



PIONEER PRESS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER • 2026

VOTED #1 AGAIN!

We did it again!

Thanks to the passion and support of our awesome Pioneer community, Duchesne has once again been voted Best Private School and won the Education All-Star Award in the 2026 STL Headliner Program.

Thank you for sharing your love of our school with the entire St. Louis area!



UPCOMING DATES

September 7

Labor Day – No School

September 10

Alumni Speaker Series
Junior Class Service Kick-off

September 11

Large Shadow Day

September 15

4:30 p.m.: Grade School Night
at Boys Soccer

September 16

5 p.m.: College Fair
6:30 p.m. Financial Aid Night

September 18

Large Shadow Day

From the Assistant Principal of Student Life



Debi Turner '96
Assistant Principal of
Student Life

Some of the best things that happen at Duchesne will never make it onto social media.

There is no photo of the student who left a table full of friends to sit with someone he did not know simply because that student was eating alone. There is no award for the student who reached out to a coach because they were worried about a teammate.

I Wish You Could See What I See

No House points are given to the students who stay after lunch and help me put away chairs they did not use—although, honestly, perhaps we should revisit that policy.

They do it every day. They see me moving chairs, and instead of walking away or pretending they suddenly received a very important message, they stop and help. No one asks them to. They just do it.

I have watched older students help younger students find their way through the halls. I have also watched teachers help older students find their way through the halls because, apparently, an eight-day rotating schedule keeps everyone humble.

These moments are small, quiet, and easy to miss. But I see them.

I see students noticing when someone needs a friend. I see them looking out for one another when they sense that something is wrong. I see them choosing kindness when there is no audience and

nothing in it for them. I see teachers offering patience, encouragement, and grace—sometimes for the fifth time before 9:00am.

Of course, I also see the other things. I am the assistant principal, after all. I see the untucked shirts, the phones that students are absolutely certain I cannot see, and the occasional decision that seemed much better before an adult started asking questions. But even in these moments, I get to see who our students are becoming.

I wish every parent could see what I see each day. I wish you could witness all the quiet acts of kindness, concern, leadership, and service that never receive public recognition. You would be incredibly proud—not because our students are perfect, but because they are growing into genuinely good people.

Fortunately, I get a front-row seat. And that is why I am convinced I have the best gig in the world.



Duchesne Student Speaks at St. Charles Rotary Club Meeting

On August 20, Duchesne's own Maeve McCune '28 delivered an inspiring presentation as the guest speaker for the Rotary Club of St. Charles. Known for her passion for philanthropy and mentoring others, Maeve addressed the club to express her gratitude for their sponsorship, which enabled her to attend the Missouri Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Academy this past July.

Missouri RYLA is an intensive four-day, three-night leadership academy designed for high school students who demonstrate a strong commitment to community service. Reflecting on the experience, Maeve

shared how the academy challenged her to grow while emphasizing the importance of intentional civic engagement. She noted that attending RYLA transformed her perspective on leadership, teamwork, service, and her personal capacity to make a meaningful difference.

Beyond simply funding her attendance, the St. Charles Rotary provided Maeve with a direct call to action to embody the Rotary motto: Service Above Self. The club's ongoing encouragement and support have left a lasting impact on her journey.

Duchesne Adopts New School Charisms

After much prayer and careful study, four charisms from the life of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne stand out as pillars of the formation we seek to offer our community.



Mike Deluvia

**Duchesne Board
of Limited Jurisdiction
Catholic Identity
Committee**

Hello Pioneers, and welcome to a new school year! With this school year comes an exciting announcement.

Duchesne High School will officially adopt four charisms based on the life of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne at the all-school Mass celebrated by Archbishop Rozanski on Tuesday, September 15, at 9:45am in the PAC. All of Pioneer Nation is invited to join us!

The charisms are:

- Prayer
- Missionary Discipleship
- Community
- Pioneer Spirit

In the Church, a charism is a gift of the Holy Spirit given for the building up of the Church. We also use the word “charism” to

describe the distinctive spiritual mission and character of a religious community, school, or apostolic work. It is in this sense that Duchesne is adopting these four charisms.

These charisms have one purpose: to bring our school closer to Jesus Christ, with St. Rose Philippine Duchesne as our model and guide.

In prayer, we raise our minds and our hearts to God.

As missionary disciples, we learn to follow Jesus and share the Gospel with others.

As a community, we seek to share the presence of God with all around us by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Filled with pioneer spirit, we aim to persevere through our challenges by relying on God.

Duchesne High School already lives out these charisms in many ways. Our goal is to go deeper, placing them at the forefront of everything we do. Through them, we hope that every student grows closer to Jesus Christ, comes to know the inspiring story of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, and leaves our halls equipped to live out their Catholic faith into adulthood.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 15, at 9:45am to celebrate this exciting new step for Duchesne! We will have a reception with Archbishop Rozanski after the Mass. If you are able to join us for the Mass and reception, please RSVP to aschneider@duchesne-hs.org by Friday, September 11. It will be a Great Day to be a Pioneer!

