



# BACK TO SCHOOL in 2020

Written by Calhoun Lakes resident **Krystal Gurganus**

Car lines, book bags, and school supplies are what we usually envision when going back to school. This year, for our family it looked a lot different.

I never dreamed we'd be making the decision to send our children to school or to keep them home for a virtual learning platform. It was a decision that did not come lightly or without much consideration for the unknowns. When Spartanburg School District 7 offered a virtual learning option, we knew it would be a great opportunity to keep our son, Landon, who has Down Syndrome and is medically fragile, as well as our daughter, Lydia Grace, healthy and well this school year.

We've been so lucky to have a district that supports our family and many families' worries, unique situations and needs during such unprecedented times.

We've had the greatest support from our principal, Mr. Duvall, and Assistant Principal, Ms. Sandifer, and all the wonderful teachers at Jesse Boyd Elementary, McCracken Middle and Spartanburg High School.

Blair Kyle, second-grade teacher at Jesse Boyd Elementary also felt the worries of so many unknowns when she was approached to teach virtual education. Kyle worried, "Will I be able to iden-

tify their interest and excitement for learning? Will I be able to work my MacBook as needed to teach them?"

And what she says she's learned is, "I have a class of 24 virtual students that greeted me with smiles and excitement to be part of something extremely unique and special. These students are pushing me and motivating me to be better than I ever have been. We are learning together and paving the way to a new style of education. I am excited for what the year will hold, and each day my students bring me an overwhelming sense of hope and joy."

As for Landon and Lydia Grace Gurganus, it's been over a month, and they are doing great. They wake up each morning, eat breakfast, get dressed and log on their computers. They're greeted by their teachers, Miss. Gault and Mrs. Land, who do an amazing job of keeping their students engaged, on top of their school work, and learning and growing each and every day.

We are full of so much hope for our children, our community, and for the virtual teachers and learners of Spartanburg District 7.

As the school year continues, our hope is that everyone continues to support each other, support our community, schools, and teachers. We are definitely living the District 7 motto of *Forward Together*.

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