

Spark

Academy of Advanced Technologies
Igniting your purpose!

School Community Newsletter — January 14, 2022

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DEAR FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF SPARK,

- We want to remind everyone that we have no classes for **Monday, January 17th**, Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Day.
- We want to remind everyone that **laptops, chargers, and mice** must be returned to the school asap.
- Please remember that your student is responsible for checking **Canvas** for assigned work when absent or remote.
- Students in their third year who are taking **Early College Courses** must return their signed contracts to us.
- We continue to go over safety plans and protocols, and have also shared a list of **universal expectations** with students & staff. A copy of these expectations is included here:

Universal Expectations

- Treat everyone with **RESPECT**
- Let the teacher know where you are going if leaving the classroom
- Computers are used for academic purposes only
- Masks are to be worn properly at all times
- Everyone does their best at all times
- Cell phones are stored in your locker during instruction time
- Must sign the log when going to the bathroom
- Wired headphones can only be used with teacher permission. You must be able to hear what's going on in the classroom in case of an emergency.

Lunch Time

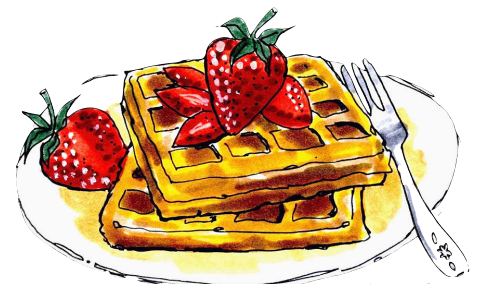
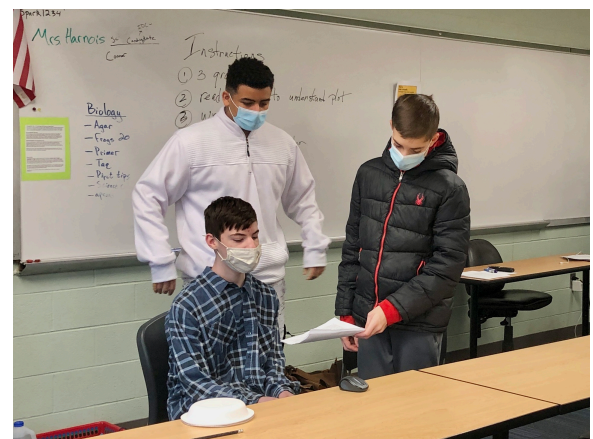
- Cell phones can be used.
- This is a time to interact with your peers
- Computers should be plugged in and charging. Not being used!
- Everyone is to participate in the walk. While on the walk you may take your mask off.
- Please stay in your designated area.
- Masks can be removed while eating, but you must stay at your desk/table.
- Please replace your mask after you are done eating.

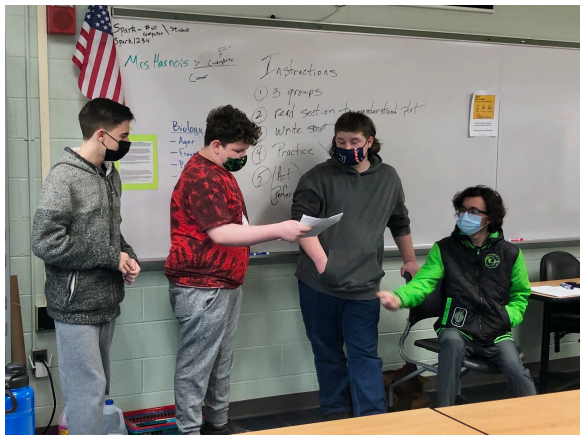
Morning Routine

- Report to your homeroom class
- Be prepared for the start of the day
- Secure things in your locker

CELEBRATION BREAKFAST...

We will be hosting our new year/new semester **CELEBRATION WAFFLE BREAKFAST** next Wednesday morning, the 19th. All are invited! We will begin at 8:00 AM. Waffles and Strawberries will be served.





