

ADVANCING *Development*

The *Spirit* is published by the Publications Division of the Development Office, Athens Academy.

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Mission Statement

Athens Academy seeks excellence with honor in the educational and personal experience of each student.

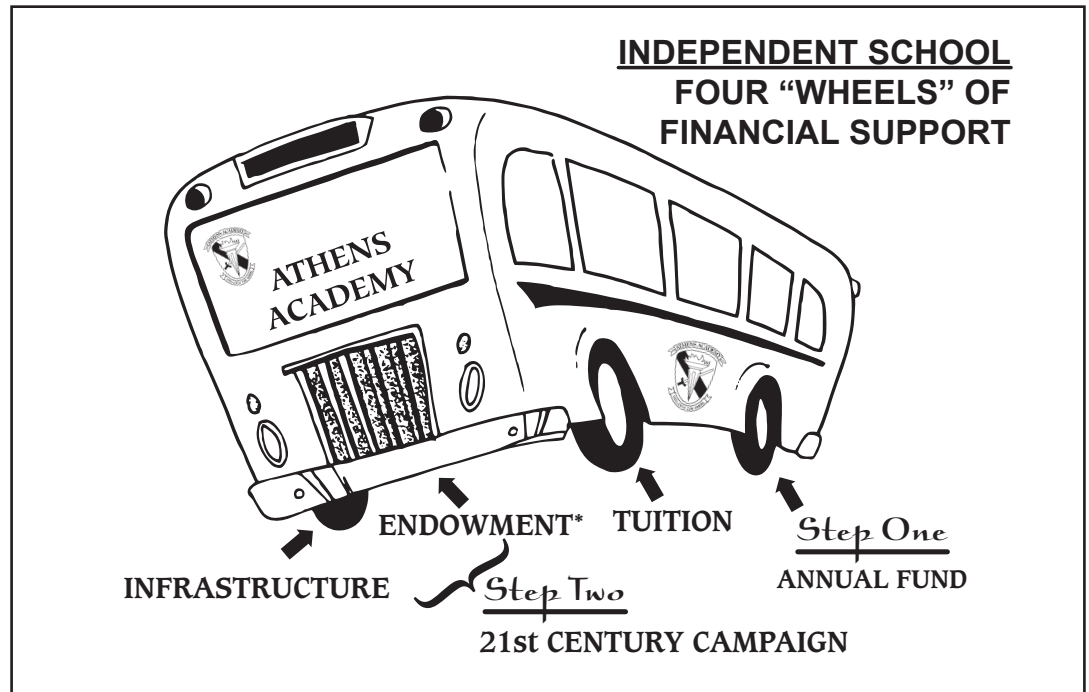
Spirit is published monthly except June, July, and August by Athens Academy, 1281 Spartan Lane, Athens, GA 30606. Periodicals Postage is paid at Athens, GA.

Postmaster
Send address changes to:
Spirit
Athens Academy
P.O. Box 6548
Athens, GA 30604

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION
Athens Academy admits qualified students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies and other school-administered programs.

It's a new school year!

Time to put the "wheels" on the bus!



Only through charitable contributions by parents, graduates, parents of alumni, grandparents, and friends in support of the Annual Fund and the Capital Campaign are we able to ensure excellence for our students and faculty. Soon you will receive a letter asking for support for the Annual Fund and 21st Century Capital Campaign Phase II. Please respond promptly and generously when you receive our request for support. Thank you!



Step One: Annual Fund

Step Two: 21st Century Capital Campaign

SUPPORTING

Parent Service Organization

PSO Officers

PSO Officers

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Co-chair- Susan Ferguson
PSO Coordinator- Sue Williams
LS Rep- Rebecca Chisolm
MS Rep- Donna Murphy
US Rep- Patty Brantley
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 (Co-chair) Hart Roberts

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 (Co-chair) Sally Shealy

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 Kim Griffith (US)

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(Chair) Laura Allen
 (Co-chair) Bonnie Chambers
 (Liaison) Allen Miller

Spartan Spectacular

Whitney Goodstone

Golf Tournament

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(Chair) Susie Malcom
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(Chair) Deborah Thurmond
 (Co-chair) Christina White

Already Off to a Great Start!

We are off to another great year here at Athens Academy, and it's due in part to our wonderful parents who volunteer to work on over 20 committees that the PSO has to offer. If you missed the opportunity to sign up for one of these various committees on Parents Day, you may contact Sue Williams at (706) 433-2447 or swilliams@athensacademy.org, or contact any committee chair and they will be happy to answer any questions you may have. The PSO is a great way to get involved, so come join in on all the fun!! We're looking forward to a great year!

