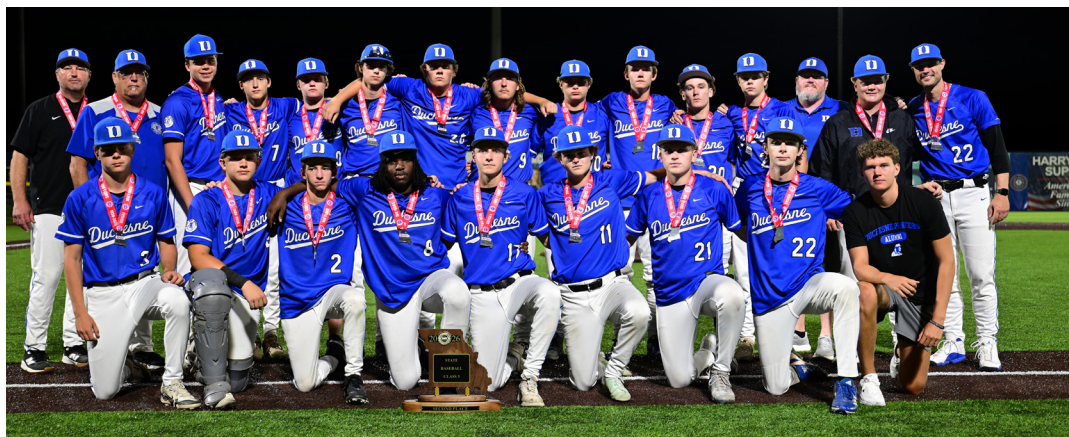




# PIONEER PRESS NEWSLETTER

JUNE • 2026

## An Amazing Spring for DHS Athletics!



Congratulations to the Varsity baseball and girls soccer teams, which both took home second place at State! Special congrats to Eric Greifzu on his first-place victory in Class 2 State Golf, and to Daley Meyer, who was a member of three district-champion teams during the 2025-26 athletic season.



### Our Vision is Clear! The DHS Sports Complex Campaign has officially begun! (PAGE 10)

Scan or  
Click for  
Campaign  
Kick-Off  
Video



# From the Assistant Principal of Student Life



**Debi Turner '96**  
Assistant Principal of  
Student Life

I haven't actually lived through the teenage years yet. My boys are only 7 and 9, but they've been asking to attend Duchesne's Homecoming dance since they were 3 years old. They talk about high school the way most kids talk about Disney World. In our house, DHS isn't just a school—it's a lifestyle.

For perspective, when I explained that we wouldn't be able to make the trip to Springfield for the baseball Final Four this year, my sons didn't speak to me for nearly two hours. Two hours. They celebrate Pioneer victories like they've been season ticket holders for decades and shed real tears after tough losses. They know the athletes, follow the scores, and fully believe they belong in the student section.

So while I haven't officially entered the world of parenting teenagers, I do feel like I'm getting an early preview.

One day your child thinks you're the funniest person alive. The next day, you ask how their day was and get a response that sounds suspiciously like, "Bruh."

Welcome to parenting teenagers.

As DHS families head into summer, many parents may find themselves navigating the fascinating world of adolescence—a place where teens can spend three hours getting ready to go somewhere, then insist they have "nothing to wear." A place where "I'm fine" can mean absolutely anything except "I'm fine."

The truth is, much of this behavior is completely normal. Teens are balancing academic pressures, changing friendships, growing independence, extracurricular commitments, and the ongoing challenge of figuring out who they are. Their brains are developing rapidly, even if some of their decisions occasionally suggest otherwise.

One of the most important things parents can do is stay connected. This doesn't necessarily mean forcing family game nights or asking 47 questions after school. Sometimes connection looks like a Starbucks run, attending a summer sports event, driving a car full of friends while pretending not to listen to the conversation, or simply being available when they decide to talk at 10:37pm.

At Duchesne, we see firsthand how much our students grow each year—not just academically, but socially, emotionally, and spiritually. The confident seniors crossing the graduation stage were once freshmen trying to figure out their WiFi passwords, class schedules, and whether they could survive high school.

So if your teen seems a little extra this summer, take heart. The eye rolls, the one-word answers, the mysterious disappearance of every clean water bottle, and the occasional use of slang you don't understand are all part of the journey.

And remember: even when your teen acts like you're "cringe," they still need you more than they'll ever admit.

CARROLLTON  
BANK



## Pioneers Take on Europe!

This excited bunch of Pioneers hopped on a flight and took off to Europe for this year's class trip!

They saw the sights in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria with Principal Kurt Schneider '93 and art teacher, Rylee Knobbe.

# Duchesne History Teacher Announced as New Dean of Students

Duchesne High School has announced the appointment of faculty member and coach Ben Kilper as the school's new Dean of Students.

