



# DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

*shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit*

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Hi all,

Last week I wrote about Etty Hillesum. The second philosopher David Brooks discusses in "[The Feminine Way to Wisdom: Etty Hillesum, Edith Stein, and Simone Weil](#)" might be a little more familiar to some of us. Edith Stein is one of those names that, at least for me, circled the periphery of my education. I was vaguely aware of the name, but had never read her or any serious treatments of her work. Like with the other two, Brooks is primarily concerned with Stein's ability to pay attention to her world, and how that attention shaped her worldview.

Stein was a gifted student of philosophy, studying phenomenology under the tutelage of Edmund Husserl. He taught Stein to "receive the world directly, with a humble, reflective attentiveness" and she built on his teachings, exploring "how people can project an empathetic gaze onto the people around them." Ultimately Stein concludes that, "Only the individual who experiences himself as a person, as an integrated whole, is capable of understanding other persons." Husserl's ideas are abstract: Throw off prejudice and be attentive with your whole self. They are principles about how to interact with the world. Stein takes those ideas and shows how to apply them. We should start by knowing and being secure with ourselves. Personal insecurities prevent one from seeing others as they truly are, because when we are caught up in our own insecurities we project our fears and doubts on the people we encounter.

Stein's practiced ability to see others for who they are lead to her to Catholicism. As a student she visited a German widow. The widow's husband was killed in World War I and the widow was convinced that she would see her husband again upon her own death. Stein wrote of this visit: "This was my first encounter with the Cross and the divine power it imparts to those who bear it...For the first time I was seeing with my very eyes the Church, born from her Redeemer's sufferings, triumphant over the sting of death. It was the moment when my unbelief collapsed and Christ began to shine his light upon me." Stein's practice of really seeing others coupled with encountering various people of faith lead to her conversion She eventually became a Carmelite nun, taking the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

As a Catholic and a Carmelite, Stein was deeply concerned about the rise of Hitler and what that meant for the Jewish people. She begged the pope to intercede. When the Nazis came for all the Jews who had converted to Catholicism, Stein was sent to her death in Auschwitz. In the camps, Stein's attentiveness and empathy marked her as unique. Accounts from survivors note that, "There was a spirit of indescribable misery in the camp; the new prisoners, especially, suffered from extreme anxiety. Edith Stein went among the women like an angel comforting, helping, and consoling them." In the face of terror and death, Stein put into practice the abstract principles of attentiveness and empathy. She could give others what they needed because she could truly see them.

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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## Upcoming Events

- September 29      **Homecoming:** Our pep rally will be at 2:00 and will include an introduction of our Homecoming court. The game begins at 7:00. The Homecoming court will also be introduced during halftime of the game. As usual, all of our families are welcome to attend both events.
- September 30      **Homecoming Dance:** The doors will open at 7:00 with the ceremony starting at 7:30. The dance will follow the ceremony and end at 9:30. Students attending the dance are required to stay until 9:00.
- October 2      **District Tennis Semi-Finals:** The semi-finals will be played at Duchesne.
- October 3      **District Tennis Finals:** If we advance to the finals, they will be played at Duchesne.
- October 3      **Dress Down Day:** Students can pay \$3 to dress down on Tuesday to support the Senior Finale.
- October 4      **Power Hour**
- October 6      **2003 Soccer State Championship Reunion/Swiftie Night:** On Friday night we will honor the 2003 Boys Soccer State Championship prior to our game with Priory. At halftime, the danceline with over 100 grade-schoolers will perform. It should be a fantastic night. I hope everyone can make it.
- October 9      **Picture Re-Take Day:** Our photographers will be on campus for the students who missed the first picture day and those who are dissatisfied with their pictures.
- October 10      **Home Doubleheader – Volleyball & Soccer**
- October 10      **Blood Drive:** Duchesne will host a blood drive in our PAC from 9:30-1:30. If you would like to donate, contact Mr. Schneider.



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October 12

## **Last Day of Quarter 1**

**All School Mass:** We will celebrate mass as a whole school community on Thursday. All of our families are welcome to attend; we'd love to see you. The mass will not start before 9:45. To ensure that we have enough chairs, please email Robyn Fuchs ([rfuchs@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:rfuchs@duchesne-hs.org)) if you plan to attend.

October 13

**Career Day:** Career Day is a half day of school. Students will start in their Communios at 7:45. From there, they will rotate through a variety of workshops. The morning will conclude with a career fair. More details coming soon.

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 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**