



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hello all,

Carrots and sticks. I've ridden a horse once, and I don't think I've ever been in a horse or mule drawn carriage. And yet, the metaphor of carrots and sticks has been one I've used repeatedly to understand and help my students understand many aspects of high school life. I suppose this makes sense, like most people, our students are motivated by positive and negative consequences.

What are those positive and negative consequences in an academic setting. Grades come to mind. Maybe, the desire for a good grade (however, the individual student defines it) motivates a student. At least in my personal experience, grades served as negative motivators; the fear of a poor grade motivated me to read, study, write, and complete my projects. Grades based motivation, however, runs counter to a true understanding of scholarship.

I was a "good" high school student by most metrics. I earned relatively high grades. I felt as though I had the respect of the faculty. I was not, however, a scholar. There were moments throughout my high school tenure where I enjoyed learning, but largely my adolescent focus was on earning high marks. I didn't feel like a scholar until my junior year at Mizzou. I was writing a paper for one of my English literature classes and I had a choice to make. I could either take the safe route and write the paper based on what I thought my professor wanted, or I could pursue an idea I was interested in, but one that was only related to the assignment tangentially. I recognized that the latter option was riskier, but at the same time I didn't care. I wanted to pursue the tangential idea, and I was willing to accept a lower grade to satisfy that pursuit.

Learning itself—the joy and wonder of discovery—had become the carrot, and I no longer needed the stick of grades. In all of my formal schooling since this revelation, the grades have followed. Once grades stopped being a motivating factor in my personal learning and true scholarship governed my choices, the high grades became much easier to attain. I've tried on countless occasions to pass this wisdom down to my students. Unfortunately, I'm afraid it is a lesson only experience can teach.

Here's to all of our students learning it sooner rather than latter,

Dominic D'Urso



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Upcoming Events

October 31

Winter Sports Start
Costume Contest
Pumpkin Decorating Contest

November 1

All School Mass: As always, everyone is welcome.

Duchesne Reads: The second meeting of our parent book club will cover Part III of *The Price You Pay for College* (Chapters 9-20). Even if you did not come to the first book club, you are welcome to come to the second. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to [Dana Bryan](#).

November 1 & 3

District Soccer: The district soccer games will be held at Winfield. Our first game is 11/1 at 4:00. If we win that game, we will play again on 11/3 at 5:00.

November 4

District Football: Our first game in districts will be a home game at 7:00

November 5 & 6

Fall Play: Duchesne Performing Arts proudly presents *The Curious Savage*, with performances at 7:00 on Saturday night and a 4:00 matinee on Sunday. The dates for the fall play changed again, to allow everyone an opportunity to attend both the play and the District Football game.

November 9

Grandparents Day: This day is one of our favorite traditions. Grandparents and Honorary Grandparents are invited to spend the morning with their grandchildren at Duchesne. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by 10/31. See our flyer for more information: [Grandparents Day](#)

November 10

Sophomore Retreat: The Sophomore Retreat will be held at St. Peter's Church in St. Charles, a short distance from Duchesne. Due to bus shortages, we are asking families to arrange rides to and from the retreat. Please see Mrs. Broyles email for more information.



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November 12

District Choir Concert: 6 of our students (Dianne Collins, Charles Owen, Lucy Dwyer, Violent Schneider, Genevieve Moeller, and Grace Kelly) are singing in the district choir concert at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on UMSL's campus. The concert is at 4:30 and is free of charge. Anyone may attend, so get there early if you would like a good seat.

November 21-25

Thanksgiving Break: We have all of Thanksgiving week off. We hope you enjoy that time with your friends and families.