Kim Maddox
 PSO Chair

Thank You:

- To Margaret Smith (chair), Anne Peck, Denise LaBoon, and Kim Griffith for the enthusiastic welcome given to the parents at the LS, MS, and US Parents Day events. We appreciate all your hard work!
- To all of you who have signed up to volunteer and support our school and the PSO. All of your support makes Athens Academy the great school it is today! Thank you!

Reminders:

- Sally Foster Gift Wrap orders are due by Friday, September 18. The revenue from this program is invaluable to Athens Academy, so be sure to support the school! Gift wrap will be delivered on Thursday, October 29.
- Mark your calendars for Grandparents and Special Friends Day on Friday, October 2!

**Sign Up Now For
 Athens Academy's
 Mixed Sticks Fall Spartan Weekend
 Sunday & Monday
 October 11-12, 2009
 Athens Country Club**



Tennis Tournament: Sunday, October 11
 Mens, Ladies, and Junior Divisions
 Target Tennis
 Mixed Sticks Cookout
 Silent Auction
 Games, Prizes & more!
Spartan Spectacular Cookout, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Golf Tournament: Monday, October 12
 11:30 Registration
 1:00 p.m. Shot Gun Start
 Includes range balls, greens fee, cart & awards
 Mulligans, Raffes, Contests & more!



**Check the Athens Academy website for more information at
www.athensacademy.org**

LOWER School News

PRIMARY Points

Magazine Drive

*Kicked off August 28
Sales end September 8*

Grade Reps Meeting

*Monday, August 31
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall*

Holiday

*Labor Day
Monday, September 7*

Sally Foster

*Gift wrap orders due
September 18*

Alumni Fall BBQ

*Friday, September 25
5:30-7:30 p.m.
At the track*

Grandparents/ Special Friends Day

Friday, October 2

Young Scientists Have a New Home

The dreams and wishes of the teachers of science in the Pre- and Lower School have come true! The Pre/Lower School North Extension was completed this summer. The new space houses two new fourth grade classrooms, the science center, the LS dean of academics' office, and a teacher workroom. The spacious new science center is state of the art for instruction through the use of the inquiry method. It even has a sunny greenhouse that accommodates a rolling cart for each grade level so that planting boxes can be rolled out to the new science instructional garden. The outdoor space has been carefully planned to support the science curriculum in each grade. The plantings include food for the third grade's newly hatched butterflies and seeds to attract different kinds of birds. The outdoor classroom looks out on the garden which includes water elements, a variety of plants, shrubs, and trees, and large rocks for young scientists to sit on while jotting down observations. From the science center windows, students can observe the changing panorama of the seasons and check on the progress of their class projects, even in the rain! The new facilities bring the outside in as well as furnishing an outdoor laboratory for the students.

Caroline Ridlehuber

Welcome to the Class of 2024

Each year we welcome 32 of our youngest Spartans to the K3 program. Learning and relationships formed in the classroom and on the playground will lead to lifelong bonds. The students will soon learn that a walk to the office with a friend for a piece of ice makes everything all better. Among our special Spartans, there are six second-

generation Spartans, 24 Spartan siblings, five faculty children, and seven families new to the Academy. We look forward to following their development as they begin their journey to strive for excellence with honor.

Kind Language

The use of Kind Language is emphasized in the Pre/Lower School. Our goal is to eliminate unkind, offensive, and inappropriate language. When students hear other students using unkind language, they should tell the student their language is unkind and tell the teacher. Support at home will help us all speak kindly.

Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to fourth grader Maggie Ivy and fifth grader Katharine Suarez for placing first in the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese's Georgia Elementary School Poster Contest. Maggie, Katharine, and Spanish teacher Crystal Vicente were recognized by the State Board of Education in August as part of the annual World Languages Recognition Program. *¡Excelente!*

Lunch Date

Make a date with your child for lunch! You may join your child in Barrett Hall. Lunch lasts 30 minutes and the times are listed below:

Fourth grade	11:10 a.m.
First grade	11:15 a.m.
Second grade	11:50 a.m.
Third Grade	11:55 a.m.
Pre-first	Noon

Birthday Celebrations

Students are welcome to celebrate their birthday at school. Please send birthday treats for your child's homeroom first thing in the morning. We ask that you limit the treats to finger foods such as doughnuts or cupcakes so that there is minimal preparation for the teachers. The snack is limited to a treat, no drinks or ice cream, please.