A dedicated educator with five years of classroom experience at the school, Kilper will transition from teaching history to provide academic support and oversee campus discipline systems, connecting students directly with specialized campus resources.

His responsibilities encompass managing student attendance, truancy, dress code enforcement, and disciplinary matters, alongside tracking metrics for the school's "power hour," student detentions, and service hour requirements.

"The job of dean is to be the mediator for the students when there are problems for them and to get them in contact with those at the school that can help more specifically," Kilper said. "For example, if a student is having problems with their grade in math, I talk with them and get them connected with tutors and their counselor. I view my primary job as meeting with the student and working out plans to better help them succeed at Duchesne."



Ben Kilper

Kurt Schneider, principal of Duchesne High School, expressed strong confidence in Kilper's ability to transition from the classroom into administrative leadership.

"We are excited for Ben to start as the new Dean of Students," he said. "He has already served in that role a

bit this past school year and we are looking forward to him stepping into the role in a more formal fashion in the year to come. He will be a valuable member to the administrative team."

A native of Sunset Hills, Kilper brings a deep regional background to the administrative position. He attended St. Paul School in Fenton and completed his secondary education at St. John Vianney High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Missouri S&T and earned a master's degree in educational leadership in February from Western Governors University.

Reflecting on his new responsibilities, Kilper noted that his core focus remains firmly on the student body's holistic growth.

"I am looking forward most to helping all of our students with the challenges they are encountering in high school and giving them opportunities to succeed," Kilper said.



Congratulations again to our 2026 Dream Raffle Grand Prize winner, Tom Piotrowski, pictured here with his wife Shannon, DHS President Paul Boschert '77, and Advancement Director Becky Williamson!

Big thanks to Tom and everyone in Pioneer Nation who supported Duchesne through our raffle this year!



Left: Bridget Caldwell '27 was crowned Queen of the 2026 Valley of Flowers Festival. Right: Christiana Newman won the top spot for best parade float!

## Representing Duchesne at the 2026 Valley of the Flowers Festival

Two Duchesne seniors recently continued a proud local tradition by showcasing their leadership, creativity and spirit at the 2026 Florissant Valley of Flowers Festival.

Senior Bridget Caldwell was crowned festival queen, while her classmate and close friend, senior Christiana Newman, captured the top spot for the best decorated parade float.

Since 1963, the annual festival has celebrated the arrival of spring, local beauty and the preservation of the town's heritage. The event culminates in the selection of a queen and her court, who serve as ambassadors for the City of Florissant throughout their senior year.

Caldwell's crowning marks a historic milestone for the Duchesne community. She is the first Pioneer to wear the crown since Kelly Ma-

haffy in 2013.

Like many well-rounded Duchesne students, Caldwell and Newman balance multiple passions, sharing a bond through their involvement in cheerleading, choir, and theater. Navigating the pageant experience together made the process even more meaningful for the two Pioneers.

"My favorite part of this process was sharing it with Tiana, one of my

best friends at Duchesne," Caldwell said. "It was so nice having her by my side."

The road to the festival required a simple application, a headshot, proof of residency and securing a local sponsor to cover entry fees and parade transportation.

Caldwell was sponsored by Henke's Tavern, noting that owners Mark and Nancy Goldstein were incredibly supportive throughout the process. Newman was sponsored by Handyman Hardware, setting the stage for a highly successful collaborative effort later in the festival.

A month prior to the festival, candidates attended the Queen's Tea for the formal judging portion. To test their public speaking skills, the girls were given a prompt ahead of time: "Just as Route 66 has been connecting communities for 100 years, who is someone we admire that does the same?"

The girls took distinct approaches to preparing their answers. Newman drew on her experience performing in front of audiences to deliver a more conversational presentation.

"A lot of girls would type out their answers in essay form, but I chose to write down bullet points so it felt more like a talking speech rather than reading off paper," Newman explained.

To overcome public speaking nerves, Newman practiced her speech in front of the mirror and rehearsed it for her mother.

Caldwell, on the other hand, sought advice during a track practice from Duchesne Coach Pilla, whose two daughters are former festival queens. His advice to her was simple: "All you need to do is be yourself."

The interview process also included a round-robin style conversation with a distinguished panel of out-of-town judges who have no connection to Florissant. To ensure complete impartiality, candidates are not allowed to name their schools or sponsors during the interviews.



To be crowned queen was surreal. "

The final results are kept strictly confidential until the live event.

"Once the judges vote on a queen and court, those results are not unveiled until the actual crowning moment," Caldwell noted. "Not even Mayor Lowery or the Council know the results until the envelope is opened, so it's an exciting moment for everyone!"

The festival came to a close with an unforgettable parade. Newman's hard work paid off on the Handyman Hardware entry, earning the top prize for best theme or decorated vehicle.

