

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

October 30, 2020

Dear Spackenkill Community,

Thank you, parents/guardians and secondary students, for your responses to our surveys that went out last week. The Return to School Committee has reviewed the results. Your message is clear: Our community would like more in-person time but as long as it is safe to do so. We are working on a plan to accomplish just that. We will be posting the survey results on the COVID-19 website. More information is forthcoming.

Yesterday, we sent out a message regarding our weather-related procedures. Just a reminder that, as in the past, you will receive a phone call, email, and/or text indicating whether the District is going fully remote because of weather or is declaring a snow day. [Click here to read the message that went out on Thursday, October 29.](#)

Information will also be posted on our website and on radio stations listed on our website under [Closings and Delays](#). This year, we expect to have fully remote learning days as well as traditional snow days when there will be no school. You might still receive your daily screening app when schools are closed or on a fully remote schedule, but you do not need to fill it out on those days.

Kudos to Nurse Liz



New York State Association of School Nurses



Congratulations, Nurse Elizabeth Giancaspro, for being recognized by the New York State Association of School Nurses (NYSASN). Nurse Liz, who is our District Nurse Coordinator, has been working tirelessly with her team of building nurses to keep students and staff safe during this pandemic. It's nice to see her recognized by her peers. Here is what they said about her:

The New York State Association of School Nurses is pleased to recognize school nurses who go above and beyond their daily activities in making their schools a safe and welcoming environment. Taking the time to make a difference in someone's life is why they are being recognized by NYSASN, the professional association that solely represents school nurses across New York State.



Let's hear it for another school nurse who's been brought to NYSASN's attention, **Elizabeth Giancaspro**. Liz, as she is called, works as the school nurse at Spackenkill High School in Poughkeepsie. As her friend Stacey Sacco writes in nominating Liz for this recognition, "There is not one specific date but months of hard dedication to the Spackenkill School District that Liz should be recognized for. She pushed aside her summer break and family to make sure both students and district staff had a safe plan in place for return to school this September." Even before the pandemic, her office was viewed as a safe haven for all students, whether for illness symptoms or those experiencing anxiety issues, this latter becoming of

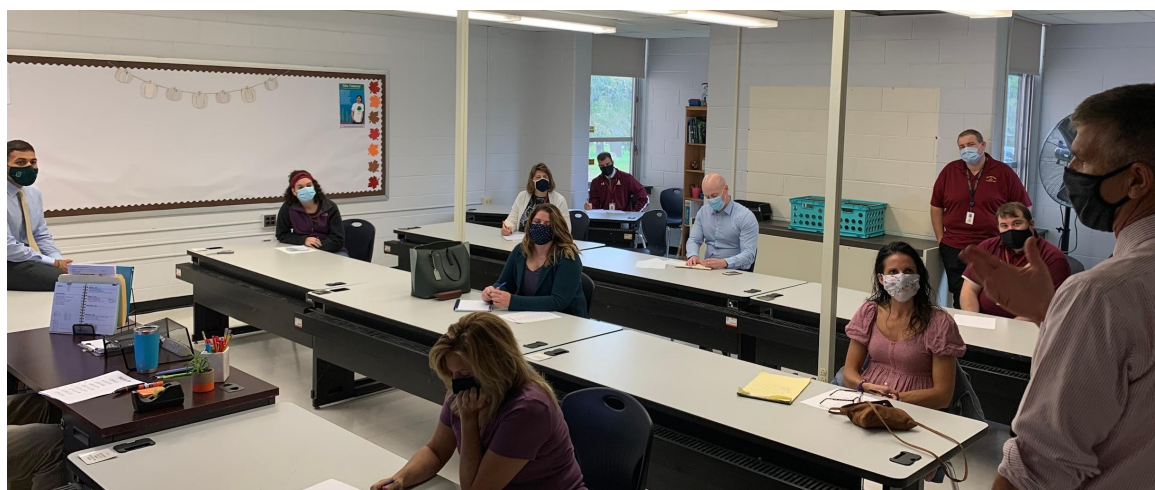
increasing concern for middle and high school students

Besides her role as school nurse, Liz is also the district nurse advisor for all four district schools. Always the professional, Liz exhibits the qualities envisioned when thinking about what a nurse should be. Besides having an "impeccable" work ethic, she shows compassion to all students, their families, and staff. Even when dealing with some of the "more challenging" students or their parents, Liz never allows her own emotions to deter her from the mission of providing care and support for all. "She genuinely loves what she does and it shows through her enthusiasm to educate others in a way that makes them feel accomplished."

