



igniting your purpose!

November 20, 2020

Dear Spark Families,

Hybrid Instruction Update: Please Read Carefully!

I am relieved to tell you that our Spark Community continues to enjoy good health despite rising COVID cases in our state. Thank you, once again, for your continued vigilance and care for our school community!

Due to the rising number of cases in New Hampshire, my meeting with Dr. Bicknell, President of Manchester Community College, was held yesterday, the 19th, instead of the original date, the 30th. We agreed that the following appears to be the wisest plan for Spark to follow:



- Spark remains in the hybrid mode until we leave for Thanksgiving Break on the **24th**.
- After this, Spark will be all remote **at least** until Dr. Bicknell and I have a chance to meet on **Dec 10**, at which time an assessment will be made as to whether Spark may return to its hybrid model until the Christmas break.
- I will send an email to all Spark families after the December 10th meeting informing all of you of our path through December. A message will also be sent to our families through the Spark Emergency Notification System.
- Dr. Bicknell will schedule additional meetings with me after the Christmas break so as to bring continued assessment and measured steps to the process of deciding which mode of instruction will be in place at Spark.
- We will continue to meet and evaluate throughout the remainder of the pandemic to provide a sound balance of in-person instruction and safety for our students and staff.

In summary: November 30 to December 10: All Remote

December 10: Message to Spark families as to the continued mode of instruction



I want to thank Dr. Bicknell for his thoughtful approach to Spark Academy and for his obvious care for the well-being of our students and staff! We will arrive at the end of this journey wiser and more appreciative of many aspects of life that we may have taken more for granted in our pre-pandemic lives. Hang in there!

Remote Learning:

It will be of the utmost importance that we all make remote learning as effective as possible. Teachers have their responsibilities to continue bringing

meaningful and adaptive learning experiences to our students. Students must bring their “best game” as well, and that begins with being fully present and engaged in classes.

- Classes will remain synchronous, meaning that the **daily schedule will remain in effect**.
- Teachers will take **attendance class by class**, and students must be present with **screens/video on**.
- Complete remote learning can present challenges. It will be most important for all of us to stay on task and make this experience the very best for our students.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Thank you for taking time to meet with our teachers. They were really enthusiastic about their conversations with all of you. It's good to know that we are a team for the sake of our kids. Please reach out to teachers directly if your schedule did not allow you to meet with them Wednesday, the 18th.

Parent Information Meeting...

As our second year students move toward their third year, options for early college placements with MCC begin to open up. In the near future, we will be meeting with each second year student and parents (Zoom of course) to discuss the students' interests and options. These classes will qualify as early college and/or running start. (I know... it gets confusing!). There are different requirements for each program.

We will be holding a Zoom meeting on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 24th, starting at 6:30pm. A Zoom link will be emailed to all our parents and students so that anyone in the Spark Community can attend. Save up your questions, we will either have ready answers, or we will have additional research to do.

These classes offer tremendous opportunity to Spark students, but the great array of possibilities can make for some confusion.

Coffee with the Director...

I will be available for virtual coffees (code word for informal meeting 😊) on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd and Wednesday, Dec. 9th, both at 8:00 am. A link will be sent out to all Spark families by email prior to each meeting. Show up, chat, let me know what's on your mind.

Please Continue Spreading the Word...

Thanks to those of you who have been able to connect us with prospective families. In-person tours during the school day seem to work very well as a way of allowing families to get a sense of what Spark is all about. Thank you! Keep up the good work!



----- Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is now open! -----

This week's photos are of our second year students as they worked on design challenges in the tech classes.

I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving as we look forward to less stressful times.

Denis Mailloux

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Mailloux'.

Director