



St. Augustine Academy

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In Memoriam
Mr. Roy S. Rohter, S.F.O.
† 2018
Co-founder
St. Augustine Academy

September 18, 2026

St. Joseph of Cupertino

Dear Families,

This summer was one that was full of literature for my family. *The Odyssey*, *Frankenstein*, *Othello*, *Measure for Measure*, *Coriolanus*, and more were read and frequently discussed in my house. *The Odyssey* was due to the release of the film, *Frankenstein* was due to the school seminar, and the Shakespeare plays were due to a group of teachers who wanted to meet and discuss the plays. The reasons are almost inconsequential- what's more important is that many in my family read and discussed these works, and everyone in the family was subjected to those conversations.

I have lots of opinions on Shakespeare, Christopher Nolan's take on *The Odyssey*, and Mary Shelley's incredible novel, but that's not what I want to write about in this Blue Letter. What I wanted to write about was *why* it's so important to expose your family to good literature and give some good advice on *how* to do it when you have kids spanning the ages. I do intend to spend some time in the future using the Blue Letter to share my humble positions on *The Odyssey* and *Frankenstein*- after which, one of the teachers will let me know why I'm wrong- so stay tuned for that.

First, let me start with some honesty, I have a hard time reading literature during the school year. There's just too much happening: sports practices, kids who need help with homework, chores/cleaning that needs to get done, and just life in general. By the time there's *time* to read during the school year, I'm exhausted. I might be able to muster enough energy to read a chapter, but that's only on a good day. I'll likely get through a book or two during each semester. It's not until Christmas and Summer break hits for my kids that I am able to read with some ferocity, and I tear through novel after novel.

I've had some solid years as a parent to notice the change in conversation between me and my wife during both of those periods. Much of the conversation had between us during the school year is out of necessity. Things like: "Can you pick up [child] from here?", "[Child] is having [issue]. What are your thoughts?", or "This room needs to be repainted, can we start looking at new colors?" After necessity conversations, things will often slip into how our days went and other topical conversations. These are important conversations and necessary for family life, but they are not indicative of what our family or our marriage thrives on.

The conversations that excite us and our children usually revolve around moral decisions, virtue, theological questions, and family history. These conversations almost always tick upwards when Kirstie and I are reading really good literature. Last year, *Giants in the Earth* dominated the dinner table and we discussed questions like 'what do spouses owe each other in the face of extreme adversity?' During *The Odyssey* frenzy, one of the main questions we talked about is what the coming home story is. After reading *Frankenstein*, we discussed questions centered around what Victor owed to his creation and vice versa. These conversations are lively whether we agree with each other or not. If we agree, we spend time building on what one another has to say. If we disagree, it becomes a debate. In either case, there's a classical disputation that takes place that's aimed toward a truth that needs clarity. As I write this, I know my wife will scoff reading this because it sounds like we're scholars. In truth, we are far from it and just sound like a couple of barely literates pointing out obvious truths and likely missing the deeper questions. That's okay with me though, because I've seen the effect it has had on our kids.

As they have gotten older and listened to me and my wife, I have noticed an increasing interest to partake. It starts with them not taking much notice of our conversation, then morphs into a quiet observance. Eventually, they ask a lot of questions about the plot and begin forming their own thoughts and opinions based off the conversation. This will often lead to a greater universalization of the topic at hand so all can participate. When they reach a certain age and understand they can't really fully participate until they've read it themselves, they'll start asking for the book. They have just entered into that phase, but interestingly, it's happened across multiple ages at once.

Some small bits of advice- first, read good and great books. Join *Well-Read Moms* or look up John Senior's *1000 Good Books to Read* if you're unsure of where to start. Read in a common-ish area. When you come across a good passage or something that strikes you, read it out loud. Usually, I start laughing at a passage and my kids will ask me to read the part out loud... then they'll ask why that made me laugh. Discuss central questions about the novel out loud with your spouse or with your kids, and then discuss it with other adults. This will help your kids see it's not just a weird thing between you and your spouse, but it's something expected out of adults. None of this is rocket science nor does it take a great effort. It's simply putting in the time to read and taking an interest in what you're reading.

God Bless, Timothy Moore

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT DRESS CODE- As a reminder, High School Freshmen boys need a white button-down shirt and black dress pants. High School Freshmen girls will need to purchase a choir dress for the performance concerts. They will use this all four years at the school. The dress is a Denise (Style #103)- **Black** Sweetheart Neck, Short Sleeve from Concert Attire:

<https://www.concertattire.com/products/denise-sweetheart-neckline?variant=42365828432041>

GOLF-A-THON KICK-OFF- All SAA Dad's should have gotten an evite, but as a reminder, Mr. Bagdazian is hosting the Golf-A-Thon kick off on September 23! Come hear about the Golf-A-Thon and enjoy a Tri-Tip dinner! Remember to RSVP to Rob Bagdazian through the evite he sent to all SAA Dads.

PSAT- The PSAT is coming up in October! While the date is TBD (mid-October), we wanted to remind 10th and 11th grade parents that students will need to provide their own laptop or iPad to take the test.

Chromebooks will not work for the PSAT.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER-

- Sep 23- Golf-A-Thon Kick-Off
- Sep 25- Progress Reports
- Oct 2- Mass/Early Dismissal
- Oct 8- Lower School Open House
- Oct 12- Well Read Mom's Talk at SAA (See Flyer)
- Oct 12- No School, Columbus Day

ORA PRO NOBIS – *We continue to keep all our friends and family in our prayers! For the repose of the soul of Teresa Woodward, aunt of SAA student, Liberty Lopez. For a successful and joy-filled school year at St. Augustine Academy. For the health of Fr. Paul Donlan. For the health of Kevin Kolbeck and Linda Kern. For the repose of the soul of Paul Scamperle, former SAA parent. We pray for our Pope, our Archbishop, all of our priests and religious, and we pray especially for each other!*