



NOTES FROM SPARTAN LANE

John Thorsen, Head of School

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Greetings from Spartan Lane,

I want to express my continued gratitude to our Spartan family. I have heard many positive things about our return to school, and I consider us to be very fortunate. We have completed 20 days of school on Spartan Lane, and I am looking forward to the next 20. Since my message to our community on Monday, we have learned of one more Upper School student who has tested positive. The student has been quarantining this week, and those ninth grade classmates who may have been exposed have been notified multiple times.

None of us expected a day when we would see our students playing at recess with face coverings or sitting in math class with a mask, but that is what a global pandemic calls for and we have responded. Children are resilient and are simply happy to be back on campus with their peers and their teachers. I asked a physician recently about anxiety and emotional health of children. The response was that things are much better now that school is in session across Northeast Georgia and that it was troubling to see where things were heading last summer. Please continue to listen to your children and engage them in conversation about how they are doing. I found [this National Geographic article](#) to be helpful. If you have not heard about our upcoming virtual parent gathering with The Social Institute, I hope you will [click here](#) for more information and to register. This virtual presentation will take place on Monday, September 21, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Even though we have had a handful of confirmed cases--and I fully anticipate more in the future--I appreciate our community's commitment to following our four W's and taking care of one another. When we do have our next positive case, it will be shared in the weekly eSpartan, and those individuals with possible contact or exposure will learn in a more directed email. We will continue to be transparent with our community, as safety and well-being continue to be our priority. The best way to do this is to mitigate transmission risk, and I am thankful that we continue to stay home when not well and play it safe. I have found tremendous solace in a support system that includes Spartan parents in the healthcare community as well as contacts at the Department of Public Health and at Piedmont Medical Center. They have been a tremendous resource and very helpful as we work through various scenarios, because each situation is different in its own nuanced way. Thank you! Please take care and continue to be safe.

Gratefully,

John Thorsen
Head of School