



School Community Newsletter — February 19, 2021

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DEAR PARENTS & FRIENDS OF SPARK,

RETURN TO ALL IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION...

When we return from February break, we will be offering 100% in-person instruction Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week. Wednesdays will remain all-remote since we already have virtual tours in place along with other classes that add a different mix to each week.

Please continue to be vigilant with safety practices as they will be an important aspect of our remaining in-person. Our teachers are welcoming the chance to work more frequently in the classrooms with their students.

JUST A FEW NOTES ABOUT COVID-RELATED SAFETY WITH ALL STUDENTS IN-PERSON...

With a total of 35 students this year, we should be able to manage arrival and departure time safely with few adjustments.

- We will continue to admit students into the school as we have been this year.
 - Students must have their daily check-in form signed by parents or guardians.
 - Students will have temps checked as we have for each day during our hybrid mode.
 - Students will be expected to maintain safe distances from others as they wait to enter the school.
 - Parents and guardians are asked to continue to wait for the "go" signal each morning before leaving the parking area.
- Students will be able to go outdoors, supervised by teachers and in their cohorts during the lunch period.
 - Each cohort will exit and enter the building individually for their outdoor breaks.
 - Cohorts will return to their classrooms after their outdoor breaks prior to the next cohort's exiting for their outdoor break.
 - Once a cohort has returned to their classroom, the next cohort will be allowed into the hallways to exit for their outdoor break.
 - Safe distancing will be in effect in the hallways when students are exiting for and returning from their outdoor breaks.
- Bathroom use will continue as it has during our hybrid mode.
 - Students will obtain passes for restroom use and will continue to use the restroom in our wing of the building.
- Students will be required to use the automatic sanitizing stations periodically during the day. These are touchless stations located in each classroom.
- Sanitizing of surfaces will continue regularly throughout each day.
- Students will continue to be prohibited from sharing items.

- Exiting the building at the end of each day will be done cohort by cohort so as to allow for the appropriate level of distancing in the hallways.
- Distancing will be monitored by teachers as our students wait for their rides home.

PSAT's...

Each charter school must include measurement of student progress to (1) monitor program effectiveness for improvement within the school and (2) to provide the NH Dept. of Education with data as to the school's effectiveness. When Spark Academy was first formed, we chose to use PSAT's and SAT's to provide us with consistent longitudinal data to help us measure our effectiveness in educating your daughters and sons.

As the PSAT and SAT follow similar formats, their use provides us with a consistent way to compare our students' progress from year to year. That is what we call "longitudinal" data. The PSAT and SAT are not exactly the same, but they provide us with enough similarities to help us understand from year to year which areas of our program are performing well and which may need improvement.

We will be administering the PSAT's on March 10th. We will be using paper tests and answer sheets, all of which are one-time-use items, meaning that no other student before or after March 10th will be handling the tests or answer sheets. In order to conduct this test with the security practices required by the College Board, we will need to have all students in-person on that date. Families with special concerns about in-person presence, such as a family member with compromising conditions, should contact us through jennifer.larochelle@sparkacademynh.org to establish appropriate safety measures for their student.

Our first year students will be taking the PSAT 8/9. Second year students will take the PSAT 10. You may visit the College Board site at <https://www.collegeboard.org> for more information on these tests.

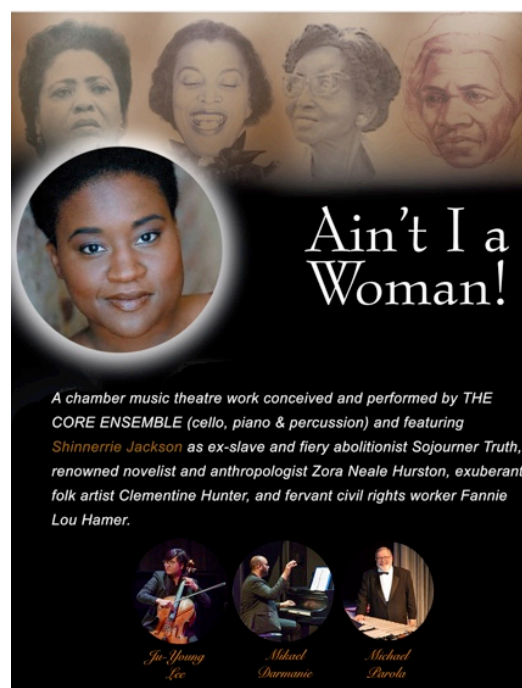
UPCOMING VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE...

A reminder, once again, that we have a virtual open house coming up on Wednesday, March 3, at 6:30pm. We have been conducting several enrollment meetings per week with incoming students as we progress toward two cohorts of new students next year. These families really seem eager to enroll at Spark! Thank you for sending families our way! It appears that our website is the main vehicle for prospective families to develop interest in Spark. Therefore, I suggest you recommend that prospective families visit our website as they research possible schools for next year.

AIN'T I A WOMAN!

Manchester Community College has arranged to make this event available to MCC students and to ours. Though the performance is taking place during our February break, you may wish to see it with your student. It is a very moving narrative of the real challenges and amazing achievements of four pillars of civil rights in our country.

The Civil Rights Journey in our country is an extremely important chapter in human history that goes to the very heart of our Humanities Program as we seek to learn from our collective past so that we may move thoughtfully into the future!



HERE IS THE INFORMATION FROM THE COLLEGE:

On Wednesday, **February 24th** at 11:00am, MCC will be hosting a virtual performance of *Ain't I a Woman*. Join us on that date and time in Zoom: <https://ccsnh.zoom.us/j/92316442089>. This musical/theatrical piece celebrates the lives and times of four significant African American Women. A question and answer session with the performers (in character) will be included. To broaden opportunities to view this production, it will be available to stream on-demand from Wednesday 2/24 at 11:00am until midnight on Friday 2/26. Learn more at <https://events.mccnh.edu/9126>

We thank Aileen Clay, Director of Student Life at MCC, for always thinking of us and for making this opportunity available to our community!

THIS WEEK'S VIRTUAL TOUR...

We thank the presenters from Electronic Imaging Materials, Inc., in Keene for taking time to spend with our students. This company produces one of the technologies that surrounds us so much that we can easily fail to see it. The company produces labels of all kinds and for all uses. Labels are something that we take for granted, but this company provides a very interesting array of work opportunities for many people! Once again, we thank all those who are making this series possible!

FEBRUARY VACATION...

Please don't forget that we will be taking our February break from the 22nd to the 26th. We hope our students can enjoy their time away from studies and that our teachers can rest as well. We are looking forward to our March 1st return from the break when all Spark students can take advantage of in-person learning. Until then, enjoy your break!

BUSSES...

Manchester residents, please remember to notify Mrs. Larochelle if you plan to have your student take the bus upon returning to campus. MSD is still utilizing the bus 'hubs', and more information can be found here: <http://transportation.mansd.org/bus-schedules-private-schools> .

Sincerely,



Denis Mailloux
Director