



## School Community Newsletter — August 27, 2021

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### DEAR PARENTS & FRIENDS,

As we prepare to welcome our students to or back to Spark, I must inform you of the decision made yesterday at Manchester Community College regarding COVID precautions. Spark Academy will need to comply with these measures. Those of you who have been with us for the past two years know that we appear not to have experienced any cases of COVID among the Spark Community. If we apply the level of diligence we did throughout the past year, I feel confident that we will be able to continue that record. Let's continue to work well together to get to the other side of this situation.

As of now, we have no plans to screen students as they enter the building but ask that you self-screen at home with respect to COVID symptoms. It is always wise to stay home whenever we feel ill so as not to spread any illness. As we are a high school and can depend on a certain level of mature and responsible behavior from everyone at Spark, we do not face the challenges that elementary schools do. For that, we can be grateful. I ask for everyone's patience and very much look forward to the time when we can speak of all this in the past tense.

Here is the message from Dr. Bicknell, President of MCC...

Hello Everyone,

Unfortunately, the community transmission rates for COVID have increased from Substantial to High. Transmission levels increased to High yesterday and remained at the High level today, so we don't look at this as a one-day blip, but something that will continue for a period of time. Therefore, following our protocol, we need to increase our safety measures. *Effective immediately, (August 26, 2021), masks must be worn at all times inside all MCC buildings, except when alone in private offices.*

Many of us are out of the habit of wearing masks at all times, so please be patient with others as we make the transition. There are masks available throughout the building, in classrooms, many office suites and at the front desk.

We will continue to monitor community transmission. Following our protocols, when community transmission decreases back to Substantial for two weeks, we will revert back to masks being optional except in classrooms, and when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to fight back against COVID.

Brian Bicknell

President

### SCHEDULE FOR ORIENTATION DAYS...

We want to thank the students from Newton and Wright (3rd year students) for coming in this Wednesday to help us plan orientation for our 2nd and 1st year students. They spent several hours with us brainstorming to make orientation meaningful and fun!

Please note that the exact timing of orientation activities is likely to become altered a bit as they are implemented. However, the start and stop times for each group's orientation will not change so that parents can plan drop off and pick up times within their day. Please note that most students should plan to eat lunch at home if possible, but may bring a snack. Third Year students should bring a lunch.

**Thursday, 9/2/21 - 8:00am to 11:00am - Orientation for da Vinci Activities (2nd year students) led by Newton & Wright**

8:00 - 8:05-----Welcome Back

8:05 - 8:15-----Introduction of New Teachers

8:15 - 8:30 -----Daily procedures - Changes from Last Year

8:30 - 9:15-----Activities led by Newton & Wright

9:15 - 9:30-----Handbook - Main Topic & Checking Student Logins

9:30 - 10:30-----Activities led by Newton & Wright

10:30 - 11:00 -----Newton & Wright students will share from their experiences so as to help the da Vinci students make the most of their year at Spark

\* MCC will conduct a tour of the MCC campus at some point during the da Vinci orientation.

\*\* Any important elements of the orientation missed on Thursday will be presented to the students during their Humanities class on Friday (9/3/21).

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#### Thursday, 9/2/21 - 11:30am - 2:30pm - Orientation for Year 1 Students

11:30 - 11:45 -----Welcome to Spark  
11:45 - 12:30 -----Handbook Main Topic Presentation  
12:30 - 1:00 -----Cohort 1 Activities led by Newton & Wright  
12:30 - 1:00 -----Cohort 2 Tech Setup - Laptops & Software  
1:00 - 1:30 -----Cohort 2 Activities led by Newton & Wright  
1:30 - 1:30 -----Cohort 1 Tech Setup - Laptops & Software  
1:30 - 2:15 -----Activities led by Newton & Wright  
2:15 - 2:30 -----Introduction to Student Council by Newton & Wright

\* MCC will conduct a tour of the MCC campus at some point during the da Vinci orientation.

\*\* Any important elements of the orientation missed on Thursday will be presented to the students during their Humanities class on Friday (9/3/21).

#### WELCOMING PARENTS...

Our initial opening plans included an event to welcome parents to or back to Spark. Given changing conditions relative to COVID, those plans are being reconsidered. We do want to host something for our parents. Stay tuned for more information as we begin the school year.

#### EMERGENCY INFORMATION REMINDER...

All Spark families should be on the lookout for an email from Mrs. Larochelle requesting emergency information. It is of the utmost importance that we have that information from your student on the very first day of school, orientation day. She will also be sending our bus riders their stop locations and pickup times.

#### EARLY COLLEGE...

Many of our 3rd year students attended MCC's student orientation last night in preparation for their first experience in actual MCC classes. We wish them the very best as they enter this new phase of their Spark education!

#### STAFF CHANGES...

Mr. Losier has moved on to new opportunities. We thank him for all that he did for Spark Academy and wish him all the best! We would like to introduce the new members of our team: Ms. Minery will be our new Guidance Counselor and will also begin expanding our ELO program; Mr. Brown is our newest Humanities teacher; and Mr. Lawton is our newest Math teacher. We warmly welcome all three of them to Spark and we know that you will do the same.

#### QUESTIONS...

Please email any questions you may have to Mrs. Larochelle at [jennifer.larochelle@sparkacademynh.org](mailto:jennifer.larochelle@sparkacademynh.org).

We are looking forward to the new school year. At the moment our student body includes 63 students. Spark is growing! Again, we are very much looking forward to seeing our students next week and to seeing our parents soon!

Sincerely,

Denis Mailloux  
Director