St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, pray for us!

**CARROLLTON
BANK**



PRAYER

Duchesne Pioneers pray without ceasing.



MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

Duchesne Pioneers follow Jesus and bring others to Jesus.



COMMUNITY

Duchesne Pioneers love one another as Christ loves us.



PIONEER SPIRIT

Duchesne Pioneers rely on God to persevere through challenges.

EXPLORE OUR CHARISMS





Kurt Schneider '93
Principal

Once again, the halls are filled with students and the campus is bustling with activity. It is hard to believe we are already flipping the calendar to September and

From the Principal

heading into the third week of the school year. Our Pioneer athletic teams are back in action, the cast for the fall play is set, our seniors attended their Kairos retreat this week, and Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski will join us to celebrate Mass on September 15.

That Mass will be an especially meaningful moment for our school community, as Archbishop Rozanski will formally sign a copy of Duchesne's charisms. Rooted in the life of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, these charisms will provide a framework for what it means to be a student at Duchesne High School. They will guide our students' formation, including how they treat one another, how they serve our community, and how they bring Christ to others.

With so many great things happening, I would like to personally invite you to come

and be a part of life on our campus. You are always welcome at our Masses—including our September 15 Mass with Archbishop Rozanski—as well as at our athletic events, performances, and other school activities. Duchesne is a vibrant and welcoming community, and whether you are a current family or an alum who hasn't been back in a while, I hope you will find an opportunity to visit us this year.

There is something special about seeing our campus full of students, families, alumni, and friends. It is a chance to reconnect with old friends, make some new ones, and experience the spirit of Duchesne today. I look forward to seeing you around campus—and when you do stop by, please be sure to say hello!

THE GIVING BRANCH

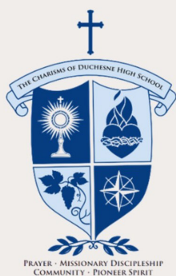


*Please Join Us
As We Celebrate a Special Mass
with His Excellency
Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski*

*Tuesday, September 15, 2026
9:45am
Duchesne's Performing Arts Center*

Reception to Follow

*Please RSVP to Angela Schneider at
aschneider@duchesne-hs.org
by Friday, September 11, 2026*



PRAYER - MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP
COMMUNITY - PIONEER SPIRIT



Duchesne Front Lobby Gets a Glow-Up

We've had a busy summer at Duchesne!

Campus visitors will now be greeted by a freshly updated lobby featuring new paint and brand-new floors. The renovation was made possible by an anonymous donor through #iGiveCatholic and was designed to give the space a more modern look while still honoring the original craftsmanship.

The lobby is just one of many upgrades and renovations made to the school interior over the past few years. If you haven't been to campus in a while, or even just since last year, stop by and see all the changes!

Three New Faces Join Duchesne Faculty



Madeline Smith



Daniel Kahrhoff



Alex Venneman

Three new teachers have joined the Duchesne faculty for the 2026-27 school year, bringing experience in theology, English, Spanish and international service to the classroom.

Madeline Smith joins Duchesne as a theology teacher. Smith holds a degree in theology and classical languages from the University of Notre Dame, where she specialized in scriptural and moral theology, particularly through the study of ancient languages.

She has served at Notre Dame, the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, including work with religious education programs.

"I am most looking forward to being a member of the Duchesne family, attending sporting and fine arts events, and getting to know each and every one of my students on a personal level!" Smith said.

"Madeline Smith is going to be a great addition to our theology and campus ministry department," Principal Kurt Schneider '93 said. "Madeline has a wealth

of experience in theology, leading retreats and planning liturgies. We're excited to welcome her to the Pioneer family."

Alex Venneman joins Duchesne as a writing and literature teacher after teaching English at Webster Groves High School. There, Venneman taught 20th-century and contemporary literature, developed assessments and academic interventions, and worked to strengthen students' reading and writing skills.

Venneman earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education with a secondary major in English from Saint Louis University, graduating summa cum laude. He is certified to teach secondary English in grades 9-12.

"I look forward to joining such a tight-knit community," Venneman said.

Schneider said Venneman's enthusiasm for teaching will be an asset to the school.

"Alex is a passionate and energetic teacher who will make a great addition to the English department," he said.

Daniel Kahrhoff joins Duchesne as a Spanish teacher. Kahrhoff brings extensive experience using the language professionally, including more than a year living and working in Costa Rica, where he communicated daily in Spanish with staff, vendors and members of the community.

Kahrhoff earned a Bachelor of Science in exercise science from Lindenwood University with a minor in Spanish and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration at Lindenwood. He is also enrolled in a Missouri teaching certification pathway and plans to pursue additional Spanish certification.

"I'm excited to help inspire our students and help them connect with new cultures through learning Spanish," Kahrhoff said.

His addition comes as Duchesne expands its world language offerings with the return of French.

