



Academy of Advanced Technologies Public Charter School Grades 9-12

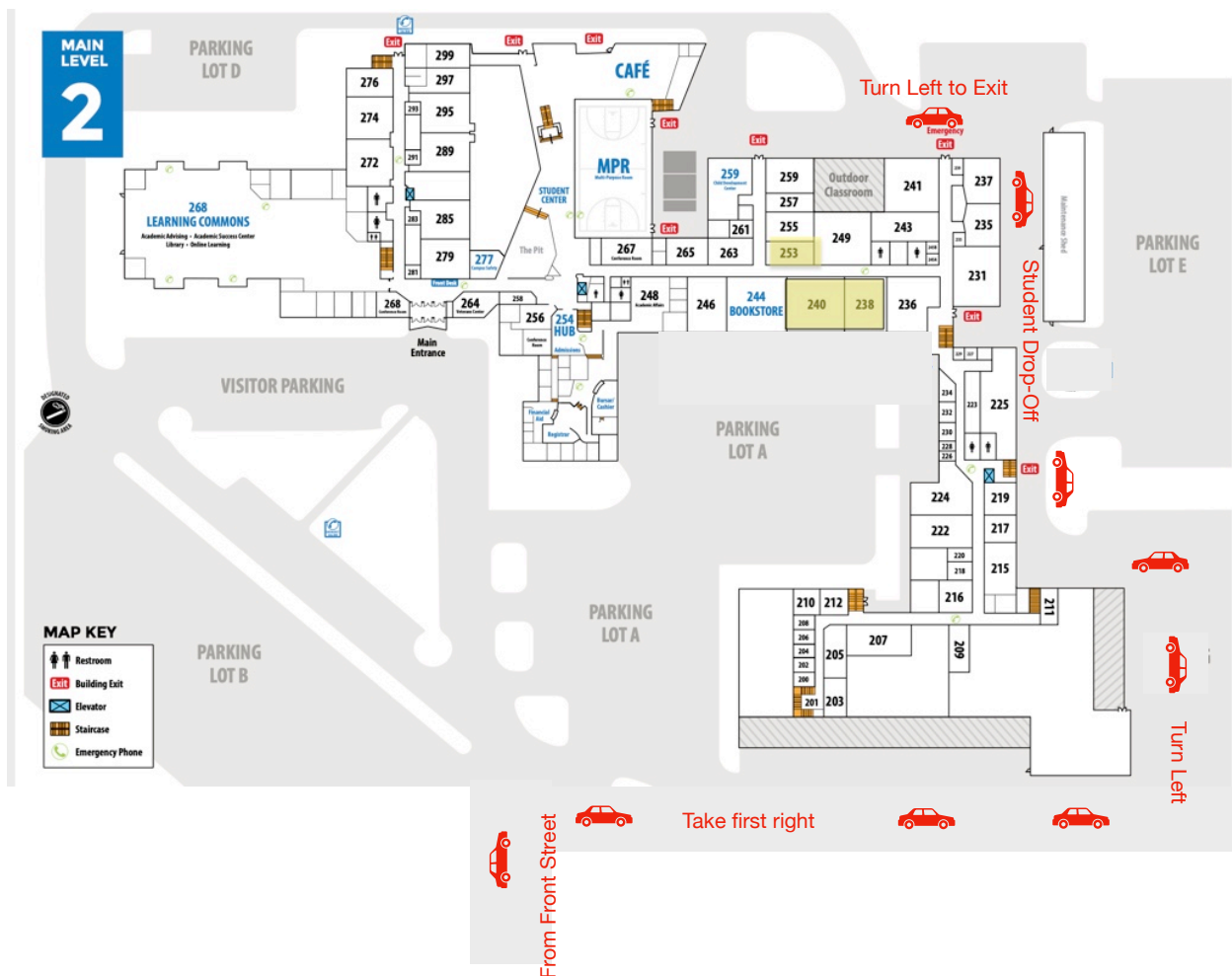
igniting your purpose!

September 4, 2020

Dear Spark Community,

I hope you have had a chance to read **last week's newsletter** where a great deal of information was provided. If not, please be sure to read that as soon as possible as this newsletter will not be repeating that information. Please also re-read the **Spark COVID protocols** which can be found through the link provided on the Spark website homepage.

