



SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A Great Hearts Academy

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April 24, 2019

Dear High School families,

Today the 10th grade class is visiting the University of Arizona in order to get a feel for the campus and a general idea of what campus and university life is like. It is a fantastic opportunity that our College Counselors open for sophomores every year. As a Preparatory Academy, it makes a lot of sense to show our students what is hopefully part of their next educational step.

Additionally, as a Preparatory Academy, it makes a lot of sense to think beyond college as well. It is important that our students see their education as a part of their life that directs them to something more meaningful than the education itself. The Academy does not desire our young scholars simply to be educated, but to be prepared to live the Good Life and continue engaging in the Great Conversation. This is why, at SPA, we try to emphasize student learning and growth over grades. We desire our students to *be* Great Hearted on top of *doing* Great Hearted things. We see education as a means of developing intellectual and moral growth, as a means of cultivating wonder about the world and goodwill towards it, rather than only a vehicle for college entrance.

It is my hope that when our students do go to college that they bring the intellectual and moral qualities they have developed here at the Academy to the world beyond. It is my hope that they be missionaries of relentless goodwill towards all. It is my hope that they see college as a means to better engage in the Good Life and the Great Conversation, not simply to prepare for work after college.

I thank you for partnering with the Academy in this vision for our students. As always, if you can suggest ways in which we can better pursue this hope, my door is always open.

Kind regards,

Brett Gilfillan

High School Assistant Headmaster