For her, waving to familiar faces from the float was the highlight of the experience.

"My favorite part was definitely the parade," Newman said. "I had so much fun waving to all the people and seeing people I knew in the crowd... I got to celebrate with all the girls who did get on court. And I was so proud of them because I knew how much work they'd put into it."

For Caldwell, hearing her name called as queen brought her child-

hood aspirations full circle. Growing up in Florissant, she fondly remembers looking for the queen and her court at community events.

"As a little girl, I'd look for her and her court at parades or events, hoping to get a picture with one of them," Caldwell recalled. "To be crowned queen was surreal. Little girls are now excited to take pictures with me, and I feel honored that I have that opportunity to be a role model for them."

As they look toward their senior year, Caldwell is eager to fulfill her duties representing the City of Florissant alongside Mayor Lowery at special events and parades. She is also looking forward to bonding with the four other court members, who represent five different area high schools.

Reflecting on their memorable experience, both girls strongly encourage future Duchesne juniors living in Florissant to step forward and participate in the tradition next year.

Newman emphasized that participants truly get out of the experience what they put into it, encouraging future candidates to put their all into it and approach the process with a positive attitude. Whatever attitude you show up with is what will reflect off your peers, Newman noted, adding that it remains a fun experience even for those who do not make the court.

Caldwell echoed this encouragement, pointing out her enjoyment of the experience, and the unique opportunity to meet new people and form new friendships that it provides. Reconfirming the simple wisdom that guided her to the crown, she reminded future contenders that all you have to do is be yourself.

# Introducing the Pioneer Pride Club



The Pioneer Pride Club is a new student recognition program designed to celebrate everyday excellence that often goes unnoticed.

Unlike traditional honors that focus on top grades or athletic achievements, this

recognition is for students who demonstrate strong character, effort and positive contributions at Duchesne High School.

Members can be nominated for showing kindness, leadership and perseverance, or simply for going above and beyond. The

club allows students to receive meaningful recognition for their impact.

These students were recognized Friday, May 8, during a Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon in the Performing Arts Center.

# Congratulations to Our Scholarship Winners!

Duchesne is blessed to have many of our alumni families supporting our current students through various scholarship programs. Recent scholarship presentations include the following:



## Charles & Carol Ryan Memorial Art Scholarship

from left) DHS Principal Kurt Schneider '93, Katie (Ryan) Mudd '91, Daniel Greifzu '30, Karen (Ryan) Jackson '80, Nancy (Ryan) Coleman '81, and Mike Ryan '77. (Chuck Ryan '79 was unavailable for the photo.)



## Timothy O. Hill Memorial Scholarship

from left) Karen (Hill) Meers '74, Wm. Dale Hill, Lana Yewchuk '30, DHS President Paul Boschert '77, Beck Yewchuk, Chris Yewchuk. (Bill Hill '77, T. Brian Hill '75, Deanne (Hill) Ayres '80, and Steve Hill '84 were unavailable for the photo.)



