

Dear Avail Parents,

As you likely know, Avail Academy K-12 implements a faith and learning process called "Teaching for Transformation". The aim of this process is to connect faith to learning in authentic, deep ways that help students not only understand the world from a Christian perspective, but actively participate in the building of Christ's Kingdom.

One of the key ways we connect with students in this process is through the language of Throughlines. These action-oriented words--community-building, beauty-creating, idolatry-discerning, God-worshipping, earth-keeping, justice-seeking, creation-enjoying, servant-working, image-reflecting, and order-discovering--teach us to act. They remind us that these are the attributes and actions of Kingdom citizens.

Each year we see evidence in our students of the value in this process, as students articulate the ways they are "Seeing the Story" and "Living the Story" as servants in God's world.

Each year we are intrigued to hear how each individual student latches onto various Throughlines, according to the uniquely created and gifted person God has made them to be. Some identify themselves with order-discovering, some with creation-enjoying, others with justice-seeking. Clearly they begin to identify with a specific role in Christ's kingdom, given the strengths and passions that God has given and is growing in them.

At mid-year, Avail taps into the value of that exercise in preparation for our student/teacher/parent conferences. For these conferences, we use a series of letters (a different one for each grade level) to facilitate the discussion that takes place at these 15-minute conferences. Below is the sequence of letters we use:

- 9th grade: Parent writes a letter to their son or daughter
- 10th grade: Advisor writes a letter to advisee
- 11th grade: Student writes a letter to himself or herself
- 12th grade: A designated peer from the Advisory writes a letter to the student

Our deep hope is that these letters speak truth and life into Avail students as they grow in their understanding of their place in God's story and as they continue to learn to live as a disciple in God's story.

As a parent of a 9th grade student, we invite you to participate in this small but meaningful way. I have included two documents that give a brief description of the Throughlines. A short version of the Throughlines can be found [here](#). The other is lengthier and includes supportive scripture. You can find that [here](#). We would like you to write a short letter addressed to your son or daughter that describes the one or two Throughlines that you see most prevalent at this point in his or her life. **Please send that back to me by Monday, February 1 (if you signed up for a Feb. 2 conference) or Monday, February 8 (if you signed up for a Feb. 9 conference).** We hope that this will be a good place to begin our conference. We hope that this gives you an opportunity to speak words of life into your son

or daughter and encourage him or her in their walk as Christ's disciple, especially as it relates to their calling as a student at this stage of their life.

If you have any questions, please feel free to respond to this email. We look forward to God's blessings as we come together at the conference.

Blessings,

Mr. Schaap