



SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A Great Hearts Academy

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Dear Scottsdale Prep Middle School Parents,

On Wednesday, November 21st, the students of Scottsdale Prep participated in the 2nd quarter Spartan Tribe Activity. Each Tribe was given an assignment to develop a Coat of Arms. The website we used to support the activity gave the following information regarding a Coat of Arms:

“Historically heraldic arms were a design belonging to a particular person or group of people. These designs tended to be used by knights and noble men to identify them apart from enemy soldiers. In such traditions these coat of arms were passed from father to son or from wife to daughter. Over time the use of such crests moved from the military to families, regions and other institutions such as educational institutions.”

Our hope is that the Tribe Leadership will pass the Coat of Arms to future members of the Tribe as the years unfold. We plan to establish an area of the school to exhibit the Tribe’s Coat of Arm for students and visitors to admire and appreciate. It was an enjoyable activity and positive feedback was received by the organizers.

The Scottsdale Prep Leadership Team has adopted a Thematic Goal for the 2018-2019 school year: *Habituating Virtue for The Sake of Community*. The defining objective of the Thematic Goal are: Comportment, Stewardship, **Inspiration**, Conversation, and Preparedness. Each member of the faculty was selected to serve in a “House” that supported one of the five defining objectives. My message today will focus on **Inspiration**. The purpose of the Inspiration Objective is to inspire students toward gratitude by expression once every day for each group of students. The school leaders are communicating with faculty which subject area will be responsible for the daily gratitude each month. The teachers are determining the random-draw system to be used in their classes and implementing the daily gratitude procedure during their subject area’s time. The students are stating something they are grateful for or inspired by when they are selected and listening attentively and respectfully to their classmates. We will continue to strive for our Inspiration Defining Objective throughout the school year. I will report on the remaining defining objectives as the months unfold.

Please feel free to contact me with any middle school questions or concerns.

Respectfully yours,

Rich Gale