## Mel Plackemeier DAB Memorial Scholarship

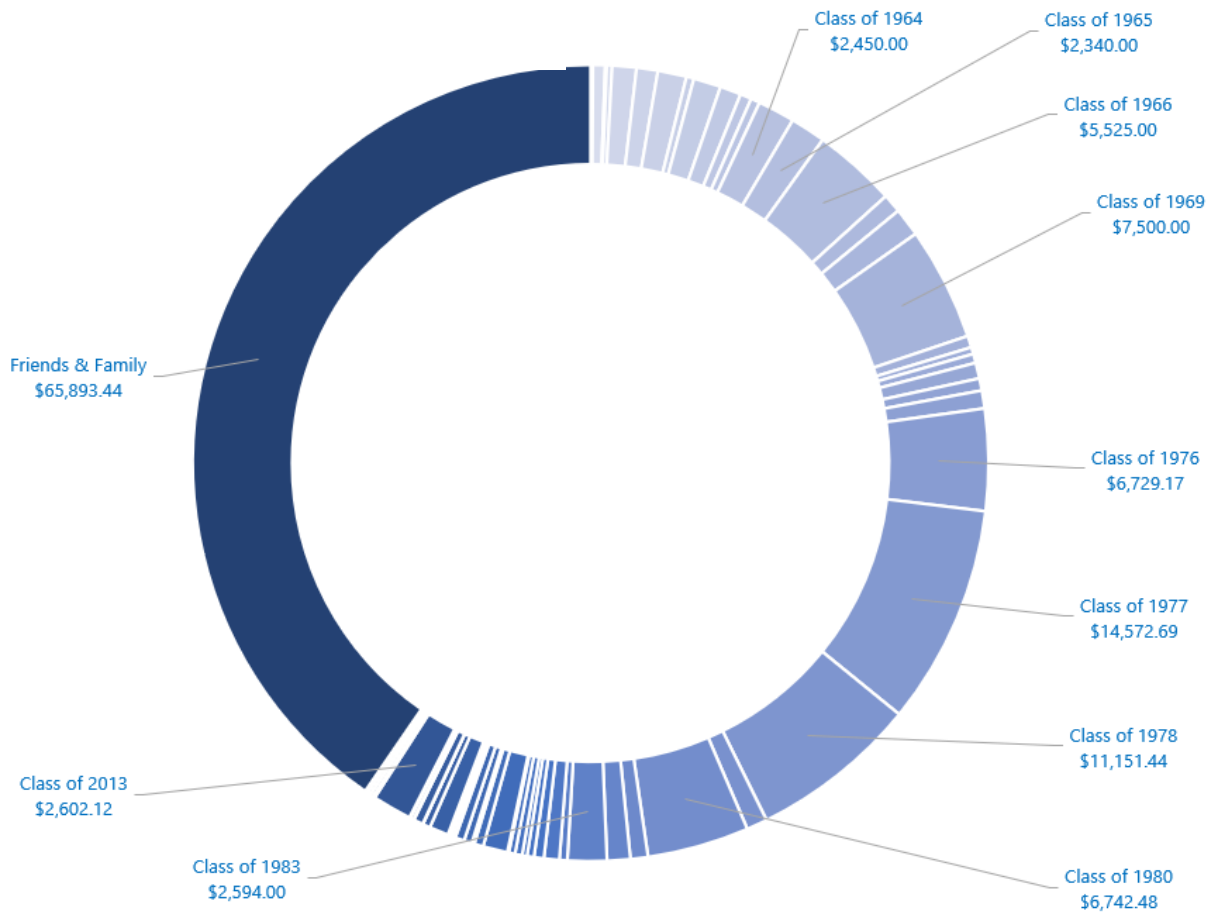
(from left): DHS Athletic Director Renee (Reimer) Moore '86, Dan Plackemeier '76, Jill (Plackemeier) Tune '83, Eric Greifzu '27, Kathy (Plackemeier) Schmidt '88, DAB Treasurer Mike Budrovich, Hailey Putz '27, DAB President Kevin Slattery '96, and DHS Principal Kurt Schneider '93. (Mike Plackemeier '74 and Linda (Plackemeier) Styer '80 were unavailable for the photo.)

Duchesne's campus has been plenty busy as June kicked off with a variety of athletic and academic camps!



(top row) Tennis Camp, Aviation Camp, Basketball Camp (bottom row) Mad Scientist Camp, Cheer Camp, Dance Camp, Soccer Camp

# Pioneer Class Challenge



1951	\$150.00	1961	\$1,397.60	1974	\$803.94	1989	\$325.00	1999	\$600.00	2010	\$50.00	2021	\$21.04
1953	\$808.60	1962	\$750.00	1975	\$1,180.37	1990	\$474.00	2001	\$150.00	2011	\$200.00	2023	\$25.00
1954	\$100.00	1963	\$600.00	1979	\$1,380.42	1991	\$409.38	2002	\$150.00	2012	\$84.00	2024	\$50.00
1955	\$353.94	1967	\$1,250.00	1981	\$1,159.38	1992	\$100.00	2003	\$100.00	2014	\$106.22	2025	\$25.00
1956	\$1,600.00	1968	\$1,886.50	1982	\$1,533.10	1993	\$1,621.04	2005	\$125.00	2015	\$41.22	2028	\$52.12
1957	\$1,408.59	1970	\$775.00	1984	\$518.91	1994	\$600.00	2006	\$1,265.00	2016	\$184.56		
1958	\$1,900.00	1971	\$450.00	1985	\$1,018.32	1995	\$125.00	2007	\$500.00	2017	\$50.00		
1959	\$500.00	1972	\$602.12	1986	\$650.00	1996	\$52.12	2008	\$25.00	2018	\$175.00		
1960	\$1,815.00	1973	\$1,040.29	1988	\$458.69	1998	\$525.00	2009	\$625.00	2019	\$26.22		

