



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hi all,

Last week a good friend of mine, and former Duchesne teacher, sent me a recent column by David Brooks. You can find it here: "[How to Save a Sad, Lonely, Angry, and Mean Society](#)." If you've read Brooks before, you know he can be a bit much. For example, here is how he identifies the essential problem: "College students are fleeing the humanities for the computer sciences, having apparently decided that a professional leg up is more important than the state of their souls." I can imagine quite a few computer scientists taking exception to that framing. My college roommate, for example, majored in Math and is now an actuary, and as far as I can tell, his soul is doing just fine.

The heart of Brooks's argument, however, shouldn't be quickly dismissed. To more eloquently state his point, he quotes Toni Morrison, "Like Frederick Douglass talking about his grandmother, and James Baldwin talking about his father, and Simone de Beauvoir talking about her mother, these people are my access to me; they are my entrance into my own interior life." Morrison, as usual, is exactly right. Great art works because it grants us access to ourselves and to those around us. We understand the world better when we see it through the eyes of others.

Such understanding gets lost when the singular focus of education is career placement. While Brooks approaches the question hyperbolically, it is still worth asking. To what extent is education (either at the secondary or collegiate level) job training? I hear students all of the time talk about getting their "general education" credits out of the way. Ugh. Like Brooks, I agree that undergraduate classes in philosophy, art history, and literature should be encouraged, and not dismissed as "gen ed" nuisances. At the same time, I would also hate to see a student of History be excused from math or science courses. Even though I majored in English, my classes in chemistry, calculus, geology, and sociology were essential to shaping my understanding of the world.

Duchesne, of course, believes in a well rounded education. Not only is it our mission to educate students in mind, body, and spirit, but essential to that education is ensuring that our students experience a wide variety of disciplines. At Coronation, I spoke with a recent graduate about his experiences at Missouri S&T. Naturally enough he is in Rolla to study engineering. He, however, wanted to tell me about his history classes and the opportunity he had to minor in the field. I was thrilled. Not only is he carrying forth some of the most essential lessons learned at Duchesne, he is also building a more interesting resume. Not bad for job training and placement!

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Announcements

- February 12 **Freshmen Registration Night:** We welcome the class of 2028. For the first time, they will come together as a class to meet one another and register for the next school year.
- February 14 **Ash Wednesday/All School Mass/No Late Start:** Our next all school mass will be on Ash Wednesday. To accommodate the mass, we will have a normal 7:45 start time. As usual, all of our families are welcome to attend.
- February 15 **Home Girls Basketball**
- February 16 **No Classes:** The faculty will have our annual retreat on the 16th. We will not have classes, please pray for us.
- February 18 **Home Boys Basketball**
- February 18 **No School:** President's Day
- February 20 **District Basketball:** The district basketball tournament begins this week for both our boys and girls teams. We will be hosting the boys tournament.
- February 26 **NCAA Eligibility Program:** A representative from the NCAA will be on campus to help families whose children are interested in playing collegiate sports. Please see the flyer from Mrs. Grass for more information.