[Click here to visit the NYSASN website.](#)

Visits from Local Districts

Over the last two weeks, administrators and teachers from neighboring large and small school districts visited our middle and high schools to talk with our principals and faculty and see our Hybrid 1 plan in action. We learned with and from them. It's just a reminder that we are all in this pandemic together and need to work together to stay strong.



Above: Administrators and teachers from neighboring districts spoke with Mr. Latino and Mr. DeSouza last week.

HS Students Speak at Board Meeting

At our last Board of Education meeting on October 27, high school students Jada Yant (class of 2021) and Adam Macklin, a sophomore, offered their thoughts on the Hybrid 1 plan and the challenges of attending school during the pandemic. Thank you to both students for speaking up!



Students Adam Macklin and Jada Yant (*foreground*) are pictured with (*back row, left to right*) Superintendent Fanuele, High School Assistant Principal Ken Lewis, and High School Principal Steve Malkischer.

Students Walk to Fight Hunger

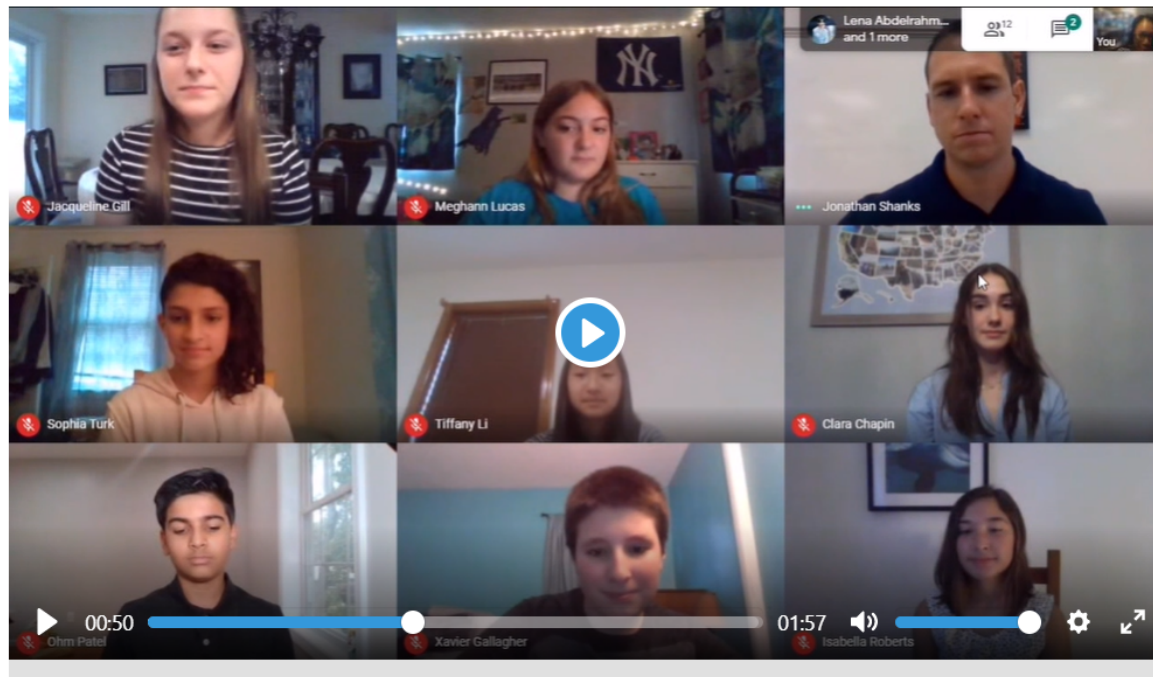
On Sunday, October 18, the Spackenkill French Club and National Honor Society walked a 6-mile CROP Hunger Walk to show their commitment to fighting hunger. They walked at the new track at the high school, socially distanced and wearing masks. The CROP Hunger Walk is an annual event that raises money for those facing food insecurities locally, nationally, and internationally. One hundred percent of the money donated goes toward combating hunger—nothing comes back to the school or the clubs. At least 25 percent of what is raised remains in Dutchess County. Thank you to teacher Brittany Hart for organizing the event, with help from Jim Segrue and Maureen Tremblay. [The students have raised over \\$2,200 and are still accepting donations at this link.](#)



Above and left: French Club and National Honor Society students walk the Spackenkill track in a fundraiser to fight hunger.

