Dear Spackenkill Community,

Do you appreciate tradition as much as I do? Reading the history of the Spartan was very interesting. School district traditions help create a positive culture and demonstrate our respect for the students, staff, and school community that preceded us. Thank you, Ms. Mueth, for sharing your story of the creation of the Spartan logo. If anyone knows the person who created the logo, please contact us.

I realize that school songs can sometimes fall out of favor as times change. Spackenkill has a school song, even though it is rarely referenced. If you have any information on the melody of the original school song, please contact us. We have the lyrics, but not the music.

A school district can be forward thinking and embrace past traditions at the same time. Spackenkill has a great legacy, and the accomplishments of today are built upon the successes of the past.

My best,
Mathletes Excel at DUSO

The Dutchess-Ulster-Sullivan-Orange County (DUSO) League holds meets in which area high schools compete. Among the districts/schools who participate are Arlington, Beacon, Cornwall, Goshen, Lourdes, Middletown, Monroe-Woodbury, New Paltz, Pawling, Rondout Valley, Poughkeepsie, and Wappingers.

Meet 5 is done and here are the 2019-2020 results.

Congratulations to the following students:
Nick Ristic in 2-way tie for first place, individual score
Emily Ma in a 3-way tie for second place
Leo Herrera in a 3-way tie for fourth place

The cutoff for New York State Math League will be high.

Congratulations to Spack A for your highest score of all the DUSO teams. Spack B ranked 7th with 74 points, while Spack C had a total of 59 points. It looks like the D team missed Sectionals by 3 points, but you still did a good job.

In the E League, Spack A and B took first and second. Ms. Pupko doesn't remember a school doing that as long as she has been involved.

Congratulations to all students, and co-coaches Ms. Pupko and Dylan Herman for these victories!
Above, left to right: Emily Ma, Nick Ristic, and Leo Herrera are top scorers at DUSO.

Kindness Is Key

Spack Club at Todd is working on promoting Kindness Month. The organization has created a bulletin board centered on random acts of kindness. Faculty and staff have access to hearts by their mailboxes, and if they catch someone being kind, they can write that person’s name on a heart and give it to club members to staple on the bulletin board. Also, there is a kindness-themed mural in progress, estimated to be finished by the end of February. Deb Winnis, Kate Casucci, and Kristen Gil are working with MaryBeth Romani to make that happen. Stay tuned for a photo of the finished creation!
Above: A kindness-themed bulletin board outside the Todd Dining Hall includes a calendar of daily inspiration. On the opposite wall, a kindness mural created by students is taking shape.

**Shrek The Musical Jr. Is Coming (Very) Soon!**

You won't want to miss *Shrek the Musical Jr.* at Todd. Take a look at the images below: Students have been busy rehearsing away with Mr. Shanks and Mr. K. Set crew has created some amazing scenery. There is still time to get your tickets!

**The show runs February 28th and 29th at 7 pm and March 1 at 2 pm.**
A 2008 graduate of Spackenkill, Lisa Forst is a freelance makeup effects artist. She runs her own studio in Denville, NJ, but also works for other, more veteran artists on their own shows, mainly in Manhattan. We asked her about how she came to be where she is today.

**What classes did you take at Spackenkill to prepare you for your career?**

At Spackenkill I took basic art classes, drawing and painting, and my senior year I did an Independent study in film. I still remember the day I figured out how to mix a flesh tone in Mr. Romani's class, which is something I do every time I apply pieces. Taking an independent study, Mr Romani always told me to make my own path and be self-reliant. This is crucial for being in a niche industry, especially if you do not go to school for it.

**Did other teachers at Spackenkill make an impact?**

I also loved English and took an elective in writing with Ms. Scivolette. This helped me in college when it came to screenwriting. While I do little screenwriting now, learning about character development was so important to what I do professionally. Many times I need to read through a script and have to draw my own details of how the characters should look. Ultimately, makeup helps tell the story, and I am thankful for what I learned in Ms. Scivolette's
classes.

Did you go to college or go straight to work?

I went to the School of Visual Arts after graduating high school and majored in Film. I began by doing everyone’s makeup effects for their student films, and when I graduated I immediately joined the work force. My first jobs were low-budget independent short films. This led to low-budget independent feature movies, which led to me eventually joining the I.A.T.S.E Local 798 Makeup and Hair union. Once in the union, I was able to take on bigger shows and work for bigger artists.

