



What's Right with Spackenkill!

March 13, 2020



Dear Spackenkill Community,

As you know already, student classes and extracurricular activities are canceled for two weeks, per County Executive Molinaro's decree. Remote education will begin on Tuesday, March 17th. Please locate your teacher's webpage, or Google Classroom, or other approved platforms that teachers utilize to gain access to these assignments.

So what is remote education? We are not a college. Our teachers are not trained in distance learning or remote teaching, where lessons are delivered daily by teachers over the Internet. I want you to have realistic expectations. Remote education will provide a general set of assignments that review, reinforce, and enrich instruction. We have a stable infrastructure for this purpose. By and large over 90% of our students have Wi-Fi at home. Our teachers are also able to communicate to families via email for those who do not have Wi-Fi. Schoolwork can be delivered in this manner.

I also want to bring your attention to our Atlas Curriculum Maps. We are expanding the amount of resources available to parents. Here is the link:

<https://spackenkillschools-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Public/View/Default>

This link will take you to our curriculum maps. These resources can be very helpful to you. Please do not think this curriculum will follow along exactly with what your teacher is doing currently, but it is overall a good description of our programs and follows NYS standards.

I have been told that there are many rumors floating through the community through posts on social media

suggesting that staff, students, or others have been diagnosed with COVID-19. That assertion is inaccurate. The Health Department is required to notify each school district if they learn of any confirmed case. I will notify you immediately if that occurs.

What can you do as a family to reduce the transmission of COVID-19? Please follow good personal hygiene (hand washing, covering sneezing, staying home if ill) and avoiding unnecessary travel or socializing in large groups of people.

The landscape is changing daily. You can rest assured that your health and safety remains uppermost in my thoughts. Any action that I take is in consultation with a variety of people and, most of all, our County Executive and Commissioner of Health.

Thank you for your great attitude during this difficult time. We need to continue to work together, and we will find a way through this current challenging public health crisis.

My best,



Mark Villanti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 Information

- [Please click here to read a message from the Superintendent on March 12, 2020, regarding new protocols.](#)
- [Please click on this link for the CDC website with guidance on how to prepare for and take action on the coronavirus.](#)
- [Please click on this COVID-19 update for Spackenkill from Emergency One.](#)
- [Please click on this link from the Dutchess County Department of Health.](#)
- [Please click on this link from the New York State Department of Health.](#)
- [Please click here to read a message from the Superintendent sent to parents/guardians on Feb. 5, 2020, regarding coronavirus.](#)

Harlem Wizards Basketball Game Postponed

[Click here to learn Harlem Wizards details.](#)

'Hunchback of Notre Dame' Postponed: Stay Tuned for Updates

SHS Junior Co-authors Scientific Paper

Eric Sung, a junior in the Science Research Program at Spackenkill, is listed as a co-author of a paper recently published in *Science Advances* reflecting investigations performed at Yale University. Eric synthesized sample hBN for the experiments and helped edit the article for grammar and wording. Congratulations, Eric!

[Click here to read the article.](#)



Above: Eric is pictured with Principal Steve Malkischer to his left and science program teachers John Latino and Jennifer Maloney.

Spackenkill Hosts DCMEA Fest

Band, Chorus, & Orchestra Students Among Participants



The DCMEA Elementary All-County Festival took place on March 6-7 at Spackenkill High School. Approximately 250 fifth and sixth grade students and their teachers from throughout the county came to perform and work with guest conductors.

