

A Message from the Spackenkill Superintendent



One District, Multiple Paths to Excellence

March 26, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

We completed our return-to-school phased process this week, with grade five back every week day and students in grades 7 through 10 on a four-day schedule. There were lots of smiles and happy reunions. While all is going smoothly, we've also experienced a few bumps along the way. There has been an uptick at the high school with positive COVID-19 cases, with 15 students testing positive and others quarantined as a result. We are in contact with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) to monitor the situation. There was a *Daily Voice* Facebook post today that was inaccurate, saying that there had been more than two dozen cases reported over the past two weeks. In fact, the total number of students testing positive has been 29 for the entire school year.

Since most of the new cases have been among the already-quarantined students, there was no need to go full remote at the high school. DBCH data shows that the spread has occurred in social settings outside of school. Some of our sports teams have paused, as some of our quarantined students are on teams, but at this point we do not feel that the spread occurred because of athletics. We are, of course, concerned with this uptick, but the DBCH has confirmed that we are quarantining appropriately.

We understand that people are growing weary of the pandemic restrictions, however, with spring break upon us, we need to learn from the events of the last few days and avoid gatherings, wear our masks, and remain conscious that it's not over yet. Enjoy the break and family time, but please also observe [travel rules as outlined in last week's newsletter](#) so that we can return to school refreshed and ready to complete the school year Spackenkill strong!

A few photos from this week are below:



Above: For their PE class this week, fifth graders played Castle Chase, a virtual fitness game (projected on gym wall) in which participants have to dodge knights, avoid fire, and find and use a shield. Students jumped, “flew,” and ran in place to complete the activity.



Above: Music teacher Kody Andreas with his light-up cart in the halls of Hagan. Currently, Mr. Andreas has been visiting classrooms, but beginning after the break students will come to the chorus room.



Above: Fourth grade band students from Mr. Alnwick's class enjoyed their first day back together, spaced 12 feet apart, in Mrs. Burgess's class.



Above: Dr. Fanuele dropped by Todd to see how students were doing on their four-day schedule. He spoke with eighth graders about their plans for spring break.



Above: Dr. Fanuele stands alongside Todd PE teacher Mr. Riley's vision of spring break.

Football Returns

We held our first home football game on March 19th and recognized our senior cheerleader and football players before the start.

The team fell short losing to Pine Plains 20-18, but it was still a special night for the program and our community. We look forward to many more nights like this in the future and opening the gates to everyone.



Above: Athletes lined up outside of the Spackenkill arch awaiting seniors to come through with their parents.



Above: Football players ran from the arch onto the field.



Above: A scene from Spackenkill's first football game of the season, which was played under the lights.

FOOTBALL SENIORS



Hector Figueroa #29



Devon Mitchell #41



Fitzroy Mallett #47



Jordan Schroder #50



Maximus Swartz #54



Kyan McGinnis #79

CHEERLEADER SENIOR



Jada Yant

Above: Seniors who were honored at the first football game of the season.

Spring Sports



Online registration for spring sports is now open on [Family ID](#). At this time, we plan to offer Modified, JV, and Varsity levels. This is dependent on the interest level of our students and league participation. **Interscholastic sports registration is for grades 7-12 only.** The season is scheduled to start April 19, 2021.

- Boys Golf - Varsity
- Baseball - Varsity, JV, Modified
- Softball - Varsity, JV, Modified
- Crew - Varsity, Novice
- Spring Track - Varsity, Modified
- Boys Tennis - Varsity

COVID-19 Update and Dashboard

Since we started the school year, we have had 84 positive COVID-19 cases. [You can see the breakdown by school on the NY State Report card](#): Please continue to consult the NY State Report Card for updates. It's important that, even when they are remote, if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, they should email their principal so that we know what's going on in the community and can continue to make informed decisions.

Todd Staff Takes a Break



Sunshine Club, a staff-run organization dedicated to the well-being of Todd, hosted a donut and beverage truck last Wednesday. The truck had many yummy goodies, and Sunshine treated staff to a beverage of choice. It was a nice gesture that was much appreciated.

Second Graders Explore STEM

Mrs. Strapec's second graders have been learning about land forms. The students then used clay to design an island. It was fun to see their individual takes on the activity.



Above: Mrs. Strapec's second graders created individual clay islands.

Mrs. Wilcox's and Mrs. Zanca's classes collaborated on a science experiment outdoors. The students were challenged to build their version of the *Mayflower* using simple materials (straw, aluminum foil, Styrofoam plate, and tape) and create a boat that could sail in a water-filled gutter. Most boats sailed in under 10 seconds. The fastest boat made the journey in 4.79 seconds!



Above: Students used engineering skills to create boats that could float and travel as quickly as possible without capsizing.

As you can see, it was an eventful and productive week. We've come so far in getting our students back in school, so let's keep it that way by observing COVID protocols as we enjoy spring break! School resumes on Monday, April 5th.

Sincerely,

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



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