Communication

Effective communication is essential for a successful partnership between home and school. In addition to information found in the Athens Academy *Policies and Directory*, parents receive information from the Pre/Lower School through email, class newsletters, agendas, and notes home, depending on the grade level. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. You may contact them by phone, email, or by leaving a message with the office. Please avoid impromptu drop-in meetings and inquiries during carpool. These are times when teachers are less prepared and unable to give you their undivided attention. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to an exciting year!

*Bob Ulrich &
Melton Weekley*

MIDDLE School News

TAKE Note

Magazine Drive

Kicked off at the end of August; sales end September 8.

Grade Reps Meeting

*Monday, August 31
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall*

Holiday

*Labor Day
Monday, September 7*

Midpoint of Grading Period #1

Friday, September 11

Alumni Fall BBQ

*Friday, September 25
5:30-7:30 p.m.
At the track*

Sally Foster

*Gift wrap orders due
September 18*

Conference Day

*Wednesday, September 30
No classes will be held.*

Grandparents/ Special Friends Day

Friday, October 2

Afternoon Pick Up Reminder

Eighth graders who are in eighth-grade-only or US carpools should meet their rides at the Media Center turnaround. Drivers—please enter campus through the Hwy. 441 entrance.

Welcome New Spartans!

Middle School enthusiastically welcomes 39 new Spartans this year! Over the summer many of them attended camps and sports activities on campus. Our returning students and their parents have served as hosts and buddy families welcoming these new families.

We are excited that you are here and appreciate the confidence that you have placed in the school. Athens Academy is a lively and diverse community of people who share a common goal for their children. As a Middle School faculty we will partner with you to facilitate the academic, physical, social, and emotional growth of your child during these developmental years. We look forward to getting to know each of you and hope to see you on campus for sports contests, music concerts, plays, and PSO activities. We think you will have a good time being with others who share your enthusiasm for the school!

Standardized Dress

What a handsome group of students we have in Middle School! They arrived at school on August 17 in their new standardized dress, with books and materials in hand, ready to go about their work. Thank you to each of you for getting them ready for school!

Please keep handy the Standardized Dress Guidelines as we are establishing the new dress habits. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Mr. Walton or Mrs. Klein.

New Schedule

The Middle School schedule is slightly different this year. Each of you should have received a copy of your child's schedule on Parents Day. You will notice that we go by an "A Week" and "B Week" schedule. Please pay special attention to the Wednesday schedule—the only day that varies. The Middle School calendar published on Google will indicate the designated week. Signs on the grade level bulletin boards will help the students keep on the correct schedule.

We know that many of you

are careful to check your child's schedule when making special appointments. Thanks for helping them to avoid missing class!

Tutorials

During afternoon tutorials teachers assist students with study skills, test preparation, and subject mastery. Tutorial schedules are set by grade levels and individual teachers. Students should speak with teachers about the need for extra help and remember to sign-up a day ahead. The sessions begin at 3:20 p.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Parents, please pick up students at the Middle School turnaround at the conclusion of tutorial. Students may report to athletic practice or extended day at the end of tutorial.

Extended Day

For the safety of the children and convenience of parents, the school offers after-school care for all students until 5:45 p.m. through the extended day program. Students remaining on campus after 3:20 p.m. must be in tutorial or a practice with a teacher or coach, or in the extended day program. For additional information on this service, please see the Middle School announcements page on the website or contact Carol Deaton in the Lower School Office.

Conference Day

Early in the school year we plan a parent/student/teacher conference for each child. At this time students will present a self-evaluation of their study habits and school performance to date. Teachers will give their feedback, working with the child and parent to set goals and make plans for a successful school year.

Conferences will be scheduled on September 30; no classes will take place on this day. Mrs. Sanford is working on a schedule for the conferences. Please contact her at lsanford@athensacademy.org if you have a specific time need for your conference. This day is most important in our partnership, setting the stage for success! We look forward to seeing each of you on September 30.

Fall BBQ

All Spartans—young and old, big and small—are invited to the 14th Annual Alumni Fall BBQ on September 25. Let's join alumni who will be honoring Mr. Frank McKinley for his 40+ years of service to Athens Academy.

Brenda Klein

Fall Activities & Sports

The Middle School Spartans are practicing hard on the volleyball court, football field, and cross country course. With over 100 students participating in fall athletics, practices are buzzing with excitement. We hope that your family will come to cheer on these athletes as they compete. Schedules can be found on the Athens Academy athletics web page. Please remember that children should not be dropped off at any athletic event without parent supervision. Athens Academy does not provide supervision for children at Middle School or Upper School athletic events. We hope that parents will come to cheer alongside their children.

