



Academy of Advanced Technologies Public Charter School Grades 9-12

igniting your purpose!

January 20, 2020

As we approach the end of Spark's first semester, there is much to do. The students are busy completing their SolidWorks packets, physical science curriculum, and math units. We have studied some fairly advanced topics in humanities with ancient culture, Greek tragedy, and ancient innovations. We will be emerging soon from the world of Anglo-Saxons to study ancient Asian culture before we move on to the Middle Ages. The Quill program for grammar brings solid grammar practice to our students with immediate assessment/feedback and (to the joy of our students) a great vehicle for grammar homework.

After considering the impact of our three snow days prior to the holidays, we have decided to extend the first semester by two days. Therefore, the end date for this semester will be January 28th. There will be no school for the students on Presidential Primary Day (2/11) or Presidents' Day (2/17). The Primary Day will be used as a workshop for teachers.

We welcome the addition of Mrs. Harnois to our faculty for the second semester. Mrs. Harnois brings an excellent level of preparation and experience to our team, providing Spark students will the level of biology instruction that will help prepare them for possible bio-tech careers. We are very fortunate to have Mrs. Harnois joining us!

Cell phones were the topic of discussion with our students this morning as some have been testing our patience with misuse. I informed them that I will be developing a procedure with the staff to curb this problem, including periods whereby the students will "park" their phones at the start of each class for a full week if they are unable to control the impulse to access their phones inappropriately and/or without teacher permission. I have invited the students to give me feedback on cell phones as I consider the specifics of our approach. We always want to take advantage of the teachable moments that help us develop responsible student behavior. I also welcome your input over the next week so that we are all working together in our efforts.

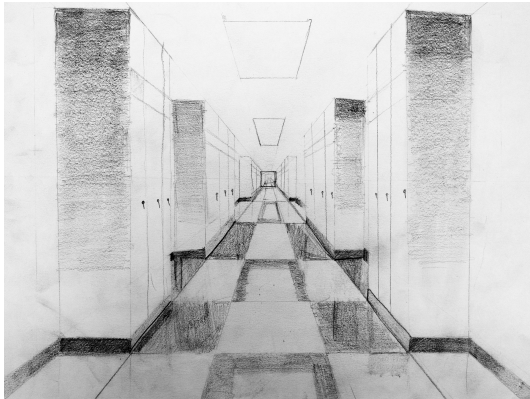
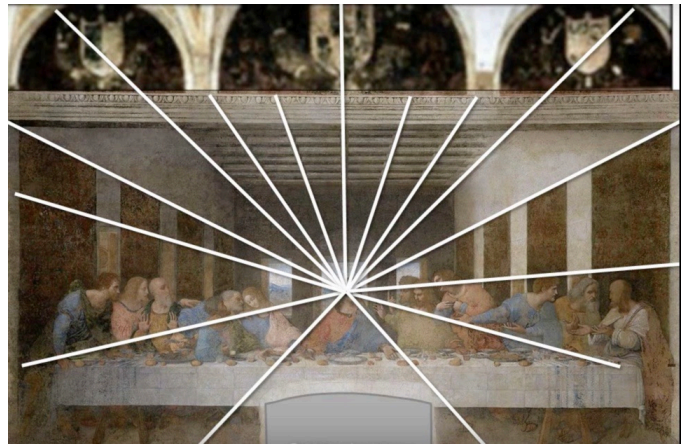
Our Robotics Team has been off and running for a while, garnering an impressive design award at their last competition at Pembroke Academy. On Saturday (1/18) Spark will join with Manchester Community College to host a regional competition. This will be a great opportunity for us to show our school pride as we support our team. Please consider attending and/or providing your Spark student transportation to join us for the day!

Calendar Dates to Remember

- Wednesday, 1/15 - Information Night for Prospective Families
- Saturday, 1/18 - Robotics Competition hosted by Spark Academy on the Campus of Manchester Community College
- Monday, 1/20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
- Tuesday, 1/28 - End of Semester (Change)
- Tuesday, 2/11 - No School - Presidential Primary Day - Teacher Workshop
- Monday, 2/17 - No School - Presidents' Day

We have images from our recent art project. After observing our students in their SolidWorks class, I thought it would be worthwhile for them to explore some of the same concepts, such as mass and volume, in another form — a decidedly “old school” way.

We all viewed a very interesting video on the one-point perspective found in “The Last Supper,” after which the students were “invited” to explore one-point perspective through an exercise based on that method.



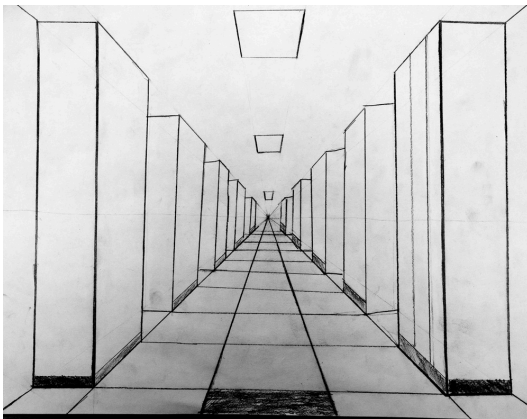
The results were impressive, resulting in drawings that definitely remind us of our own school hallways. Though pencil and paper hold far less excitement for students than do computers, it is important to explore alternate means of understand important concepts and of the world around us. These photos are simply a sampling of our students work.



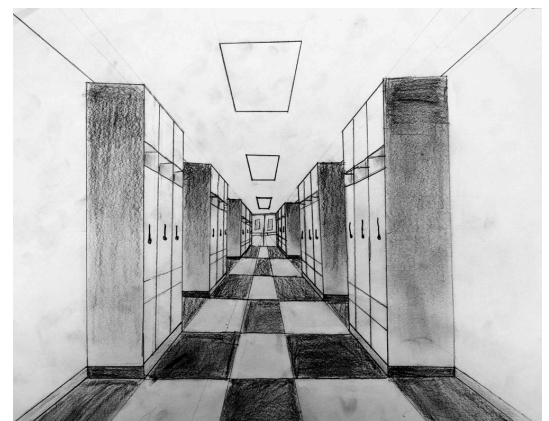
Finally, we will be holding an information program for prospective students next Wednesday evening (1/15). This event will be much simpler than our open house earlier this year. We will present new

families with an overview of the program and explain the application process.

Please pass the word along to families that should be considering Spark for next year.



As always, we thank you for your support as we strive to provide your sons and daughters with a sound high school experience — and a little fun:)



Sincerely,

Denis Mailloux
Director