



NOTES FROM SPARTAN LANE

John Thorsen, Head of School

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Greetings from Spartan Lane,

I hope you are enjoying the early days of your summer. Things around here are much quieter, the exceptions being the many campers and students engaged with summer programs and various crews at work enhancing our campus. Our leadership team wrapped up our annual two-day retreat earlier today. We were fortunate to meet at Memorial Hall over at the University of Georgia and enjoy quality conversations about our strategic plan, school culture, the honor code, professional development, campus safety, and enhancing our students' learning experience. It is always helpful to gain some space and look at things from a 10,000-foot perspective. I can share with enthusiasm that all thirteen of us left our meeting feeling optimistic and energized about what next school year will bring to Spartan Lane. Community and bringing people together will be a priority for all of us, and we hope that many of you will be joining us when invitations are shared. I think we all have missed the community of Athens Academy and not being able to gather as we are so accustomed to.

Renovations on Trustees-Williams are making progress and the space looks much fresher and brighter, and we know that our Upper School students will love these teaching and meeting spaces. The installation of the new track is in process, and our running programs will benefit tremendously from the generosity of the donors who helped make this new surface a reality for us. We have been working on a number of other things too, and we know that our families will notice several differences when they return to campus in August. We are also leaning into our academic program and the well-being of our students, colleagues and community. I guess this is a restorative process too, and an important one, as the last two years have been exhausting for many of us. So, when we all return to Spartan Lane, please come with energy, enthusiasm, a smile and a bright outlook.

Enjoy the balance of your summer and know that we will be checking in with you a few more times between now and Tuesday, August 16. In the meantime, stay out of the heat and find ways to recharge, relax and rejuvenate your mind, body and spirit. I am looking forward to a change of pace in the weeks ahead, and I am excited about what the next school year will bring to all of us on Spartan Lane.

Go Spartans,

John Thorsen
Head of School