



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL  
EST. 1924

# PIONEER PARENT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER · 2023

# STATE CHAMPIONS!



With a 1-0 win over Bishop DuBourg on November 18, the Duchesne boys soccer team secured its first Class 1 State Championship in 20 years.

## UPCOMING SCHOOL DATES

### December 8

All-School Mass

### December 13 & 14

Musical Auditions

### December 15

All-School Mass /  
Reading Day

### December 18, 19, & 20

Final Exams

### December 21

Christmas Break Begins

### January 4

Second Semester Begins



## From the President's Desk



**Susan Noonan**  
Dukesne President

Dear Pioneer Nation,

Last month, you received a letter from me describing some recent facility updates and an introduction to our annual giving campaign. However, there are many new features at Dukesne!! For example, our new school board of limited jurisdiction has elected its officers. They are:

1. Theresa (Lynch) Ruzicka '78 – Chairperson

2. Dave Romeo '77 – Vice Chairman

3. Matt Johannesman '85 – Treasurer

4. Jack Borgmeyer '97 – Secretary

For more information on our outstanding board, see this link: <https://www.dukesne-hs.org/board-of-directors.html>

Our strategic planning is well underway. Domain chairs have submitted their reports, and we are organizing our training and goal-writing sessions. I cannot thank everyone enough for all their time and dedication to ensure Dukesne will have a vibrant future. With everything happening in the world, shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit has never been more important!

Ms. Becky Williamson, director of advancement, will send a letter next week regarding the Pioneer Fund and reoccurring gifts. Top-achieving advancement programs cover 15% of a school's operating expenses. This year, Dukesne's operating expenses are approximately \$4.9 million.

So what about #iGiveCatholic, the Dukesne Gala, and Fund-a-Need? These programs are vital in providing Dukesne with the necessary funds to support new programs and facility enhancements. This year, the money raised through #iGiveCatholic will go toward a new virtual reality lab, a greenhouse for our newly updated garden area ([link here](#)) a dance studio and changing area, and a new weight room floor.

For Dukesne High School to continue serving our families, the Pioneer Fund, #iGiveCatholic, and Fund-A-Need serve unique and essential functions. Please consider making a monthly reoccurring gift for our Pioneer Fund and participating in our Fund-a-Need at our Gala on February 3. (The 2023 #iGiveCatholic campaign is now closed. Dukesne raised over \$263,000 and set a record for our Archdiocese!)

Dukesne has an incredible community!! We thank you in advance for your generosity, continued support, and prayers.

It truly is a Great Day to be a Pioneer!!

God bless,  
Susan Noonan  
President

## Student of the Month:

### Emily Goodman '24

Congratulations to senior Emily Goodman, our Student of the Month!

Emily spent some time a couple of weeks ago making a special card for a DHS staff member who is battling cancer. She took care to get as many students and faculty to sign it as possible, and included a message that all

at Dukesne are praying for her.

Emily asks often about this staff member, and has expressed many times that she is keeping them in her prayers.

Emily is a great model of living out the love of Christ in everyday life.



# From the Advancement Office



**Becky Williamson**  
Director of Advancement

Greetings, Pioneer Nation!

WOW! What a month! Our Advancement and Admissions team has so much to be thankful for, but most importantly, we are grateful for all of you. November started with a new event, Music Bingo! It was a great evening with guest appearances by Slash, Kid Rock, and a slew of 90s rap stars. It was a fun and success-

ful evening. Thank you to all of those who attended. Onto Grandparents Day! We had such a great morning with our grandparents. The morning opened with a warm breakfast and wonderful music from our students and staff. We followed the morning with trivia and a trip down memory lane with student-led tours. We hosted over 500 grandparents and always look forward to this special day. If you would like a copy of the pictures from Grandparents Day, please click here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ozlEFM76YTz-1StDFQO7-UEyKD2gm-W3ws?usp=sharing>

On the 16th, we hosted our Pioneer Pathways: Blazing Our Trail to the Future event with our School

Board, Alumni Board, and Class Reps. It was very well attended and an evening spent talking about our vision for the future. We will host more events like this and we hope you can attend! Last, we held our Giving Day campaign, #iGiveCatholic, on November 28th. WHAT A SUCCESS!!!! Our entire community rallied around Duchesne and raised over \$260k toward the immediate needs of our school. A virtual reality lab, fitness center updates, a greenhouse, and dance studio are just some of the things we hope to add to Duchesne High School. Thank you so much for your generous contributions. The day left me speechless. It was wonderful to see our staff and students engaging with our alumni and sharing their

love for Duchesne.

