

# A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



**One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence**

January 7, 2022

Dear Spackenkill Community,

I hope you enjoyed your snow day. This week, it was nice to see everyone back after our winter break. As I'm sure you know, we distributed our Covid test kits from the Governor this past week. We appreciate the community's tremendous response to the program. Thank you for waiting patiently on the line at the high school and for following up with us on our Google Form surveys. Thanks to your cooperation, everything went smoothly, and we have distributed almost all of our tests. If your student has not received a test, please contact your school. Thank you to all the staff who stepped up to help us keep schools open. Kudos to our principals for serving breakfast and lunch when we were short-staffed!



*Above, Top photo:* Superintendent Dr. Fanuele and Assistant Superintendent John Farrell unload the test kits at Spackenkill High School on Sunday. *Bottom photo:* Staff check out the test kits to the community.



*Above:* Hagan acting principal Clinton DeSouza steps up to lunch duty to fill a staffing shortage.



*Above:* Principal Lynch also got to work in the cafeteria.

**NYSED Digital Equity Survey** - Click [here](#) for more information

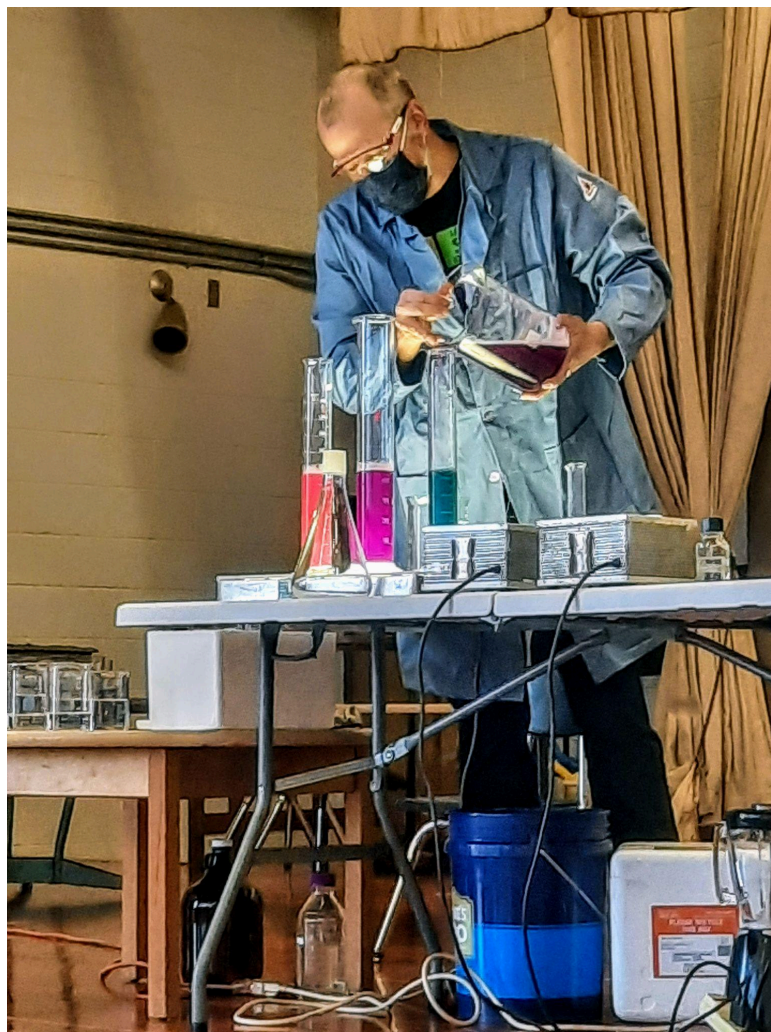
**Thank you** to those who have already responded. If you have not yet responded, **your participation is important!**

- Watch for the email from Spackenkill with the subject line **2021-2022 School Year: Digital Equity Survey.**
- The survey is brief and takes about 1 minute to complete.
- The survey will be emailed to you regularly until you complete it for each child.

### **Chemistry Demo Fascinates Nassau Students**

Dr. Zachary Donhauser, a professor of chemistry at Vassar College and dad to two Spackenkill students, visited Nassau school before the break to give a presentation on science in action. Before the presentation he assured the students that he is not a magician, but a scientist. He encouraged students to think like a scientist, which means closely observing the world around them and making guesses based on what they see. In his presentation, Professor Donhauser made liquids bubble and change colors before

the students' eyes, demonstrating acid and base reactions. They were totally spellbound! Thank you, Professor Donhauser, for sharing your knowledge.



