with members of the Back to Bach Project. The project consists of young outstanding classical musicians and artists, many of whom have won prizes on the national as well as international levels. They volunteer their time to visit elementary schools, libraries, and community organizations to share a love of the arts. Andrew Chun, a junior at Spackenkill High School and also a student at Juilliard Pre-College, is the regional director of the organization.

Looking to give back to his old elementary school, Andrew asked Ms. Valentine, his former teacher, if Back to Bach could visit her classes.

Andrew, a cellist, was joined by violinist Claire Metcalf, also of Juilliard Pre-College; violinist Audrey Park, an undergraduate student at Juilliard; and Shuheng Zhang, a pianist and student at Harvard College. The performers played selections from various composers, including Beethoven and Dvorak, to inspire the Hagan classes. They encouraged the Hagan students to pursue their passions and focus on what they love best, whether it is classical music or sports (or anything else that they love). To cap off the visit, Hagan students took a fun online quiz about music terminology.

Visit this link to learn more about the Back to Bach Project:

<https://www.backtobachproject.org>



Above: Clare Metcalf and Shuheng Zhang perform a duet for Hagan students.



Above, clockwise from top left: Members of the Back to Bach Project include Claire Metcalf, Shuheng Zhang, Spackenkill's own Andrew Chun, and Audrey Park.

### Junior Awards

On May 20, 2021, the Junior Awards were held at Spackenkill High School. Congratulations to all the winners! [Click here to read the program.](#)  
Enjoy some images from the evening below:

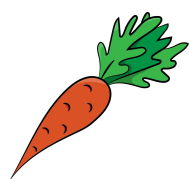


### Seed Science

Mrs. Strapec's second grade class is learning about the life cycle of a seed. The students enjoyed doing seed observations outdoors. One student jumped when he noticed the seed beginning to push through the soil. Such excitement!



### Kindergarten Garden



As part of their science curriculum, students in Mr. Curtis's kindergarten class are studying the different stages of a plant's life. Each student started several plants from seeds. The class took a survey and decided they would plant broccoli, lettuce, carrots, peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes. They put the seeds in a seed starter kit and observed their growth. As the seeds got larger, the students transplanted the seedlings into larger pots. Finally, they were ready to transplant the plants outside to Nassau's

back garden. They have been spending time weeding the garden, watering the plants, and observing the growth of the plants. The students have worked really hard getting the garden ready and planting their vegetables. "We look forward to making a salad in the future," said Mr. Curtis.



**15th Annual  
SCIENCE  
Research  
symposium**

**Video Presentations**  
**Sophomores & Juniors:** poster boards in their area of interest  
**Seniors:** slideshow and poster board on their own research

**Wednesday June 2**  
**MEET THE STUDENTS  
BEHIND THE RESEARCH!**

**All Online!**

Available on Demand via link on the Spackenkill Homepage

**FOR MORE INFO ASK A SENIOR PRESENTER:**  
Taha Ali, Emily Cohen, Anikha Justin, Samuel Kelson, Abigail Straus, Alex Zhu

Link will go live on Wednesday, June 2, on district and high school websites.

<https://hs.spackenkillschools.org> (High School)

<https://www.spackenkillschools.org> (District)

### Remembrance Walk Returns



Please save the date, June 11, for the return of LEO Club's annual Remembrance Walk in memory of those who have passed away. The event will take place in the early evening--details to come! We will walk the Spackenkill track and then gather together for a program of events, including releasing lanterns and honoring people who have passed within the last year. LEO Club welcomes anyone

who would care to speak at the event about losing a loved one during the pandemic. If you have lost a loved one please send us a picture of them along with their name so we can honor them in our slide show. Please contact Ria Bhutani at [rbhut20030@sufsdny.org](mailto:rbhut20030@sufsdny.org) if you are interested in speaking or sending a photo.

### **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.

Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend! See you back on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

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



Please see flyer that might be of interest:

[Summer Basketball Camp](#)

[Adelante Summer Program Application \(English\)](#)

[Adelante Summer Program Application \(Spanish\)](#)

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