HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD Camp Spark enrichment program set to begin August 24, aims to reignite student engagement

August 18, 2020 – The Houston Independent School District's Camp Spark academic online enrichment program, designed to reignite student engagement and equip them with tools and information to maximize their return to classes, begins Monday, August 24 and runs through Friday, September 4.

All students, preK through 12 are encouraged to attend Camp Spark so they can return strong for the 2020-2021 school year, which begins with virtual instruction on Tuesday, September 8. Campers will attend from 9 a.m. – noon. Click here for the primary schedule and here for the secondary schedule.

Educational content for camp participants will be provided by the Houston Zoo, Microsoft, Smart Financial, Houston Public Library, Children's Museum of Houston, Houston Ballet, Verizon Innovative Coaches, Houston Dynamo and Dash, Comp-U-Dopt, Challenger Seven Learning Center-Harris County Precinct One, and others, as well as HISD staff and teachers.

"I am excited about Camp Spark's unique lessons that will be presented to our students with the support of our amazing business and community partners," Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said. "Our students will receive wonderful instruction that we believe will inspire them to have a successful school year despite the obstacles we face."

Camp Spark lessons will include physical fitness, science, literacy, math, internet safety, technology and art. Rising ninth-graders will take part in a boot camp to prepare them for high school while 10th- through 12th-graders will participate in a College and Career Readiness course.

Other student camp activities will include virtual field trips and, for secondary students, instruction on navigating HISD's HUB online platform, Microsoft and Google plus, SAT prep, and how to complete college admissions, financial aid and scholarship applications.

Students with excellent attendance will have the chance to win hundreds of prizes like STEM kits from the Children's Museum, and grand prizes of Bluetooth Bumpboxxes.

Camp Spark is free for all students. Through closed captioning, 50 languages will be available. No login is needed for daily participation. Initial registration is encouraged but not required at Houstonisd.org/CampSpark.

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The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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