

## A Message from the Headmaster

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via spe.schoolmessenger.com

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To:Mindy Wie <mwie@archwayscottsdale.org>

# Headmaster Herald



**ARCHWAY CLASSICAL  
ACADEMY SCOTTSDALE**

## **BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION | August 1, 2023**

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Dear Archway Scottsdale Community,

It is a pleasure to write to you in this first installment of the Headmaster Herald. It has been a delightful and energizing two months since starting my new role at Archway Scottsdale on Wednesday, June 7. I began writing this letter last Friday on a folding table and a plastic chair from my new home in Tempe. My wife, Jennifer, my daughter, Elsie, and I then spent the weekend moving into our new place. As I looked around me at our empty rooms, I was reminded by the potential that comes with building something new and the anticipation, joy, challenge, and hope that each new school year brings. This anticipation of a new thing is something that we all share at the beginning of each new school year. Whether you are a new Great Hearts family sending your firstborn to Kindergarten or a veteran family sending your youngest to 5th Grade for their final year at Archway Scottsdale, either way, we are all starting something new.

Much more important than our common circumstance is the common commitment we all share. We share a commitment to a classical vision of education that has withstood the test of time – an education that forms souls rather than merely informs minds. We share a commitment to providing a safe place for our students to study, learn, grow, and form lasting friendships. Most of all, we share a common commitment to your sons and daughters – our students – a common commitment to teaching them how to think rather than what to think, a common concern for what they will do, but a far greater hope for who they will become.

The faculty and staff here at Archway Scottsdale have been working tirelessly this summer to prepare ourselves and our campus for the arrival of our students. Over a third of our faculty and staff have engaged in three and a half weeks of rigorous full-time training and preparation since Monday, July 10. These devoted men and women have spent the last few weeks with our state's brightest minds in the field of education, studying the philosophical underpinnings of Great Hearts, classical curriculum, Exceptional Student Services, Spalding, Singapore Math, and classroom management, to name but a few diverse subjects. They have also spent intentional time building their Teams and cultivating leadership skills so that your sons and daughters can learn with intentionality and joy. This is a significant time commitment when one considers the collegiate credit hours involved in a major or minor in elementary education.

The teachers who are welcoming you and your family to our campus today are scholars and servants who understand the meaning of commitment, and they have dedicated this year to cultivating community partnerships in service to our students. On Wednesday, July 12 and then for a second time on Monday, July 24, I called our faculty to commit to serving our students through May 24, 2024, and I implored anyone who was not sure of their commitment to connect with me as soon as possible. I reminded them that we as adults have a responsibility to complete our discernment processes during the summer prior to the arrival of children on our campus. It is imperative to me that each classroom experience the stability that our students need for a successful elementary education. Some faculty and staff decided that they could not, in good conscience, commit to a full year at Archway Scottsdale, and so they courageously decided to depart, but the vast majority of our faculty and staff chose the even more courageous path of remaining here to dedicate this year to a worthy work. You are my witnesses that I will do everything in my power to make this an excellent place for them, for you, and for your sons and daughters to work, to teach, and to learn.

Let's commit to cultivating a similar level of community partnerships with our teachers. Let's commit to partnering with a new teacher, even when the name on the welcome letter is not a name that we recognize. Let's commit to investing in a new classroom, even when our child's best friend is in the classroom down the hall. Let's commit to being patient in the carpool line during that first interminable week of afternoon pickup and drop off, remembering that the faculty and staff outside the cars are just as eager as we are to move this process along as efficiently as possible. Let's commit to resolving conflicts quickly with one another so that our students can enjoy the benefits of learning in a peaceful community. Let's commit to making the Great-Hearted decision to know, love, and practice that which is true, good, and beautiful, even when it's hard, so that we can raise up a generation of substance that is able to apply their education towards lives of purpose, service, and leadership.

I enjoyed meeting many of you at the Jump into Kinder event on July 31, and I look forward to welcoming all of you to our campus this evening on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. I am also looking forward to speaking with you in detail regarding our thematic goal for the coming school year during our three curriculum nights on August 15, 22, and 24. I am grateful for the opportunity to partner with you as the primary educators of your children, and I am honored by the sacred trust that you have given to us through that partnership here at Archway Scottsdale.

Anthony Sciubba, Ph.D.  
Headmaster, Archway Classical Academy, Scottsdale



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