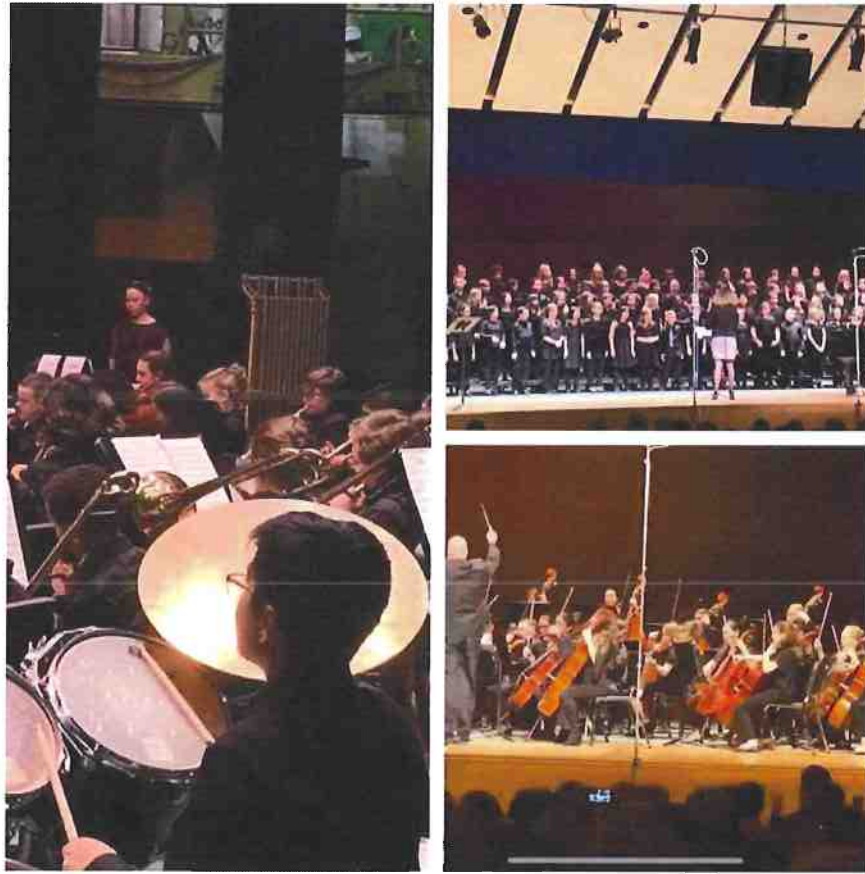
It takes a village to make something this big run so successfully! A special thanks to the following people and groups that made everything run smoothly:

1. Chairpeople: Site Chairs Holden Maiorana & Kim Valentine, Band Chair - Pennie Burgess, Chorus Chair - Kody Andreas, Orchestra Chair - Gretchen Franca
2. Music Boosters of Spackenkill – They managed to serve over 400 pizza meals to attendees.
3. High School Volunteers – Over 30 HS students volunteered their time and expertise to assist in every possible way. Many compliments were given to them on their helpfulness and kindness.
4. Matt Lewis – Matt ran the livestream concert so that the chorus students could watch the band and orchestra students perform while they waited for their chance to take the stage.
5. High School Custodial Team – Along with keeping the building clean and safe, they worked as a team to construct and tear down choral risers multiple times.
6. Sharon Dooley-Russo, Hagan nurse – She kept all our attendees and teachers healthy and safe.
6. Jeannine Berube and Mackenzie Hobel-Furrer (student teacher with Kim Valentine) – They helped chaperone our Spackenkill performers. This was especially valuable with most of the chairpeople wearing two hats, as participating teachers while concurrently running the show.

[Please click here to see the names of student musicians from Todd and Hagan.](#)



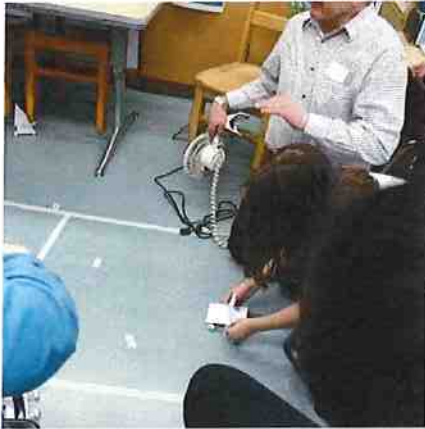
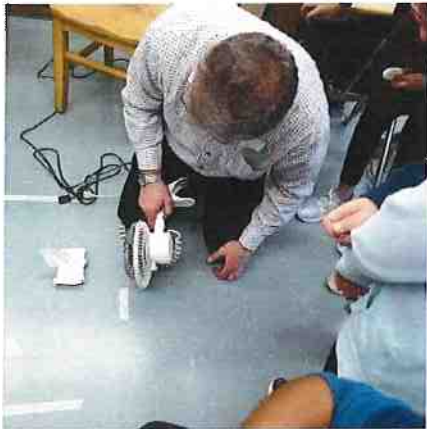
Above: Scenes from the Elementary All-County Festival at Spackenkill High School.



Above: Band, orchestra, and chorus perform.

Engineers Spend the Day at Hagan

Engineers from IBM visited Hagan this week for National Engineers Week. They made Mars Rovers in honor of NASA's planned trip to Mars this summer. The kids built these from paper, straws, life savers, fasteners and tape! Then they tested them by having a fan blow on them to see how well they could handle the "terrain." The students created some impressive rovers while also having fun. The event was coordinated and lead by Doris Conti, a Spackenkill mom and IBM VP, Public Cloud. Thank you to this dedicated group!



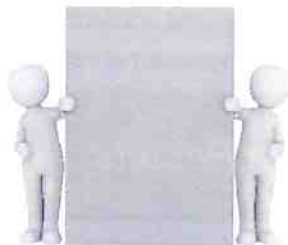
Above: Scenes from Engineers Day at Hagan. Enthusiastic students created wind-powered Mars Rovers with the help and encouragement of IBM engineers.