"We're so excited to have Daniel Kahrhoff join our world language department," Schneider said. "With the reintroduction of our French program, we needed to bring on an additional Spanish teacher. I'm especially excited about Daniel's experience living in Costa Rica. He makes a great addition to our school."

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Coming Together to Beautify Duchesne's Campus

Flagpole Path Now Renovated Into Marian Garden



Visitors arriving at Duchesne this school year may have noticed a transformation taking place near the school's entrance.

Over the summer, what began as an idea to beautify the path by the flagpole grew into a community project, bringing together Duchesne staff members and families to create a welcoming Marian Garden and another visible sign of the exciting things happening across campus.

Physics and physical science teacher Joe Shaw saw the area as a natural place to begin. Located prominently at the school's entrance, it was also a project he thought he could tackle during the summer months.

Joe spent much of the summer working on the project off and on, coordinating plans, contacting businesses and bringing together the resources needed to complete the work.

For Joe, who enjoys landscaping, it was also personal.

"It's kind of therapeutic," Joe said. "They gave me a nice opportunity here, and so I thought it was a good way to give back to the school."

He is quick to point out, however, that the transformation was far from a one-person effort.

"It wasn't just me by any stretch," Joe said.

Members of the Shaw family helped clean the area and install plants, while Joe's son power washed and sealed the walkway. Parkview Gardens donated the plants, and Tom Gary, Cameron Gary '28, and Carter Gary '28 contributed significant time, resources and labor to the project. Their work included removing old roots and debris, laying mulch, painting the flagpole and bringing in and positioning the large decorative rocks.

"Our family decided to become involved when Mrs. Williamson reached out to see if enhancing the landscape area was a project we would be interested in taking on," Tom said. "We saw it as a wonderful opportunity to give back to the school community, contribute our time and resources, and create a space that students and staff could enjoy for years to come."

Nearly every part of the island received attention. Decades-old greenery was removed, trees were trimmed, the area was cleaned and leveled, and the two front columns were straightened with help from Director of Facilities and Security Jeff Glosier '97. Joe also restored the statue of Mary and placed it on a reclaimed pedestal from an old church. The memorial stones surrounding Mary were carefully repositioned and centered, helping turn the refreshed space into a true Marian Garden.



Much of the project was made possible through donations of labor, materials and financial support.

For the Gary family, the finished product represents something larger than a landscaping project.

"The completed space is a meaningful reminder of what can happen when a community comes together," the Gary family said. "Knowing that our family's time, resources, and hard work helped create a space that students and staff can enjoy makes this project especially meaningful to us."

It is a sentiment that fits well with the continued improvements taking place throughout Duchesne and the many members of the Pioneer community who are helping drive the school forward.

"We did several projects over the summer months, but none as beautiful as the Marian Garden," said Duchesne President Paul Boschert '77. "I would like to thank the Shaw and Gary families for cleaning out the old brush and dead limbs and replacing the area with new plants, decorative rocks, a new coat of paint on the flagpole, and most importantly, the Blessed Mother adorning the garden. This is a place for prayer and remembrance that serves as a welcoming site for our visitors when they arrive on our campus."

For Joe, projects like this are another example of how individual contributions can add up to something much greater.

"Everybody plays a part," he said. "Little pieces help make a big difference."



HUGE THANK YOU to the St. Charles Knights of Columbus Council 823!

Representatives from the St. Charles Knights of Columbus Council 823 stopped by campus on August 27 to present Duchesne President Paul Boschert '77 with a check for \$10,000 in support of our Sports Complex Campaign!



**Knights of
Columbus®**

St. Charles Council 823



Left to right: Bill Elmendorf '78, Trustee; Paul Boschert '77, President of Duchesne High School; Mike Miller, Grand Knight; and Tim Hollander '78, Trustee



Duchesne Wins \$5K in T-Mobile 5K Fridays Sweepstakes!

Thanks to the incredible energy and Pioneer Pride shown across our social media channels, Duchesne High School was selected as a \$5,000 winner in T-Mobile's national Friday Night 5G Lights sweepstakes!

T-Mobile's annual contest celebrates high school pride across America, awarding \$5,000 "5K Fridays" cash prizes to schools that demonstrate outstanding community spirit, sportsmanship, and creativity. Out of

thousands of entries across the country, our Pioneer community stood out!

This \$5,000 award will directly support our students and school programs as exciting things continue to happen at Duchesne. But the journey isn't over—we can keep building momentum throughout the season!

How You Can Help Us Keep Winning
Every social media post showing off our school counts as an entry:

- Post your Pioneer pride photos or videos on Instagram or X.
- Tag @TMobile and @Duchesne.
- Include the mandatory hashtags: #FN5GL and #Entry.

Incredible things are happening at Duchesne!



From the Advancement Office

Dear Pioneer Nation,

There is something special about the beginning of a new school year—the energy in our hallways, students reconnecting with friends and teachers, and the excitement of seeing our campus come alive again. As we begin another year at Duchesne High School, we have so much to celebrate and even more to look forward to.

