



# SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

## A Great Hearts Academy

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Dear High School Families,

Geological erosion takes place silently, steadily, and steadfastly. The slow stream of a river inevitably wears away the surrounding terrain. The tall, mighty mountain is flattened and softened by wind, rain, and intensely slow movement of the glacier. The countless drippings of water cut the earth's surface into the varied and beautiful home we find ourselves in. The human life span is poorly equipped to notice these changes, so it is only through careful observation and scientific inquiry that we appreciate them.

Education can be as slow as geology, and like geology, aspires to build and erode. The erosion of prejudice, of malevolence, of faulty thinking, and poor habits demands daily, steady, and steadfast attention. The mighty mountain of pride is not often destroyed by an earthquake, but by a thousand little tremors of interaction with beautifully humble persons and ideas. The countless problems completed, pages read, and seminars wrestled with produce a landscape of the soul even more magnificent than our Grand Canyon, though it is far more difficult to see.

The building up of truth, of goodwill, of clear thinking, and good habits, like the building of a mountain, takes slow and deliberate movements of the plates underneath.

I was privileged to take some seniors two weeks ago back to Archway Classical Academy where they began their development with Great Hearts. Speaking with the faculty who taught them then, they were astounded by the growth of these young souls. The Archway faculty got to see the fruit of theirs and many others labor in these Seniors.

More importantly, the Seniors saw it. Their remembrance of things past showed them how far they had climbed and been built up. They commented on the destruction of their prejudices, the construction of their speaking and reading skills, the demolition of faulty thinking, and the beauty of goodwill. They recognized, if only for a moment, that their geological souls were transformed.

I remain humbled by being witness to and part of a community that understands that the pursuit of the best things is difficult and time consuming. It is slow and difficult with many valleys between the beginning and the summit. Education, like geology, moves the earth. Thank you for partnering with us in this pursuit.

With gratitude,

Mr. Brett Gilfillan