



SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A Great Hearts Academy

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Dear Scottsdale Prep Middle School Parents,

The school year is off to a great start, and as we know, good things often come from implementing change. A major change for Scottsdale Prep this year has been the shift of our 5th grade students to the new Archway Scottsdale campus. We have also implemented the use of school-purchased locks for all students. We do ask that all SPA students keep their lockers locked when they are unattended and use only the school purchased locks, and I have communicated this information to our students through school announcements since the first day of school.

In order to further enrich our middle school student experience, we will split some of our schoolwide assemblies into High School and Middle School in order to provide a unique assembly experience for your children. We will use the newly formed Archon Middle School Leadership Team to plan and execute these assemblies. We hope these changes will provide a richer and more focused middle school experience for our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

As you have heard from Ms. Chaney's weekly letters, the Scottsdale Prep Leadership Team has adopted a Thematic Goal for the 2018-2019 school year: *Habituating Virtue for The Sake of Community*. The defining objectives of the Thematic Goal are: **Comportment**, Stewardship, Inspiration, Conversation, and Preparedness. Each member of the faculty was selected to serve in a "House" that supported one of the five defining objectives. My message today will focus on **Comportment**. The purpose of the Comportment Objective is to heighten student awareness to maintaining and organizing their personal items and academic materials at all times. For middle school students, this objective can be extremely difficult, but we would like to eliminate 100% of textbooks and materials left in the common areas of our school with the goal of instilling greater pride in our physical facility. Our administrative team members are observing the common areas for cleanliness, and our teachers are ensuring students leave the common areas properly clean and commending students for compliance. The students are actively eliminating textbooks and materials without prompting. In the eighth week of the school year, we are not at 100% elimination of textbooks and materials from the common areas but our campus is noticeably cleaner and more organized than last year! We will continue to strive for our Comportment Defining Objective. I look forward to sharing the other defining objectives as the months unfold. Please feel free to contact me with any middle school questions or concerns.

Respectfully yours,

Rich Gale