



## School Community Newsletter — January 29, 2021

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Dear Parents and Friends,

It is an understatement to say that we are thrilled to be back in hybrid mode and certainly look forward to the day when we can all be in-person every day. For the time being, we are grateful to Manchester Community College for allowing us to return in hybrid mode. We will be reminding our students to be sure they wear their masks appropriately with noses covered, an easy thing for any of us to miss. Please remind them of the same as they prepare to come to school. We thank all of you for making sure your students are bringing their signed screening forms into school with them.

We thank you as well for continuing your vigilance regarding possible home exposure to Covid and for implementing self-quarantine in order to protect everyone in our school. To date, I am unaware of any Covid cases in the Spark Community. Keep up the good work!

Students will be taking art kits home with them for the purpose of learning perspective drawing with "old school" tools. This will be a good exercise to complement their work with virtual design in their tech classes as it will reinforce the principles which are implicit in the software they are using. It's always good to learn the fundamentals. The kits will include a very basic drafting kit, engineering style drafting paper, and detailed instructions for each project. Time will be scheduled on Wednesdays for these explorations. These kits are part of the opportunities made available to our students through the CARES/ESSER Grants and through the NH Dept. of Education.

Our virtual open house programs appear to be attracting more and more prospective families. We have a virtual open house coming up on Tuesday, February 2, at 6:30pm. Please continue to help us get the word out regarding these virtual open houses. The link can be found on the "Spark Calendar" located on our website. Your connections are proving to be a very important means for us to reach prospective families! Enrollment meetings with incoming students are underway, and we are very happy to be meeting the members of Spark Class of 2025!

The next occasion for open conversation with me will be a departure from the





"Coffee with the Director" meetings that have been taking place. The next event will be "Dessert with the Director" on Thursday, February 11, at 7pm. We are hoping this new time will allow those of you with morning work schedules to attend. We are especially hoping to have the parents of first year students meet those of our second year kids. Please watch your email for the link.



As I am sure you all know, our rollout of Canvas has brought some frustrations. Canvas has been graciously made available to NH public schools through the NH DOE's five-year lease of the program. It does feature great aspects for delivery of online instruction, but the transition to high school needs has brought "growing pains." Please do let us know when you experience issues so that our team can work to resolve them.



It truly does seem like yesterday when we first opened our doors last fall! Since then a great deal has happened, not the least of which has been Covid. It gives me great satisfaction to know that we have already become a community, one that continues to thrive despite our worldwide challenges. We are moving ahead with class planning for our year-two students as they begin to incorporate MCC coursework into their third-year schedules. At some point soon, the term "hybrid" will be applied to our students' combined Spark and MCC schedules!



The photos included in this newsletter are simple ones depicting our students and teachers hard at work on the now extraordinary experience of the normal. We will be back to normal before we know it and will look back on this pandemic as not only a learning experience but as one that only affirmed the extraordinary strength that a young school community discovered when it was tested. We will continue to grow, our students will excel, and Spark will be well-known throughout the area for the amazing opportunities provided to our students!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Denis Mailloux".

Denis Mailloux  
Director