ROBOTICS TEAM NEWS...

Our students are bringing some changes to the Robotics Team to make it a better and more formative experience for everyone. The student-authored *declaration* brings the team to more of a holistic program that is focused more on passing skills from our more seasoned students to new members. We are very proud of the perspective the students are bringing to the team. It demonstrates a very high level of maturity and consideration for the needs of new and developing teammates. Here are their thoughts in their own words:

1. Overview

The goals of the Spark robotics team are to build well constructed robots, participate in competitions, and pass down skills from mentors to upperclassmen to new team members. The team needs to conduct meetings, participate in fundraising, and go to competitions. The team is divided into several sub teams, each with their own robot. Collaboration between sub teams is highly

encouraged as it will make the group better off as a whole. Each sub team will have a team representative that serves as an advocate for the team. The robotics team as a whole should also have a representative that can speak on behalf of the team at events such as student council meetings. The team is overseen by the mentors, who are experienced adults responsible for watching over the team and providing advice and guidance.

2. Membership

Before the first meeting each year, a survey will be conducted via student council to determine interest in robotics. Anyone interested will go to the first meeting in which mentors and experienced members of the team will give an overview of what the team is as well as the expectations associated with it. In order to join, a student must fill out a sign up sheet, get permission from their parents, and pay a \$75

Tuttle Thoughts...

We continue this year with all the same concerns and questions that we hoped would be over by now, but I want to take a moment to talk about these amazing students that we have at Spark Academy. As we end our second marking period and first semester, I am proud to announce that we have several students that have successfully completed college courses! We have signed up even more students for even more college classes for the second semester. At this rate, we should have 10 students on track to have earned their Associates Degree by the end of their 4th year at Spark!! This is unprecedented in the state of NH (and perhaps anywhere.) Our students also have plans for restarting our robotics club, creating a school store, and starting a yearbook. The Student Council has raised over \$500 for student activities and continues to focus on ways that they can support and grow the student culture.

As you can see, even in the most stressful times, our students have shown that they are strong and continue to develop their voices and choices that they have. They have come together as cohorts and are working on ways to be a team. I am so proud of each and every one of our students and hope that you all take this time to appreciate what they have done.

As Directors, Mr. Mailloux and I will be making a special breakfast for all the students to show how proud we are of them on 1/19. Feel free to stop by for some breakfast or even to make a small donation that will go to our Student Fund, which supports our students' ideas to make our school a better place.

John Tuttle
Director



registration fee. This fee is designed to cover various costs that the team will incur as well as demonstrate that the student is invested in joining the team.

PARENT GROUP NEWS...

Parents, please consider attending our next meeting on Thursday, February 3rd, at 6 PM, in Room 300. Our parents are an important aspect of our school community, and your participation can make a huge difference!

Please contact Katie McQuaid at katiemcquaidnh@gmail.com for more information.

3. Meetings

In order for the team to meet they must first acquire a workspace that's suitable for them to use. The room they meet in should have plenty of space to build and practice, adequate lighting, storage for parts and robots, and good ventilation. All of the teams should meet in the same room if possible to encourage collaboration. Meetings will begin with each team setting up their workspace and deciding what each member will do. Everyone should have a task that they're working on, and stay focused throughout the meeting. Anyone disrupting a meeting will be given a warning by a mentor. If they get three warnings in the same meeting they will be barred from attending the next meeting. Should disruption persist an individual can be banned from competition or even removed from the team by a mentor. The students should encourage each other to treat each other and mentors with respect to avoid this. At the end of a meeting, the representatives should all report on the progress that was made during the meeting and whether they accomplished as much as they wanted to. Each team must clean up

after themselves and put everything in its proper place before the end of the meeting.



PHOTOS...

Our pictures this week are from classes and CAD projects.

We hope you have a great and healthy weekend!

John Tuttle & Denis Mailloux
Directors.