As we enter into December, I am looking forward to visiting more of our alumni, family, and friends. If you have time, please swing by campus to catch a basketball game or stop in for a tour of our facilities. So many great changes are happening at Duchesne. We want you to be a part of them.

Sincerely,  
Becky Williamson

P.S. How about those state-champion soccer players!?!? Let's hear it for the boys!!

And Congratulations as well to our Esports and Cross Country teams, both of which recently placed at state!

## National Honor Society Inductions

Congratulations to our 2023 National Honor Society Inductees!

### JUNIORS

Kannon Booth, Claire Burks, Maddie Denker, Faith Dunn, Ceci Fleri, Ailsa Ide, Sam Jost, Brody Keathley, Ryan Knoebel, Nathan Lehne, Logan Murrish, Mackenzie Nave, Reese Piskulich, Maggie Schneider, Sydney Shaw

### SENIORS

Cameron Brown, Hailey Gancarz, Katie Hill, Katie Leick, Tyler Purvis, Emily Rattini





# Duchesne raises over 260k through #iGiveCatholic



*Duchesne President Susan Noonan, the DHS Girls Golf team, and segment hosts Paul Boschert '77, Mike Ryan '77, and Jason Boschert '98 celebrate as Duchesne reaches its goal of \$200,000.*

Duchesne High School successfully wrapped up its #iGiveCatholic campaign on Tuesday, November 28, by surpassing its goal of \$200,000 in donations — reaching number one in the state and number 11 in the national leaderboards. #iGiveCatholic is a national, bishop-led initiative leading up to and including Giving Tuesday that aims to inspire generosity and support for Catholic organizations.

Duchesne livestreamed a 12-hour “give-a-thon” on Tuesday, culminating a month-long social media campaign. The event included interviews with students, faculty, board members and special musical performances from Mike Boschert '80, the Pat Holt Singers, Gabe

Rakers '24, and the Duchesne handbell choir.

“My heart is overwhelmed by the support shown through our #iGC campaign,” said Becky Williamson, Duchesne director of advancement.

This is Duchesne’s second year of participation in the #iGiveCatholic campaign, and Williamson stresses that its success was a community effort.

“Our entire Duchesne family was engaged and rallying with us,” she said. “I want to thank our board for their hard work and dedication to helping us meet our goal. They sat there with us, helped make phone calls, and were active in the livestream. It was all hands on

deck. What an awesome day for Pioneer Nation!”

Jason Boschert '98, alum and athletic boosters president, co-hosted the hour that Duchesne reached its goal.

“I feel like Pioneer pride is at an all-time high right now,” he said. “I am so proud of Pioneer Nation stepping up and helping us secure an even better future for our wonderful school!”

“#iGiveCatholic days are my favorite!” said Susan Noonan, Duchesne president. “It is a true testimony to our community that we can come together and achieve ambitious goals for the betterment of Duchesne High School. Additionally, the day provides a beautiful

blend of students and alumni gathering together in the most incredible display of gratitude!”

Duchesne raised a total of \$204,608 Tuesday evening and was awarded the \$250 Big Finish Power Hour cash prize by the Archdiocese of St. Louis for raising the most money between 7 pm and midnight — \$58,777.59.

“It was indeed something special and just another example of how Duchesne is thriving,” said Williamson.

The funds will immediately be used by the school for classroom and fitness center updates, as well as other programs. As of December 5, over \$260,000 has been raised through this year's campaign.

## ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

Wednesday,  
January 10, 2024  
First Trimester  
Report Cards

Wednesday,  
January 17, 2024  
Second &  
Third Round  
Applications

Friday,  
January 26, 2024  
Acceptance &  
Non-Acceptance

## DHS alumna surprises brother before semi-final game



November 17 was an exciting day for the Duchesne boys soccer team as they prepared for their send-off to the state semi-final game with Laquey.

It was especially memorable for sophomore Landon McCarthy when he received a surprise visitor from another DHS soccer state champion — his sister Taylor '19.

"I was in shock," said Landon. "I was disappointed because I didn't think she could make it due to classes so when I saw her I was surprised."

Landon and Taylor's mother, Brenda, said the surprise visit was planned a few days before.

