



NOTES FROM SPARTAN LANE

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Greetings from Spartan Lane,

Sixty-seven days of awesome teaching and learning are in the books! Thank you to our Athens Academy community for allowing us to accomplish so much under difficult and surreal circumstances. Please enjoy a well-earned holiday and recharge for our quick dash to the winter holidays, which will begin on December 18 after an 11:30 a.m. dismissal.

Since last week, we have zero new COVID cases to report among our students and employees. This is welcome news, and we applaud everyone for their positive efforts to keep our community healthy and functioning at a high level. I know our teachers are especially grateful.

If you are traveling over the holiday or looking at a potential trip over the winter holidays, [this risk assessment tool may be of interest](#). The pandemic continues to spike, and we can validate this trend within our own Spartan community, especially among our parents—we know of at least 15 who have had positive tests in the last ten days. We wish everyone well and encourage you to follow health protocols even away from Spartan Lane. We want everyone to remain safe and healthy! We also look forward to a safe return to in-person learning after Thanksgiving. If you missed our Monday message with a few reminders and suggestions, [you can find it here](#).

A few important reminders as we prepare for our vacation:

- If you are travelling by plane or happen to be in an area with a high positivity rate, please consider returning home 48 hours prior to a return to school. This will allow for potential symptoms to show and help keep our community healthy.
- If you happen to have an exposure, are waiting on a COVID test result, or are not feeling well, please do not return to school until you are healthy and symptom free.
- Masking does make a difference. Please remember masks both on and off campus.
- Over the winter holidays and likely over spring break, too, we ask that families consider returning home 72 hours prior to a return to school. We realize this may not be popular, but we want to encourage everyone to take health precautions while on holiday.
- If you are not familiar with [The Daily Digest](#) by Amber Schmidtke, PhD, you may want to take a look. It may not be for everyone, but a useful source of information.

Thank you again for all that you do to support our school family. Take good care and enjoy your loved ones, and we look forward to seeing everyone back on campus on Monday, November 30. If any COVID concerns or issues arise over break, please contact your respective Division Director by email, so we can respond and lend a hand.

Happy Thanksgiving and be safe out there,

John Thorsen
Head of School