



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hi all,

How are your New Year's resolutions working out? One of our early faculty lunch conversations revolved around personal goals for 2024, from the simple (I'm going to walk my dog every afternoon) to the intense (3 workouts a day, ice baths, starvation diets, etc.). As you would expect from a group of educators, the conversation turned from the specifics of resolutions to the reasons behind them. Why do we make them, if not to instill in us healthy habits? A good resolution then is one that can eventually move out of the realm of experimentation and into the everyday.

I've never given "New Year's Resolutions" too much thought, in part because the holiday falls at the midpoint of my year. But I recognize the value in reflecting on our practices and habits, and adjusting accordingly. Prior to Christmas, Amy and I were doing some last minute shopping at Left Bank Books. I came across two titles that caught my eye and reminded me of how little reading I've been doing recently. The first was Emily Wilson's new translation of [The Iliad](#), and the other was Walter Isaacson's biography of [Leonardo di Vinci](#). Both writers have been on my long list of authors for a while, and seeing these works reminded me that I haven't been setting aside time for personal reading. So I recommitted. The time I spent reading over break reminded me of how much I enjoy it.

My spring semester at Notre Dame starts on Tuesday, so we'll see how long I can stay with my reading project. For now, it's going really well. I've particularly taken to the Wilson translation. Five years ago, her translation of *The Odyssey* was the talk of the literary world. The reviews I read all talked about how contemporary she made the ancient text sound without diminishing the grandeur of the tale. Of all of the classic epics, *The Odyssey* has always been my favorite (maybe that's because Odysseus is a short hero), and I have been excited to read this new translation. When I saw that Wilson had translated *The Iliad* as well, I suddenly felt like I was falling behind.

Over break I started catching up, and I have not been disappointed. I read Wilson's introduction and the first four books. The translation is everything the reviewers of *The Odyssey* said it would be: quickly paced and visceral while communicating the stakes and feeling like an epic. Her love for the subject is also on full display. But more on that later.

Here's to healthy habits and a Happy New Year,

Dominic D'Urso



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Announcements

- January 12 **Basketball Quadrupleheader:** All four basketball teams play at home. The afternoon starts with both the JV and Varsity girls teams. The evening follows with the JV and Varsity boys.
- January 12 & 13 **Wrestling Meet:** The Pioneer wrestlers are competing at St. Charles West on Friday and Saturday.
- January 15 **No School:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 17 **Basketball Tripleheader:** The afternoon starts with the Varsity girls team. The evening follows with the JV and Varsity boys.
- January 18 **All School Mass:** Our first all school mass of the semester. Everyone is welcome to attend.
Girls Swim: Our girls are swimming at the St. Charles YMCA.
- January 20 **Science Olympiad:** The regional competition will be held at Lindenwood University.
Robotics: Duchesne will host a robotics competition in our gym.
- January 23 **Basketball Quadrupleheader:** All four of our basketball teams will be competing at home. The afternoon starts with our JV teams. The evening follows with our varsity teams.
- January 26 **Coronation Game:** The varsity game tips off at 7:00.
Wrestling Meet: The Pioneer wrestlers are competing at St. Charles West.
- January 27 **Coronation Dance**
- February 2 **Home Boys Basketball**