"We decided to let Landon know before send-off that morning as we left the airport," said Brenda. "I'm very proud of them. Both Taylor and Landon love the game and it's fun to watch them play. They work hard on the field and it's been great seeing them winning state and cheering each other on."



*Landon McCarthy '26 receives a surprise visit by his sister Taylor '19 before the boys soccer team send-off to the semi-finals on November 17.*

## Grandparents Day 2023

On November 8, Duchesne hosted nearly 350 grandparents in the Ted Yeater Athletic Center.

Visitors were treated to breakfast before a welcome from DHS President Susan Noonan and a special blessing by Father George Staley. Father Staley is the part-time senior associate pastor of St. Peter Parish in St. Charles.

Following performances by the DHS concert choir under the direction of Donna Owen '85 and the DHS band under the direction of Bill Wells, grandparents played trivia and enjoyed student-led tours before posing for photos and treating their grandchildren to lunch off campus.



*Rylie Dunn '24 poses with her grandparents after enjoying breakfast together.*

DOWNLOAD CANDID  
GYM PICTURES HERE



DOWNLOAD PAC  
PICTURES HERE





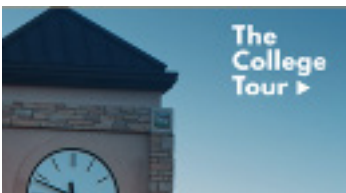


## Happy Holidays! *Self-care at Christmas*

- Deck the Halls (Make things cozy and Christ-massy)
- Bake Christmas cook-ies
- Spend quality time with someone you care about
- Enjoy a hot drink (hot cocoa or apple cider are my go-tos!)
- Clear some space in your schedule to do nothing
- Unplug from technol-ogy
- Try something new (Christmas-themed)



## The College Tour



[TheCollegeTour.Com](http://TheCollegeTour.Com) is a free resource with many helpful tools for

college-bound students. The College Tour offers TV episodes that are 30 minutes each, and share the story of a different college or university through the authentic voices of students. They cover big state institu-tions, small liberal arts

schools, community col-leges, trade schools, reli-gious-affiliated schools, and more. The website also has College Tour Pages with searchable lists of every college in the country, and you can find tour pages for every college featured

in the TV series. Final-ly, they have self-guid-ed video-based classes designed specifically for high school students to help them start thinking about their higher edu-cation journey. Check it out!

## FOLLOW US!

Our Counseling De-partment is officially on Socials! Give us a follow to stay up to date on ev-

erything happening. You can find us on Instagram and X (Twitter) @dhs\_ counseldept.



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### SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The FAFSA will be opening in December! Be sure to create your Federal Student Aid (FSA) IDs now. You MUST have an FSA ID prior to completing the FAFSA. Please watch the attached video that explains how to create your FSA ID.

[How to Create your FSA ID](#)

### REMINDERS

Planning a college visit? Don't forget to turn in your College Visit Permission Form to Mrs. Grass one week prior to scheduled visit.

[https://www.duchesne-hs.org/cmss\\_files/attachmentlibrary/Forms/College-Visit-Permission-Form.pdf](https://www.duchesne-hs.org/cmss_files/attachmentlibrary/Forms/College-Visit-Permission-Form.pdf)

SENIORS—Need your transcripts sent or a letter of recommendation??? Complete your request via Naviance. See Mrs. Grass for questions.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### FALL 2023

#### **December**

FAFSA Opens—Delayed from the normal Oct. 1st

### COLLEGE REPS

College Reps are located in the Counseling Office unless otherwise noted. Please -

schedule with Mrs. Grass if you plan to attend.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL LISTING](#)

### HELPFUL LINKS

DUCHESNE COUNSELING

<https://www.duchesne-hs.org/counseling.html>

FAFSA

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

SCHOLARSHIPS

[Scholarship List 2023-24](https://www.fastweb.com/Scholarship-List-2023-24)

<https://www.fastweb.com/>

<https://myscholly.com/>

<https://myscholarshipcentral.org/>

NAVIANCE

<https://student.naviance.com/main>

COMMON APP

<https://www.commonapp.org/>

NCAA ELIGIBILITY

<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

ACT

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en-missouri.html>

SAT

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat>

## Mental Health Resources

**211** – The 211 hotline is a valuable resource for families seeking information and assistance with various social services, such as housing, food, transportation, and health care. The 211 network is made up of local organizations that are committed to serving their communities and providing highly trained, compassionate support. Dial 211 from any phone.

