

- ▶ SPARK SUMMER LEARNING RECAP
- ▶ WAYS TO GIVE

# YOU ARE THE HERO AMONG US.

Your love for our students, schools and community is truly inspiring. For that, we thank you.



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## YOU ARE THE HERO AMONG US

This year, we've all been asking ourselves: What will be the new normal? What shifts will become permanent pillars for decades to come? How will current events shape younger generations? The answers to these questions will determine how we move forward.

Personally, there is one thing I certainly hope stays with us...the desire for human connection. If these times have taught us anything, it's that we need each other. We crave coming together to laugh, to work, and to grieve.

We have united and found creative ways to satisfy this need for connection and basic essentials, but at the same time, we've recognized that so many in our community need more. Some among us, for the first time, are experiencing the difficult realities of living in poverty, while others are feeling underrepresented and marginalized.

Students are falling behind in school, families are struggling, activities that offer kids social connections are limited—and all of this will have a lasting impact on our generation of young people.

We cannot ignore these realities. This is where philanthropy can be used as a tool for hope.

We need to stay strong, united, and connected if we are going to ensure that all kids have what they need to reach their full potential in the coming months and years. Schools can't do it alone. In the following pages, we hope you will enjoy reading about the many ways you can connect, be a hero, and make a difference in 2020.

Gratefully,



Wendy Van DeLaCastro

**Deep human connection is ... the purpose and the result of a meaningful life—and it will inspire the most amazing acts of love, generosity, and humanity.**

-MELINDA GATES

# Spark Summer Learning 2020

## A SUMMER OF LINCOLN HEROES IN THE MAKING

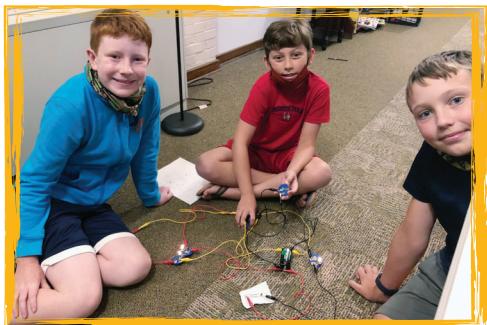
This summer's students from over 100 families built their STEM identity using hands-on activities to explore life as sound scientists, material engineers, levitation solutions technologists and more. While every week was special, some unforgettable moments were also formed.



### The Human Body: If the Shoe Fits

#### Week 1: Using curiosity to care for others

Our very first week of the summer students dove into what it means to be a rehabilitative engineer. One of the main design challenges was how to make a shoe comfortable for people with different types of arches. Watching how natural it was for students to combine their genuine concern for others with their new STEM skills as they solved each other's problems was truly a refreshing start to such an unusual summer.



### Electricity: Alarming Energy

#### Week 4: Making the impossible possible

As students designed, tested, and rebuilt their model circuits several groups noticed there were several configurations they initially thought were possible that just didn't work. We challenged campers to hack their designs and make adjustments and by the end of the week campers had created dozens of diagrams, tested prototypes, and fixed their circuit sets to accomplish what they thought was not possible.



### Virtual Reality: Into the Unknown

#### Week 6: Using creativity to explore the unthinkable

In our final week students used technology to enhance their creative potential by learning Computer-aided Design (CAD) skills and using virtual reality (VR) to refine design concepts. Watching the way students seamlessly incorporated technology to build and expand their ideas for thrones, mazes, three-story dog houses, and much more was a treat for us to see unfold with our partners at UNL's Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts.



RECREATED SO KIDS  
COULD STILL CREATE

**Giving a much-needed summer outlet to curiosity, learning, and inspiration.**

The 2020 Spark season started at the end of a wholly unprecedented school year that left kids especially hungry to learn and play together. The need for kids to interact and learn with their peers was the driving force for our team to develop a summer plan unlike any before.

When asked if we should even open this year our enrolled families answered with a resounding:

**“Yes, BUT...only with the right precautions.”**

This introduced a multitude of challenges we needed to overcome—running a summer camp in the middle of a global pandemic required creativity at its highest-level. So, that's exactly what we did, which set the following new guidelines and wheels in motion so kids could learn, interact, and remain healthy. Safety dictated that we cut four out of 10 weeks of camp, move to an entirely new site, ensure one dedicated teacher per classroom, and implement new procedures for meal and snack times. Here's a snapshot of our adventure:



**16**  
Gallons of Hand Sanitizer



**12**  
Hours with the Health Department



**11**  
New Staff Members



**7**  
New Sanitizing and Safety Processors



**2**  
Temperature Checks Per Day



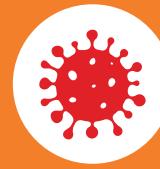
**1**  
City-Wide Mask Mandate



**6**  
Weeks STEM Experience



**3**  
Field Trips



**0**  
COVID-19 Cases

MADE WITH  
LOVE



## Keeping Performing Arts Students Safe

### YOUR GIFTS WERE MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

A huge thank you to local sewers for stepping up to help create "masks" for musical instruments called bell covers. An in-depth study on the effects of COVID-19 on the return to the music classroom and rehearsal hall found that aerosols do resonate from instruments. In a matter of weeks, **crafters across Lincoln created more than 2,000 cloth covers** for LPS band students. For more on how these bell covers reduce the spread of germs go to <https://bit.ly/bellcovers>.

# Shop with a Smile

## MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE

### Make your holiday shopping count for LPS students and teachers.

As we head into the holiday season, we would be honored if you would make the Foundation for LPS your charity of choice.

#### How It Works

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. The only difference is when you shop AmazonSmile 0.5% of your eligible purchases is donated back to the Foundation for LPS, which we use in turn to put our mission into action.

Making the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools your AmazonSmile charity recipient takes less than a minute and the good adds up, fast.

**Sign Up Now**

[bit.ly/smilelps](https://bit.ly/smilelps)



# Thank You For Your Gift



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed

Charge my credit card Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard  Discover Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my donation to remain anonymous.

This gift is given in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify: \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Save a stamp.** Go to [foundationforlps.org/give](http://foundationforlps.org/give) to make a donation online.

Or make checks payable to Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, and mail to: PO BOX 82889 Lincoln, NE 68501

## YOUR LOVE FOR LPS IS TRULY AMAZING

This year more than any other, teachers and students need your support. From providing opportunities to high academic-achieving students that need intellectually stimulating classes to supporting individuals that require more one-on-one help with the basics, the needs vary widely. That is why we exist, to help fill in the unknown gaps that teachers, students and parents will face to ensure students enrolled in Lincoln Public Schools have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

**Help empower all of our LPS families to make it through this crisis without worry and fear. Help us make this time of hardship a time of hope.**





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**<<John and Jane>>,**  
**your gift of \$XXX would make**  
**a significant difference to LPS**  
**families in need.**

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## Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

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Accelerate Nebraska	Don't Panic Labs	Lincoln Journal Star
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Davis Design	Lincoln Heat Baseball	Woods Bros Realty

Please note, this list reflects sponsors from February 2019-October 2020. If we missed you, please let us know by calling 402.436.1612 so we can recognize your organization or business as well.

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**All students should have what they need to reach their full potential.**  
In order to accomplish that, we leverage the community to create opportunities that enhance academic and personal success of Lincoln Public School students and educators.  
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