



*What's Right with
Spackenkill!*

September 7, 2018

*Back-to-School
Issue*

*A tradition of
excellence with a
vision for tomorrow*

Dear Spackenkill Community,

Thursday's school openings across the district went smoothly and positively. It's great to have students back in class. An empty school is joyless in many ways. A few quick comments on the district.

- Enrollment is up by approximately 40 students across the district and has topped 1,535. You will see many new student faces and we welcome all of you!
- We currently have 14 new tuition students enrolled in the district, most of whom have transferred from private schools. Again, we wish you well at Spackenkill.
- The roofs themselves are complete at Hagan and Nassau as fascia and punch lists will be completed in September.
- Next Tuesday, September 11th, the Board of Education will discuss energy usage and proposed savings, including a power purchase plan to include solar panels on our roofs, at their upcoming meeting at Orville Todd Middle School. Residents are encouraged to attend.
- We have a record number of new teachers in one year, as "baby boomers" like myself have retired. We will greatly miss our retired teachers and support staff!

We bring your attention to *Hudson Valley Magazine's* profile of Spackenkill High School as one of two award-winning high schools in the region. It's a testament to the quality of K-12 education in the district.

We hope that your teens and children are off to a great start to the school year. Parent open houses begin next week, so please check your school's schedule. We value your attendance.

My best,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Scenes from the Schools

On opening day, there was a lot happening across the Spackenkill district!



Above: Nassau staff greet the district's youngest students and guide them into the school. Principal Nancy Ferrarone (bottom row, left, walking with student) and School Resource Officer

Corey Kilfoyle (middle row, by bus) were on hand to keep students safe.



Above: Thank you to the Elementary PTA for decorating the entrances to Nassau and Hagan with chalk welcome messages.



Above: Hagan's Anne Riehl planted a mum garden at the building entrance on the first day.



Above: Todd has a new greeter! Please welcome Luis Melendez.



Above: Spackenkill High School is getting twin music trophy cases in the auditorium lobby.

Superintendent's Conference Day Inspires

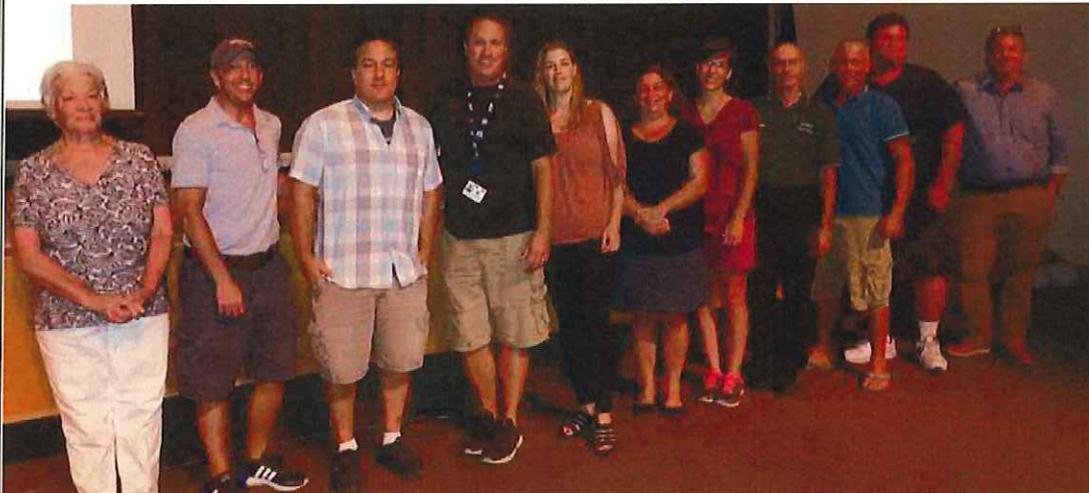
Spackenkill teachers and staff gathered on September 4th to kick off the first of two Superintendent's Conference Days. Superintendent Mark Villanti opened the event on Tuesday and talked about the "ripple effect" that teachers have in influencing students' lives. "Little moments and acts of kindness" are remembered years later, he said.

Board President Thomas Keith spoke about the many accomplishments of Spackenkill over the last school year, as well as two developments over the summer: a Niche rating of number one county-wide and an article in *Hudson Valley Magazine's* September issue that featured SHS as one of two high-performing high schools in the region ([click here for link](#)). “To represent the district is an honor to me,” said Mr. Keith. “I cherish it and I always will.”



The staff enjoyed **Spack Onstage's** beautiful rendition of a song from the Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen*, which they also performed at Freshman Orientation.

Spackenkill staff who achieved longevity were honored in two categories: those who attained 20 and 30 years of service this school year. Those previously honored with over 30 years of service are Maureen Tremblay (SHS), Dave Murray (Hagan), Chris Weisner (Hagan), and Pat Sample (Hagan).



