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SUMMER GREETINGS...

We hope our families are enjoying the summer break and perhaps getting some sun and fresh air now that the rains have given us a break. This has been a busy summer for the staff. We participated in the Manchester School Department's Gear Up program. Gear Up offered students from the Manchester Public Schools an opportunity to catch up on academic work in the mornings and enjoy fun, but challenging, afternoon activities. Spark brought robotics and drone activities to the program through a grant from the NH DOE. We thank those of our current Spark students who were able to join us in running the activities. For them, it was an opportunity to use their skills to help others learn. It was a great experience! The photos shown are from these sessions.



2021 - 2022 SPARK CALENDAR...

Our one-page PDF of the 2021 - 2022 Spark Calendar is attached to this newsletter for your convenience. It may also be found on the Spark Website.

FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL...

Please note that our Year 3 students will be joining us for their orientation on Wednesday, September 1st. Year 1 & 2 students will be attending their orientation on Thursday, September 2nd.

SPARK 2.0...

So, what will it all look like as we move on to the 2021-2022 school year? We will be returning to the model we began with in our first year. We realize that some of our students have no idea what that means since they began their Spark education

under pandemic conditions. Our third-year students will recognize this model, but the rest of our Spark families will be seeing our original school model for the first time.

Important Notes...

- Students may begin arriving to school at 7:20am and should be in their classrooms before the start of their 8:00 am classes. Students will **not** be screened for entry to school as they were last year. They should go directly to their homerooms.
- Students must be dropped off in the parking lot in front of the Spark entrance and **not** in the crosswalk.
- Students will move from classroom to classroom and to their tech labs.





- Laptops will remain in each of the classrooms, and students will use the laptops designated for them in each classroom.
- A laptop in each classroom will be set up for the students to use for that particular class.
- School laptops will not be sent home with students.
- Homework will be kept to a minimum. However, cloud-based software will allow students to perform their school work from home with home devices.
- Students will use only school laptops while on campus and will not bring their own.
- Students (Year 3) taking Early College classes will be able to use their own laptops for those classes.

- We will be returning to the required use of traditional composition-style notebooks for each class and the use of four-color pens for note taking. These items will be sold to the students at cost during the opening days of the school year.
- Notebooks will be used for some assignments and some open-notebook tests.
- Students will continue to bring their own lunches to school each day. Food will not be shared.
- Once small refrigerators are donated, they will be provided for the students for each cohort.
- Desks will be set up three feet apart.
- Students will be expected to maintain a reasonable amount of space between themselves and others.
- Common sense will be applied to group work though such work requires a certain level of proximity and sharing of materials.
- Students will clean their desks, etc., as part of the hygiene protocols that have helped reduce the spread of colds and flu in general.
- All instruction will be in-person. Students with excused absences will be able to access assignments and materials through the CANVAS portal so as to remain current with their work.

WEDNESDAYS...

We will return to our Wednesday Program with explorations to a variety of activities both on the MCC campus and off-campus to explore career and other resources.

MICROWAVE OVENS & REFRIGERATORS...

With our return to more normal conditions, we will be allowing students to store their lunches in refrigerators, if necessary, and use microwaves. Our goal is to have one dorm-sized refrigerator and one microwave in each homeroom where the students will have lunch. Please contact Mrs. Larochelle by email if you are able to donate a microwave or refrigerator.

BUSES...

Please contact Mrs. Larochelle if you are a Manchester family that is relying on Manchester School District buses and have not already done so. This is important so that the District can plan its busing routes.

MORE INFORMATION...

As the first days of school approach, we will be sending more information regarding orientation schedules. Until then, please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions.

We are certainly looking forward to starting a new year with a return to pre-pandemic capabilities. It will take us a little time for us to get used to more normalcy, and there is likely to be a bit of confusion along the way. However, it is great to be moving in this direction together!

Sincerely,

Denis Mailloux

Director

2021-2022 Academic Calendar

<i>August/September</i>	M	T	W	TH	F		<i>February</i>	M	T	W	TH	F		Important Dates	
	W	W	1	2	3				1	2	3	4		8/30 & 8/31 — Teacher Workshop - No Classes	
	H	7	8	9	10			7	8	9	10	11		9/1 — 1st Day of School for Students	
	13	14	15	16	17			14	15	16	17	18		9/6 — Labor Day - No Classes	
	20	21	22	23	24			W	22	23	24	25		10/11 — Columbus Day - No Classes	
	27	28	29	30				X						10/20 — Teacher Workshop - No Classes	
														11/2 — Manchester Voting Day - Teacher Workshop - No Classes	
<i>October</i>	M	T	W	TH	F		<i>March</i>	M	T	W	TH	F		11/11 — Veterans' Day - No Classes	
					1				X	X	X	X		11/24 - 11/26 — Thanksgiving Recess	
	4	5	6	7	8			7	8	9	10	11		12/24 - 12/31 — Christmas Vacation	
	H	12	13	14	15			14	15	16	17	18		1/12 — Teacher Workshop - No Classes	
	18	19	W	21	22			W	22	23	24	25		1/17 — Martin Luther King Jr. / Civil Rights Day - No Classes	
	25	26	27	28	29			28	29	30	31			2/21 — Teacher Workshop - No Classes	
														2/28 - 3/4 — February Vacation	
<i>November</i>	M	T	W	TH	F		<i>April</i>	M	T	W	TH	F		3/21 — Teacher Workshop	
	1	W	3	4	5*							1		4/11 — Teacher Workshop - No Classes	
	8	9	10	H	12			4	5	6	7*	8		4/25 - 4/29 — April Vacation	
	15	16	17	18	19			W	12	13	14	15		5/9 — Teacher Workshop - No Classes	
	22	23	X	H	X			18	19	20	21	22		5/30 — Memorial Day - No Classes	
	29	30						X	X	X	X	X		MU = Make-Up Days	
														* = End of Quarter	
<i>December</i>	M	T	W	TH	F		<i>May</i>	M	T	W	TH	F			
			1	2	3			2	3	4	5	6			
	6	7	8	9	10			W	10	11	12	13			
	13	14	15	16	17			16	17	18	19	20			
	20	21	22	23	X			23	24	25	26	27			
	X	X	X	X	X			H	31						
<i>January</i>	M	T	W	TH	F		<i>June</i>	M	T	W	TH	F			
	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3			
	10	11	W	13	14			6	7	8	9	10			
	H	18	19	20	21			13	14	15	16	17*			
	24	25*	26	27	28			MU	MU	MU	MU	MU			
	31							MU							