Todd Students Make Headlines

Todd Middle School teacher Jonathan Shanks and his students have been featured on ABC Eyewitness News for their Be Kind Initiative. Their homework assignment last spring to create businesses that would also give back took on its own momentum, with celebrity speakers coming into their virtual classroom. One even donated money to the class with the proviso that they spend it to help others. “It just felt so good to know that I helped someone better their day,” said student Clara Chapin in the interview. Stay tuned for the next chapter of this amazing undertaking.



[Click here or on the image above to watch the news feature!](#)

Winter Sports Registration!



[Spackenkill UFSD Athletics](#)

We are holding signups for the winter 2020-2021 season, but the season cannot start without the Governor's approval. High-risk sports, including basketball, are currently on hold in New York until we receive further guidance from the Governor.

Students can register for a winter sport on the Family ID website. The winter season is scheduled to start November 30th for all Varsity and JV sports and modified sports is TBD.

Online winter sports registration opens:

October 30, 2020 for all high school sports (JV and Varsity)

November 7, 2020 for all middle school sports (modified)

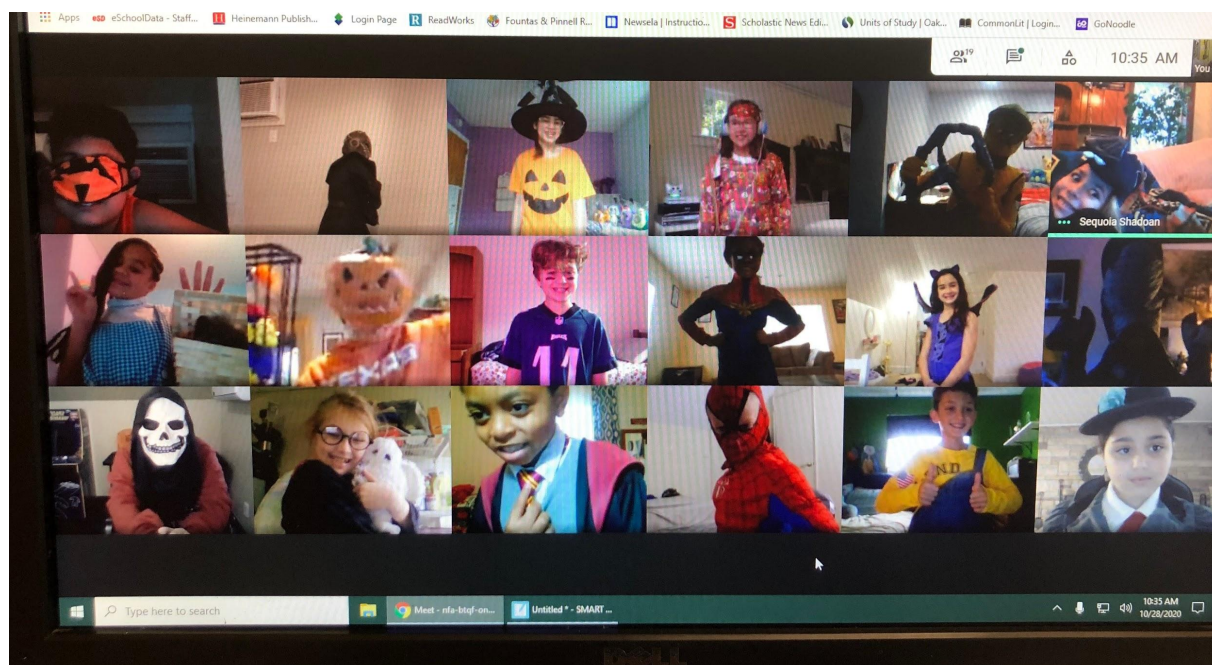
Click on the link below to register:

<http://www.familyid.com/spackenkill-ufsd-athletics>

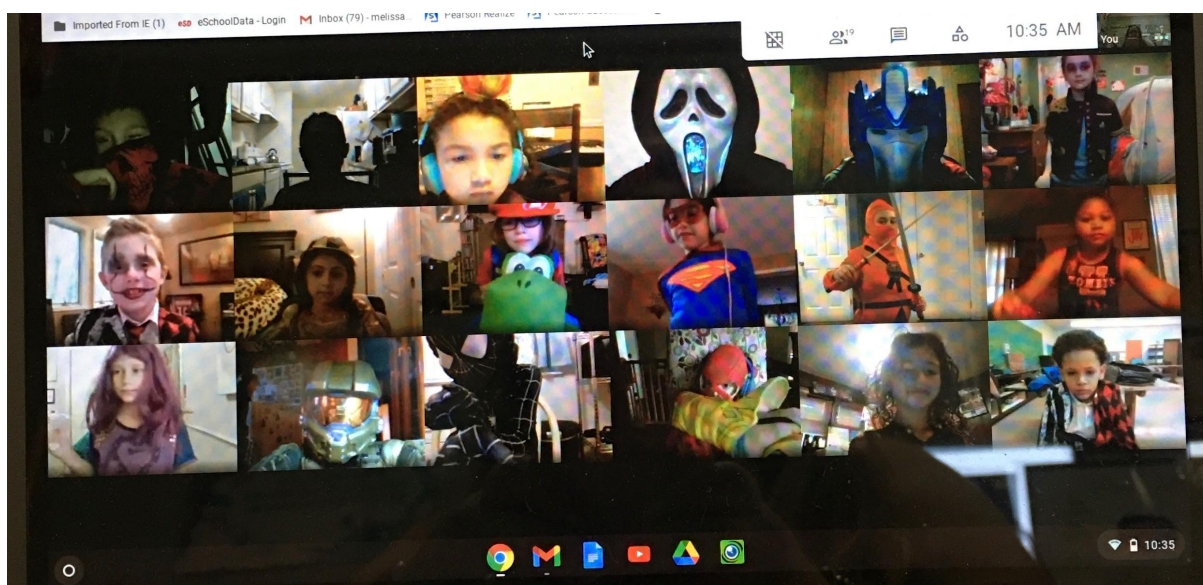
More Photos from around the District



Above: Mrs. Romani's students have been finishing up the glazing of their pinch pots. Their teacher snapped a photo of their masterpieces before sending them home.



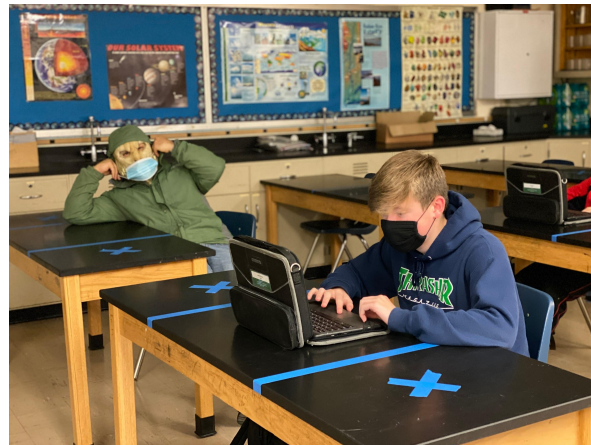
Students at Hagan held Virtual Halloween Parties this week, with students dressing in costumes and teachers wearing costumes that represent different puns. Above, Mr. Alnwick's students are shown at a Google Meet with their entire class. When the students first logged in to the Google Meet, they had their cameras turned off. After a quick mini lesson on puns and a reveal of Mr. Alnwick's "Punny" costume, students gave clues about their costumes, as the rest of the class had to guess. After the final clue they turned their cameras on to reveal their alter egos. "This was one of the most fun Halloween parties that I have ever participated in," said Mr. Alnwick. "The kids had a blast guessing and I had so much fun watching them!" It also helped that there was no cleanup to do after the party!



Above: At Nassau Elementary, Mrs. Strapec's class also held a virtual party.



Above: Kody Andreas worked with his third grade chorus students on spooky songs and beats. [See the class in action by clicking here.](#)



Above: Mrs. Romani snapped some fun Halloween photos today. *At left:* Roberto Romani attempting to scare Sara Burns *At right,* Jacob Salmon not noticing Mr. Romani at the desk next to him.



Above: Mrs. Zanca and Mrs. Christolon's second grade class took advantage of the Nassau outdoor classroom to do a Halloween writing activity while taking a mask break.



Above: Mrs. West's kindergartners also worked in the outdoor classroom. They created leaf rubbings and labeled them with color words.

Have a safe and happy Halloween! [Please click here to read Governor Cuomo's Halloween Guidance](#). This weekend is also when we "fall back" and turn our clocks back one hour. Remember, November 3rd is Superintendent's Conference Day/Election Day and there will be no school for students.

Sincerely,

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



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