**988** – The 988 hotline connects individuals in emotional distress with local resources and support to address their mental health needs. In addition to providing immediate crisis counseling, the 988 hotline emphasizes local, personalized support, and resources to ensure that those in crisis receive the best possible assistance. Dial 988 from any phone.

**Compass Health** – Compass Health Network is a non-profit organization providing behavioral health services, including mental health services, to individuals and communities in Missouri. They offer a range of resources such as counseling, therapy, support groups, and other support to help address mental health needs and promote overall well-being.

### **Behavioral Health Response**

Urgent mental/behavioral health needs: 314-469-6644

### **Counseling Providers:**

Lutheran Family and Children Services: 636-949-5522

Megan Meier Foundation: 636-757-3501

Youth In Need: 636-946-0101

Kids in the Middle: 314-909-9922

FamilyFoward: 636-940-1119

The Child Center, Inc.: 636-332-0899

Compass Health: 636-946-4000

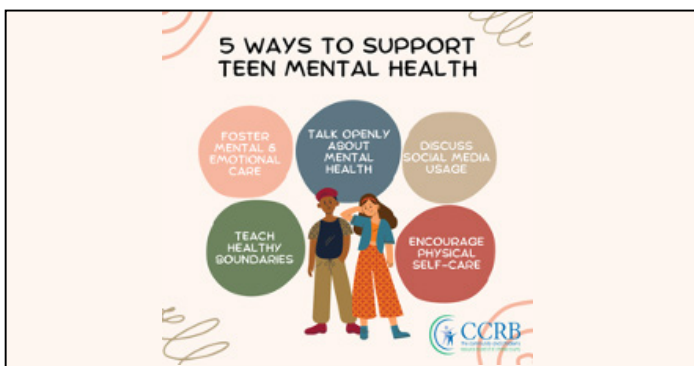
CHADS Coalition for Mental Health: 636-281-1990

### **Psychiatric Hospitals:**

CenterPointe: 1-800-396-4915

St. Joseph Health Center: 636-947-5000

SSM Behavioral Health: 1-800-426-2083



**Mr. Gene Tinsley**  
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Counseling Director, freshman and sophomore counselor

**Mrs. Brittany Grass**  
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College and Career Counselor, junior and senior counselor

**Mrs. Becca Baugh**  
bbaugh@duchesne-hs.org  
Learning Consultant



# FROM THE SPORTS DESK

## VICTORY ON THE PITCH



*"This victory is special because we were able to share it with our entire community! I'm very happy for the boys that they could experience that. The playoffs were quite the spectacle and the boys were able to feed off the energy from Pioneer Nation."*

— Coach Patrick Turner '03

*"I'm so happy that we won this state championship for the school, community, and our team. We had a very skilled team this year and our bond between all the players was unlike anything else. I'm so glad I got to be apart of this great experience."*

— Nicholas Brockmeyer '25

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Duchesne Boys Soccer Team for winning the Missouri Class 1 State Championship. Duchesne hosted the District 3 tournament where we defeated Elsberry 5-0 in the semifinals and STEAM Academy 8-0 in the championship game. The Pioneers hosted Father Tolton in the state quarterfinals and Nathan Lehne scored in overtime to give Duchesne a thrilling 1-0 victory and a trip to the Final 4 at World Wide Technology Soccer Park. In the state semifinals the Pioneers scored early and often to defeat Laquey 7-1 and advancing to the championship game against conference rival Bishop DuBourg. The two

teams split their regular season series so everyone knew that the championship game would probably be a nail-biter and the game did not disappoint. After a scoreless first half it was Zach Hubert who put Duchesne ahead 1-0 and after a frantic scramble in the closing minutes to keep the ball out of our net, the lone goal held up and the Pioneers won the 3rd state boys soccer championship in school history. Duchesne outscored their opponents 22-1 with Ben Burke only giving up one goal throughout the 5 game state tournament series.

Congratulations to our Duchesne E-Sports Rocket League Team that placed 2nd at the MOSEF State Finals this year

in Springfield. Players competing were captain Alejandro McAndrews, Louis Putz, Tyler Dietzel, and Alex Messner.

Congratulations to Will Kielhofner (2025) on his 49th place finish at state with a time of 18:01. Will dropped 2:00 minutes off his time from the start of the season.

Congratulations to former Duchesne teacher and coach Charlie Elmendorf on his induction into the Missouri Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Coach Elmendorf retired in 2022 after spending 27 years at Duchesne.

