



SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A Great Hearts Academy

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Dear Scottsdale Prep Middle School Parents,

“Perhaps more than any other sport, golf focuses pressure on the player. There are no time constraints, as there are in other sports. Your competitors are not allowed to hinder you, as they are in other sports. The pressure originates in yourself; it builds from doubts. A two-foot putt on the practice green doesn’t spark many doubts. A two-foot putt to win a bet or a tournament or a Masters is another thing entirely.”

— **Joe Posnanski, The Secret of Golf: The Story of Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus**

Golf, the greatest of all games, provides the player with 18 individual goals to meet in a 4-hour round which can be converted into front, back, and complete round goals. School provides students with 6 daily goals which can be converted into weekly, quarterly, and semester goals. Unlike golf, school has constant time constraints. The pressure does not just originate in oneself, but also in the expectations of parents and teachers. Classmates are not competitors and not allowed to hinder but rather collaborators (that occasionally hinder). Golf and school have some differences, but the joy of hitting a birdie putt is equivalent to the joy of acing a math test.

Congratulations to SPA freshman Adam Miller for his 3rd place finish in the Junior World Golf Championships and for inspiring me to write this piece. I’m proud of you, Adam!

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

Respectfully yours, Rich Gale