Above: Dr. Zachary Donhauser, a professor of chemistry at Vassar College, visited Nassau school before the break to give an exciting presentation on science in action.

### *A Message from LEO Club*



LEO Club, its officers, and advisor are extremely grateful and humbled by the volume of support given to our district's neediest families. Our community supported 25 families (66 children) with all the necessities (coats, boots, shoes, socks, gloves) and many fun gifts as well as gift cards to department and grocery stores. The Town of Poughkeepsie PBA supported our efforts by providing families with a generous gift card to Adams. Although LEO Club fundraises and runs the program it would not be possible without the hard work of our district staff. With the pandemic still

affecting our lives, it was all hands on deck. Our nurses, social workers, elementary school main office staff, and Todd school psychologist went above and beyond to help our families. A special thank you to the LaGrange Lions Club for sponsoring our LEO Club and for giving to Adopt a Family for over 15 years. We are all enriched when we take care of each other. Thank you and Happy New Year!

### Students Make a Wish

Before the break, Mrs. Aagaard's Nassau students wrote letters to Santa, raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



Above: Student letters on behalf of the Make-A-Wish Foundation are displayed on a bulletin board.

### Enjoying Shakespeare Outdoors

While the weather was still nice before the break, Todd teacher Jonathan Shanks brought his English students outdoors to re-enact the famous banquet scene in *Macbeth*.



Above: Mr. Shanks and his students wave at Dr. Fanuele, who caught the class in action.

### Community Foundations Opens Scholarships



Scholarships are now available through the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley for graduating high school seniors and college students who plan on or are attending college.

Last year over \$400,000 in scholarships were awarded to students in Dutchess, Putnam, Ulster and surrounding counties to help pay college expenses.

The application process is simple and streamlined - easier for students, counselors and teachers.

Students can easily create an online account and complete a universal application to be automatically matched with relevant opportunities.

With our online platform, counselors, teachers and other recommenders can view all of their student requests as well as completed and outstanding actions in one place on their dashboard.

Encourage the young people in your life to apply!

Online Applications opened: January 1, 2022

Deadline for submission: April 1, 2022

[Apply online here](#)

### **COVID-19 Update and Dashboard**

The [NY State COVID-19 Report Card](#) enables you to see the breakdown of cases by school. As a reminder, please let your school nurse know if your child is experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

The New York State Department of Health and the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health are preparing new Covid guidance. We are also expecting more specific guidance for schools in regard to quarantining and are starting a test-to-stay program next week. Test-to-stay could allow quarantined students and staff to return sooner. Once guidance comes out and is reviewed, we will provide an update with the new guidance and test-to-stay protocols.

### **Parents and Guardians, Please Note:**

Please remember to send in to your school nurse any new physical exams and/or new immunizations.

Spackenkill Union Free School District, in conjunction with The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Dutchess County Behavioral and Community Health Department (DBCH), is providing weekly **VOLUNTARY SCREENING TESTING** for all students, regardless of vaccination status. Students must **NOT** have any symptoms when using the weekly screening event. Village Apothecary health care staff, under the direction of Dr. Neal Smoller, will be providing this service. They will be using the Abbott Binax Rapid Antigen test kit. This testing is completely voluntary and requires parents/guardian to be present and give consent.

**WHEN:** Every Tuesday from 2:30 pm until 4:30 pm. You must arrive no later than 4:10 pm.

**WHERE:** Spackenkill High School Health Office

The test results will only be used by the District for public health purposes as required by the New York State Department of Health. The test results maintained by the District will otherwise be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), New York Education Law Section 2-d, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), where applicable.

In order to participate in this weekly program, the parent/guardian must use the link below to complete the registration process. This link only needs to be completed once. When completing the form, use the child's name throughout until the end where the parent/guardian gives consent.

The District will only provide this testing to those parents/guardians who complete Dr. Smoller's form. A parent/guardian must be present for all students who are being tested. At the testing site, a parent/guardian must also sign a consent form for the school district each time.

[Please click here to register for voluntary student testing.](#)

Looking forward to a great second half to our school year!

Sincerely,

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



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