To: Previously Registered SPARK Gifted and Talented Students
grades 3-5 (2019-2020 school year)

From: Romona Cheneval, LRSD Gifted Programs

Date: April 27, 2020

RE: SPARK Summer GT
Learning Academy

Although the Covid-19 crises has led to the cancellation of many school and summer activities, we are committed to offering the SPARK Gifted and Talented Learning Academy 2020. To do so safely, we are moving our annual summer enrichment camp to a virtual setting to involve students and their families in a unique summer learning experience. To abide by CDC guidelines, the 2020 SPARK Summer GT Academy will be held virtually July 8-30th through a combination of a camp kit and small group 45 minute virtual lessons occurring 4 days each week. The academy will provide a hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) based curriculum. Participating students will receive a camp kit from the National Inventor’s Hall of Fame that will include ALL materials needed to complete camp activities. One of the items in the kit is an actual robot that students will learn to code as part of the camp. The only additional supplies that will be needed are common household recyclable items. Each student will be assigned to a SPARK TEAM (Small learning group) led by a qualified SPARK instructor. Additionally, the Academy will also include opportunities for students and families to participate in weekly zoom sessions provided by SPARK’s very own creativity directors. These sessions will provide fun family challenges and will also share information to support the affective needs of our students.

During the week of April 27th, emails will be sent to all students who registered for SPARK in March. The emails will be sent to the email address provided in the initial registration. In the email, parents will be asked to complete a final registration for the new Virtual SPARK Academy indicating their commitment to participating fully during the month of July. Once this final registration is received, students will receive additional information regarding camp kit pick-ups and access to the learning platform.

We are excited about this new opportunity for LRSD’s Gifted and Talented students and look forward to finalizing registrations for those who registered back in March.

Should seats in the SPARK 2020 Virtual Academy become available, information will be shared via the LRSD website and through LRSD Gifted Programs Facebook and Twitter accounts.