Magazine Sales

The magazine sale began on Friday, August 28, with our official kick-off. Middle School students have received a packet with forms for ordering magazines. We hope that you will consider renewing any magazine subscriptions through Athens Academy. We also ask students to communicate with grandparents, aunts and uncles, and close family friends to ask them to renew subscriptions. Athens Academy receives a percentage of the magazine sales. The money raised by fifth and sixth graders is used to help supply technology equipment and support for those grades. The money raised by the seventh and eighth graders is saved in their class treasuries to be used for dances and other class activities in middle school and throughout high school. This important project benefits the students immensely.

Geoffrey Walton

UPPER

School News

HIGH Lights

New Schedule Information

Please refer frequently to the US announcements page for general information and also to the following link (<http://www.athensacademy.org/news/calendar/>) for specific daily information.

Magazine Drive

Kicked off the end of August. This money helps fund class budgets for special lunches, dances, spirit nights, and service opportunities. Sales end September 8.

Grade Reps Meeting

Monday, August 31
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Holiday

Labor Day
Monday, September 7

Interim Week

September 14-18
See details this page

Alumni Fall BBQ

Friday, September 25
5:30-7:30 p.m.
At the track

Sally Foster

Gift wrap orders due
September 18

Welcome Back

Years ago I heard a story about two Native Americans, a grandfather and a grandson. One day they were walking together along a path, the boy quiet and deep in thought and the man content and enjoying the moment. The boy looked to his grandfather and asked, "Grandpa, how do you deal with the struggles and uncertainties in life?" The grandfather said to him, "Think on this my son: I feel as if I have two wolves fighting in my heart. One wolf is the vengeful, angry, violent one. The other is the friendly, loving, compassionate one." The grandson, now looking more confused, asked "Well, which wolf will win the fight in your heart, Grandpa?" The grandfather looked at him and simply said, "The one I choose to feed."

Life is simple, yet life is infinitely complex. It is simple because all people want to be happy and successful. Life is complicated because of the numerous decisions and choices that need to be made. Oftentimes, these decisions are difficult because answers are unclear. Nevertheless, we must choose something. Failure to make a choice is in fact making a choice, and if we do not actively decide how to handle a situation then we lose control over it and ultimately we lose control of our lives. We then have to deal with situations that are created by forces outside of us. When this happens, our futures become uncertain.

Although life can be hard, the good news is that we have some power over what happens to us. We do this by making smart decisions and by remembering our past as we choose to live in the present moment. We can not erase the past, but we CAN control our present and influence our future by making decisions that we know in our heart to be good. Just as we choose our friends, we also choose our own life path. We, and only we, walk the roads and cross the bridges we build for ourselves. Others will provide the tools to help build the best roads and bridges possible, but the individual has to make the choice to use them. If we make the right choices, choices we know are responsible and honorable, then we

can be confident that the roads and bridges we build will stand for our entire life and that happiness and success will be ours.

We are fortunate to be in a school that fosters independence, nurtures individuality, and allows us to make decisions for ourselves. Just as the school is responsible for providing an environment where we can maximize our potential, we are in turn responsible to the school and to those who provide us the gift, the privilege, and the opportunity to attend it. And remember, make conscientious efforts to always feed the friendly, loving, compassionate wolf that resides in your heart.

Welcome New Spartans

I would like to extend a warm welcome from the Upper School faculty to the new families joining the high school. We are excited that you have chosen to spend the year with us. We look forward to our time together and watching your child grow as a person and develop as a student.

Interim Week

This year's annual Interim Week once again offers a variety of activities, retreats, and trips for all Upper School students and faculty as they take a break from traditional classroom studies.

Freshmen: On Monday, September 14, the Freshman Class will learn what is needed to be accepted into the University of Georgia. Because it has become increasingly more difficult to gain acceptance into the undergraduate program and because freshmen are just beginning their journey down the four year road that leads to postsecondary education, the class will take a tour of UGA and will have the opportunity to learn "what it takes" to get in. On Tuesday morning, the Class of 2013 will travel to Tallulah Falls and Big Y Camp for a program which has been designed to facilitate the development of each child's intra-personal development. This three-night retreat completes their orientation to the Upper School and will also allow them time to begin talking about the upcoming Homecoming activities.

Sophomores: The sophomore class will travel to Atlanta on Monday, September 14, to visit and tour Emory. On Tuesday, they will head to Camp Chattooga in Tallulah Falls for a program run by our faculty and Whitewater Outfitters. While there they will be challenged to step outside their comfort zone through both experiential education and discussion as we continue to work on developing their interpersonal strengths. Advisors will travel with them on this journey as they continue to work on their leadership skills.

