



NOTES FROM SPARTAN LANE

John Thorsen, Head of School

jthorsen@athensacademy.org

November 13, 2025

Time is racing by and it is nice to be looking ahead to Thanksgiving and quality time with loved ones. We certainly have a lot to be thankful for as a community. Last Friday was Grandparents and Special Friends Day and we had hundreds of visitors here on Spartan Lane. As I shared with our guests, it is one of my favorite days, because our guests make the day special for our students and it is fun to share the amazing work that happens on our campus each and every day. Smiles abound from young and old and the energy is palpable. Earlier this week, we celebrated Veterans Day and had the opportunity to acknowledge and thank our veterans for their service and sacrifice to defend this great nation. In the days ahead, I hope each of us will take some time to reflect and show our gratitude to the people who make a positive difference in our lives.

I read a healthy amount of articles and when I find helpful tidbits, I am inclined to pass them along. The [following article from CNBC is practical, to the point and helpful - 7 questions to ask instead of how was school today](#). Similarly, a few weeks ago a colleague passed along an article from *The Atlantic*, "[America is Sliding Toward Illiteracy](#)," by Idrees Kahloon. It is a bit more of a wake up call, with data points indicating that the country as a whole is not doing well in K-12 education. It is alarming, but I find solace in the fact that our students are bucking these trends and doing quite well compared to both independent and national norms. I applaud our teachers and administrators for the good work they continue to do to maintain the caliber of our program and build a strong foundation for our students. Our work develops confident learners who can think, discern, and collaborate and have a high degree of emotional intelligence.

Have a fantastic weekend ahead and enjoy the upcoming holiday. I know our students have earned a pause in the action and I would not be surprised if there were some naps taken over the vacation. All the best and thank you for your ongoing support.

Go Spartans,

John Thorsen
Head of School