



igniting your purpose!

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents & Friends,

**Manchester Community College will be moving to a largely online program as of March 23, with limited access to classroom and other space for necessary face-to-face instruction.** As of this moment, we do not know the duration of this partial closure. I understand that the college will remain open to faculty and staff during this period.

**In light of this development and with consideration as to Spark Academy's substantial ability to deliver online instruction, students will not report to the campus Monday, March 16, until further notice.** The faculty and I will be meeting Monday morning, March 16, to establish daily learning experiences for home study. That information will be fully available on the portal (and on Google Classroom for Robotics classes) by Noon on Monday. Books and robots will be going home with the students today so as to provide the best learning experience possible. I ask parents to make certain that their students are checking the portal and Google classroom for each class each day. Daily student work will be necessary for school attendance. Parents are also asked to help keep their students on track for completion of the assignments. It will be important that every student complete their work every day. We will all be available via email to respond to student questions regarding completion of their work.

We are very fortunate in that so much of our program lends itself well to online learning. ALEKS and QUILL are readily accessed online with the ability for teacher feedback. Humanities can feature reading assignments via PDF's, instructional pieces, and online videos along with QUILL. Biology will feature written instruction, PowerPoint presentations, and virtual labs. The faculty and I will be meeting regularly at the campus to work on maintaining the best online learning experience possible, to assist our students, and to assure the quality of our program.

We are certainly in an unusual period regarding public gathering and social distancing. It is our hope that our actions help meet the need for additional safety while continuing to educate our students in the best way possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Our weekly newsletter will continue along with email communication to students and parents as needed. As with any aspect of our program, we will work to make this experience as meaningful as possible and possibly explore some new teaching/learning practices which this experience challenges us to discover.

We urge families to follow appropriate guidelines for social distancing and isolation as expressed by health and government officials.

### Just to review...

1. Manchester Community College will be moving to a largely online program as of March 23.
2. As of Monday, March 16, Spark students will not be reporting to school.
3. Spark Academy will move to an online experience on Monday, March 16.
4. Our students will leave school today, Friday, March 13, with any assignments they will need for Monday.
5. Students are to check the school portal and Google Classroom daily for the class work.
6. Parents are asked to monitor their students' completion of work on a daily basis.
7. Daily work is needed for student attendance.
8. Weekly newsletters and email communication will provide information to our Spark homes during this period of online learning.
9. Parents and students should feel free to contact us with any questions.

Although the topic of today's newsletter makes this final point of information seem like an afterthought,



we wish to thank the entire MCC Computer Information Department for inviting us to its Cybersecurity Conference. The presentations were packed with information, and though the totality of the experience was taxing for our students, they demonstrated an extraordinary level of attention and respect. I want to be sure I express my appreciation for the manner in which they participated in this experience.

We will miss our face-to-face time with our students and very much look forward to seeing all of them soon! Until then, let's demonstrate how well we can grow in the face of our present global challenge!

Yours in Spark,

Denis Mailloux  
Director