What advice do you have for artists?

My best advice for someone who wants to make it in a tough industry is to be persistent and humble. Mr Romani always said, “You have to really want it.” My last year of college I tried to work as much as possible to make the transition after graduation easier. I missed a lot of my social life (and sleep) working on nonschool projects. After graduating, my effects partner (and now fiancé!) and I built a shop together. Literally all of our free time was spent either building the shop or working on our craft. I worked for as many prosthetic guys as I could in New York and I took all paid jobs that came my way. If you are humble and a little lucky, you will meet the right people who will help you along with your career.

What are the jobs you remember the most?

Some of my most memorable projects are jobs I get to travel to cool places. I headed an independent film where my effects partner, Brandon Grether, and I build a head-to-toe creature suit and we traveled to a remote mine in the Upper Peninsula in Michigan. Every day for three weeks I was underground and our weekends were spent exploring the UP. I also enjoy being on larger, high-budget movies where I am part of a giant team of makeup artists from different coasts. I get to learn the most from meeting new faces. I have also learned a lot from working at Saturday Night Live. Every week has something completely different and since it is live TV you only have a fraction of the time to apply.

What’s ahead?

I hope to continue on the path I am on to develop my career. I would love to head bigger effects builds for larger budgeted films and get to travel more.
To learn more about Ms. Forst's work, visit: https://www.forstfx.com/

**Castles in the Classroom**

Mrs. Wilcox's second graders recently worked on a sandcastle erosion STEM experiment. The students enjoyed simulating natural forces at work, not to mention wearing cool scientific goggles.

*Above: Second graders simulate wind stirring up sand.*

**Story of the Spartan**

Spackenkill Alumnus Shelah Jackson Mueth, class of '82, recently wrote to us regarding the beloved Spackenkill Spartan and the symbol's origins. It's interesting to learn that the Spartan is a student creation, originating sometime in the 1970s. Ms. Mueth spotted it on athletic uniforms in a district yearbook from 1975. Adam Hammond, also class of '82, owns bleacher cushions that once belonged to one of his sisters (we are not sure which one!), who

"The SHS Spartan symbol is unique," writes Ms. Mueth. "A student drew the initials of SHS to look like a Spartan. That's why our Spartan always faces to the right. For class rings, only Spackenkill rings can use this particular Spartan design -- I know, I asked! I feel that many students and staff aren't aware of the history and talent that our school had when it was starting up."

If you want to explore the Spartan logo, check out these links for class rings and vintage yearbooks:

Above: Images of the official Spackenkill Spartan over the years. Clockwise from top left: On a ring from 1980, on a bleacher cushion from the 70s owned by SHS Guidance Counselor Adam Hammond's family, on the tablecloth and backdrop for a recent athletic signing, and on a car window sticker, with SHS clearly visible.

A Message to Veterans

A program for veterans to receive high school diplomas became a law November 11, 2019, with the approval of the Governor. Under the law, the Commissioner of Education will develop
a program whereby any veteran of the Armed Forces who has served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces and who was unable, for any reason, to complete a secondary education, may be awarded a high school diploma based on knowledge and experience gained while in service. If you are a veteran who fits these criteria or know of someone who does, please contact Spackenkill High School Principal Steve Malkischer: 845-463-7810.

**Transportation Notice**

Parents and guardians must have requests for private providers to the Spackenkill UFSD Transportation Department by April 1. Requests must be filed every year. For more information, please call Doreen Wright, Director of Transportation: 463-7800.

- [Print a Request for Private/Parochial School Transportation](#)
- [Print a Request for Daycare Transportation](#)

**The Harlem Wizards are coming to town! Save the Date:**

**March 13th, 7 pm SHS Gym. This fundraiser is sponsored by the Elementary PTA.**

[Click here to get your tickets!](#)

**Special Night of Remembrance**

On Saturday, February 15, members of Spack Onstage performed in "A Special Night of Remembrance" at Beacon High School. Beacon students presented scenes from the play *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, centered on children of Teretzin who perished in the Holocaust. Plans are in the works for the play to be performed for Spackenkill 10th graders followed by a talkback session. Shown at left is a statue created in honor of the children of Teretzin. Thank you to director Anthony Scarrone for making this possible.
Above: Spackenkill Junior Macy Hammond (foreground) leads the Sabbath Prayer.