This summer was an incredibly busy one on our campus. We continued investing in spaces that directly impact the experience of our students, starting with our welcoming spaces: we don't go a day without a visitor commenting on the wonderful Marian Garden across from the main entrance, and our beautifully renovated front lobby is brighter and DHS-blue-branded. Additionally, we have two new classrooms, renovated Performing Arts classrooms, new furniture in our Student Commons, and a new STEM Lab. These improvements are more than renovations—they are investments in the young people who walk through our doors every day and in the future of Duchesne.

And our momentum isn't slowing down.

Our Sports Complex Campaign is moving full steam ahead! Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Pioneer



Nation, we have more than met our \$1 million match challenge! Over 100 donors have made it possible for us to receive the two \$500,000 gifts offered by our match-challenge alumni.

Reaching this milestone brings us another significant step closer to our \$3.2 million campaign goal and to making this transformational project a reality for our students, athletes, and community. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has already stepped forward to support this vision, and we need Pioneer Nation to keep that momentum going. We have raised \$2.2 million in just a few months; we have \$1 million more to go, and we hope to achieve our final goal by the first week of October.

As we focus on this exciting capital project, we also want to remind our community of the continued importance of the Pioneer Fund—Duchesne's annual fund. While the Sports Complex is an investment in our future, the Pioneer Fund supports the needs of our students right now. Gifts to the Pioneer Fund help provide tuition assistance for families and address immediate classroom and educational needs throughout the school year. Every gift, at every level, makes a meaningful difference.

Finally, September 1 marks the official kickoff of another exciting Admissions season at Duchesne! Our Admissions Team is ready to welcome prospective students and families to campus and share what

makes Duchesne such a special place to call home. This year, we have set an ambitious goal: to welcome more than 100 freshmen into the Class of 2031 next August.

We will need all of Pioneer Nation to help us get there. Share your Duchesne story. Invite a family to visit. Encourage a student to shadow. Help us spread the word about the incredible things happening here.

From the improvements across our campus, to the momentum of our Sports Complex Campaign, to the continued impact of the Pioneer Fund, to the next generation of Pioneers preparing to walk through our doors—the future at Duchesne is bright.

Thank you for believing in our mission, investing in our students, and continuing to make Duchesne a place where students are challenged, supported, known, and loved.

Welcome home, Pioneers. Here's to an incredible school year!

Pioneer Proud,

Paul Boschert '77
President

Becky Williamson
Director of Advancement

Our Admissions Team



Original
FROZEN CUSTARD

From the Director of Admissions



Dana Bryan
Director of Admissions

Choosing a high school is a big decision, and the best way to know if a school feels right is to experience it for yourself! At Duchesne High School, you are not just a number—you are part of a family. We want every student to find a place where they feel welcomed, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Come Shadow at Duchesne!

If you are an 8th grader and haven't shadowed at Duchesne yet, now is the perfect time! A Shadow Day gives you the opportunity to experience what it's really like to be a Pioneer. You'll attend classes, meet teachers, spend time with current students, enjoy lunch with us, and see firsthand what makes Duchesne such a special community.

Whether you already know Duchesne is at the top of your list or you're still exploring your high school options, come spend a day with us! There is no better way to picture yourself as a Pioneer than walking our halls and experiencing a school day.

<http://www.duchesne-hs.org/shadow-visit-request-form.html>

High School Fair — October 6

Join us at Duchesne on Tuesday, October 6, from 5:30-7:00pm for our High School Fair! This is a great opportunity for students and families to learn more about Duchesne, ask questions, and start thinking about what you want your high school experience to look like.

<https://forms.gle/RTgWsjQ3RQ-fLLGwc6>

8th Grade Informational Night — October 13

We also invite all 8th grade families to our 8th Grade Informational Night on Tuesday, October 13, from 5:30-7:00pm. Come learn more about academics, athletics, extracurricular activities, student life, and the admissions process. You'll have the chance to get to know Duchesne and discover all the opportunities waiting for you here.

<https://www.duchesne-hs.org/dhs-informational-night.html>

Open House — Sunday, October 25, 10:00am-2:00pm

Experience Duchesne at Open House and watch our campus come alive! Meet our faculty and staff, connect with coaches, explore our classrooms and programs, and discover why so many students find their place—and their home—at Duchesne.

<https://www.duchesne-hs.org/open-house91123.html>

High school is four years filled with new friendships, new experiences, challenges, accomplishments, and memories that will last a lifetime. At Duchesne, we want you to find where you belong and where you become.

Come shadow. Come visit. Come experience Duchesne. We would love to welcome you to the Pioneer family! Welcome home!

DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit



**8TH-GRADE
INFORMATIONAL NIGHT**
OCTOBER 13 | 5:30-7:00pm

2550 Elm St. | Saint Charles, MO | www.duchesne-hs.org | 636.946.6767



CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 2026 Fall Fair

Families with students in grades 5 and up can explore exciting educational opportunities by meeting representatives from Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis!