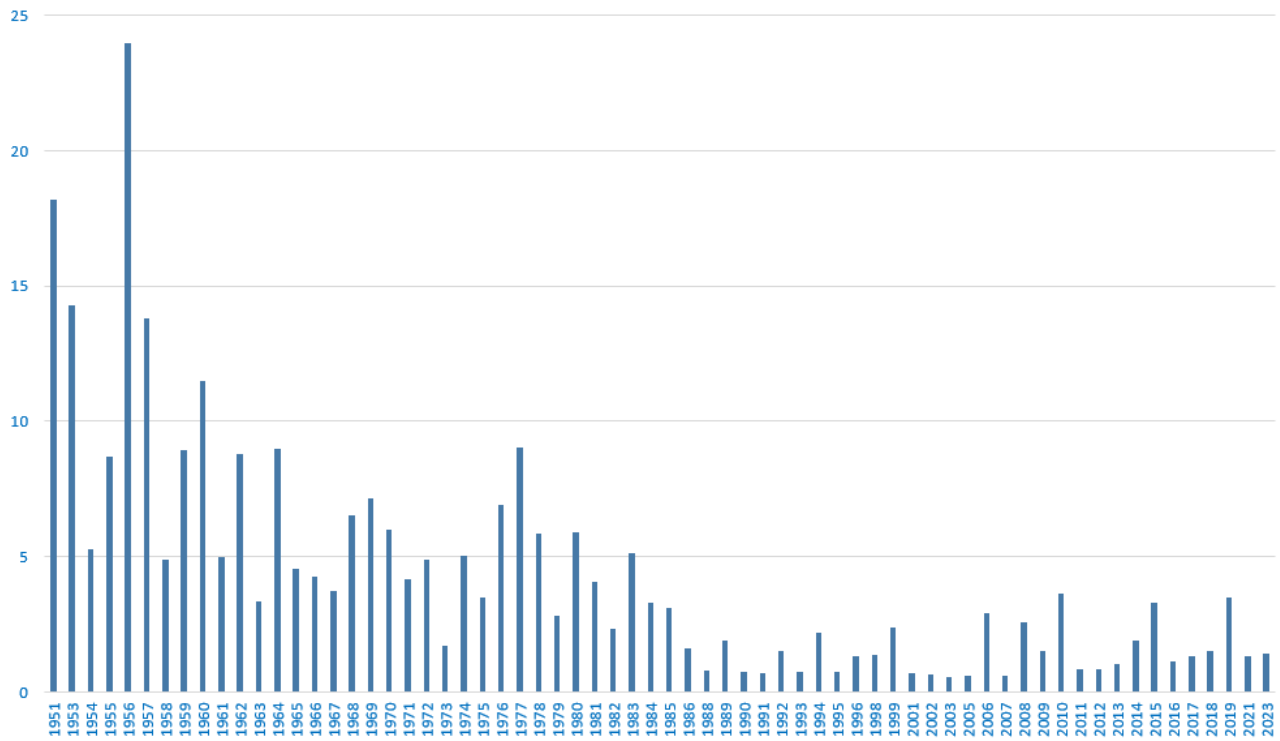
These totals are of gifts received as of 6.19.26

