



There are a few days in all of our lives that seem forever stamped in our memory. Oddly enough I can still remember where I was when the Challenger Space Shuttle exploded, I'm sure each of you has the same short list of moments you know you will remember forever. Today, or rather yesterday and today, hold a special place in the Milford family's hearts and minds. My middle son was born on 9/10/2001, so we were contained in a hospital room caring for our new infant when we saw the towers fall. It is an annual conversation in my home, a type of celebration for one life, and a remembrance of a defining time in our country and in our culture. Couple this with having our first son in the military and this time of year is a swirl of sorrow, excitement, and pride. So, last night we celebrated year 19 for my second son, and today we recognize and remember the moment that defined a generation and the lives it impacted.

My experience from that day is certainly aligned with former Secretary of State Colin Powell's when he shared, "You can be sure that the American spirit will prevail over this tragedy." I am proud of all who rose above that tragedy and the similar spirit as we face a pandemic that requires sacrifices in our own lives that are real, are difficult, but not too much for our spirit to prevail.

With a month of school under our belt, we are feeling much more comfortable about the flow of the days and many of the kinks have now been worked out. We all need to stay diligent with our personal responsibility, and our shared goal of being able to have school together as our broader community manages COVID's spread.

As we wind down another week, I wanted to touch on a few items and wish you a great weekend:

- Thank you in advance for making the time to complete the survey you will receive next week for our Strategic Planning process. This will help us chart our course forward for the school over the next 5-10 years.
- If you have not already, I would love for you to visit our [iTHINK Online Auction site](#). Our team of volunteers have put an amazing amount of work into this program, and there are some great items available this year. We moved the spring auction to a virtual format this fall due to COVID, and it closes Sunday! There is a great variety, and all proceeds go straight to supporting the faculty and the programs your child(ren) benefit from.
- We have enjoyed seeing after school enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities begin. They certainly feel a little different based on distancing and other required protocols but these important opportunities for our students are well received. We will continue to adapt our protocols while still providing a safe experience for our students, faculty, coaches, and fans.
- We are beginning open house season. Be on the lookout for communication from your divisions on how we are adapting this important event for this year. Also, know that I have heard many of you when you have shared that not being able to "see" your child's classroom and teacher with your own eyes has been tough. We are

actively discussing how we can find new ways to keep this connection with you strong as we abide by the necessary guidelines to keep everyone safe.

Lastly, I wanted to share this joint faculty/student [production](#) that was created and played for many of our classes this morning as we paused and remembered this part of our past and used it as a moment for a productive discussion.

Have a great weekend and thank you for your trust and support.

James



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