Meet representatives from over **20 CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**, including all-girls, all-boys, and coeducational options, at each fair.

To see the full list of schools, please check our website:
ARCHSTLSCHOOLS.ORG



HOSTED BY
**Duchesne
High School**

**2550 Elm St.
St Charles, MO 63301
636.757.6932**

**Tuesday
October 6
5:30-7:00 p.m.**



**SCAN HERE
to
Learn More**

DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL
shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit



stl HEADLINER #2025

OPEN HOUSE | OCT. 25 | 10am -2pm

2550 Elm St. | Saint Charles, MO 63301 | www.duchesne-hs.org | 636.946.6767

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ALUMNI FEATURES AND UPDATES



Pioneer Alumna Makes International Singing Debut

Sophie (Sophia) Capra '18

A love of singing that was nurtured at Duchesne recently took Sophie (Sophia) Capra '18 across the Atlantic for the biggest opportunity of her musical career.

This summer, Capra traveled to France for her international opera debut, spending two weeks rehearsing and performing in Le Mans, with a short visit to Paris along the way.

The opportunity came through a connection Capra made while performing with the Southern Illinois Music Festival. A director she had previously worked with reached out in March and invited her to take part in an opera festival she helps run in France.

"I was like, absolutely," said Capra. "This was my international debut."

At 27, Capra has already performed in nine operas. Her time in France included several concerts and three opera performances, along with the opportunity to participate as a young artist and receive additional coaching.

The trip also brought another first. In one of the operas, Capra performed a lead role for the first time in her professional career.

"It was a long trip, but it was so rewarding," she said. "I didn't want to come back."

For Capra, the journey to France was the latest step in a love of music that began when she was young and continued to grow during her four years at Duchesne.

She began singing with the Young Catholic Musicians of St. Louis while in grade school and joined a professional choir in fifth grade. Once she arrived at Duchesne, music became a major part of her high school experience.

Capra sang in Concert Choir and Royal Impressions, served as choir liaison for the music department and participated in theater throughout all four years. She appeared in plays, joined the improv troupe and performed in every musical from her

freshman production of 'Annie' through her senior-year production of 'The Drowsy Chaperone.'"

She also became a familiar voice outside the Performing Arts Center, singing the national anthem at football and basketball games and reading Pioneer Prayer over the announcements each morning.

"I did everything I could get my hands on," Capra said.

The Performing Arts Center became something of a second home.

"My mom would actually text me," she said. "What are you doing? Are you getting food, or are you at the PAC?"

Duchesne also helped Capra begin thinking about what music could look like beyond high school.

At the encouragement of then-music teacher Mrs. Johnson, Capra attended summer music camps run by Southeast Missouri State University. There she met members of the university's voice faculty and developed relationships that would eventually help lead her to Southeast, where she studied vocal performance.

Capra originally planned to become a music teacher, but her direction changed after she was encouraged to participate in her first opera.

Having spent years performing musical theater, she quickly found something different to love about opera.

"You're learning something that is older than some countries," she said. "And you're performing it to people and making them laugh or making them cry. They don't necessarily understand what's happening, but they can see all the emotion."

Years later, another part of her Duchesne education came in handy when that passion took her overseas.

Capra studied Honors French for three years at Duchesne, including two years with Madame Loricella. While working in France, she had the chance to put those language skills to the test.

She even prepared a French aria and workshopped it with native speakers before performing it.

"I had one aria in French that she really

liked," Capra said of her director. "She's like, 'I want you to sing French in France to native speakers.'"

The experience helped Capra refine both her language and performance skills. Outside rehearsals, she also had the chance to experience French culture, including two days sightseeing in Paris.

Most of her time, however, was spent working.

Rehearsal days in Le Mans could stretch from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., all while France was experiencing a summer heat wave. Capra rehearsed concerts, prepared multiple operas and worked alongside both fellow young artists and professional singers.

She also found an appreciation for the way people in Le Mans embraced the arts.

Capra recalled rehearsing with the windows open and looking down to see people on the street stopping simply to listen.

"People just stop," she said. "It's so cool."

While music occupied much of Capra's time at Duchesne, her Pioneer experience extended well beyond the stage.

She served as a student ambassador and vice president of campus ministry, participated in outreach and Pro-life Club, played softball and volunteered as an open house tour guide.

Capra believes those experiences helped teach her to put herself out there, something that has become especially important in a profession where relationships can lead to future opportunities.

"Make friends with everyone, because you never know who you're going to cross paths with or who's going to have another opportunity for you," she said. "The fact

that I kept putting myself out there while I was at school gave me the confidence to keep doing that."

That lesson has already paid off.

Connections Capra made while performing in France have encouraged her to audition with opera companies in the St. Louis area. She plans to move back home this fall and continue pursuing performance opportunities while working a job that will give her the flexibility to audition and participate in shows.

