



SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A Great Hearts Academy

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March 28, 2019

Dear High School Families,

The Senior Thesis defenses have begun! There may not be a higher joy for a teacher than to watch students, who for more than 4 years, have struggled and wrestled with the Great Conversation in and out of class, and then for one hour after school they brilliantly, cogently, and confidently defend their argument in front of three adults. Listening to students think out loud, refer to books and ideas from years past, incorporate arguments on the fly, and continuously go back to their own thoughts and writing is such a positive demonstration of their growth and hard work. If you have the time to come and watch a defense in action, I would encourage you to do so.

“The best preparation for tomorrow is to do today’s work well.”

For those who are not seniors, please accept my encouragement that doing your best today will make tomorrow better. If you are nervous about the Senior Defense, prepare for it by doing a little more today. Develop just a little bit more courage, a little bit more wisdom, a little bit more self-control today, and in a week you will have far more than when you started. And after a year (or three), you will have more than you ever thought possible, so long as you make it a habit to develop just a little bit more each day.

Students, thank you for your hard work each day. Thank you for your preparation, your goodwill, and your curiosity. Please continue to develop them so that both tomorrow and today will see you at your best.

Kind regards,

Brett Gilfillan

High School Assistant Headmaster