



SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A Great Hearts Academy

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August 22, 2019

Dear Scottsdale Prep Families,

This evening we host **Curriculum Night**, which begins promptly at 6 pm. We encourage families to arrive as early as 5:30 pm to pick up student schedules and map out your classrooms. I look forward to seeing you there for this special evening that highlights the curriculum your child will engage in this year.

As we head into the year, I'd like to encourage parents to review our Family Handbook for updates and information on the school philosophy and policies. Even after seven years, I still find it immensely helpful to read the handbook carefully. This summer, I took time to review the initial pages of our handbook, where we present great information about the reason for this classical form of education. "A classical education also teaches young people judgment according to certain standards." As a classical school, we want to uphold a standard of excellence, modeled after the exceptional works of ancient Greece and Rome which have stood the test of time. We *could* teach students the basics of reading with simple texts, but we choose Shakespeare and Dostoyevsky instead, because they teach cultural literacy, and most importantly, they illuminate the form of beauty for our students.

We know that this task is challenging for our students, but no human endeavor is worthwhile if it does not test our mettle, stretching us to reach beyond what we thought was possible. Thank you for sharing in this task alongside our teachers – we know that our engaged parents are an integral part of the academic and moral growth of children.

As a community, we can join together for many events throughout the year to solidify our bonds, and the first such community-building event is tomorrow evening! I trust that everyone will mark their calendars for our Spartan's first home football game of the season tomorrow evening, Friday, August 23rd, at Paradise Valley High School. We look forward to cheering on our fantastic team as they compete against Heritage Academy – Laveen.

Onward Spartans!

Alison Chaney

Alison Chaney, Headmaster