



## NOTES FROM SPARTAN LANE

John Thorsen, Head of School

[jthorsen@athensacademy.org](mailto:jthorsen@athensacademy.org)

November 16, 2023

**Happy Thanksgiving to each and every one of you!** We have had an active and engaged start to the school year, so people may be a little tired and in need of a pause in the action. Please enjoy the upcoming holiday with your loved ones and take some quality time to read, rest, get outside, cheer on the Bulldogs, or simply relax. Let's do our best to live in the present moment and enjoy each minute with those around us.

It is also a time of Thanksgiving and I hope that we can take some time to reflect on the things for which we are grateful. Some of the things that our students and faculty have been working on this week:

- Upper School students showed their traditional Thanksgiving PowerPoint in Tuesday's mid-morning meeting.
- Preschool will host its Harvest Festival to celebrate the bounty of the harvest on Friday in Ferguson stadium.
- Middle School has "Thankful Turkeys" posted in each hallway of their buildings, and the students are excited for our food drive with the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, which kicks off after the holiday break.
- In Lower School, each grade level showed their gratitude with Thankful Turkeys and/or a bulletin board sharing the many things they appreciate.
- The Tillman Center served its traditional Thanksgiving feast today, and it remains a big hit for students and faculty alike!
- Everyone is looking forward to our 39th annual Holiday Celebration which highlights our community, especially the classes of 2024 and 2035.

We have a lot to be thankful for on Spartan Lane. Thank you for your ongoing engagement in our school and supporting our students and their teachers! Our Board of Trustees, Parents Service Organization, Alumni Association, grade reps and so many more volunteers lead by example and make Athens Academy what it is each day. I also appreciate our donors, who support our Annual Excellence Fund, capital campaign and/or Georgia Tuition Tax Credit program. All of these have a tremendous impact on our school—thank you! [I thought you might enjoy this article, which I shared with the Upper School this morning--some of you may even remember the "virtue vitamin."](#)

Happy Thanksgiving, be safe out there, and continue to take good care of one another. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Spartan Lane on Monday, November 27.

Sincerely,

John Thorsen  
Head of School