



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hi all,

Last week a student asked me for my favorite movie. When I get these types of questions, especially from students, I always feel like I've disappointed the questioner. *Avengers: End Game*, *The Godfather*, *Arrival*, *Get Out*, and *Little Women* are all movies that come to mind. And each of these are movies I unabashedly love, but are they my favorites? When students ask these types of questions, they are trying to get to know us, and the movies listed reveal different aspects of my personality. And yet, instead of simply answering, I'm always inclined to explain.

My affection for movies, and so many other works of art, rests in a combination of the quality of the work and the personal context of experiencing it. Take *Avengers* and *Little Women* for example. I'm a comic book nerd and have really enjoyed the way Marvel brought those characters to the big screen. When I'm ironing clothes on a Sunday afternoon, there isn't a better movie to rewatch than *End Game*. *Little Women*, on the other hand, is much more personal. My wife and I saw that movie together one Christmas. It was a fantastic part of a nearly perfect day, and it is a movie we revisit over the holidays. If you have an obvious answer to the favorite movie question, maybe think about music. Another question students frequently ask is: What type of music do you like? My answer is always, "good music." I like a number of different genres and my preference at any given moment depends on the context. Am I going for a walk? Grading papers?

These "favorite fill-in-the-blank" questions are also skewed by my profession. I tend to view most works of art through a classroom lens. In this sense I certainly have favorite moments that I eagerly anticipate each year: Ivan's returning the ticket or Alyosha's temptation in *The Brothers Karamazov*, Hal telling Falstaff "I do, I will" in *Henry IV*, and Sethe's baptism in *Beloved*, are just a few. These moments are great in and of themselves, but they become favorites because I get to share them with our students and, in a way, re-experience them for the first time. This desire to share our favorite moments with students is a common trait among teachers and one of the primary reasons we entered the profession.

Maybe the "favorite movie" question is best interpreted as what do you love about movies. That is much easier. Creative individuals working together to tell larger than life stories that both help me better understand myself and help me better understand others. For my money, Martin Scorsese is one of the best at pulling off this movie magic. On Friday, he releases *Killers of the Flower Moon* starring Leonardo DiCaprio and based on source material that Mr. Kilper tells me is excellent. I can't wait. While obviously not my favorite, it is certainly my most anticipated, and maybe next week at this time I'll have that obvious go-to answer.

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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Upcoming Events

October 19, 21, 22

Fall Play: Speaking of creative individuals working together to tell a larger than life story, 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

October 23

Home Soccer

October 24

Home Soccer

October 25

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Teachers will be available to meet with parents from 3:00-4:30 and again from 5:15-6:30. Those meetings will take place in the PAC; there is no need to RSVP.

October 27

Pizza Lunch: The cafeteria will be closed on Friday. Students can order a pizza lunch in advance to support the Senior Finale. Students are also welcome to bring a bag lunch.

October 29

Open House: The school will be open to prospective students and families. Many of our current students and parents will be on campus to give tours and answer questions.

October 30

No School

November 1

All School Mass: We will have an all school mass to celebrate All Saints Day. **We will not have a late start on Wednesday** to accommodate the mass schedule. As usual all of our families are welcome to attend.



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November 4

District Choir Concert: 7 of our students (Grace Kelly, Trinitee Rainey, Alejandro McAndrews, Michale Weber, Gabi Ulrich, Hannah Rimmey, and Amanda Bronner) are singing in the district choir concert at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on UMSL's campus. The concert is at 4:30 and is free of charge. Anyone may attend, so get there early if you would like a good seat.

November 8

Grandparents Day: This day is one of our favorite traditions. Grandparents and Honorary Grandparents are invited to spend the morning with their grandchildren at Duchesne. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by 10/31: [Grandparents Day](#)

