



Academy of Advanced Technologies
Public Charter School Grades 9-12

igniting your purpose!

December 6, 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We certainly have had a long Thanksgiving Break! This is the first time in my experience that schools have had a Thanksgiving "Week" ending with a very old-fashioned New England snow storm!

I want to thank all of you who were able to attend our students' CAD project presentations last week. Our students' experience was truly enhanced by your presence, that of Dr. Susan Huard, President of Manchester Community College, Dr. Brian Bicknell, soon-to-be interim President, and of many members of the MCC Community. I think we all saw a very high caliber of work and a great amount of poise, given that the presentations were given in a very public venue!



Presentations continue as our students share their "deep dive" research on Ancient Greek and Roman topics ranging from government, culture, and military operations. Once these presentations are complete, they will be posted on the Humanities Portal for all students and parents to view.

The foundation for these deep dives is allow the students to pursue studies in areas of great personal interest and to teach their fellow students through presentation. The level of research, organization, and poise demonstrated so far has been quite impressive!



Our Robotics Teams will be competing tomorrow, 12/7, at Pembroke Academy. Photos of the event will be posted on Facebook, but the attendance of parents and siblings is always encouraged.

The Spark Chapter of Student Council will begin next week so that our students can participate in planning events and enhancing our school experience in ways that don't always occur to the adults here.

We will be taking a field trip to the state capital next Friday, 12/13, to join with charter schools throughout the state to show support

for the many opportunities afforded by our charter schools. Students may be asked to describe their school experience, and while Spark Academy is quite young, we should add our voices to this important representation of our schools. Parents are all invited to join us for the day. A detailed schedule of the day will be emailed to you once we have more information.

Busing will be provided by the NH Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Box lunches will also be provided at the Grappone Center. Prior to that day we will be reviewing state legislative processes with our students and will try to book a visit to the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center should the day's schedule allow us to do so.

On Wednesday, 12/11, we will participate in another of MCC's Wellness Wednesday Activities, featuring stress reduction techniques including secular Yoga. Thank you for completing your student's physical fitness screening form for this and upcoming Wellness Wednesday activities.



I want to remind everyone to consider contributing to our efforts to get our students out on snowshoes this winter. Snowshoes seem to be one of the most cost-effective means of our getting out together as a school for winter exercise and fun. "Donors Choose" opportunities are posted on Facebook.

Finally, as we welcome Dr. Brian to this new role as Interim President of Manchester Community College and look forward to continuing to work with him, we will certainly miss Dr. Susan who was instrumental in making Spark Academy a reality on the MCC Campus. Dr. Susan

brings tremendous insight and vision to her projects and has left a permanent mark on the first phase of Spark's existence. She promises to remain involved in the NH Community College System, and we look forward to her continued leadership in that role. Thank you, Dr. Susan! Enjoy the change of pace!

Wishing you the joy of this snowy holiday season!

Denis Mailloux
Director

