



## SCOTTSDALE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

### A Great Hearts Academy

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September 5, 2019

Dear High School families,

It humbles me to realize that 1/8 of the school year come and gone. While time moves far more quickly than I wish it would, it is also gratifying to recognize how much time we have left in this school year.

The Freshmen were welcomed into high school with the annual 9<sup>th</sup> grade retreat early in August. When they were asked, during and after the retreat, what their favorite part of it was, some answered the zip-line, others said improv games, many said Ultimate Frisbee with Mr. Neely, and still some more would say the blind maze. But what came up more than any other answer was their joy in getting to know new people. Far more than seeing how much of the school year has passed, I am more humbled by the fact that so many 14 year old students can articulate such an important and beautiful thought.

At the beginning of the school year I asked the high school to consider joining one extra-curricular event throughout the year with a friend. While studies confirm this, I find more convincing the anecdotes of my own students who affirm that being involved after school with friends makes the school experience far more rich.

I am so glad that the Freshmen understood and stated how good it was for them to develop new friendships. I am hopeful that they will continue those friendships throughout their 4 years at Scottsdale Prep. I am eager to see how their peers in high school join with them in friendship on stage, on the field, on the court, in the studio, and in service. I am grateful for the wonderful student body who make this school what it is.

Very best,

Mr. Brett Gilfillan

High School Assistant Headmaster