Juniors: Beginning Sunday, September 13 and Monday, September 14, juniors and faculty advisors will spend a week touring colleges in South Carolina and North Carolina. The trip exposes students to a variety of types of schools, including colleges, universities, large, small, private, public, urban, suburban and rural. At some stops, juniors enjoy visiting with Academy alumni who are currently enrolled at that school. Traveling by bus with faculty advisors, juniors tour campuses, sample dining hall fare, listen to admissions presentations, take notes, ask questions, purchase souvenirs, and participate in evening follow-up discussions. If you have any questions about the college trip, please contact Mr. Stachura or Mrs. Pruitt.

Seniors: Seniors may choose to make individual college visits or participate on the Senior Kairos Retreat. Seniors making individual college visits are asked by the college counseling faculty to file an itinerary with Mrs. Pruitt and follow up with a summary of their trip in the weeks following their visits. This will allow our college counselors to discuss the college visits and answer and questions students may have. The Kairos Retreat will leave on Monday and return on Thursday, allowing for college visits over the second weekend, beginning Friday of Interim Week. Kairos will take place in the North Georgia mountains and will allow seniors time for reflection on their life experiences and a deepening of understanding of themselves and others.

Bob Sears

GUIDE

To Higher Education

COLLEGE Bound

Athens College Fair

Wednesday, September 9
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Classic Center
Open to all interested
students and parents.

PSAT

Wednesday, October 14
For all juniors and
sophomores

SAT Fall 2009 Schedule

October 10:
Register by September 9
November 7:
Register by October 1
December 5:
Register by October 30

Go to www.collegeboard.com to register.

ACT Fall 2009 Schedule

October 24:
Register by September 18
December 12:
Register by November 6

Go to www.act.org to register.

Don't Panic!

Seniors

School's back in session and by now you've had at least a dozen quizzes – how about one more from your good friends in the college counseling office? It's not like you were already stressed or anything...

1. Have you narrowed your college list? Over the summer you should have shifted your thinking from "what are my dream schools?" to "what do I need to do to reach my goals?" Does your school list include schools that fit you and your individual needs?

2. Have you taken the SAT and the ACT at least once? Every student is required to take the SAT or ACT once in the junior year and once in the senior year. Have you checked to see if any school you are applying to requires an SAT subject test? This additional standardized test is required by some of the more selective schools.

3. Have you made plans to visit schools? No amount of research can compare to the feeling of actually being on a campus. Spend the night in a dorm, attend a class, do everything you can to make sure that the school you think you like truly fits your needs. Seniors not participating in Kairos need to get Interim Week forms in ten days prior to Interim Week to let us know where you are traveling.

4. Have you completed the Common Application? Given that the Common Application is a single document accepted at over 350 different colleges, most students will know this application extremely well by the end of the process. Have you checked to see if your ideal school has a Common App supplement? Some schools do so don't be surprised!

5. Have you written a wonderful essay that represents who you are in a way that

separates you from the group? Your college counselor and your English teacher will help you with this important piece of writing, but no amount of help can overcome last minute work.

6. Have you checked into Naviance several times already? As you know, Naviance is your one stop shop for all things college. Right now you should be specifically watching out for counselor visits. During the fall, college admission counselors visit schools. These visits are a great opportunity to learn more about schools and also to make a good impression on the people who will eventually be reading your applications. When they visit our school, please help us by arriving to the visit on time, asking intelligent questions and demonstrating an appreciation for their willingness to travel to us.

7. Have you started the school year in the best possible way? Your fall semester senior grades will be your first impression--make sure it is a good one.

Scoring:

Our honor system allows for self grading of the ten questions above and can put you in to appropriate categories. Award yourself one point for every yes.

9 or 10 – You are the ideal. You could probably do the whole process by yourself, but you are such a careful student that you are checking in with us through all the steps. Way to be you!

7 or 8 – You are doing well. Most of the process is under your control and with the help of senior seminar most of the other details should come under your control. Good work.

5 or 6 – You are getting it. Rereading your college handbook would be a great idea but with good communication and help from your college counselors all will be well.

0 to 4 – Concern would not be out of the question at this point. Scheduling a meeting with your college counselor (and perhaps your parents) might be a nice way to spend a few hours.

No matter what your score, be sure that you listen to the Journal of College Admission which reminds us that this process should be thought of as "a match to be made, not a prize to be won." Get that question right and all should be well.

