



IA Family,

As we prepare for spring break, I can't help but think of everything that has happened since spring break 2020. We all told each other to have a great week not knowing lockdowns, stay at home orders, and online classes would become our new normal along with the cancellation of many end of school events and activities. Through uncertainty, our IA Family stuck together and overcame those obstacles to finish the year and graduate our seniors.

We all spent the summer praying that we would be able to return to classes and planning a way to make it happen. Our outstanding local medical providers helped us come up with a plan that would allow us to return to school and keep risks low. With the plan in place and many prayers, we started the year and have made it back to spring break.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the principals, board, teachers, students, and parents. The work each of these groups put in has enabled us to be in school, and to have a great year. You have overcome obstacles and difficult situations with patience and a willingness to work together.

The principals have made out-of-the-box changes in schedules and classes providing teachers and students opportunities to have effective class meetings with minimal risk. They have led in a positive and encouraging manner setting good examples for our students and faculty.

Our board has been supportive and proactive throughout these challenging times. They provided everything needed to meet the challenges we have faced.

The teachers have adapted their coursework and presentation to be effective in the new conditions and have shown great patience and flexibility in their classrooms. All of our teachers exhibited a "can do" attitude and this outlook helped build student confidence.

The students have been outstanding. They have a new appreciation of being able to go to school, play sports, and be with their friends. Frustration that began last spring has turned into determination and gratitude for being able to be in school. Everyone knows our students are special-especially our seniors! The positive attitudes and the optimism they displayed have motivated our teachers; their cooperative spirit and willingness to adapt show a maturity beyond their years.

The parents have also been outstanding. They have been flexible with all the many changes that have taken place and the limitations that have been required this year. Parental support and trust have been vital in this ever changing environment.

The 2020-2021 school year has been one of the most challenging years IA has faced. Plans have been made, changed, and changed again. Uncertainty has been a daily experience we have dealt with together. The IA Family experienced loss and rallied around each other for strength and encouragement. We have been reminded of just how important IA is to us all and how blessed we all are. Our IA family is strong, and it is special. Together we have met every challenge and will emerge even stronger. I have never been more proud of and thankful for our board, principals, teachers, students, and parents than I am today. I hope that everyone will enjoy spring break and on our return, experience and appreciate the many school events that were impossible last year.

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Have a great break!

Charles Mason, Headmaster