



# DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

*shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit*

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Hello all,

I've been thinking about the word "awesome" lately. I seem to remember my high school instructors in the early 90s chiding us for the overuse, and at times abuse, of the word. There was an attempt by the adults at Duchesne to reclaim the word and restore it to its spiritual roots. The Oxford English Dictionary's first definition of "awesome" somewhat surprisingly uses the word in the definition: "arousing or inspiring awe; that fills someone with reverential fear, wonder, or respect." I think it was the reverential quality of fear, wonder, and respect that my teachers were emphasizing. To their point, no matter how many times I said they were awesome, Taco Bell tacos never really inspired reverential fear.

In college, I was reminded of those discussions while studying the British Romantics and their American counterparts, the Transcendentalists. For these poets, the "sublime" was something the human mind could not fully comprehend. For the first time, what my high school teachers were saying about the "awesome" made sense. In "Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey," William Wordsworth ruminates on the lasting impact of nature. When we are weary with the busyness with our lives and "the din/ Of towns and cities" memories of experiences in nature can bring "sensations sweet,/ Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart." He also notes that these memories can do something else, provide a "gift,/ Of aspect more sublime; that blessed mood.../In which the heavy and weary weight/ Of all this unintelligible world,/ Is lightened."

The sublime and the memories of the sublime can lighten the burdens of our hectic world. I'm convinced that is why oceans are popular vacation destinations. The vastness of them makes literal the notion of the sublime (that which cannot be fully comprehended by the mind). I most frequently get that sensation when I go to the mountains. Over the break, Amy and I went to Rocky Mountain National Park. Since then I've been returning to a memory that I hope to never lose. Two bighorn rams were grazing in a valley. I had never seen them in the wild before, and to see them against the backdrop of the Rockies was certainly awesome.

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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## Upcoming Events

- March 24      **Junior Retreat:** Boys will need to be at school by 8:15. Girls will need to be at St. Cletus by 8:15. Please see the email from Mrs. Broyles for more detailed information.
- March 27      **Home Girls Soccer:** The first home match of the season will kick off at 6:00.
- March 27      **Home Tennis, Volleyball, and Baseball:** The baseball game will be at Blanchette Park.
- March 28      **ACT & Pre ACT Testing:** Our freshmen and sophomores will take a practice ACT. Our juniors will take the ACT. Seniors do not have school on the 28. For our 9th through 11th graders, school will begin at the usual time and end around noon. Students should report directly to their testing rooms.
- March 30      **Reconciliation Services:** Students will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on Thursday. A number of priests will be joining us on campus.
- March 30      **Home Volleyball and Soccer**
- March 31      **Home Tennis and Baseball:** The baseball game will be at Blanchette.
- April 1      **Science Olympiad State Championship:** Emily Rattini and Ailsa Ide will be competing in the Science Olympiad State Championship at Missouri State University.
- April 4      **Home Volleyball, Soccer, and Baseball (BMAC)**
- April 5      **Home Tennis, Soccer, and Baseball (Doubleheader @ BMAC)**
- April 6      **Half Day:** Classes will dismiss at 12:05 for the start of Easter Break. We will return to classes on April 11th.



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## Senior Graduation Information

May 16

**Baccalaureate Mass:** The Baccalaureate Mass is the last mass the seniors will celebrate as a class. It is also the kick-off to graduation week. The mass will be held at St. Peter's Church in St. Charles. It will start at 6:00. We will have an awards ceremony immediately following mass. Doors will open at 5:30

May 17

**Graduation Practice:** All graduates need to be in the PAC by 9:45 a.m. for graduation practice. We will not start practice until everyone gets to school.

May 18

**Graduation:** The ceremony begins at 6:00. Graduates should arrive to school and be in the PAC by 5:30. The doors to the Ted Yeater Athletic Center will also open at 5:30 for the friends and families of our graduates. Each graduate will get 8 tickets (4 preferred seating, 4 general admission) to the ceremony at graduation practice on the 17th. If families would like more tickets, please let us know. For more details on graduation, please see the email from Mrs. Turner