



NEHS Project SPARC Boosters

News & Events

Visit Our Website

Make An Impact

## SPARC 2020 and a Look Ahead

### Greetings!

Transition years are never easy as you bridge the gap between what you know and the unknown. It can be scary, but also very exciting. ***In 2020, SPARC will begin a transition to a new phase in its illustrious history as the first NASA approved high school space program.***



As supporters of SPARC, you understand the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education in preparing students for the careers of tomorrow. SPARC's legacy over the past 50 years is impressive, but we realize that the education challenges of today are complex and constantly changing, and SPARC needs to change as well.

The goal is to maintain continuity with what is working while we develop and implement new approaches and programs. SPARC's divisions are led by a talented group of students who really care about ensuring that the SPARC Experience is engaging and rewarding. Their work will continue with great learning opportunities in engineering, medicine, astronomy, coding and robotics. These are the building blocks of a great STEM education.

The "new" is a plan to transform part of the SPARC wing into a "**Makerspace.**" For those of you not familiar with the term, a makerspace is just that, a place to make things. It is a collaborative work space for making, learning, exploring and sharing that uses many different tech tools such as 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines, soldering irons, saws and even sewing machines.

A makerspace is a great learning tool to help prepare students who will need the critical 21st century skills in the STEM fields. They provide hands on learning, help with critical thinking skills and even boost self-confidence. ***The intent of the SPARC Makerspace is to transform STEM learning not just for the SPARC students but for all students at NEHS.***

It is a very exciting concept. We are only in the development phase as there is much more planning involved. This will be a multiyear project and of course we're going to need your assistance as well as the help from all NEHS alumni to bring this to fruition. Look for more details in the coming months.

The first step in this plan is to retire and dismantle the **Viking Space Shuttle**. The Viking has served as the platform for many space related learning experiences over the years. It will be sad to see it go, but it will usher in a new era for SPARC. **The last flight is planned for April 21-22 and this will coincide with an Open House that will give you an opportunity to visit NEHS, engage with the current students and learn more about SPARC's future.** Look for a special invitation.

Thank you again for all you have done in support of SPARC. If you would like to make a final 2019 donation, please use the "**Donate Now**" button in this message.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact me.

**Wishing you all a very happy New Year!**

Burt Dicht, Director  
NEHS Project SPARC Boosters  
[sparcboosters@gmail.com](mailto:sparcboosters@gmail.com)

[Donate Now](#)

**Still Time to Give. Support the 2019 Fundraising Campaign.**

**DONATE NOW!**

We're almost there. **With 4 days left in 2019, we have raised \$7,800 of our \$12,000 goal.** Thanks to all of the Boosters who have made contributions to-date!.

**If you have not yet contributed this year, please help us reach our goal.** There is still

plenty of time to make your donation before the close of 2019. Your contributions will enable current and future students to share in the SPARC Experience while preparing them for educational and professional success.



Donations in any amount are very appreciated and will help us ensure SPARC's future. Please make your donation today to help us achieve our goal by using the "**Donate Now**" button below.

Your generous donation will benefit the more than 300 students currently involved with SPARC.

**On behalf of the SPARC Boosters, the Faculty Advisers and the SPARC Students I thank you again for your generosity!**

The NEHS Alumni Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization.  
The full amount of your gift qualifies as a charitable gift deduction.  
All donations are used to support the NEHS Project SPARC program.

[Donate Now](#)

## **NEHS Alumni Foundation**

1601 Cottman Ave.  
Philadelphia , PA 19111  
215-728-5076

[Contact Us](#)