Directions to the Spark Academy Entrance:



- Take your first right upon entering the MCC campus
- Follow the short road to the end of the buildings
- Turn left
- Follow the road around the back of the building
- Drop your student off at the Spark Entrance which is on the North side of the building
- Please wait until your student has been screened
- Screening will take place at the Spark entrance
- Spark staff will be outdoors to guide you on your first day

Daily Screening Procedures:

Parents and guardians must screen their students at home each for the following:

- ☐ Do you have a temperature over 100.4°?
- ☐ Have you loss your ability to smell or taste?
- ☐ Do you have a cough, sore throat, or chills?
- ☐ Do you have muscle aches or a headache?
- ☐ Have you had nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite in the last few days?
- ☐ Have you had close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has been placed in quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19 within the last two weeks?
- ☐ Have you been asked to self-quarantine by a medical professional or local public health official in the last two weeks?
- ☐ Have you traveled in the past 14 days internationally (outside the U.S.) by cruise ship, or outside of New England (NH, VT, RI, CT, MA, and ME)?

Please do not send your student to Spark if the answer is “Yes” to any of these questions.

Spark staff will screen all students for entry into the school using the screening form which parents have completed and signed. Student temperatures will be checked before entry into the school.

Note that all Spark staff will undergo the same screening process each day before entering the school. All Spark staff have been recently tested for COVID-19 and will be tested periodically throughout the pandemic.

Students reporting possible COVID-19 symptoms during the school day will be kept in a separate room until parents/guardians can pick them up. Any suspected cases of COVID-19 among Spark students or staff will be reported the the Manchester Health Department and the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with

the law and each departments requirements. Suspected cases will be reported to MCC while respecting each person's HEPA rights. The Spark Community will be notified through email and the school's emergency notification system of any cases in a manner that respects each person's HEPA rights.

Protocols and procedures will be amended to meet changing pandemic conditions as the school year progresses with notification of such changes to the Spark Community.

Parents and other visitors must enter through the main entrance of the college for screening before entering the school. Again, everyone entering the school will be required to wear a mask. Masks will be provided when needed.

We have some attachments with this newsletter. They are:

- The emergency information form
- The COVID-19 screening to be printed at home for daily use
- T-shirt size form for our new students

Please complete these forms for your student to bring in on her or his first in-person day should you choose not to send them to us electronically.

Our first day, Wednesday, Sept. 9th, will be a remote day for all students. This will be an orientation day for all students. **Parents and guardians are welcome to join us on Zoom that day.** A link will be sent out to families on Tuesday, Sept. 8th, for you to do so.

Our preparations for this year...

Along with our preparations for the safe return of our students, we have been hard at work this summer with the expansion of our program. As I mentioned in our last newsletter, two new faculty members have been added. Purchases in preparation for this year have included:

ALEKS license and textbooks -----	\$2,772.30
Labster (for virtual labs) -----	\$1,600.00
SolidWorks License -----	\$2,600.00
Tooling U -----	\$2,200.00
15 Laptops -----	\$13,649.85
Cameras for Live-Streaming -----	\$748.95
Hand Sanitizer Stations & Disinfectant Spray -----	\$3,365.60

So far, we have obtained 650 disposable masks, 16 gallons of hand sanitizer, and 60 quart sprayers of disinfectant. We are in the process of obtaining more PPE materials and will reach out to families for donations as needed.

Laptop Bags & Agendas:

We have decided to require rolling laptop bags so as to reduce hallway and locker traffic. As was mentioned in last week's newsletter, you may choose your model. However, we have a "best" recommendation to make your shopping easier:

https://www.amazon.com/Targus-Rolling-16-Inch-Laptop-TBR003US/dp/B000UE8JWM/ref=sr_1_3?c=ts&dchild=1&keywords=Laptop+Bags%2C+Cases+%26+Sleeves&qid=1597937057&refinements=p_n_feature_browser%3A3102243011&sr=8-3&ts_id=172470

https://www.amazon.com/Rolling-Backpack-Waterproof-Business-Backpacks/dp/B07Q3DJCVC/ref=sr_1_28?c=ts&dchild=1&keywords=Laptop+Bags%2C+Cases+%26+Sleeves&qid=1597937888&refinements=p_n_feature_browser%3A3102243011%2Cp_36%3A3000-8000&mid=386442011&s=electronics&sr=1-28&ts_id=172470

Agendas will also be required so as to help our students stay on task and avoid remote learning "slippage." We have shopped around and have agendas for the students to purchase on their first day of school for \$4.00 each which we will collect on your student's first in-person day.

Some of you have volunteered to help us obtain PPE supplies, and others have offered to help us out with the daily sanitizing regimen. Once we get the school year started, we will know better when and how we could use your assistance. We very much appreciate the true community spirit that is coming through with your generous offers!

Spark Academy is now registered with **Amazon Smile**. If you are an Amazon shopper, you can donate to Spark by logging on to: [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) with your regular Amazon log in. Then choose Spark Academy for Advanced Technologies as your charity.

Once we are underway, we will also want to get a parent organization off the ground. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us.

We will be discovering new opportunities and challenges along the way. I want to thank everyone for their patience and great suggestions. Let's keep working together to make this a fantastic year!

Until next week, I am yours in Spark,
Denis Mailloux
Director