



igniting your purpose!

March 5, 2020

Our return from vacation is being met with a busy month for our Spark students! It will be important for our students to remain focused on their assignments while blending these activities into our instructional time. As parents, you can help us by having quick daily conversations with your students about their assignments so as to give them the reminders we all need to help us stay on task.

Next week will bring a very adult-level program to our students as the MCC Computer Information Systems Department is hosting a very important conference on one of the most timely topics of our time, Cybersecurity. This conference will provide our students with a factual understanding of the cyber threats that plague us today while informing them of the growing opportunities awaiting them in this fascinating field.

This conference is especially timely as the MCC Computer Information Systems Department has recently opened new possibilities for Spark students in this very area. These career opportunities are very real for our students, and the benefits of attending a conference such as this are numerous as well.

Our students will be taking their notebooks with them to each session and will be expected to note five important points for each session. These notes will form the basis for our debriefing sessions and for summary essays that the students will be expected to write in the days following the conference. The conference includes a working lunch for which we will be asking families to make a \$10 per-student contribution for both days. Students with food allergies will, unfortunately, need to bring their lunches. Those students, of course, need not contribute toward lunches. All sessions will be held in the MCC Multi-Purpose Room.

Calendar Dates to Remember

- Tuesday, 3/10 & Wednesday, 3/11: NH Cybersecurity Symposium
- Tuesday, 3/17: Math Teacher Summit
- Wednesday, 3/18, Skills USA
- Friday, 3/20: Women in Technology Day
- Wednesday, 3/25: 6:00 - Information Night for Prospective Families



The schedule for the Cybersecurity Conference will be as follows:

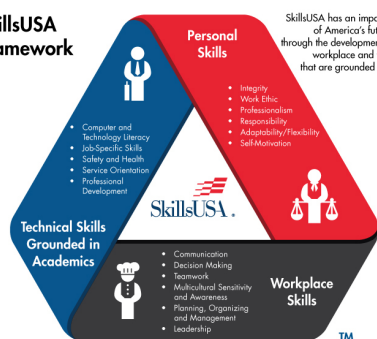
Tuesday, 3/10:

8:00 - 10:00: Math/Science (Spark Classes)
10:00 - 11:00: *Simple Defenses for Hacking Attacks*
11:00 - 12:00: *A Practical Look at the Cybersecurity Landscape*
12:00 - 1:00: *U.S. Army Cyber - An Overview*
1:00 - 2:00: *Cybersecurity Breaches*
2:00 - 3:00: Debriefing for Spark Students in Room 300

Wednesday, 3/11:

8:00 - 9:00: *Math/Science (Spark Classes)*
9:00 - 9:55: *Cybersecurity as a Discipline*
9:55 - 10:50: *Simplify the Threat Challenge*
10:50 - 11:40: *Math/Science (Spark Classes)*
11:40 - 12:30: *Cybersecurity's Role in Healthcare*
12:30 - 1:00: *Cybersecurity in NH*
1:00 - 2:00: *Media Sonar Demonstration*
2:00 - 3:00: *Cyber Careers & Skills Needed in NH*

SkillsUSA Framework



The following week will feature a full day of activities on Wednesday, 3/18, hosted by MCC and **SkillsUSA**. In addition to a Mobile Robotics Competition (in which Spark Teams will participate), there will be a host of other competitions which Spark students may observe. Spark students who are not on our Robotics Teams will be assisting as guides for our visitors. This day will provide additional perspective to our students as to the skills needed to advance in their careers while providing more community interaction and possible connections for our students. More details will be made available in next week's newsletter.

Finally...

Please help us spread the word of our upcoming Information night for prospective families on Wednesday, March 25th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

We hope all our Spark families have a great week and can enjoy a bit of this Spring weather.

Sincerely,

Denis Mailloux
Director

SPARK Academy of Advanced Technologies
Grades 9-12 A Free & Public Charter High School

Admissions Information Night

Wednesday, March 25th
6:00 to 8:00 pm

Contact us at
admissions@sparkacademynh.org
for more information.

1066 Front Street, Manchester, New Hampshire 03102 Phone 603.316.1170