



NOTES FROM SPARTAN LANE

John Thorsen, Head of School

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Greetings from Spartan Lane,

Before we know it, all of us will be celebrating another academic year on Spartan Lane. Many of our teachers engaged in professional development over the summer, and I know they are eager to put this work to good use with our students. This includes two teachers who traveled to Phillips Exeter in New Hampshire to learn about the Harkness method; a cohort of Lower School teachers who completed a week-long writing institute conducted by Teachers College of Columbia University; and ten teachers who participated in three days of virtual training in STEAM and robotics conducted by Tufts University. In addition, nine teachers collaborated on three projects as part of Athens Academy's Summer Curriculum Development Program. Our teachers are first-rate, and I am thrilled to welcome them back to campus for a positive year ahead.

As you may have already read, several campus projects have been completed and a few others are still underway as we move closer to opening day. It has also been fun seeing a number of young alumni on campus, as they drop by before they head to various colleges and universities across the country. Again and again, we hear how prepared they are for the work that awaits them in college. This is no small feat, since the majority of the schools to which they are matriculating are rated at the Competitive, Very Competitive, and Most Competitive rankings.

Continue to enjoy your summer days, as classes are still 20 days away. Rest, relax and get re-energized for the year ahead while you still can. We have shared an invitation to our first community gathering of the year on Friday, August 12, in conjunction with a football scrimmage against Westminster Schools. We need to share our numbers with the Varsity food truck by close of business tomorrow, so please [click here to RSVP](#) if you have not done so already. The days ahead may include some summer reading for our students, which is done for both enjoyment and also to keep the mind nimble and ready for the year ahead. Please remind your children about this work. I have enjoyed reading more than usual over the summer and it has been a welcome change.

The back-to-school mailer, which contains a lot of helpful information about the year ahead, will be emailed tomorrow (July 29). If you have not received yours by the end of the day, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's division office. We will begin orienting our new colleagues on Thursday, August 4, even though many of them have been around campus a great deal this summer. With each passing day, Spartan Lane is more alive with activity, and we are excited to welcome back all of our students and families. See you soon, and please enjoy the balance of your summer.

Go Spartans,

John Thorsen
Head of School