As she takes that next step, Capra still carries another lesson from her days at Duchesne.

She remembers Mrs. Johnson ending class each day with the same message to her students: "Have a great day. You're not replaceable."

Years later, Capra still repeats those words to others.

"She still says that to me," Capra said. "That's something that always stuck with me."

From the Duchesne stage to an opera house in France, it is one of many pieces of her Pioneer experience that Capra contin-

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REUNITING WHERE AT ALL BEGAN — CLASS REUNIONS AT DUCHESNE HIGH

Save the Date...

Reunions for the Classes of 1990 and 1991 — at Duchesne on Saturday, September 12, 2026

The Classes of 1990 and 1991 are planning to have their 35th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Nikki (Zander) Holmes '90 and Kara (Rufkahr) Reynolds '91 are organizing. Please mark your calendars and RSVP ASAP. Details include: 6-10pm, food provided, BYOB, \$30 per person. Please Venmo your \$30pp to @Kara-Reynolds-14. For questions, please contact Nikki at 970.217.3747 or nikdds@gmail.com or Kara at 314.606.1937 or klreynolds@charter.net.

Class of 1986's 40th Reunion — at Duchesne on Saturday, September 19, 2026

Class of '86!! – Save the Date – Plans are underway for a wonderful evening together, which will include tours of our alma mater, heavy hors d'oeuvres, music, and dancing. Check out the Facebook page for the Duchesne Class of 1986 and please RSVP ASAP. If you are

not on Facebook, please email jensilvestrill@gmail.com or text her at 702.826.0789.

Class of 1966's 60th Reunion — at Duchesne on Saturday, September 26, 2026

Thanks to Fred Wilke and Cheryl (Walters) Wapelhorst for planning this 60th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, September 26. Please see the details and sign up through the website Fred created via the link below. Your prompt response is appreciated!

<https://sites.google.com/view/dhs1966/home?authuser=0>

Reunions for the Classes of 2010 and 2011 — at Duchesne on Friday, October 2, 2026

Jenna (Friedel) Graham '11 and Ty Loewenstein '10 are spearheading a joint 15th-year reunion for their two classes, to be held at DHS on Friday night, October 2. The evening begins at 5:30 in Duchesne's Garden Courtyard. Please RSVP ASAP so food and drink quantities can be determined. Email [\[wensteintyler@gmail.com\]\(mailto:wensteintyler@gmail.com\) or \[graham.jenna.a@gmail.com\]\(mailto:graham.jenna.a@gmail.com\) to let us know whether or not you can attend.](mailto:loe-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

You may also want to join the tailgate before the Homecoming football game that night, from 4-6pm in the 310 parking lot. Brick City Get Down will be providing live music!

Duchesne's 1976 Softball State Championship Team to be Honored at the October 2 Football Homecoming Game

1976 Softball Team Members, Families, and Friends! – Please mark your calendar for Friday night, October 2, 2026, when we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the state of Missouri's first-ever State Champion Softball Team – our very own Duchesne Pioneers! We will honor the team before our 7pm Homecoming football game as well as at a post-game celebration in Duchesne's Garden Courtyard. Details to follow via email to coaches and players (please plan to be there by 6:30).

Pregame tailgate in the 310 parking lot from 4-6pm

featuring live music by Brick City Get Down!

Class of 1981 — at Duchesne on Saturday, October 10, 2026

The Class of 1981 will hold their 45th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, October 10, 2026. This event will be held in the Performing Arts Center (old gym) from 6-10pm. Casual attire. Dinner catered by Concetta's; bring your own beverages (coolers allowed). Please RSVP ASAP with your \$25 per person via Venmo to @peggy-skaggs-1 (write attendees' names in the comments) or with a check made out to DHS Class of '81 mailed to Karen (Borgmeyer) Toigo at 1302 Marbendale Ct, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

Class of 1976 — on Saturday, October 17, 2026

The Class of 1976 is holding their 50th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Tours, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00, catered dinner at 7:30. Please RSVP by Monday, September 21. Payment is required with your reservation; please specify if your spouse or significant other will be attending, and if you require a gluten-free menu option.

Cost is \$65 per person. Venmo @Michaeline Spears or pay with a check made out to Michaeline Spears and mail to her at 700 N 5th St, Saint Charles, MO 63301.

Contact Michaeline (O'Neil) Spears at 636.699.0088 or stevenspears@sbcglobal.net with questions, or see the Duchesne Class of 1976 Facebook page. If you are not on Facebook, please contact Molly (O'Brien)



Reilly at 636.345.1022 or mcreilly1143@gmail.com, Joan (Salters) DeSplinter at 314.313.1404 or jdesplinter@gmail.com, or Charlie Smith at 636.795.7222 or charles.and_christy@charter.net.

63301. Ticket prices include pizza, salad, mini sandwiches, chicken bites, potato skins, and toasted ravioli. Cash bar available. Email marsha.stocker@gmail.com with questions.