Above: Staff who have achieved 20 years of service are (pictured left to right) Filomena Coviello (transportation), Bill Simmonds (Hagan), Roberto Romani (SHS), Tom Kirschenheiter (Todd), Elyse Joy (Todd), Andrea Davis (Nassau), Pennie Burgess (Todd), Frank Kane (SHS), John Aagaard (SHS), Patrick Bowdren (Todd), and Duane Tolomeo (Nassau).



Hagan Principal John Farrell with Donna Petrossian (center) and Kim Burlingame, who have been in the district for 30 years. Not pictured is Brian Brodbeck of Nassau.

Meet New Teachers & Staff

There are a lot of new faces in the Spackenkill district! At New Teacher Orientation and Superintendent's Conference Day, the staff got to meet them all. Please see photos below:



The Administration went through a rigorous, months-long hiring process to "get the right people on the bus." In the photo above, new teachers literally got on a bus, driven by bus driver Diana Travis, for a tour of the district, narrated by Dr. Villanti.



Above: SHS Principal Steve Malkischer (far left) and Assistant Principal Dr. Pat Tripken (far right) welcomed new staff on September 4th, Superintendent's Conference Day. Pictured from left to right are librarian Ashley Joy, Julie Pineau-Kelsey (foreign language), Jessica Fletcher (computer science), school psychologist Deirdra Maguire, Holden Maiorana (chorus), Megha Swamy (orchestra/strings), Adiza Ali-Saafir (math), Erik Thomas (PE), and Jodi Sibilia (art).



Todd Principal Dan Doherty (far right) and Assistant Principal Anchala Sobrin (far left) introduced (left to right) Lauren Ott (special education), TA Jaclyn Simpson, TA Michele Brenner, Ryan Hannigan (math), Paula Daunt (French), Josh Riley (PE), resident sub Susan Scott, and clerical sub Jeanne Mills.



Nassau Principal Nancy Ferrarone (far left) is pictured with the following new staff (left to right): Jaime Politi (kindergarten), Courtney Crisci (kindergarten), Christine Farrell (special education), school social worker Jessica Mills, and monitor Diana Miller.

Music Teacher Has Busy Schedule



Elementary music teacher Kody Andreas was recently interviewed for *Hudson Valley Parent* about the importance of music class in students' lives. [Click here to read the article.](#)

This summer, Mr. Andreas also attended and presented at the 2018 Early Childhood Music and Movement Association Convention at Buffalo State. He was one of two presenters who are public school teachers; all the remaining include university professors from locations as diverse as Montana, Maryland, the Florida Gulf Coast, and even Brazil. Mr. Andreas's workshop was a hit and a great way to showcase our music department here at Spackenkill! [Click here to view an activity.](#)

His next professional endeavor is a monthly program at Carnegie Hall involving musicians and educators. Stay tuned for updates!

District Gets Top Rating



The Niche website has again rated the Spackenkill Union Free School District #1 in Dutchess County! [Please click here to read more.](#)

Capital Project in Action

Over the summer facilities manager Dave Downes worked actively with our roofing installers through the rain and heat, and we are in the final stages of completion at Nassau and Hagan. The remainder of this project (Phase 2) is at the NYS Education Department being reviewed. We anticipate moving forward next May. To date, the projects are on schedule and under budget while meeting our quality specifications.



On September 11th the Board of Education will be discussing further movement toward a K – 12 campus solar initiative, roof mounted at each school. We have been working on this for some time in anticipation of our new roof completion. Our focus is on a Power Purchase Agreement that requires no capital outlay. The generation of energy pays for the project and

guarantees a reduced electrical bill while decreasing our carbon footprint.

Athletics News

Visiting with Giants

The varsity football team attended the New York Giants training camp practice this summer. Former Spackenkill teacher and coach Dave Gettleman (current Giants general manager) invited the team to visit. "It was great experience for the kids," said Director of Athletics Marco Lanzoni. "We were in the VIP tent and the players hung out with the team after practice to sign autographs"



Scholar-Athlete Honors



The New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc. (NYSPHSAA) has named Spackenkill High School a 2017-18 Scholar-Athlete School of Excellence School for the second straight year.

Congratulations to our student-athletes, families, coaches, and teachers for continuing to strive for excellence! To earn the School of Excellence Award, 75% of a school's varsity teams must qualify and receive the Scholar-Athlete team award.

Spackenkill Website Goes Mobile

Be sure to visit spackenkillschools.org for updates. The website has been streamlined and is mobile-friendly. Please see red arrow in photo below: That's where you select your school building:



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(845) 463-7800

Mission: Inspired by a tradition of excellence and a spirit of continuous improvement, the Spackenkill School District will provide all of our students with the academic and social skills necessary to pursue their goals and become responsible citizens in an interdependent global community.

Vision: All Spackenkill graduates will be lifelong learners who are inspired to pursue their dreams and contribute to the global society.

[Please submit story ideas to mary.forsell@sufsdny.org](mailto:mary.forsell@sufsdny.org)

