

Dear Families and Friends of Spark,

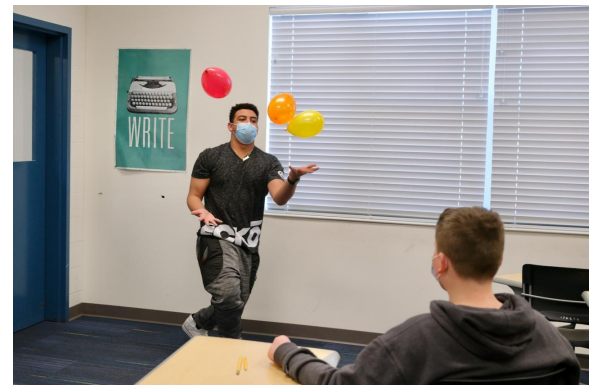
This week has really had me focus on the way that we communicate with everyone. I have conducted some classes this week to talk with the students about communication and the roadblocks that come up and why. We meet with them to discuss specific plans and remind them that they have a voice and need to use it. We hold teachers meetings to make sure that we are all on the same page and sending the same message to our students. We email our families about our program and ensure they have a clear understanding of what is happening at the school. All different ways of communication.

As a society we have certain expectations around communication and how things should go, but is this really the way it should be? When a student enters a meeting and just sits and listens to the adults, is this a great meeting? Are we listening to the student or just telling them what to do? When a teacher is teaching the class, should they be lecturing or engaging, and how does this happen? When we don't understand something, how do we seek clarification?

Communication serves five major purposes: to inform, to express feelings, to imagine, to influence, and to meet social expectations. Each of these purposes is reflected in a form of communication. As a school community, it is our goal to make sure that we are working to help our students become skilled communicators. We can do this through role modeling, having two way conversations, and providing feedback.

Thank you for taking your time to communicate and work on these skills with all of our students.

- John Tuttle, Director



School Photos...

Anyone who ordered school photos should have had them come home with their students this week. You can still place an order! Here's how: if you still have the sheet with the QR code on it, scan it and place your order online. Be sure to enter your mailing address on the website so the photos can be mailed to you directly. If you do NOT still have the QR code, please send an email to Bill Marshall Photography at billmarshallphotography@gmail.com . Tell him you want to place a Spark order, you lost your QR code, and provide him with your student's first and last name.



A Reminder...

We have a **half day** on Wednesday, 2/9! All students will be dismissed at noon and must leave at that time while we conduct important safety training for the staff.

Information Night...

We were very pleased with the number of prospective families that attended our Information Night this week. The interest in Spark Academy seems very high, especially after families have a chance to hear about our extensive program, technological opportunities, and access to MCC's many resources! Please help us to get the word out. Our next Information Nights will be on 2/10 and 2/23 at 6:30PM.



Spring Schedules...

We are working on finalizing the logistics with regard to our third year students' schedules while they are at Spark and not in college classes. Please watch your email for important updates as we navigate this exciting time together! We are all learning the art of adaptability, a very useful skill in life.



Many Thanks...

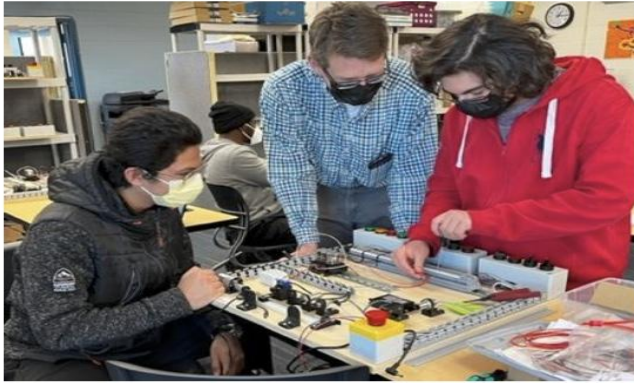
We would like to thank Althea Barton, Glen's mom, for her donation of handmade three-layer cloth masks. Several students and staff members are finding them very useful! We so appreciate her generosity.

Spark in the News...

We are very happy to announce that Spark Academy has been included in the latest CCSNH newsletter. The newsletter can be found here:

https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Choose-Community-1-26-22.html?soid=1133440227450&a_id=Pnop7Lnv6n8

MCC congratulates new leader of on-site partner Spark Academy



Manchester Community College hosts Spark Academy on its campus, an alternative to traditional high school. The partnership introduces local students to MCC's technical studies programs and helps students accelerate their pathway into college. MCC welcomes Spark Academy's new leader, John Tuttle, and celebrates the continued success of this unique partnership.

[Read the Manchester Ink Link article](#)

Zoom With the Director...

Monday 1/31 at 6:30 PM is the first in our monthly series of Zoom With the Director. This will be an opportunity for parents to hear what's going on with Spark Academy and ask Mr. Tuttle any questions you may have. Please watch for an email from Mrs. Larochelle with the Zoom link, and be sure to tune in!

We hope you all have a safe and happy weekend.

Sincerely,

John Tuttle

Director