Class of 1971 — at Pio's on Saturday, October 17, 2026

The Class of 1971 is having their 55th reunion at Pio's Restaurant on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 6-9pm. Please RSVP to Marsha (Weber) Stocker by Thursday, October 1, with your payment of \$35 per person. Venmo @MarshaStocker or mail a check made out to Marsha Stocker to her at 18 Briarwood Ln, Saint Charles, MO

Class of 2001 — at Duchesne on Saturday, November 7, 2026

The Class of 2001 will hold their 25th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, November 17, 2026. Jake Vehige and team are organizing. Scan the QR code to sign up and to keep up to date on reunion details. Contact jake.vehige@gmail.com with any questions.



DETAILS:

- Mass in the DHS Chapel
5:00pm
- Self-guided tours through the halls
6-7:15pm
- Food | Open Bar | Music in the PAC
6-10pm

Scan the QR code to RSVP and to stay up to date on reunion details.



Price TBD, but expected to be approximately \$75/person.

What About Your Class?

ALUMNI REUNIONS – is it time to plan yours?

Does your class year end in a 1 or 6 (such as 2001 or 1996)? It's time to plan your reunion! Contact Nancy (Rothermich) Kohl '78 at nkohl@duchesne-hs.org or 636.757.6925 to begin the conversation! Duchesne can provide you with a class list and save-the-date postcards for those groups that have their event at DHS. You will have use of our Garden Courtyard, Chapel for Mass, and/or PAC for your get-together, dinner, dancing, games, etc. Smaller groups may want to gather in our Esports Center. A self-guided tour outline will be available for your guests.



Alumni! Family! Friends!

SAVE THE DATE
*for these special theme nights
at Frank Barro Stadium this fall.*

— Friday, 9/11/26 —

VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS
APPRECIATION /
JUNIOR CHEERLEADERS NIGHT
Football vs St. Charles High

— Friday, 9/25/26 —

PINK OUT CANCER SURVIVOR EVENT
Football vs MO Military Academy

— Friday, 10/2/26 —

HOMECOMING
4:30-6:30: TAILGATE WITH LIVE MUSIC
PREGAME: FIRST-EVER STATE CHAMPION
SOFTBALL TEAM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
HALFTIME: HOMECOMING COURT
Football vs Westran High

— Friday, 10/9/26 —

MOM'S RECOGNITION NIGHT
Football vs Crystal City High

— Friday, 10/16/26 —

JUNIOR DIAMONDLINER NIGHT
Soccer vs Valley Park High



Champions

WERE YOU AN INDIVIDUAL DHS STATE CHAMPION?

*If you won an individual State Championship while at Duchesne,
please mark your calendar for your special recognition night:*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2027

between the 5:30 Girls Varsity and 7:00 Boys Varsity Basketball Games

*Spread the word! We don't want to miss anyone!!
Champs: please email nkohl@duchesne-hs.org with your contact details.*



FROM THE SPORTS DESK



Renee Moore '86
Athletic Director

Welcome back to another exciting year full of opportunities for competition, friendship, and growth as we begin a new season of Pioneer Athletics. Our student-athletes and coaches have been working hard during preseason practices and all teams are off to a great start! We have a fall schedule filled with game-day rivalries, exciting games, and special activities! Check out Eventlink, our new scheduling program, by following this link to download athletic schedules for the upcoming season:



Thank you to all the parents who attended our Fall Sports Parent Meeting. I hope you found the presentation informative and enjoyed meeting our coaches and athletic staff. A special thanks to our Booster club, who provided a delicious meal for us. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Booster club, you can contact Booster president Kevin Slattery at Duchesneboosters@gmail.com.

Thank you to all our students who showed up at 5:50am on Thursday, August 27, for KMOV's live morning weather report filmed at Duchesne. It was a great morning, and I was so impressed by the large number of students who came to represent Pioneer Nation!

Fall athletic photos were taken by Wagner

Portrait Group on Monday, August 24. Parents should have received an email providing direction on the process for ordering individual and team pictures. If you have not received this information, please contact me at rmoores@duchesne-hs.org.

I ASKED AND PIONEER NATION ANSWERED!

In my June edition, I shared that Daley Meyer '27 was a member of three district championship teams last year. I asked if this had been accomplished before, and found out that indeed it had been done by Nate Friedel '13, who in his senior year was a member of the football, basketball, and baseball district championship teams! Congratulations to Nate!



