



Academy of Advanced Technologies  
Public Charter School Grades 9-12

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igniting your purpose!

May 15, 2020

Dear Spark Families & Friends,

The faculty has often expressed something in our daily faculty Zoom meetings that I should mention here, namely our concern for our families. We hope you are all OK as we all continue on our unexpected journey separate yet together. These circumstances have placed tremendous stress on all of us, perhaps especially for parents who must oversee home matters while managing surrogate schools at home.

The faculty and I are looking ahead to next year and are waiting for the state's directives for safe learning this fall. We do know that procedures will need to be in place regarding frequent sanitation and that all of our practices will be very much affected by the need for utmost safety. Spark will also be working closely with Manchester Community College to ensure the safest environment possible for all our students.

Our focus on meaningful learning in all circumstances has led to many discussions among Spark staff as to what appears to be working well and what does not. Spark had (and has) many advantages as we all dove into the world of remote learning. Much of our program is available through online resources, and all our students were able to take a VEX Robotics kit home with them. High school students generally have adapted better to remote learning than elementary school students have. We appreciate these advantages, yet we know that our current model will not be the best one to implement should we need adopt remote learning next year. We also want to take this experience to understand what this period of time has taught us for the improvement of student learning whether we are physically in school together or apart in another chapter such as this one.

We have our thoughts, and now we want yours. I will be sending surveys out to you Monday, May 18, to ask for your perspective. I imagine parent and student experiences are somewhat different from each other on this remote journey; therefore, parent and student surveys will include different questions or different perspectives on topics. It will be important for us to

receive as much feedback as possible so that we can (1) learn the most from this experience and (2) provide the best remote learning experience possible should the need arise.

As you might imagine, times such as these place new demands on schools that need to reach out to the community for incoming students. *We will be conducting the first Spark Virtual Open House (via Zoom) on Wednesday, May 27th, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.* Sharing this news with other families will do much to help us out. The graphic included in this newsletter will be posted on our Facebook page and Website. Please help us spread the word!

Also, we could use a couple parents and students for the conclusion of the virtual open house. Please let me know if you will be able to help us out.



I had mentioned to you earlier that our faculty has purchased Spark sweatshirts for all our students. They will be delivered to all of you for curbside pickup in the next few days. This is our small way of saying *We miss all of you and are thinking of you.*



I want to remind everyone that we are observing Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th and that our final day for this year will be Tuesday, June 2nd.

Once, again, please fill out your survey on Monday. We hope you have a good weekend and can get outdoors for a bit of fresh air!

Yours in Spark,

Denis Mailloux  
Director