



School Community Newsletter — October 7, 2022

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SPARK ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

We will be hosting an Open House for current families on Tuesday, 10/18 between 5:30 and 7:00 PM. This is to provide you with an opportunity to get a firsthand look at what your student is working on, meet their teachers, and find out more about our burgeoning ELO program. You will have a chance to schedule individual parent/teacher conferences, which we will be holding between 10/19 and 11/4. We will serve coffee from White Mountain Gourmet, and have Spark tee shirts and other merchandise for sale. Please plan to join us!

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Academic updates will be sent out next week to families whose students have grades of D or below. Instructions for signing on to observe your student's Canvas classrooms were sent out via email on Monday 10/3. Quarter 1 grades will close on November 4th.

REMINDER: NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 10/10

In observance of Indigenous Peoples/Columbus Day.

FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

Next Wednesday 10/12 is reserved for standardized testing. There will NOT be an early dismissal. We have registered for a one hour cyber security Zoom presentation from Robert Herjavec of Shark Tank following the tests.

FOURTH-YEARS:

We are administering the SAT on Wednesday, October 12th. All students are encouraged to attend; it provides us with longitudinal data. Please email Mrs. Minery if you will be there. The test is approximately 4 hours. We will start as close to 8am as possible, so plan on getting to the school by 7:45. Anyone who arrives after the timed section starts will not be permitted in the classroom. There is no make-up date.

THIRD-YEARS:

Third year students are required to take the PSAT/NMSQT on Wednesday, October 12th. As juniors they are eligible for qualifying for the [National Merit Scholarship](#). Students who have a college class are encouraged to work with





their college instructor about making up work. The test is approximately 3.5 hours. We will start as close to 8am as possible, so plan on getting to the school no later than 7:45. Anyone who arrives after the timed section starts will not be permitted in the classroom. There is no make-up date.

SECOND-YEARS:

Second year students are required to take the PSAT/NMSQT on Wednesday, October 12th. The test is approximately 3.5 hours. We will start as close to 8am as possible, so plan on getting to the school no later than 7:45. Anyone who arrives after the timed section starts will not be permitted in the classroom. There is no make-up date.



FIRST-YEARS:

First-year students are required to take the PSAT 8/9 on Wednesday, October 12th. Since this test is digital, all students are expected to bring in their computer and charging cord on Tuesday, October 11th and will leave them at the school that evening. If a student does not bring in their computer and charging cord, there will be a call home for this material. The test is approximately 3.25 hours. We will start as close to 8am as possible, so plan on getting to the school no later than 7:45. Anyone who arrives after the

timed section starts will not be permitted in the classroom. There is no make-up date.

PROCEDURE FOR GOING HOME SICK

Any student who is not feeling well should first notify their teacher. The teacher will send the student to the front desk, where Mrs. Roberts can assess, take temperatures, dispense OTC remedies, etc. Any student deemed too sick to remain in school will be dismissed and their parent/guardian will be contacted to come and pick them up.

EXPLORATION WEDNESDAY!

This week, our Second Year students visited the historical Canterbury Shaker Village. This was a great opportunity for students to expand on early U.S. colonial studies in Humanities. Students experienced what life was like for this early religious group and toured some of the historic buildings and artifacts of the farm.

The students returned to Spark to edit videos taken on the trip. They will complete a short video documentary based upon information they learned in class and on the tour.

Meanwhile, the First Year cohorts were transported to an ancient world through an Egyptian Escape Room! They used their deduction skills and critical thinking to solve puzzles, read coded messages, and find hidden clues



to discover the name of an Egyptian Pharaoh. Working in small groups, they are now creating escape rooms of their own!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, Oct. 10 – NO SPARK CLASSES

Wednesday, Oct. 12 – PSATs & SATs (**no early dismissal!**)

Tuesday, Oct. 18 – Picture Day & Open House

Wednesday, Oct. 19 – NO SPARK CLASSES (Staff Workshop)

TUTTLE THOUGHTS

It has been a full month and it is hard to believe all the things that we have already done this year. Thank you to all of the 4th year families that came to our meeting and look forward to supporting the process for everyone's next step. I would also like to thank the 13 different Spark families that participated in the first Parent Support Committee meeting. This is still something that you all can join.

This week we had a field trip to Shaker Village, escape rooms, a presentation by Jewell Instruments, and an Uno challenge. We have also had conversations around using your voice to make change in a positive way and respecting people's personal space and choices.

It is important for everyone to know that we are all different and that is what makes us great, not weak. We have to find ways to build people up and not break them down. This is sometimes harder than we think, so it is important that we practice and teach this at all times. Our brains are built to find ways to make ourselves feel better and to focus on what is wrong. It is hard to find the positive in situations and it takes practice, even for the most positive person you know.

Please have a safe long weekend and focus on the positives.

John Tuttle

Director

