Dear Spackenkill Community,

The close of every school year is bittersweet. There is the joy of a reduced summer schedule, sunshine, and family time, but also the sadness that comes from feeling the loss of relationships. Students graduating or moving and staff starting or retiring is simply the natural order of every school year.

In my 40 years in public education, I look at this year at Spackenkill as among the best of my career. As I turn the page to 2019–2020, I want to thank all of you – teachers, students, Board members, families, support staff, and fellow administrators – for your kindness, support, and encouragement. I am so grateful to all of you and look forward even more to next school year after some welcome time with family and friends!

My best,

Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Congrats, Class of 2019!
The Forty-Sixth Annual Commencement Exercises took place last Friday at the MJ Nesheiwat Convention Center in Poughkeepsie. It was a beautiful evening for the Class of 2019. The Spackenkill String Ensemble performed musical selections in contrasting styles, including a patriotic tribute. The SHS Drum Line entertained the crowd with flair. Valedictorian Rachel Li, Salutatorian Grace Katz, and Senior Class President Marcella Breglia all gave stand-out speeches. Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, Superintendent Mark Villanti, High School Principal Steve Malkischer, and Board of Education President Tom Keith also offered inspirational words. The event was livestreamed on the website so that friends and family who couldn't make it in person were able to enjoy the event as it was happening. We also have a video of the event for you to enjoy.

Please click on the link below to view the Spackenkill Class of 2019 Commencement video:

Click here to watch the commencement video.

Click here to read the program.

Click here or on the collage above for a gallery of images from graduation 2019.

Attention Graduates!
Please click here to join the Spackenkill Alumni Association

DC BOCES Presents Its Finest

The Duchess BOCES High School Programs 2019 Commencement took place last Friday. We are proud of our Spackenkill graduates Eric Antonmarchi, Isaiah Lassiter (official August graduation), Anna Rocco, and Bobbi Sedarhi Shati Thomas,

Bobbi Sedarhi Shati Thomas is the winner of the Poughkeepsie-Arlington Rotary Club Community Service Award, and Anna Rocco and Eric Antonmarchi both received the Rotary Club’s Award for Exceptional Effort.

Best wishes to the graduates!

Please click here to read the program.

Please click here to read about the Poughkeepsie-Arlington Rotary Club Awards.

Clockwise from above top left are Anna Rocco, Bobbi Sedarhi Shati Thomas, Eric Antonmarchi, and Isaiah Lassiter.
Family and friends gathered in the Todd gymnasium on June 25th to celebrate the 2019 Moving Up Ceremony, which was livestreamed from the district homepage. Mrs. Gretchen Franca’s musicians played the processional music as the 8th graders entered. Many awards were bestowed on deserving students (see program below) and speakers reflected on time spent at Todd while they also looked to the future. The event honored retiring teachers Norma Vazquez and Deborah Muellerleile. After the names of the graduates were announced, Spackenkill High School Principal Steve Malkischer led them in the recessional, symbolically recognizing their new status as freshmen. Afterward, the community gathered in the dining hall for a reception. A huge thanks to the PTSA and all the parent volunteers who did so much to make this ceremony a beautiful memory.

Click here to read the program.

Click here to listen to Mrs. Gretchen Franca’s musicians.
Onward and Upward!

The Hagan Moving Up Ceremony took place on the morning of June 21st. Generations of family members gathered to see fifth grade classes officially move up from Hagan Elementary School. As the students processed in, the Gold Strings played, conducted by Mrs. Burgess, who filled in in a pinch for Ms. Valentine. The ceremony began with greetings in different languages by students. Mr. Farrell then gave a speech reflecting on the students’ elementary years and the challenges ahead. He noted how much the students had matured and expanded their horizons in just three short years at Hagan, and encouraged them to embrace everything that their secondary years have to offer. An awards ceremony followed, along with student reflections on years spent in elementary school. Mr. Andreas also conducted a song in honor of the fifth grade classes. Congratulations to all!

Click here to see students greeting the community in foreign languages.

Click here to read Principal John Farrell’s speech.
Tops at Todd:

8th Graders Inducted into NJHS

On June 20th, eighth grade students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Membership in NJHS is an honor earned by a student for outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Mrs. Vazquez received honorary membership during the ceremony. A special thank you to Mrs. Gretchen Franca and members of the Todd Middle School Orchestra for the music they provided. Kudos to the students and to their adviser, Mrs. Rebecca Chaoussoglou-Rotter.

[Click here to read the program with list of inductees.]

Second Graders Say Goodbye

Second graders celebrated the end of the school year and their last days at Nassau with a fun picnic. They also
walked the Nassau hallways saying goodbye to everyone. It's always hard to leave wonderful teachers and friends!
Mrs. Oakley heard her senior English students reflecting on their high school years—what they did right, what they wished they'd done differently, what they enjoyed the most, what they should have taken more seriously—and thought it would make a great writing assignment. So the seniors wrote letters to the incoming freshman class, providing their advice about navigating Spackenkill High School next year. Eighth graders loved such sincere advice as "Don't procrastinate" and "Take advantage of all the opportunities afforded to you through clubs and extracurricular activities." We're sure they'll remember it as they cross the threshold to ninth grade in the fall.

Prom on the Hudson

On Thursday, June 13th, the senior class hosted its senior prom on the Skyline Princess Cruise Line. Seniors and their guests set sail for the Statue of Liberty and danced the night away under the NYC skyline. A great time was had by all and seniors truly had a memorable night!
One Last Hurrah!

Above: Seniors enjoyed a final group outing to Six Flags Great Adventure.

A Blue Ribbon Day

On June 26th, faculty and staff from all Spackenkill schools gathered on the high school football field for a group
photo to memorialize the 2018 National Blue Ribbon Award. Everyone wore green or blue as a tribute to school colors and to symbolize the award itself. With the guidance of SHS Principal Steve Malkischer, the group organized itself into a tied blue ribbon shape while facilities director Dave Downes took an aerial drone photo. The photo will hang in the District Office and in all four schools. Look for it in the fall! Some scenes from the ground are below.

*Above, clockwise from top right:* Facilities Director Dave Downes consults with the Superintendent and SHS Principal on the composition of the drone photo. Dr. Villanti addresses the group. Detective Corey Kiffoyle (*left*) with the new SRO, Steve Doughty.

*Above:* Cones helped guide the groups into formation.
Above: Todd and SHS formed the "tails" of the ribbon.

**Fall Sports Registration**

**Online registration** for fall sports opens on the following dates this summer:

JV/Varsity sports – July 20, 2019

Modified sports – August, 7, 2019


The **start date** for fall sports:

JV/Varsity - August 19, 2019

Modified - September 5, 2019

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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@su fsdny.org