



NOTES FROM SPARTAN LANE

John Thorsen, Head of School

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Greetings from Spartan Lane,

Change is our new normal. We may think we have found our new normal and within a day, something pops up and causes us to pivot. This is a very surreal experience in many ways and even more challenging through the lens of a seven- or twelve-year-old. Athens Academy faculty and staff are working tirelessly to establish some normalcy in our students' lives, whether they are three or about to celebrate graduation (which we will do in some way). I am proud to share that our college admission results continue to be quite strong, and the Class of 2020 continues to be top of mind for many of us.

This is not easy, but I feel transparency is always best. **We will NOT return to face-to-face operations until Tuesday, April 14, at the earliest.** As you likely know, this is optimistic and that is why we are likely to make adjustments to our daily schedules in the days ahead. We will continue with our current plans for now with adjustments made day-by-day, and an entirely new plan will be shared later this week and will go into effect on Monday, March 30. We are currently running six different schedules for K3 through grade 12, and with these new plans we will likely end up with more schedules being implemented depending on grade level.

I am excited to share that the Board of Trustees approved our agreement with Hogan Construction Group to move forward on both the Drew Swan Middle School and the Farmer Field House. Work will begin adjacent to Slaughter Field this coming week. A HUGE thank you to our donors who made this possible. We are excited for what these new spaces will bring to our current and future students. I know our teachers and coaches are very excited about this news. If you are wondering, all of the funds for these new spaces come from philanthropic gifts, and most of these gifts have already been realized, so even under our current circumstances, we are moving forward with these exciting plans.

Please this issue of the *eSpartan* for more resources for our families. This includes messages from our counselors, media center team, and more. We are also launching a community engagement challenge. Yes, it may seem hokey but we are trying to keep people engaged and focused. We will include a creative challenge next week, and please do not be shy in sharing your own ideas as they come up. We are much stronger and better with one another, so please do share.

Thank you, stay healthy, breathe, smile and keep focused on the opportunity tomorrow brings.

Sincerely,

John Thorsen
Head of School