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR AAA ALL-CONFERENCE  
FALL ATHLETES**

**FOOTBALL**

All Conference Team:  
Sam Jost ('25), Logan Kanady ('25), Ryan Kundel ('24), Bryce Rogles ('25), Caleb Schneider ('25), Nolan Taylor ('24)

**SOCCER**

1st Team:  
Cole Brockmeyer ('25), Ben Burke ('24), Brendan Donovan ('25), Tyler Purvis ('24)

2nd Team:  
Scottie Alberson ('25), Bennett Borgmeyer ('26), Landon Kristensen ('24)

Honorable Mention:  
Gianni Bolanos ('25), Luke Fink ('25), Declan Fuchs ('25), Drew Heischmidt ('26), Landon McCarthy ('26)

Goalkeeper of the Year:  
Ben Burke ('24)

**VOLLEYBALL**

1st Team:  
Alice Hoffmann ('24)  
2nd Team: Tori Edler ('26), Gabi Ulrich ('26)  
Newcomer of the Year:  
Daley Meyer ('27)

**HEALTHY ROSTER**

If you have not accepted the invitation to join Healthy Roster, please do so. Athletic trainer, Katy Mueller, uses this application to communicate with parents and coaches when an injury occurs during the season. It is easy to use and very helpful to track the progress of injured student athletes. Katy also uses this program for tracking physicals and other medical documents.

Please contact Katy for questions regarding this program.

*Katy Mueller*  
*Duchesne Athletic Trainer*  
*athletictrainer@duchesne-hs.org*

**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS  
PHYSICALS**

Athletes are welcome to get sports physicals with their personal physician or with Health Sports Medicine who is offering FREE sports physicals for our athletes. You must be a current student at Duchesne to be eligible for this free physical. You MUST sign up at the SSM Health Sports Medicine: 2023 High School Sports Physicals website.

**WINTER SPORTS  
SCHEDULES**

Winter sport schedules are available on our website via [Big Teams](#). Big Teams will update in real time when there are changes made to games/meets/matches. Please follow us on Twitter (@Athletics\_DHS) for daily schedules and event updates that are altered by the weather.

**DUCHESNE ATHLETIC  
BOOSTER NEWS**

The Duchesne Athletic Boosters are the lifeline to our athletic programs at Duchesne, so your involvement is

important to us. Please take part in the following fundraisers: The All Sports Lottery, working the Bud Light Tent at Oktoberfest, membership, Spring BBQ, and volunteering in the concession stand at sporting events. All of these activities have been instrumental in securing financial support for our athletes and coaches. Becoming a member of the Duchesne Athletic Boosters is a great way to meet and socialize with other parents in our community and pursuing a common goal in supporting our athletic program benefiting our children at Duchesne.

The Duchesne Athletic Booster Christmas party will be held at the Rec Hall on South Duchesne Drive on Wednesday, January 10th from 6pm-9pm. All coaches and our Athletic Director will be there to give updates on the different athletic programs. This event is free for all DAB members (\$10 for guests).

**Upcoming Events:**

**January 10** – 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Christmas Party with the Duchesne Coaches at the Rec Hall located at 800 S. Duchesne Drive, St. Charles, MO 63301.

Pizza and two drink tickets will be provided (cash bar available). Free for all DAB members.

Guests are \$10 per person. Includes admission, dinner, 2 drink tickets per person (cash bar), and endless games for the night.

**April 6** – 11:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Duchesne Athletic Boosters  
Spring BBQ Fundraiser

**WINTER SPORTS  
CONCESSION  
VOLUNTEERS**

The parents of each athlete (basketball, cheer, and dance) are asked to work a shift at the concession stand for all home basketball games. If you already signed up, thank you. If you have not done so yet, please go to [signupgenius](#) below to sign up for a shift in the concession stand. If your child is on the varsity team, please sign up for a JV game. If your child is on the JV team, please sign up for a varsity game. We welcome parents from other sports teams to volunteer as well since all proceeds from the concession stand sales are distributed to all Duchesne athletic programs.