UPCOMING DATES

As we begin our fall season, first for some and last for others, let's make this the best one yet! We have a few important updates and volunteer opportunities to share:

- Duchesne Cheer – Friday, September 11, game time 7pm. Come out and see the halftime fun!
- Homecoming Football Game: Mark your calendars for the Homecoming Football Game and Festivities on Friday, October 2, kickoff time 7pm, Frank Barro Stadium. Be sure to arrive early to join in the tailgating fun prior to kick-off. Our tailgates are held in the 310 parking lot and for Homecoming, the tailgate will feature live music! Additionally, we will honor the 1976 State Softball Championship team as part of our Homecoming activities prior to the game.
- Senior Nights: If you have a Senior fall athlete, get these dates on your calendar:

- o Tennis, Monday, October 5
- o Football, pregame ceremony, Friday, October 9

o Golf, Cross Country, and Tennis, half-time ceremony, Friday, October 9

o Volleyball, Thursday, October 15

o Soccer, Monday, October 26

• Emerge: Athlete training opportunities with certified athletic trainers will be held every Monday at 3:30pm in the Pioneer Fitness Center. All students are welcome, but our winter athletes are strongly encouraged to attend.

• Spirit Wear: Any and all Pioneers past, present, and future – looking for swag to support the Pioneers? Please see our online store for a variety of styles for men, women, teens, and kids!

[GET YOUR SPIRIT WEAR!](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• Oktoberfest: We're looking for volunteers for our Oktoberfest event happening the weekend of September 25-27. Email Jason Boschert, our lead on this event, at jason-boschert@gmail.com. Here is the signup link:

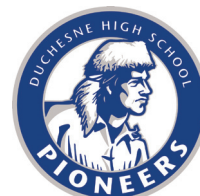
[SIGN UP HERE!](#)

• Fall Concession Stands: Parents, don't forget to log in to Signup Genius and claim the time assigned to you for concession stand duty. Your participation is crucial to our success and helps support our athletic programs.

REMINDER

Parents of all fall athletes – be sure all required forms are submitted and your participation fee is paid. Please do not jeopardize your athlete's game participation by not complying with this requirement. Questions? Contact rfuchs@duchesne-hs.org.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Let's make this fall season one for the record books!



Boys State Golf Champ Recognized by Missouri Senate



Our first pep rally of the year on August 28 featured a special recognition for the first Boys Golf State Champion in DHS history, Eric Greifzu! Thank you to Missouri State Senator Adam Schnelting, who stopped by to present Eric with a congratulatory resolution from the Missouri Senate!



Raising Funds with Raising Cane's

Learn more about how we can support you at CanesAndCommunity.com



Minimum donation amount will be 15% of the Net Sales* donated directly to your organization. Not valid on kiosk orders. *Net Sales means the purchase price of food and beverages sold during the event to customers who (i) mention your organization when ordering in person or (ii) use the code RCFUND96 when ordering online or in the Raising Cane's app. The purchase price excludes special or limited time offers, discounts, returns, and taxes. Net Sales does not include gift cards and retail merchandise purchases.

Raising Cane's

f i t d RaisingCanes

Calling All Duchesne Students!



COLLEGE FAIR & FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Wednesday, September 16
5:00- 6:30 p.m.
College Fair located in the gym
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Financial Aid Speaker located in the cafeteria

Open to all parents and students!



Questions? Email bgrass@duchesne-hs.org.



YOUNG ALUM ENTREPRENEURS



We'd like to highlight your business venture in an issue of Pioneer Press! Email Eric Seiffert at eseiffert@duchesne-hs.org for details!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
SPEAKER SERIES

Are you interested in participating in our "WATNow?" panel discussions? We are looking for Pioneer Nation professionals to share their stories and help our students choose their next steps.



THURS, SEPT 10, 2026 - BUSINESS/FINANCE
 ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ACCOUNTING, MARKETING, ETC.

THURS, NOV 5, 2026 - MEDICAL
 NURSE, PT, OT/OTA, RAD-TECH, SLP, DOCTOR, DENTISTRY, PHARMACY, ETC.

THURS, FEB 18, 2027 - ENGINEERING/ MANUFACTURING
 ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, CHEMICAL, CIVIL, ETC.



9:25AM TO 10:00AM
 Questions? Contact Brittany Grass at bgrass@duchesne-hs.org or call 636.757.6907.




DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

CAREER FAIR 2026

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 | 10:30am to 11:30am
 2550 ELM STREET | SAINT CHARLES, MO

SEEKING BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE
 Fair-style setup • Setup begins at 9:30am

For questions, email
 School Counselor Brittany Grass
 at bgrass@duchesne-hs.org




SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 30, 2027

Ameristar Casino Brilliance Ballroom



Support our wish list by scanning here:



THE PIONEER FUND



Every Day. Every Student. Every Opportunity.

As we begin a new fiscal year, your gift to the Pioneer Fund provides immediate support for the experiences that make a Duchesne education exceptional:

- ✓ Academic Excellence
- ✓ Faith Formation
- ✓ Arts and Athletics
- ✓ Student Leadership Opportunities
- ✓ Tuition Assistance and Access

The Pioneer Fund strengthens every aspect of student life and helps ensure that Duchesne remains a place where young people discover their purpose and potential.

*Join us in starting the year strong.
This year begins with YOU!*

**Make your
gift today!**



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