



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hello all,

This week we hosted our second parent book club and discussed the middle portion of Ron Lieber's *The Price You Pay for College*. Lieber addresses a variety of elements that go into our broad conceptions of "college," from the learning that happens in the classroom to the leisure time students spend on lazy rivers (apparently Mizzou has one). His assessment of learning in college classrooms is disheartening.

To address the issue of learning, Lieber starts with a number of testimonials that can be best summarized by a Northwestern professor: "Most of the rewards a professor can receive are for research success. Professors gain little—not salary, not free time, or promotion—by becoming better teachers. They gain all of these things by becoming better researchers." These words described my own experience as a graduate assistant at Iowa State. Lieber then included some conclusions drawn from *Academically Adrift*, a study done by two sociologists. In a survey of over 2,000 college students less than half had taken a course the previous semester that required both 40 pages a week of reading and over 20 pages of written work. A full quarter of the students responding had not been asked to do either. With the standard caveat that correlation does not mean causation, I think it is fair to wonder if these two trends in higher education are linked. If professors, adjuncts, and graduate assistants are not being evaluated on their teaching, there is at the very least, an incentive structure designed to assign fewer pages and fewer papers.

I recognize that the above may sound like English major problems, but time and again, when colleges ask future employers what they want from graduates, the answer involves critical thinking and writing skills. So, what's to be done? College tour guides are going to emphasize how safe they feel on campus and everything the school does to make freshmen year comfortable. We do much the same thing with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Safety is undoubtedly important. Students cannot learn unless they feel safe. Lazy rivers, on the other hand, have a smaller educational impact. After you see the climbing wall and the student union, Ron Lieber encourages you to ask your guide how challenging their classes are and how many hours they spend studying. Those answers may tell you everything you need to know about a campus and its scholarship.

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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Upcoming Events

- 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.
- 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. 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. **Sophomores need to turn their permission forms in by Monday, the 7th.**
- November 12 **Quarterfinal Soccer:** Our boys soccer team won districts on Thursday night. The state quarterfinal game will be held at Borgia High School, noon kickoff.
- 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 18 **All School Mass:** Our next all school mass is in celebration of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne's feast day. All are welcome.



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November 21-25

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

November 30

Power Hour: The faculty will not have formal professional development. Instead, they will be in their classrooms and available to our students as we approach the end of the quarter.

December 8

All School Mass

December 13

All School Mass/Reading Day

December 14,15, & 16

Final Exams

