



School Community Newsletter — April 16, 2021

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DEAR PARENTS & FRIENDS OF SPARK,

IN-PERSON LEARNING/REMOTE...

As you know from our last newsletter, we are providing in-person learning five days per week as of Monday, April 19th. Our faculty is relieved to be able to teach your children face-to-face and provide them with the best and most responsive educational experience possible.

Remote learning will still be available for families upon request. To do so please contact me at denismailloux@sparkacademynh.org indicating your compelling reasons for remaining remote. I strongly ask that remote not be used on a day-by-day basis where the student is in-person one day and remote the next. The benefits of the in-person consistent classroom experience are too important to be missed for anything less than the most compelling of reasons. Let's work to get everyone in-person when we return from the April Vacation!

WEDNESDAY'S SCHEDULE...

This week will feature our first in-person Wednesday of the year. As you know, we try to feature learning opportunities on Wednesdays that are different from our regular class days. We expect to be "on the road again" (apologies to Willie Nelson) for many of our Wednesday exploration days next year. For this year, we will stay on campus.

FOR THIS WEDNESDAY, THE SCHEDULE WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- The day will begin and end at our normal times. First class begins at 8:00 and the last ends at 3:00.
- 8:00 to 9:30:
 - Our Year Two students will take the practice SAT in their classrooms. Year One students will remain in their classroom for a humanities-related activity.
- 9:30 to 10:30:
 - All students will participate in a virtual tour with both Manchester Community College and Nashua Community College.
- 10:30 to 11:00:
 - Extended snack time in the classrooms for all students.
- 11:00 to Noon:
 - Health class for all students in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) with properly distanced seating.
- Noon to 12:30:
 - MCC-sponsored virtual exercise class for all students in the (MPR) — with distancing.
- 12:30 to 1:00:
 - Lunch for all students in the classrooms.
- 1:00 to 3:00:

- Extended art class for all students in the MPR.
- Opportunities for extra help in other subjects with the teachers.

REPORTS GOING HOME...

Today, Friday April 16th, students at Spark Academy will receive two important reports that they should be sharing with parent(s)/guardians(s). The first report is the third quarter report card. The second report is the results of the PSAT tests the students took in March of this year. This report assessed a student's performance in English Reading and Writing and in Math. A student's scores place her/him in a percentile compared to a national average of students who took the same PSAT in March of this year. There will be a PSAT Parent Information Night held on Wednesday, April 21st at 6:30 PM to review the components of the score report and to answer any general question regarding the PSAT report. Individual score reports will not be discussed at this information night. A "zoom link" for this meeting will be forwarded to all Spark Academy parents on Monday, April 19th. Please check your Spark Academy parent email for this zoom link.

If you would like to discuss your child's score report, please contact our guidance counselor at Ronald.losier@sparkacademyh.org to set up a meeting.

HONOR ROLL...

We congratulate our third quarter honor roll students. It takes a great deal of work and persistence to maintain such excellent grades!

KAHN ACADEMY PRACTICE SAT TEST

Spark Academy and the English department at Manchester Community College are exploring the option of offering the college's English Composition 110M course as part of the Spark Academy curriculum for third year students next year. In preparation for this possibility, second year students at Spark Academy will take an SAT Practice on Khan Academy on Wednesday, April 21st from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. There is no cost for this test. The purpose of this test is to provide the English department at Manchester Community College with an assessment that can be used in determining a student's potential for success in the college's English Composition 110M course. All second year Spark Academy students who want to be eligible to take the English Composition 110M course next year are required to be in attendance for the test on Wednesday April 21st.

APRIL VACATION...

Spark will be closed from April 26th to the 30th. As your family is perhaps making plans to enjoy time together, we ask that everyone continue to be vigilant with respect to Covid safety. To my knowledge, the Spark Community continues to be very fortunate with no Covid-related illness in our families and staff. You have all been fantastic by taking the precautions that have made it possible for us to return safely to in-person instruction. By now we know what is working for us. Keep up the great effort! The finish line is near!

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE...

As we quickly approach two new and full cohorts for next year, I would ask you to continue helping us to spread the word about Spark and our upcoming virtual open house on Thursday, May 13th, from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE...

Aileen Clay, Director of Student Life for MCC has sent the following invitation to us:

*The Student Senate of Manchester Community College would like to invite your SPARK students and families to join our MCC Community for an on-campus event on **Saturday, April 24th from noon to 3pm.** The event is called *Building Beds, Building Community*----and we will be*





coming together as an MCC community to serve our neighbors.

Highlights include: Bed Building with Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), sorting children's clothing with Pass Along, making no-sew blankets with the SNA, and more. Food trucks, free t-shirts, and a Senate Prize wheel will add to the fun. Donations of non-perishable food items, children's books, gently used children's clothing, will be accepted on-site.

If you were part of the Spark Community last year, you already know how amazing these service programs are. We are hoping for 100%

participation from

the Spark Community as we work together with MCC in these very important and very rewarding projects. Nothing helps us feel the goodness within our heart like rolling up our sleeves and working together to bring comfort and happiness to others. We really hope you can join us!

Our photos this week are from last year's Sleep in Heavenly Peace Service Project.



Sincerely,

Denis Mailloux

Director