BOYS BASKETBALL =  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4CA9AD-2BA1F58-45664365-duchesne>


GIRLS BASKETBALL =  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4CA9AD-2BA1F58-45664904-duchesne>

**Mark Your Calendars**

**December 22-29** Boys Varsity Basketball at MICDS Holiday Tournament – Schedule TBA

**December 27-29** 47th Annual Girls Varsity Basketball Holiday Hoops Tournament  
4 games played each day at 11am, 12:30pm, 2pm, & 3:30pm

# Thursday, 12/21/23 – WINTER CLASSIC AT THE ST. PETERS REC PLEX



**Join us  
for the  
First Annual**

**DHS Winter Classic**

**Thursday, December 21, at 7:30pm  
St. Peters Rec Plex**

Join us in the North Rink for a scrimmage between participating 4th-through 8th-grade students and our current DHS Hockey team.

The Duchesne Hockey Club will have a special scrimmage with grade school hockey players at 7:30 at the Rec Plex North Rink on Thursday, December 21, followed by a special celebration of our 2020 Wickenheiser Cup Championship team after the game.

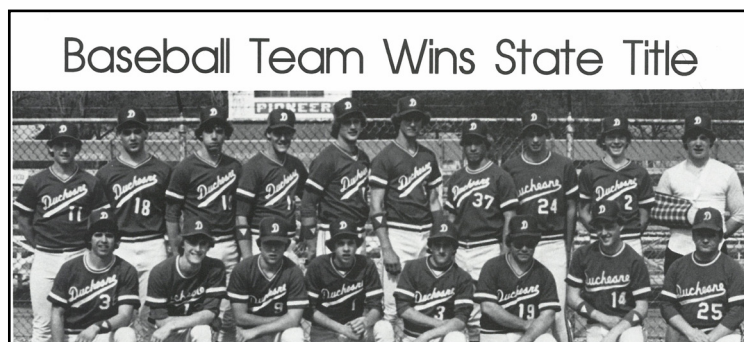
[www.duchesne-hs.org/dhs-winter-classic.html](http://www.duchesne-hs.org/dhs-winter-classic.html)

Grade school hockey players in 4th-8th grades can sign up here to participate: <https://www.duchesne-hs.org/dhs-winter-classic.html>

If you were on that 2020 championship team, please click here to sign up and provide program information: <https://>



# Friday, 2/2/24 – ALUMNI NIGHT IN THE TED YEATER ATHLETIC CENTER



We will celebrate the 40th anniversary of both the 1984 baseball state champs and the 1984 girls track and field state champs between the JV and varsity boys basketball games v. Sumner. Please register below.



<https://www.duchesne-hs.org/1984-baseball-and-girls-track-and-field-team-celebration.html>



## 2nd Annual DHS Dance Team/ Pommer Reunion

Friday, February 2, 2024, in the Ted Yeater Athletic Center



POMMERS! — Anita (Maskey) Borgmeyer '97 will once again be coordinating a special half-time performance of our alumni pommers with the Duchesne Diamondline! If you ever danced

for DHS, please email [nkohl@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:nkohl@duchesne-hs.org) so we can share your email with Anita.

View the Facebook event by clicking [HERE](#), and the participation form by clicking [HERE](#).

## 2024 Pioneer Expedition Gala

The 2024 Pioneer Expedition Gala will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Ameristar Casino at 7pm. Tickets are now available for the Gala by scanning the QR code below. You may also register by mailing a check to Duchesne at 2550 Elm St, Saint Charles, MO 63301. Early bird ticket pricing is open through Friday, January 5, at \$150 per person, with 10 people per table. Tickets purchased after January 5 are \$175 per person.

Our 100-Year Anniversary Gala will feature Dueling Pianos after the live auction!!!! Thank you to our Dueling Pianos sponsor, Hollander Legal.

Specially discounted Ameristar hotel rooms for the evening of the Gala are \$239 each if reserved by Wednesday, January

3, 2024. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 1-855-888-7273 and mentioning Duchesne High School Gala or code DUCH24B.

We are still looking for both live and silent auction items. If you would like to donate, please visit the Gala website at [legacycontinues.givesmart.com](http://legacycontinues.givesmart.com) and fill out a donation form, or contact Abby Sweeney at 636.328.4870 or [asweeney@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:asweeney@duchesne-hs.org).

You do not want to miss this truly EPIC event!!!



**Duchesne High School forty-fourth annual  
PIONEER EXPEDITION GALA**

**February 3, 2024**

# JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER AT RAISING CANE'S!

Mention the fundraiser at the register  
and Cane's will donate 15% of sales to:

**DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL**

**DATE & TIME:**

January 3, 2024 from 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

**LOCATION:**

1840 1st Capitol Dr., St Charles  
(636) 925-0132



SCAN FOR  
LUNCH MENU