\$163,053.03 raised in the fiscal year so far!\*

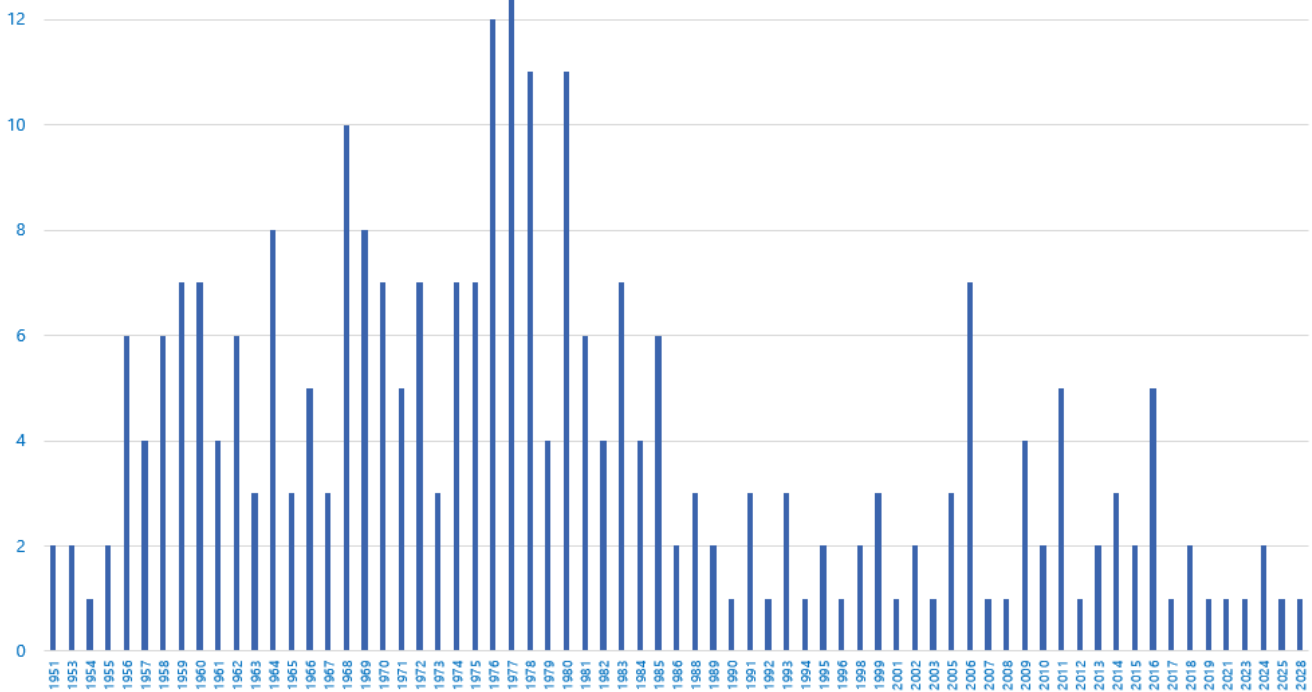
\*unaudited number

Gifts from alumni spouses are split between their graduating classes.

PERCENTAGE OF LIVING CLASSMATES WHO HAVE DONATED TO PIONEER FUND 7/1/25 - 6/19/26



NUMBER OF CLASSMATES WHO HAVE DONATED TO PIONEER FUND TO DATE






**OUR VISION IS CLEAR**

THE DUCHEсне HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX CAMPAIGN

- Total Project Cost: \$3.2 million -  
**\$1 Million Challenge Match:**  
 Raise \$1 Million by September 30 and Unlock an Additional \$1 Million!

Learn More & Give Today at [www.duchesne-hs.org](http://www.duchesne-hs.org).  
 Thank You for Making It a Great Day to Be a Pioneer!

*Scan or Click to  
 Learn About Our  
 \$1 Million Dollar  
 Match Challenge!*



## From the Director of Advancement



**Becky Williamson**  
 Director of Advancement

Dear Friends of Duchesne,

For more than a century, Duchesne has provided students with an exceptional education experience grounded

in faith, academic excellence, leadership, and community. Today, we are excited to invite you to take part in the next chapter of Duchesne's history, our Sports Complex campaign.

### **Pioneering Our Future, Building Our Legacy!**

This transformative project will create a state-of-the-art athletic facility that will serve generations of Duchesne students, families, and community members. The new Sports Complex is designed to enhance the student-athlete experience while providing modern facilities that reflect the excellence of our school, increasing enrollment, alumni engagement, and activity on campus by others in our community that will contribute to our future growth and success. The

cost for the new Sports Complex has been carefully outlined and is estimated to be \$3.2 million.

### **A Historic Matching Gift Opportunity**

We are thrilled to announce a **\$1 million matching gift challenge** established by a pair of generous Duchesne supporters. If we can raise **\$1 million in new gift commitments toward the Sports Complex by September 30, 2026**, these donors will contribute an additional **\$1 million**, doubling the impact of every gift and bringing us a total of \$2 million closer to making this much-needed development possible.

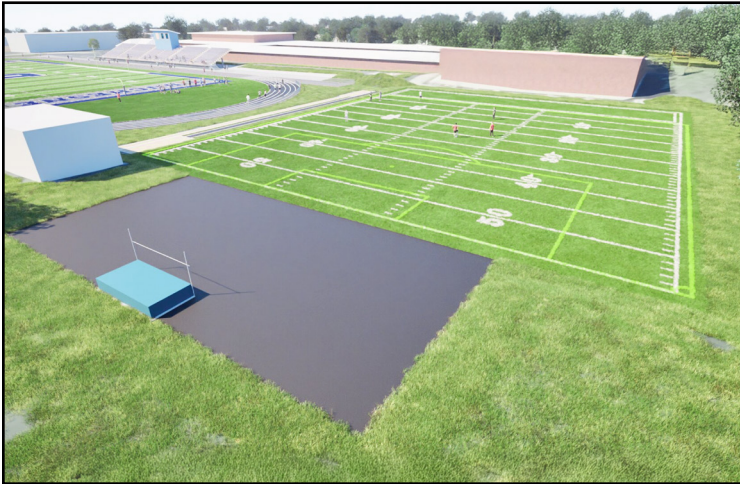
This extraordinary opportunity allows every donor to have twice the impact. Whether your

gift is \$100, \$1,000, \$10,000, or more, every dollar contributed before September 30 will help unlock this transformational match and accelerate the completion of the Sports Complex.

Now is the time to invest in the future of Duchesne and help us maximize this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

### **This multi-use project will include:**

- A new turf game field
- An all-weather 6-lane track for training and competition
- A 50-yard turf practice field
- A digital scoreboard
- A new press box



Renderings provided by Byrne & Jones Construction



• Enhanced facilities for field events, including long jump, triple jump, shot put, and discus

helping us move the project forward today.

**Business Sponsorship Opportunities**

The new Sports Complex represents a significant investment in Duchesne's future and will provide our students with opportunities to develop teamwork, discipline, leadership, and school pride.

