

SPARK Academy

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

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ASVAB TESTING

Next Wednesday, 2/7 from 8:30-11:00 all third- and fourth-year students have the opportunity to take the ASVAB test, which focuses on career aptitude. Students, please talk with Mr. Tuttle or Mr. Moy if you have schedule conflicts or questions – otherwise, you should plan to be here!

ROBOTICS TEAM NEWS

- The last competition of the regular season is this Saturday 2/3 at Coe-Brown in Northwood, NH. Come and cheer on our teams!
- The VRC State Championship at MCC is just two weeks away on 2/17 & 18. **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!** Saturday and Sunday shifts available: 8:00-12:00, 12:00-4:00; or 4:00-6:00 (Sat.), 3:00-6:00 (Sun.) for breakdown. On Friday we need people to help with event prep from 4:00-6:00. You can pick any shift(s) or stay all day. We need field resetters, people to do queueing, and general help. **Please email Mr. Larochelle (dan.larochelle@sparkacademynh.org) and cc: Mrs. Larochelle (jennifer.larochelle@sparkacademynh.org) and let them know your shift(s), if you have a job you'd like to do, and your shirt size.** All volunteers get a free shirt, free food, and students can count the time toward their community service hours. The student members of the robotics team are expected to volunteer for the day on Sunday at the VEX IQ division competition.
- We are also still looking for food donations for the concession stand at States. We need drinks, chips, baked goods and candy for both days and we REALLY need hot food for Sunday (and still a few things for Saturday.) Dropoff guidelines are at the top of the signup sheet, scroll down to find Sunday's hot items, and feel free to email Mrs. Larochelle with any questions. Thank you!
- Food sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A49A9AB2AA1FE3-47180056-vexrobotics#/>
- Concession stand volunteer shifts here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044AA4AF23A3F85-47132463-robotics#/>



SEMESTER TWO PROGRESS REPORTS

We will be sending out progress reports for semester two classes every four weeks or so. The target dates are as follows: February 14, March 20, April 17, and May 14. As before, they will be emailed and you can also find them in Alma on your student's 'Report Cards' tab. If you have still not accessed Alma, contact Mrs. Larochelle for assistance. Please remember that MCC early college classes will not be on progress reports.



FOURTH-YEAR STUDENTS

The yearbook staff needs your photos for the Class of 2024 edition! Send in pictures of yourselves enjoying your hobbies, working, hanging out, being goofy with each other, whatever – share photos that tell us about you. You can email them to Mr. Mailloux, Mr. Brown, or Mrs. Larochelle.



WEDNESDAY NEWS

This week some members of Student Council went to Adventure Lore for a day of team building and leadership skills in the great outdoors.

SAT TESTING

All third year students will be taking the SAT test on Wednesday, 3/27 at 8:00 AM. If you have college classes at that time or any other questions, please contact Ms. Minery ASAP.



FUTURE SPARK STUDENTS WANTED

Our next Info Night for Prospective Families is Wednesday 2/7 at 5:30 PM. We are still looking for future Spark students to join the Class of 2028, so if you know any rising high schoolers that fit the bill, please send them our way!

PARENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The next Parent Support Committee meeting is on 2/13 at 5:30. Please come and find out what you can do to help with the golf tournament, NH Gives, family engagement, or the graduation committee. There are lots of ways to get involved! Contact sarah.shakour@sparkacademynh.org or Mr. Tuttle for more details.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ☑ Wednesday 2/7 – ASVAB Test (3rd & 4th year students) and Information Night
- ☑ Wednesday 2/13 – Parent Support Committee meeting
- ☑ Saturday & Sunday 2/17 & 2/18 – VRC NH/VT State Championship
- ☑ Wednesday 2/21 – Board meeting
- ☑ Wednesday 3/27 – SAT Testing (Third-Year students only)



TUTTLE THOUGHTS

This week I have been in a lot of meetings discussing how a student learns and how we assess their knowledge. I know this has been an ongoing debate for years and schools continue to come up with different tests and assessments that people can take to show knowledge or skills - but this does not work for everyone. People cram for a test so they can pass and soon the information is gone. Does this mean they know the information or does it show they have good short term memory?

I met with people to discuss different subjects and we talked about taking the time to truly understand and learn the concepts. Do they understand what they are trying to do and by slowing down just a little bit, will that reduce the small errors? Then it comes down to: what is the magic spot to get this information into long term memory?

So I did what most people do today and googled how to improve long term memory. This is what I found:

- *Be physically active every day. Physical activity raises blood flow to the whole body, including the brain. ...*
- *Stay mentally active. ...*
- *Spend time with others. ...*
- *Stay organized. ...*
- *Sleep well. ...*
- *Eat a healthy diet. ...*
- *Manage chronic health problems.*

Not really what I was looking for, but it did make me think about what we are doing at Spark and how we support every student in their progress to follow these steps. It will continue to be an ongoing discussion.

Hope you have a great weekend and do the small things to help your memory.

John Tuttle

Director

