



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Bergen County Technical School District places a high priority on community involvement, both within the school setting and in our communities at large. We encourage our students to participate in the many clubs and organizations that are available on-campus, such as Relay for Life and Amnesty International. These activities foster empathy and enable students to develop leadership skills that will contribute to their success both academically and socially.

One organization I'd like to highlight is Spark (Sharing Perspectives Among Real Kids). This student-run leadership organization's goal is to foster a supportive environment for all members of the BCA community. SPARK has served as a resource to students, staff, parents, and the greater community since 1999.

The central values of SPARK include service, personal growth, and respect. Students may apply to SPARK in their sophomore or junior year and serve for one to two years after being trained during a Trimester-long Leadership Project. Originally developed as a peer mentoring group, SPARK has grown into a student group that creates and implements various events and programs within the school. True to its roots, one of SPARK's main functions remains mentoring and guiding entering freshmen during their transition to BCA. This includes running Freshmen Orientation and participating in the Induction Ceremony, PPO picnic, and co-teaching Freshmen Seminar classes.

SPARK also holds awareness activities during Week of Respect and Safe Schools week to educate peers on issues of wellness and safety. The importance of service to others is exhibited in the annual holiday service project and the spring Luau Dance with our Bleshman School friends. In addition to outside community events like these, SPARK contributes to the BCA community by assisting at Back to School Night and running a week-long Staff Appreciation Week in May.

I encourage all parents to speak with their children about the importance of community involvement. Involvement in these activities can truly be life-changing.

Sincerely,

Howard Lerner, Ed.D.
Superintendent