



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hi all,

Over the last few weeks, I've found myself in a number of different conversations with our faculty and students about generative AI. Those conversations tended to fall into one of two categories. The first category involves immediate concerns: a student using AI to complete an assignment. The second category rang a more philosophical note. What are the broader implications of AI and how will AI change the way our students think?

The large language model artificial intelligence, the type of AI that can "write" birthday cards or essays about *The Great Gatsby*, is still in its infancy. As teachers have tried to come to terms with the new technology, one of the first and most appropriate analogies is to the calculator. The calculator is a great tool, and one I've been using frequently over the last few weeks. As many of you know, Duchesne is in the middle of a strategic planning process. Part of that process involves gathering and analyzing data. For my part, I've used the calculator to help me compute the raw data and come up with things like: the percentage of teachers with advanced degrees, or the percentage of teachers that are alums. The calculator did that computational "thinking" for me, allowing me the time to critically think about what the information means.

When I was in grade school, I learned how to do all that computational thinking. I learned long division and how to figure out percentages by hand. Now, the calculator does that for me. When we use the calculator in the classroom, the hope is that the computational thinking done by the machine will allow the students the time and space for higher order thinking. When we see teachers attempting to use generative AI in the classroom, they are trying to accomplish the same goal. Those teachers are asking students to cite AI in their papers, and then comment on the AI responses. This approach aims to cut down the academically dishonest use of AI, while also prompting students to critically evaluate sources.

The introduction of the calculator changed the way we think. Generative AI is bound to do the same. How does our thinking change when we allow technology to do our writing for us? Writing and thinking are linked. We want our students to write professionally and clearly. We want them to be able to communicate complicated ideas with nuance and conviction. These are tasks that AI is getting increasingly better at. We also want our students to see writing as a way to think, as a way to work out difficult problems. When we give over this type of thinking to generative AI, we must consider what we will be losing. How is this new technology changing the way we think? And what will that look like in 5, 10, 15 years?

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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Upcoming Events

- October 16 **Faculty Inservice:** The students will not have school on the 16th.
Senior Night!: Both Volleyball (@ 5:00) and Soccer (@ 6:00) will celebrate their senior nights.
- October 16 & 17 **Golf State:** Congratulations to the Girls Golf team who won their district and will be competing in the state tournament on Monday and Tuesday.
- October 19, 21, 22 **Fall Play:** Duchesne Performing Arts proudly presents *The Young, the Bold, and the Murdered*, with performances at 7:00 on Thursday and Saturday Nights and a 4:00 matinee on Sunday.
- October 20 **Home Football**
- October 23 **Home Soccer**
- October 24 **Home Soccer**
- October 25 **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** Teachers will be available to meet with parents from 3:00-4:30 and again from 5:15-6:30. Those meetings will take place in the PAC; there is no need to RSVP.
- October 27 **Pizza Lunch:** The cafeteria will be closed on Friday. Students can order a pizza lunch in advance to support the Senior Finale. Students are also welcome to bring a bag lunch.
- October 29 **Open House:** The school will be open to prospective students and families. Many of our current students and parents will be on campus to give tours and answer questions.
- October 30 **No School**



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November 1

All School Mass: We will have an all school mass to celebrate All Saints Day. **We will not have a late start on Wednesday**, to accommodate the mass schedule. As usual all of our families are welcome to attend.

November 4

District Choir Concert: 7 of our students (Grace Kelly, Trinitee Rainey, Alejandro McAndrews, Michale Weber, Gabi Ulrich, Hannah Rimmey, and Amanda Bronner) 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.

