



School Community Newsletter — August 13, 2021

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DEAR PARENTS & FRIENDS,

We hope your summer is ending with enough rest and recreation despite the hot temperatures this week. At least we know that we will be in an air conditioned environment when school begins. Warm temperatures or cool, we will be comfortable in school!

This newsletter includes information regarding the opening week of school and our currently planned practices regarding COVID spread mitigation.

We will be incorporating our Year 3 students in more leadership roles throughout the year since they now have experience with Spark. They can help our Year 1 and 2 students by sharing their experiences with them as leaders within the student body.

You will notice that we have a separate orientation for each year because their needs are different. Please also note the varying times for orientations. Families should contact us through jennifer.larochelle@sparkacademynh.org if they can foresee transportation issues with these times.

OUR OPENING WEEK...

For Our Year 3 Students:

- We are asking for volunteers from among our Year 3 students to join us on Wednesday, August 25th, from 9:00 am to Noon to help us plan orientation for our Year 1 and Year 2 students.
- Orientation for all Year 3 students will take place on Wednesday, September 1, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

For Our Year 2 Students:

- Orientation will be on Thursday, September 2, from 8:00 to 11:00 am.
- Students do not need to bring supplies.
- Students **do** need to bring \$6.00 with them to purchase four notebooks and four-color pens.

For Our Year 1 Students:

- Orientation will be on Thursday, September 2, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.
- Students do not need to bring supplies.
- Students **do** need to bring \$6.00 with them to purchase four notebooks and four-color pens.

Friday, September 3 will be a regular school day with classes from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Once again, families should contact Mrs. Larochelle if they have transportation problems for these dates. We will make arrangements for the students to stay with us for the entire school day if necessary.

BUSING QUESTIONS...

We will be participating in a meeting next Tuesday (8/17) with the Manchester School District regarding busing procedures for the upcoming school year. Information from that meeting will then be included in next week's newsletter. Please refer your busing questions to Mrs. Larochelle.

COVID MATTERS...

We were hoping to be avoid having to reference COVID this year. However, we must. Our current opening plan relative to COVID mitigation is included in this newsletter. As we all know, circumstances are in a state of flux. Please note that updates to our procedures will be emailed to families as conditions develop further.

SPARK OPENING MODEL AS OF AUGUST 13, 2021

Spark Academy will continue to monitor guidances from the NH Dept. of Ed., NH Dept. of Health & Human Services, and local agencies in order to provide the safest in-person education for our students. In order to do so, it is important that the Spark Community be committed to safe and prudent practices. Please note that Spark Academy will implement COVID related requirements in conjunction with those applied by Manchester Community College.

Spark families will be notified of changes to our instructional model should conditions and advisories from the appropriate agencies require NH schools to implement greater safeguards.

Spark Academy is in alignment with our governor and the DHHS in urging all eligible individuals to be vaccinated while recognizing that Covid vaccinations remain a matter of personal choice. We also recognize that the State of NH recognizes religious exemptions for all vaccines.

As our students are of high school age, we depend on a level of individual responsibility to act in safe and prudent ways. These responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- home screening - model to be provided to families
- remaining home whenever ill
- personal hygiene
- appropriate distancing
- respecting other persons' comfort levels regarding distancing when it is not required by the school
- masking when required for certain school activities
- masking when appropriate distancing is not possible
- respecting individual choice regarding masking when masking is optional
- masking optional when seated in the classroom
- masking required for small group work
- masks required for other close contact situations as determined by instructors or the director
- 3 foot classroom seat spacing
- regular cleaning of surfaces before, during, and after the school day

GRANT AWARD...

Spark Academy was one of only six charter schools in NH to be awarded a Charter School Program Grant this year. We will be receiving up to \$1.5M over the next three years to help provide resources to develop our program further and better serve our students.

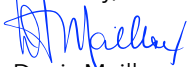
This grant is only the beginning for our school as we work this year to expand Spark's reach into NH business and industry. This effort will help us continue to be responsive to the needs of these businesses and industries so that we can best prepare our students for future careers. We will also be reaching out to increase the resources to continue to grow in light of our mission.

This award affirms the relevance of Spark's mission and purpose, and we are encouraged even further as we work hard together to reach our goals!

QUESTIONS...

Please submit any questions you may have to Mrs. Larochelle at jennifer.larochelle@sparkacademy-nh.org so that we can help make the start of this school year as smooth as possible for you.

Sincerely,



Denis Mailloux

Director.