



Good Morning Viking Nation...this is Dr. Patterson, your head of school.

As you may know...tomorrow marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup>, terrorist attack. At this very moment, 8:46 am on September 11, terrorists crashed a commercial airplane into the North Tower of the World Trade Center (the tallest dual buildings in New York City). The iconic twin towers of downtown Manhattan's World Trade Center were a triumph of human imagination and will. Completed in 1973, the towers stood at 110 stories each, accommodating 50,000 workers and 200,000 daily visitors in 10 million square feet of space. They were the hub of the bustling Financial District, a top tourist attraction and a symbol of New York City's—and America's—steadfast devotion to progress and the future. At 9:02 am, a second plane crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center. Shortly thereafter, at 9:37am, a third commercial airplane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington DC which represented the military might and intelligence of our country. Lastly, at 10:03am, A fourth commercial airline crashed in a Pennsylvania field after a group of heroes, led by a gentleman named Todd Beamer, overtook the terrorists on the airplane.

2,998 men and women lost their lives in this tragic event to include Cole Hogan, a FPD graduate. 367 First Responders lost their lives as they attempted to save their brothers and sisters trapped in the towers. Over 6000 people were injured. And... At that moment...the world, the country, and our way of life changed forever.

For most of our students, you were not born when this event took place. In some ways, that day feels like it happened a long time ago; in other ways, it seems like it happened yesterday. Regardless of how many years go by, time does little to erase our memories of that day and for those who lost loved ones. The memories they have of that person or people will live on forever; their grief is our grief. 20 years later, we remember the countless, selfless acts of

bravery and courage undertaken that day by so many men and women - and most especially, but not limited to, uniformed personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice...putting the needs of others before their own and losing their lives in love for their brother. And we... of course ...think daily of the men and women serving in our Armed Forces who have sacrificed their own lives on behalf of our own. But... 20 years later, we remain convinced of our resiliency and determination to move forward from this terrible tragedy. We are convinced of this because we worship a God who believes that Love triumphs over hate... The love that is displayed in John 3:16 – that God so loved the world that he sacrificed his one and only son for us ...and the love mentioned in Proverbs 10:12 which says that we have a love that covers up all wrongs.

Today, We understand and appreciate the WORLD CHANGERS that lost their lives on that day...we hold those who lost loved ones deep in our heart....and we thank our military, fire, and police men and women who stand in the gap every day to protect us from evil and keep us safe. AND...we are reminded that the one who lives in us is greater than the evil that lives in the world. HE IS GREATER!

In recognition of the victims, the heroes, and of the families who lost loved ones...the American flag that flies in front of the Admin and High school buildings will stand at half-staff today...Fri, Sept 10 and through the weekend... I am humbly asking that we all now please stand. We will now be led in prayer by \_\_\_\_\_, Senior Pastor at \_\_\_\_\_, who will pray for all those who lost loved ones and were affected deeply during this tragic day.

### *Pastor's Prayer*

I am thankful that we come to a school where we can freely and openly pray to the one true God and can remember and thank our military for standing in the gap for us. We are asking that you attend your advisory period in your classes today... we will be showing you a video about 9-11 and your advisory class period will be spent discussing the events of Sept 11... All of this in an effort for us to “NEVER FORGET” and to learn from our history. Thank you for your attention... Have a great day and GO Vikings!