



NOTES FROM SPARTAN LANE

John Thorsen, Head of School

jthorsen@athensacademy.org

June 12, 2025

Happy summer to each of you! We are in our second week of summer camps and it is fun to have energy and activity on our campus. We're happy to have volleyball, basketball, football, cross country and baseball teams engaging in summer workouts and practices. Earlier this month, our leadership team had a productive two-day retreat at Memorial Hall on UGA's campus. We covered a lot of ground, including campus safety, generative AI, parent education and partnership, academic programming, teacher feedback and support, strategic planning and more. Many of our colleagues are also working on their craft, whether they are reading AP exams with the College Board, participating in professional development activities on and off campus, or looking ahead to conferences and workshops.

Over the last month, we have had a number of funerals in our community. These are certainly sad and sobering occasions for all of us. I have shared repeatedly how amazing the Athens Academy community is in supporting our own. It is impressive to see our students, alumni, faculty, parents, alumni parents and grandparents taking care of one another. One such loss was Mike Callinan, who will be celebrated on [Thursday, June 19, at the Catholic Center](#). Each of these losses is difficult, and it is heartening to see the love, support and engagement we have for each other during these difficult times.

I hope you are able to relax, reflect, read and simply enjoy a different pace over the summer months. We are all focused on raising young people, and I came across two similar articles that merit passing along to you. [The first is about optimism, empowerment and curiosity](#). The [second article](#) also draws on Susan Dominus's research and references her book, and I found it equally compelling. Both are worth a gander and some time. As always, if you come across a thought-provoking read, please do not hesitate to pass it along. As part of our continuing efforts to support our families, this fall we will encourage interested parents to participate in the for [Wait Until 8th](#) pledge. Effectively, we will need at least ten families per grade level to commit in order to make this a reality, but we are hopeful that there will be interest. Please have a look and start to promote among your peers.

Have a happy and safe summer. If we can be of service, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are enjoying a change of pace, but we remain available for our students and families.

All the best and go Spartans,

John Thorsen
Head of School