



September 10, 2021

Dear Spartan Family:

I wanted to take a minute to send a message on the eve of the twentieth anniversary of the terrorist attacks which shook our nation on 9-11-2001. While it is painful for many of us to think of that day, I feel like it is important we remember the nearly 3000 people we lost and how our own lives were reshaped that day forever.

For those of us who can remember life before September 11, 2001, it is hard to believe we used to be able to do many things without even an ID. We could walk our friends or family to their gate to get on an airplane, park anywhere we wanted, go to Disney World without having to walk through a metal detector, and we never really worried when we saw an unattended backpack at the mall. Terrorism happened all over the world back then, but with very few exceptions, it did not happen here.

While I remember the shock and horror of watching the planes crash into the World Trade Center on television, I also remember how that event brought us together as Americans. We held on to people we did not know that day, cried when we heard the National Anthem, and took the assault on our nation personally. Republicans and Democrats abandoned petty differences to sing *God Bless America* on the steps of Congress, Major League Baseball, the National Football League, and College Football all stopped playing, and for a time we all showed each other a little grace.

As tomorrow approaches, I ask everyone to pray for those who lost loved ones twenty years ago on that horrible day. I also ask everyone to pray for our nation, our leaders, and that we can love and show each other grace not because of a tragic event, but because life is short and every day matters.

I wish you the best this weekend and thank you for the opportunity to serve as your superintendent.

Sincerely,

Steven Lucas

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