Juniors

Your search will officially begin with the 2009 College Trip. Advisees of Mrs. Ashe, Mrs. Pruitt, Mr. Stachura, and Mr. Connell will launch first on Sunday, September 13, and return Thursday, September 17. Mrs. Sweetapple, Dr. Scott, and Mr. Patterson will depart on Monday, September 14, and return Friday, September 18. This year's tour will include Duke, UNC, NC State, High Point, Elon, Wake Forest, Appalachian State, Davidson, Queens, PC, and Furman. We hope that this diverse selection of schools will help you get a feel for the great variety that exists in the college world as you begin to think about your best place after Athens Academy.

Juniors and Sophomores

All juniors and sophomores have been registered for the PSAT on Wednesday, October 14. The test will be administered at the school during the school day. Not only is this test great practice for the SAT, the scores are used to determine qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Get your sleep and take your vitamin C as there is no make up test available.

Colleen Pruitt &
Jeff Stachura

ARTS

On Stage and in the Studio

COMING
Soon

Exhibits

August 17 - October 9

Myers Gallery

Duane Paxson, sculpture and paintings

Bertelsmann Gallery

Leigh Ellis, paintings

Brooks Burgess, pottery

Michael Pierce, ceramics and sculpture

Artists' Reception

Sunday, September 13

Myers Gallery

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Grandparents/ Special Friends Day

Friday, October 2

Guest Artist Concert Series

Monday, October 5

Duo Cardinale and

Magnasco, violin and piano
7:30 p.m.

Presentation Hall

Amazing Exhibits

Duane Paxson's show "Obstacles to Departure" will be on exhibit in the Myers Gallery through October 9. Paxson was born in York, Pennsylvania, and moved to Alabama in the early 60's. A former clarinetist, Paxson began his career as a sculptor and received his MFA from the University of Alabama with a minor in ceramics. His studies also include jewelry design at Florida State University. Paxson's work has received international and national attention and has been reviewed in major sculpture and art publications. He has won numerous sculpture and drawing awards. Paxson's home and studios are in the midst of ten acres near Athens.

The works of Leigh Ellis, Brooks Burgess, and Michael Pierce will be on display in the Bertelsmann Gallery through October 9.

Upper School visual arts teacher Leigh Ellis is a professional painter and instructor of watercolor. She holds a master's degree in biology and began her art career 20 years ago in biological illustration. Ellis studied painting and design at the University of Hawaii and Montana State University. Her paintings have been exhibited in juried and private shows from Hawaii to Georgia, including ten solo exhibits. Ellis has illustrated five books for Manasha Ridge Press and one book, *The Journeyman's Path*, in 2002. She is an active member of the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation and the Georgia Watercolor Society.

While pursuing an art education degree at the University of Georgia, Brooks Burgess became interested in pottery and went on to earn his MFA in ceramics at North Texas State University. Upon graduation, he accepted a one-year appointment at Berea College in Kentucky as the graduate apprentice in clay. It was here that he sharpened his production skills while designing and developing a line of functional pottery.

Since his return to Athens in 1988, Burgess has taught art in public middle and high schools in and around Georgia, at Anderson College in South Carolina, the Spruill Center in Atlanta, and Good Dirt Studios. He has also conducted workshops for colleges and public art organizations. Burgess currently maintains his own studio in Winterville.

Michael Pierce, artist and world traveler, was born in Macon. Pierce attended commercial art school in Atlanta, but realized that he wanted to be a "real artist." Pierce's work includes sculpture, paintings, and jewelry, and for the last eight years, ceramics. His ceramic tiles and mosaics recall the geometric trends of the mid-20th century, but Pierce frequently incorporates bits of broken pottery as well as fragments of his own swirl-and-squiggle etched terra cotta creations. He resides in Farmington, Georgia.

A reception honoring these artists will be held on Sunday, September 13, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Myers Gallery. The public is invited to attend.

Duo Opens Guest Artist Season

Please join us on Monday, October 5, in the Presentation Hall for the opening performance of the 2009-2010 Guest Artist Concert Series. We are pleased to welcome the violin and piano duo Cardinale and Magnasco to the Athens Academy stage. The Duo Cardinale-Magnasco is a well-known ensemble, having performed more than 300 concerts throughout Europe and the Americas. Their repertoire includes music from 1700-1900.

Featured in our November 16 Guest Artist Concert is Atlanta harpist, Monica Hargrave. Hargrave is noted for her panache, rhythmic drive, and a very commanding performance style. She has been a soloist, recitalist, and lecturer the world over.