Businesses and organizations can play a vital role in supporting this project while receiving meaningful visibility within the Duchesne community. Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels and may include recognition through:

**Ways to Give**

We invite you to support this exciting initiative with a gift meaningful to you and your family.

Donors may contribute through:

- One-time gifts
- Multi-year pledges
- Gifts of appreciated securities
- Matching gifts through employers
- Donor-advised funds
- Family Foundation gifts

- Stadium and facility signage
- Digital scoreboard promotions
- Athletic program recognition
- Website and social media acknowledgments
- Pioneer Pulse podcast recognition

Customized sponsorship packages can be developed to align with a business's philanthropic and marketing goals.

**Naming Opportunities**

To make participation accessible for all supporters, **pledges may be fulfilled through December 31, 2027**, or a future agreed-upon date. This allows donors to spread their commitment over time while

The new Sports Complex also offers a variety of naming opportunities for individuals, families, businesses, and foundations seeking to leave a lasting legacy at Duchesne. Opportunities may include:

- Athletic Field
- Track
- Locker Rooms
- Athletic Training Room
- Press Box
- Concession Area
- Team Benches
- Scoreboard
- Practice Field

Naming opportunities are available at various giving levels and provide permanent recognition of a donor's commitment to the future of Duchesne athletics.

Your support will help create a premier athletic environment that strengthens our mission and enriches the experience of every student who walks our campus, including today's Pioneers and future generations. We hope you will consider joining us in making this vision a reality.

For more information on supporting this project, please contact:

President  
Paul Boschert '77  
636.757.6904

Director of Advancement  
Becky Williamson  
636.757.6931

Board President  
Jack Borgmeyer '97  
636.578.6621

Finance Chairman of the Board  
Dave Romeo '77  
864.385.0369

**Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.**

Thank you for making it a Great Day to be a Pioneer!

Sincerely,

*Becky Williamson*

Becky Williamson  
Director of Advancement

# LEAVES

ALUMNI FEATURES AND UPDATES



## Shaping Players for the Pitch and Beyond

Pat Turner '03

For Patrick Turner '03, coaching soccer at Dukesne is about more than building a winning program.

It is about building something players want to come back to.

Turner, a Dukesne graduate and long-time head soccer coach, has helped lead both the boys and girls soccer programs to major milestones over the years. In 2023, he earned his 100th win with the boys varsity soccer program, adding to the 100-win milestone he had already reached with the girls varsity program in 2021. He has also been part of six soccer state championships at Dukesne since joining the coaching staff.

But when Turner talks about coaching, the conversation does not begin with records or championships. It begins with relationships.

Some of those relationships started long before he was a coach.

Turner's father was an active sports parent during Turner's time at Dukesne. Turner's sister graduated in 2000, and his parents were involved as athletic boosters, helping wherever they could. In the spring of Turner's freshman year, his father was asked to help coach JV girls soccer when the program was short-staffed.

Though he coached only one season, his connection to Dukesne athletics continued. Turner said his father remained a regular supporter of Dukesne sports even after Turner graduated in 2003. When Turner returned to Dukesne as a coach, his father attended as many games as he could until health issues prevented him from being there.

That legacy is still visible inside Dukesne. After his father passed away, dona-

tions made in his memory were directed to Dukesne Athletic Boosters. Those gifts, along with the support of the boosters and the Dukesne community, helped create the turf space upstairs in the mezzanine, which is dedicated to him.

Turner said his father would have loved seeing the space used by Dukesne athletes, and he would be just as excited about future athletic upgrades.

"He'd be ecstatic," Turner said. "I assure you, he'd be up here watching the construction from day one to the first game."

That sense of family, memory, and commitment to Dukesne has shaped the way Turner sees his own role as a coach. For him, the program is not just something students pass through for four years. It is something that can stay with them long after graduation.

That is especially clear in his coaching staff.

Several of Turner's assistant coaches are former players or Duchesne alumni who have returned to the program. Turner said that has always been part of the idea: to involve people who understand the program because they have lived it themselves.

He mentioned coaches like Nick Spiess '12, who has been part of the staff for years while also balancing work as a firefighter-paramedic and life as a young father. Turner also talked about former players such as Jimmy Choinka '17, the only freshman on Turner's first boys varsity team, who later returned to coach with him.

"Pat came in to coach at Duchesne while I was senior," said Spiess. "The first thing he told us was, 'If you guys need anything at all, even outside of soccer, I'm here for you. I was in your shoes not long ago.' That showed me instantly that Duchesne soccer is more than a soccer program, but a family as well."

"It's just exciting to see these young players grow into adults," Turner said. "The connections you make can last a lifetime."

That idea of lasting connection is central to Turner's coaching style. While he wants his players to grow as soccer players, he also wants them to leave the program with something they can use beyond the field.

When asked what he tries to instill in his players besides soccer skills, Turner's answer came quickly.

