



Academy of Advanced Technologies  
Public Charter School Grades 9-12

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igniting your purpose!

**Please remember to check your student's grades regularly on his or her Spark CANVAS portal. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help doing so.**

November 13, 2020

**Dear Spark Families,**

**COVID Update...**

We remain very fortunate in that the Spark Community appears to remain free of COVID infection. Thank you again for the united effort everyone is making, allowing for us to progress through this school year in a safe manner. Our hybrid model, while still no replacement for full-time in-person instruction, appears to be working well due to the ongoing efforts of students, parents, and faculty. Thank you!



**What will be happening as COVID case numbers change in NH?**

I have been meeting regularly with Dr. Brian Bicknell, President of Manchester Community College to review Spark's ability to remain on campus as COVID numbers change. Although much of the college's programs continue to be remote, Spark has been allowed to remain on campus with our hybrid model. During these times, of course, our students are not able to access areas in the college that were available to us last year. In time, we will return to pre-pandemic conditions. For now, we are grateful to have access to the campus for our students and staff.

I will be meeting again with the college president on **November 30th** to review COVID case data in our state and surrounding area. At that time, we will, once again, judge conditions and Spark's ability to remain on campus with our hybrid model. As always, we continue to work in conjunction with NHDHHS and NHDOE regarding the status of schools as we all work to navigate new waters safely and productively.

Therefore, our plans are to remain on campus with our hybrid model for the foreseeable future. We will continue to be vigilant as to all the data and changing conditions with your kids' safety at heart.



**Parent Teacher Meetings... Just a Reminder...**

We have set aside Wednesday, November 18th, from 1:00 to 5:00pm for you to Zoom with your student's teachers. Please contact each teacher directly through email to schedule the best time to meet. We will be trying to keep these meetings within a 15 minute window. However, please know that you can schedule a meeting with any of us at any time to discuss your student's progress.

### **Parent Information Meeting...**

As our second year students move toward their third year, options for early college placements with MCC begin to open up. In the near future, we will be meeting with each second year student and parents (Zoom of course) to discuss the student's interests and options. These classes will qualify as early college and/or running start. (I know... it gets confusing!). There are different requirements for each program.

We will be holding a Zoom meeting on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 24th, starting at 6:30pm. A Zoom link will be emailed to all our parents and students so that anyone in the Spark Community can attend. Save up your questions, we will either have ready answers, or we will have additional research to do.

These classes offer tremendous opportunity to Spark students, but the great array of possibilities can make for some confusion. I am attaching one of the college's informational flyers to provide you with more in the meantime.

### **Coffee with the Director...**

I will be available for virtual coffees (code word for informal meeting 😊) on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd and Wednesday, Dec. 9th, both at 8:00 am. A link will be sent out to all Spark families by email prior to each meeting. Show up, chat, let me know what's on your mind.



### **Inclement Weather... Another Reminder...**

Remote learning has added more flexibility when winter weather strikes. When snow threatens to an extent that travel is likely to be a problem, we will have totally remote days. Announcements will be going out to you via email and the Spark Emergency Communication System.

### **Please Continue Spreading the Word...**

Thanks to those of you who have been able to connect us with prospective families. In-person tours during the school day seem to work very well as a way of allowing families to get a sense of what Spark is all about. Thank you! Keep up the good work!

----- **Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is now open!** -----

Finally, you will notice the unusual images included in this week's newsletter. These are a few examples of our first year students' work in Humanities this week. You may have sent your kids to us to learn code, but not cuneiform. Well, there is a connection, and here is the link to illustrate my point:

[https://youtu.be/i2zm\\_B5Zmns](https://youtu.be/i2zm_B5Zmns)

Hoping everyone has a good week,

Denis Mailloux  
Director