Our final performer for the 2009-2010 season will be pianist Laura Nocchiero. Nocchiero

graduated from the A. Vivaldi State Music Conservatory in Novara, Italy. She has performed concerts throughout the world and frequently judges international piano competitions.

Tickets for our Guest Artist Concerts may be purchased at the door prior to the 7:30 p.m. performances (single tickets--adults \$10, students \$2; season tickets--adults \$25, students \$5).

Welcome To Fine Arts!

Please join me in welcoming three new faculty members to our Fine Arts Department.

Mary Presnell will be our new part-time art teacher this year, working with first through third grades. Mary received her BSED in art education from the University of Georgia. She has been an aide in first, third, and fourth grades at Athens Academy since 2004. She has also worked at Westminster in Atlanta and the Atlanta Speech School. Mary and her husband, Matt, have a new baby and a three-year-old in our Preschool.

Nancy Robertson is the Preschool music teacher for K3 through pre-first. Nancy graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's of music degree and a master's in music education. Her previous thirteen years at Athens Academy as a K4 aide and her experience as an accomplished organist, and teacher of piano, chorus, and handbells have prepared her well to provide the preschoolers with a strong foundation in music. Nancy is married to Steve Robertson, and her children, Mary Kay and Daniel Lough, attended Athens Academy.

Emily Pastore relocated from Sorrento, Florida, to serve as drama teacher in the Middle School. She earned her bachelor's degree from Florida Gulf Coast University and her master's degree in performing arts from Savannah College of Art and Design. Emily has worked as a drama camp teacher and has experience as director, stage manager and set designer. She and her husband, Kyle, have a daughter, Olivia.

Curriculum *and Instruction*

CLASS Notes

Laptop policy

Please refer to the Middle and Upper School announcements blogs for information about Athens Academy's school-issued laptop security policy: <http://www.athensacademy.net/announcements/middle/> or <http://www.athensacademy.net/announcements/upper/>

Webcasting Update

Upper School students in the Advanced Media Production class and the Media & Technology Club are raising the bar to produce pre-game and half-time programs during the fall football and volleyball webcasts. These programs will include updates on a wide range of student activities in academic, fine arts, service, and athletic competitions. Stay tuned to Athens Academy students' activities by accessing their new webcast webpage at www.athensacademy.org.

Academy's Programs Enhanced by Summer Curriculum Development Projects

While so many physical enhancements were being made this summer to the Athens Academy campus, significant work was also taking place in critical areas of the curriculum. In the second year of the Summer Curriculum Development Program, seventeen teachers representing all divisions of the school collaborated on five different projects:

- Middle School faculty members Geoffrey Walton, Joe Tillman, Carrie Olson, Stacy Mallet, and Tom Pee reviewed and revised the Skills for Adolescence program with the goal of refining the scope and sequence and articulating with the seminar program in the Upper School.
- Preschool teachers Cindy Boerma, Ellen Cunningham, and Deena Eberhardt made adjustments to the K4 program based on current educational research regarding the development of handwriting skills.
- Middle School language arts teachers Alice Ann Colley, Jacqueline Land, Trish Tillman, and Natalie Luke enhanced units of their curriculum to differentiate reading instruction even more effectively in grades 5-7.
- Upper School science teachers Nikki Chester and Richard Patterson forged a partnership with researchers at the University of Georgia as they created a new inquiry-based evolutionary genetics elective course for juniors and seniors.
- Third grade teachers Sandra Kellett and Alice McMaster worked on differentiating several units of instruction to continue to strengthen the school's efforts to meet the needs of each student.

Providing teachers with opportunities to analyze what and how they teach must be a top priority at any school seeking continuous enhancement of its academic program. When properly aligned with the school's mission, operating principles, and long-range goals, this work encourages the sharing of ideas, demonstrates a commitment to thoughtful innovation, and results in meaningful, sustained discussions of the best approaches to teaching and learning.

Pat Cuneo

Sparbots Update

The growth and interest in the study of robotics continues at Athens Academy. Now that the yearbook and newspaper are being produced largely online via student laptops, the 1400+ square foot Bertelsmann Building print media lab has recently begun serving as a hands-on media, technology, and research center for Middle and Upper School students. The fifth and sixth grade FIRST Lego League (FLL) "Sparbots" and the seventh-twelfth grade FIRST Tech Challenge "FTC" teams now have ample space for building, programming, and testing robots and other technology. Be sure to visit www.usfrst.org to learn more about FIRST: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

The MS Sparbots team will be competing in the state FLL competition this fall, conducting research and building a robot to complete tasks on a challenging obstacle course. This year's theme is called "Smart Move," which challenges students to "transform the way we look at transportation." In partnership with Walton EMC, Sparbots students will be building and researching solar-powered automobiles. Students also hope to visit University of Georgia research facilities, government transportation offices, and other local businesses involved in transportation.

