



School Community Newsletter — February 12, 2021

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Dear Parents & Friends of Spark,

RETURN TO ALL IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION...

I am very happy to inform you that Spark will be offering in-person classes to all students on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays as of Monday, March 1st. Wednesdays will remain all remote for the foreseeable future. March 1st is the date of our return from the February Vacation. Covid protocols will, of course, remain in place along with precautions regarding the entry and exit of our students each day. We may be announcing additional precautions and/or procedures as March 1st approaches.

Families may still choose to keep their students at home should they feel the need to do so. However, we believe our return to all in-person classes can be carried out safely. Our students will benefit greatly from additional in-person instruction even though student-to-student interaction will remain limited. Year two student cohorts have already remained apart from each other as they remain in their classrooms all day with teachers moving from class to class. This approach will continue as of March 1st with the addition of year one students remaining in their classroom all day as they have been. When the weather improves, and we can go outdoors with the students for brief breaks, we will stagger those times so as to maintain safety. Bathroom trips will continue to be carefully controlled as they have been throughout the year.

In light of our planned return to all in-person classes, I am including the following update from the CDC regarding the use of masks and overall Covid-related safety practices. Please take time to review this update carefully.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/02/10/cdc-double-masks-covid/>

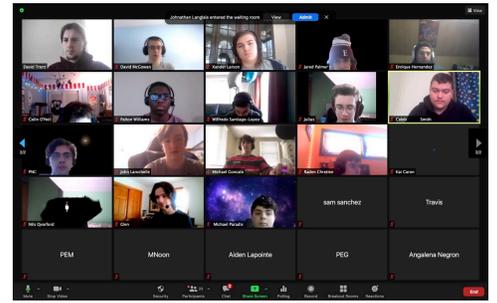
PRESIDENTS' DAY...

As Monday, the 15th, is a holiday, there will be no classes. Teachers have been advised to be good to themselves and to the students by making sure not to assign extra work for the holiday. Students may want to use part of the day to catch up on work, but no work will be assigned for the holiday itself.

WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL TOURS & PRESENTATIONS...

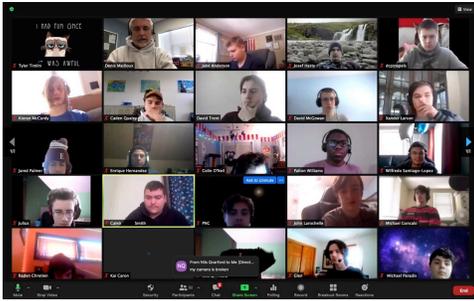
We have the good fortune to have been invited to share in a great opportunity for our students. Kristin Knarr, the Extended Learning Opportunities Coordinator for ConVal High School has connected with many NH manufacturing companies to participate in this program. This Wednesday, we joined students and staff from eleven other NH high schools for a presentation from NH Ball Bearings, Inc. The discussion with Mr. Bill Farr, Divisional Training Manager for NHBB, really helped our students understand the benefits and expectations of employment with a company such as NHBB. We thank Ms. Knarr for her work in making this series possible and thank Mr. Farr for sharing his time and experience with us!

Wednesday's virtual tour included students and staff from: Bow H.S., Conant H.S., ConVal H.S., John Stark Regional H.S., Mascenic Regional H.S., Milford H.S., Newfound Regional H.S., PACE Career Academy, Portsmouth H.S., Souhegan H.S., Spark Academy, and Sugar Valley Technical Center. The schedule through March includes virtual tours from Electronic Imaging Materials, Novocare, Milliporesigma, Benson Woodworking Co., Inc., Unity Building Technologies, Inc., and Graphicast, Inc.



UPCOMING VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE...

A reminder to all that we have a virtual open house coming up on Wednesday, March 3, at 6:30. To date, we appear to have 17 students entering Spark next year and are rapidly moving toward 30 for two cohorts of 15. Thank you for sending families our way! It appears that our website is the main vehicle for prospective families to develop interest in Spark. Therefore, I suggest that you recommend that prospective families visit our website as they research possible schools for next year.

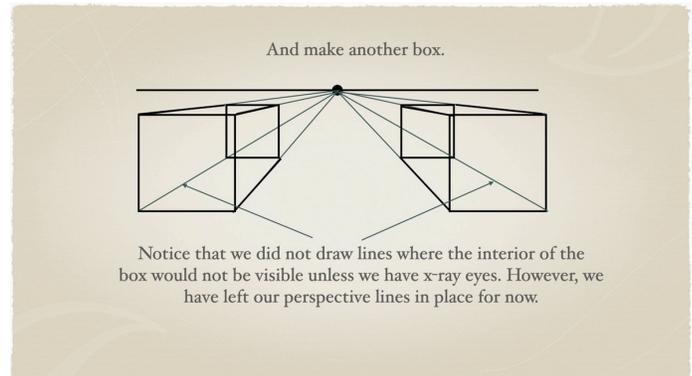


ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE...

The Admissions Committee is asking for families to place yard signs for Spark Open House events. Sue McGowan will be in the upper parking lot at the end of the school day on Thursday and Friday of next next week, handing out signs to all who would like to help out by displaying signs at their homes or allowable public spaces in your town. She has a dark blue CRV and a big stack of red signs. We thank Mrs. McGowan and the members of the Admissions Committee for all their help in getting the word out about our school.

Our photos this week are screenshots from our one-point perspective drawing class on Wednesday. We have made the most of our hybrid and remote time but are very happy to be moving more toward all in-person classes!

I thank those of you who were able to join me last night for feedback and suggestions. It is my expectation that March 1st will bring much-needed additional support to our students and relief to our parents. Thank you all for the efforts you have made to help us continue educating your kids. Also, I cannot overstate the efforts made by our faculty to make this the best possible experience for your kids. It hasn't been easy for any of you, and I personally wish to thank the Spark Community for all that we have done and continue to do to support our students!



FEBRUARY VACATION...

Please don't forget that we will be taking our February break from the 22nd to the 26th.

Sincerely,

Denis Mailloux
Director