



# DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

*shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit*

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Hi all,

Do you remember the first time you heard about Platonic Ideals? For me, it was either in my senior literature class with Mr. Clark, or one of my first college English classes at Mizzou. While I may not remember exactly when or where I first encountered the concept, I do remember being fascinated by it. As a quick refresher course, [David Macintosh in Philosophy Now](#) sums up Plato's theory nicely: "What was obvious to many of the early Greek philosophers was that we live in a world which is not an easy source of truth, ie, eternal, unchanging knowledge...Because the material world is changeable it is also unreliable...Behind this unreliable world of appearances is a world of permanence and reliability...the world of 'Forms.'"

When I first learned about the idea, it was taught to me in relation to craftsmanship. When a craftsman is making a chair, a table, a house, or even a TV, he or she is making a material chair, table, house or TV that will at some point decay, fall apart, or break. The execution of the craft, however, is happening with the Platonic forms of a table or TV in mind. Take TVs for example. The one in my house is very different, both in form and function, from the ones we had when I was a kid. And it is a far cry from the TVs my parents first had in their houses. One might say that we, as a society, are getting closer to the Platonic ideal of a TV.

What first caught my attention about the idea and what continues to fascinate me, isn't the creation of the perfect table, but the notion of human perfection. For example, I am a huge Roger Federer fan. If you've followed tennis over the last decade, you know that there had been a huge debate over who was the GOAT in the men's game. Federer had his proponents, Rafael Nadal had his, and a smaller group advocated for Novak Djokovic. For many, the debate is largely settled in Djokovic's favor; he's won about everything there is to win. For me, however, Federer is still the GOAT, and my whole argument rests on Platonic notions. If you watched Federer play at his peak during the mid to late aughts, it's hard to argue with the fact that he was as close to the Platonic ideal of a tennis player as one could get.

Platonic ideals in terms of human characteristics are endlessly fascinating. If Federer represents the ideal tennis player, who or what represents the ideal teacher, mentor, or friend? And if you can settle on an ideal, how do you move from where you are to an approximation of that ultimate perfection? Like I said, endlessly fascinating.

Sincerely,

Dominic D'Urso



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## Upcoming Events

October 10

**Half Day:** To facilitate faculty professional development, classes will be dismissed at 12:05. Lunch will not be served. The building will remain open, if students need to wait for a ride. The 10th is also the last day that classes will meet before the end of the first quarter.

### Home Volleyball and Soccer

October 11

**Career Day/Half 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. For additional details, please see Mrs. Grass's note in this month's Parent Newsletter. Lunch will not be served.



October 14

### Home Football

No School



### Home Soccer



October 16

### Home Volleyball

October 18

### 1994 Soccer State Championship Reunion/Swiftie Night:

On Friday night we will honor the 1994 Boys Soccer State Championship prior to our game. At halftime, the Diamondline will perform with over 100 grade-schoolers. It should be a fantastic night. I hope everyone can make it.

October 22

**Pioneer Reads:** Our Book Club will meet at 6:30 to discuss Part 3 of *The Anxious Generation*. All are welcome.

October 23

### Home Soccer

October 24

**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 (main entrance); there is no need to RSVP.



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October 25

**Home Football**

October 27

**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 28

**No School**

October 30

**Grandparents Day:** Please see the invitation mailed out by our advancement office. RSVP by the 25th.

November 1

**All School Mass:** As usual, all of our families are invited to attend.

November 25-29

Thanksgiving Break

December 18-20

First Semester Finals

Dec 23-Jan 3

Christmas Break

January 6

First Day of Second Semester/Half Day

## Looking Ahead (More Details Soon)