The FTC team will design, build, and program a more advanced robot for a competition in February. Anyone with knowledge or expertise in the field of transportation or a background in mechanical, civil, or electrical engineering or computer programming who has the time to volunteer is encouraged to contact the Sparbots faculty sponsor, Mike Callinan, via email at mcallinan@athensacademy.org.

Mike Callinan

SPORTS

Commitment to Excellence

Spartans Playing Sports in College

- **Baseball**

Charles Matthews
Georgia Southern University

Joey Miller
Rhodes College

- **Cross Country & Track**

Josh Deaton
Rhodes College

Dorothy Todd
Washington and Lee University

- **Football**

Derek Chuboff
Centre College

James Colquitt
Georgia State University

Will Daniel
Jacksonville State University

Chris Rogers
Georgia Southern

Jeff Turner
Maryville College

Evans Wellborn
Sewanee: The University of the South

- **Golf**

Kent Crymes
Presbyterian College

- **Volleyball**

Sammie Maddox
Sewanee: The University of the South

- **Tennis**

Scott Foster
Samford University

Guidelines for a Great Year

Welcome back! The athletic department, coaching staff, and student athletes are all excited about the start of another school year. The fall sports--cheerleading, cross country, football and volleyball--are all underway, with large student participation in each program.

In the past we have published "The Key: Working Together," which may be found on our athletic webpage, but this year I am using a slightly different angle to describe the expectations of the athlete, parent, and athletic department/coach. Below you will find three lists of expectations; while each list is not comprehensive, please use each as a guideline.

For Student Athletes

1. Maintain a good academic standing.
2. Follow all school policies and guidelines.
3. Attend all practices, meetings, and games, including practices and games during school holidays and vacations.
4. Appreciate the responsibility of the officials and both respect and accept their decisions.
5. Behave in such a manner that will never be a discredit to yourselves, your team, or your school.

For Parents

1. Students who sign up for an interscholastic team make a commitment to attend all games and practices including during school holidays and vacations. Parents are asked to avoid scheduling family obligations in conflict with practice and game schedules.
2. Parents are encouraged to attend as many contests as possible.
3. Parents will be responsible for promptly picking up student athletes after practices and games.
4. When attending an interscholastic contest, parents are asked to set an example of good sportsmanship.
5. Parents are urged to support our teams at all times.

For Athletic Department & Coaching Staff

1. Fulfill Athens Academy's mission.
2. Provide close communication with parents about student athletes and athletics in general.
3. Provide an "open ear" when concerns arise.
4. Exhibit discipline, fairness, consistency, professionalism, and respect.
5. Remember that the desire to win is not placed above education.

As always, please be in contact if you have questions, concerns or ideas that may help Athens Academy continue its athletic success.

Kevin Petroski

Quote of the Month

"Be curious always! For knowledge will not acquire you; you must acquire it."--Sudie Back



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NOTES *From the Headmaster*



Welcome Back to School

We all experience a feeling of excitement about a new school year, regardless of our role at Athens Academy. There is the excitement of greeting each other, seeing old friends, making new friends, and facing new challenges and opportunities. As we begin this new year, I extend a special welcome to those of you who are continuing your Academy experience.

We will begin with over 900 students for the second consecutive year, and for these students a full complement of teachers and their aides. The campus is ready to welcome everyone following a busy summer of “freshening up” existing buildings and outdoor spaces. The north addition of the Lower School has been completed, which provides for additional classroom spaces and the long-awaited science center and accompanying garden area. Exciting!

While change is a constant in all of our lives, the economic challenges that have developed in recent years are in many ways new to many of us. The Academy is very aware of this reality. It is the goal of the school to be sensitive to this reality by recognizing that children, as well as their parents, are affected by this climate. Further, the school will continue to conduct its operations in a frugal fiscal manner while providing the expected quality of educational and personal experience for each child.

Often, I am told by Academy parents that they consider enrollment of their children as an “investment in their children’s lives.” I agree! The successes of alumni confirm the importance of their Academy experiences. Their preparation for college and life-long learning with the belief that strength of character defines them as significantly as do their achievements in academics and activities is making a difference in their lives. A liberal arts experience is more important than ever for preparing young people for the changes and challenges they will face in the future.

I look forward to working with each of you to make it a very special year for all of us. As a community we will achieve it by working together!

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