Academic WorldQuest Results

Two teams from the high school competed in the Academic WorldQuest competition at the FDR Estate on March 7th. This competition involves teams from area high schools competing in their knowledge of current events and history. Both Spack teams did very well, with one team coming in second in the Roosevelt Round (with questions only about FDR). Great job, everyone!



Above, left to right: Spackenkill students who competed are Avery Rossman, Erik Adolfsson, Mariam Anwar, Luke Hannan, Qihang Yao, Diana To, Sabah Choudhury, and Cody Usher.



Information for Prospective Board Candidates

- [Board Candidate Packets](#)
- [Important Dates for Prospective Board Candidates](#)

A Prospective Board Members Workshop will be held on Saturday, **March 28** from 9 to 11 am at the BOCES Administration Building, 5 BOCES Road in Poughkeepsie, just off Salt Point Turnpike.

Anyone considering running for election to a local school board is invited to attend. Current school board members and a superintendent of schools will join a school attorney to give a broad perspective of the role of a school board member. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentations. There is NO fee for this workshop, which is presented as a community service.

However, to ensure sufficient seating and handouts, **REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED.**

To register, call the DCSBA office at 845-486-4800, Ext. 2201

Erosion Experts

Second graders in Mrs. Strapec's and Mrs. Turner's classes learned about erosion this week. The students worked together to see what would happen when wind and water was applied to a sandcastle that they tested in class.

Students were very serious and even wore safety goggles while doing this experiment. The students charted their findings. They then were given some items that they could use to protect their sandcastle from the effects of erosion before performing the experiment a second time. The students enjoyed sharing their findings together. They learned a lot and had a great time.



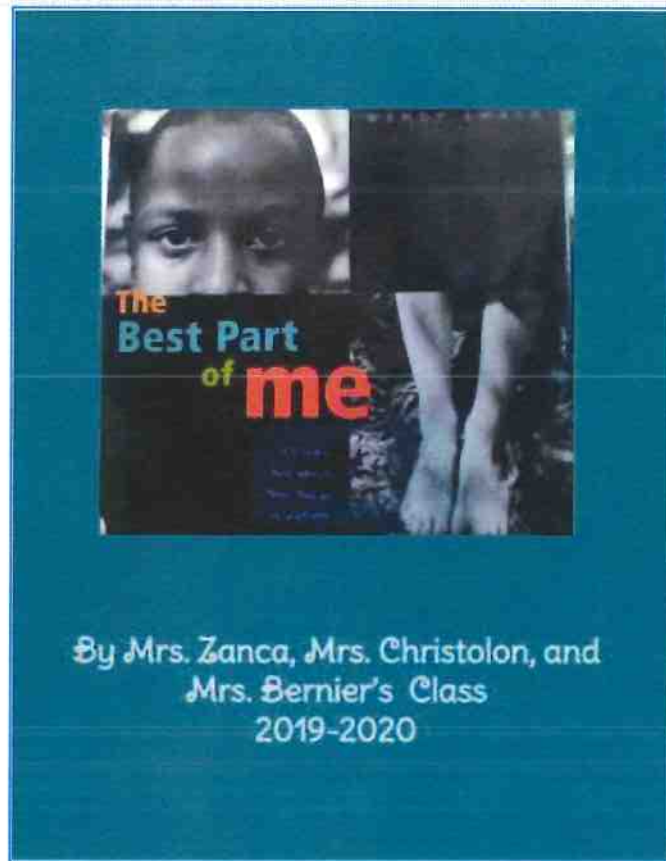
Above: Goggle-wearing second graders took a scientific approach to understanding erosion. They learned how to conduct a viable scientific experiment while recording their observations and also having a great time!

Second Graders Do Their Best

Mrs. Zanca/Mrs. Christolon's class recently completed the "Best Part of Me" project. They started off by reading the book of the same title, by Wendy Ewald, and discussing its format. The class then brainstormed their own best part and gave three reasons why. They worked with that info to write a poem and type it into a Google Slide. Technology Integration Teacher Mrs. Byrne taught the class how to take pictures using the Chromebook and import the

photos into Google Slides. They also learned how to change the pictures to black and white and customize font colors and styles.

[Please click here for a link to the slideshow.](#)



Storyteller Visits Nassau

Storyteller Jonathan Kruk visited Nassau School this week, courtesy of the PTA. He engaged the students with fun, interactive fairytales using varied voices, creative dramatics and language of the senses. Mr. Kruk has some 500 performances annually at schools, libraries, historic sites, festivals, parties, workshops and more. He has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning, Al-Jazeera America, The O'Reilly Factor, National Geographic and the History Channel.



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](#)

15 Croft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY

(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

