



SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A Great Hearts Academy

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October 28, 2021

Dear families,

Tomorrow is our much anticipated and long expected Senior Blazer Ceremony. While global supply issues have pushed this back later than usual, it is with tremendous enthusiasm that we hold the belated event.

According to Mr. Zuggi, who is usually spot with these types of things, blazers were originally so called because they shone forth like fire. Originating in at St. John's, Cambridge, the rowing club wore jackets of deep red to stand apart from their contemporaries. While ours are Navy Blue, we hold the same idea that our seniors stand apart from their contemporaries.

We charge seniors with student leadership in the Academy. We recognize, that wearing a blazer or not, they are seen by all other students as the natural leaders. We ask them to shine forth in this Academy as a model of humility, of strength, of friendship, and of courage. We literally lay upon their shoulders this burden, this charge, with the bestowing of the Senior Blazer.

As their name is called forth to receive the blazer, their favorite memory as a Spartan is read aloud to the entirety of Academy. We do this to bring back to life that moment in time when the senior most exhibited humility, strength, friendship, or courage. As I have previewed the memories, I am heartened to recognize that much joy has come to them from their friendships. It is clear that their love for being a Spartan emanates from the love of one another.

Let me end with some of the final words that our Seniors will read as students here at Scottsdale Prep. From the conclusion of *The Brothers Karamazov*:

You hear a lot said about your education, yet some such beautiful, sacred memory, preserved from childhood, is perhaps the best education. If a man stores up many such memories to take into life, then he is saved for his whole life. And even if only one good memory remains with us in our hearts, that alone may serve some day for our salvation.

In Service,

Mr. Gilfillan