



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hi all,

As I mentioned last week, I've recommitted (not resolved) to personal reading and have been thoroughly enjoying Emily Wilson's new translation of *The Iliad*. Before I opened the poem, I read Wilson's introductory essays. The "Translator's Note" indicated that her rendition of the poem might be special. Translator's notes are common in translated texts and do exactly what you would expect. Wilson's addresses the typical challenges of rendering into English not only a different language, but a different alphabet. She focuses her attention on the Greek use of simile and defends her choice to use more lines than the original to capture the essence of the epic.

What impressed me the most, however, was her reason for translating in the first place. In the first paragraph of her note, she writes: "I first began reading Homer in high school, early in my study of ancient Greek. I liked *The Odyssey*, but I loved *The Iliad* with a passionate devotion. I have now lived with this poem for some thirty-five years—reading it, teaching it in the original and in various translations, and, now, rendering it into English. For the past six years, I have worked intensively on this translation. But even now, when I turn back to lines I have read hundreds of times already, I find that the raw power of the Greek still startles me, like Athena suddenly tugging Achilles by the hair to stop him in his tracks. Often, I am unable to read without goose bumps, tears, or both."

Many of us get into secondary teaching for exactly this reason. We encounter something in adolescence that changes us, and then we pursue that life altering event, trying to better understand it. Eventually we get to a point where we feel compelled to share what we know. Wilson has been reading *The Iliad* for three decades both in the original and in various translations, and yet, the lines of the epic continue to generate in her extreme emotions. How could she not want to share such an important work with as many people as possible?

Ask a teacher about this type of experience and he or she will likely tell you a similar story. Much of our work requires us to complete less than inspiring tasks (writing curricula, filling out goal planning forms, even grading papers), but we complete those necessities so that we can share with our students those life changing events. For me it's not *The Iliad*, but Alyosha kissing his brother, or Paul D defining love, or Hal telling Falstaff "I do; I will."

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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Announcements

January 20

Science Olympiad: The regional competition will be held at Lindenwood University.

Robotics: Duchesne will host a robotics competition in our gym.

January 22

Spirit Week Begins: In preparation for Coronation, the week will feature numerous dress down/up opportunities and events.

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 24

Zero Hour Study Hall: Our study hall for students holding two Ds or an F begins this week. The study hall starts at 8:00. Consequences for being late to the study hall will be similar to those for being late to school. Please see Mrs. Turner's email for details.

January 26

Coronation Basketball Game: Our pep rally will be held at 2:00 and will include an introduction of the Coronation court. The game begins at 7:00. The Coronation court will also be introduced between the JV and varsity game. As usual, all of our families are welcome to attend.

Wrestling Meet: The Pioneer wrestlers are competing at St. Charles West.

January 27

Coronation Dance: The doors will open at 6:30 with the ceremony starting at 7:00. The dance will follow the ceremony and end at 9:30. Students attending the dance are required to stay until 9:00.

February 2

Home Boys Basketball



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February 7

National Signing Day: We are inviting all seniors who plan on signing a national letter of intent (and their families) to a reception on Wednesday morning at 8:30. Please see the letter from Paul Boschert for more details. Also, if you plan to attend, please RSVP to Paul by 2:00 on February 2nd.

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.

