



NOTES FROM SPARTAN LANE

John Thorsen, Head of School

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Greetings from Spartan Lane,

Thank you! I am so happy with the start of our school year for our students in Preschool through Upper School. I have heard time and time again that this has been an awesome start to the year from colleagues, parents and students. None of us takes this for granted, and we are enjoying the energy and positive spirit. Children need boundaries and structure, and we spend a lot of time on expectations, accountability, age-appropriate discipline, and communication. I think this is a contributing factor to our early successes. It was awesome to see so many of our parents gather earlier this week for a positive parenting workshop led by therapist Leigh Ellen Magness. We are here to learn and grow with one another and create the best possible community for our young people. You too can help reinforce the importance of being kind and taking care of one another at home.

As the election draws closer, I am concerned about the potential for negativity and mean-spirited comments to seep onto campus. While we applaud our public servants for their good work on behalf of Northeast Georgia, our state, and the country, we want to continue to offer a safe space for all of our students and colleagues. Accordingly, we do not engage in campaigning or partisan talk on our campus.

We are hosting an [American Red Cross Blood Drive](#) on Thursday, September 29. We are also hosting [flu vaccine clinics](#) on Friday, September 30 and Thursday, October 6. We are pleased to offer all as a service to our community. I am also excited to have UGA's Vice President for Student Affairs Victor Wilson join us on Thursday, October 6, for an important parent conversation. Victor will be speaking about issues presenting on college campuses, and we will be sharing some other contemporary issues facing teens in 2022. Whether you have a pre-teen, a senior or a college student, I can assure you that this event will be time well spent. We will gather in the Farmer Field House and begin at 8:10 a.m.

We are a school first and foremost, but our community makes us better, whether we are learning, competing or supporting one another. We appreciate all of our students, colleagues, parents, grandparents, alumni and friends for all you do to help make Athens Academy excellent. If we can be of service along this collective journey, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Go Spartans,

John Thorsen
Head of School