"I'd say the biggest one is mental toughness," he said.

Turner said that is probably the first thing many of his current and former players would identify as a major part of his program. He tries to put players in situations where they are pushed out of their comfort zones. At times, that means raising the intensity of a practice session to see how players respond.

For Turner, those moments are not just about preparing for a postseason game or a championship run. They are about preparing students for life.

"Coach Turner not only pushes me to my full soccer potential, but is also a role model for me," said senior Lucas Brockmeyer. "He is well respected by all the players and it is an honor to play for one of the best high

school soccer coaches in the history of the state."

That mental toughness becomes especially important in high-pressure moments. Turner has coached in plenty of big games, but he said coaches still feel the nerves and excitement too. Their job is to help players manage those emotions.

He said teams have to know when it is time to be switched on, but they also need moments when they can stay loose. Over the years, Turner has noticed that successful teams often have players who help keep the group relaxed in pressure situations. Some may be standout players, while others help the team in equally important ways.

"I think that's kind of one of the secrets to the success," Turner said.

The most recent girls soccer season offered a clear example of the kind of growth Turner values. The team was young, with only two seniors, but Turner began to see younger players already stepping into leadership roles.

Even though the season ended short of the team's ultimate goal, Turner believes the group made important strides mentally. With so many young players returning, he sees a foundation the team can continue to build on.

Faith also plays a role in the way Turner leads.

"I go home and I pray for the team every day," Turner said. "I pray for my family. I pray for the team, our health and chances at success that the Lord gives us."

He encourages players to focus on what they can control and not become overwhelmed by what they cannot. If players are carrying worries they cannot bring to a coach, Turner said prayer can often times help them find peace.

That balance of toughness, faith,

hard work and relationships traces back to Turner's own time as a Duchesne student.

He remembers all of his coaches having a positive impact, but he specifically mentioned his JV coach, Mark Delaney. Turner said Delaney knew how to relate to younger players and helped create a team culture built around fair play, hard work and togetherness.

"It was a very blue collar mentality when we're on the field, but a kind of a brotherhood outside of it," Turner said.

Turner said some of those teammates are still among his closest friends nearly 30 years later. That, to him, says a lot about the kind of experience Duchesne soccer gave him.

Now, he hopes the athletes he has coached can say the same thing years from now.

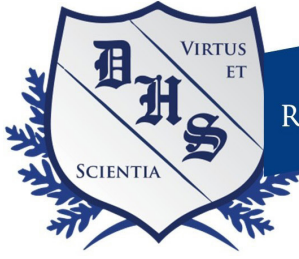
The wins, championships and milestones are part of Turner's story. But they are not the whole story. His larger goal is to build a program where players are challenged, supported and connected to something that lasts beyond their final game.

For Turner, that may be the real measure of Duchesne soccer: not just what players accomplish while they are here, but what they carry with them when they leave.

## Forever Friends



These Class of 1974 friends recently made a trip to South Carolina to celebrate a special birthday year, but they get together regularly closer to home to celebrate their long and cherished friendships. From left: Pat (Abeling) Witte, Susan (Heinsz) Rollin, Joyce (Nacke) Bono, Sue (Stahlschmidt) Bazzell, Marsha (Lauer) Beilsmith, Jean (Luetkemeyer) Weber, Laura (Palmatier) Evdo, and Cynthia (Rothermich) Forgy.



## REUNITING WHERE AT ALL BEGAN — CLASS REUNIONS AT DUCHESNE HIGH

### Save the Date...

#### 35th Reunion for the CLASSES OF 1990 and 1991 Reunion — 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 by Tuesday, 8/25/26. 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](mailto:nikdds@gmail.com) or Kara at 314.606.1937 or [klreynolds@charter.net](http://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. Watch the Facebook page at Duchesne Class of 1986. Jen (Horton) Silvestri, Cheryl (Pollack) Johnson, and Christina (Podhorsky) Kuhlmann are organizing. If you're not on Facebook, please email [jensilvestri11@gmail.com](mailto:jensilvestri11@gmail.com) so she can keep you in the loop as further details develop.

#### 15th Reunion 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. If you're interested in helping, please email [tyler@golfrehabstl.com](mailto:tyler@golfrehabstl.com) or [graham.jenna.a@gmail.com](mailto:graham.jenna.a@gmail.com).

#### 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 Football Homecoming game as well as at a post-game celebration. Details to follow. In the meantime, if you haven't already, please email [nkohl@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:nkohl@duchesne-hs.org) with your current email address and cell number so we can be sure to keep you posted. Thanks!

#### 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 7-10pm. If you haven't received an email from Peggy (Ell) Skaggs, please contact her at 314-304-5277 or [pegell3@hotmail.com](mailto:pegell3@hotmail.com). More info will be sent out soon!

#### Class of 1976 — on Saturday, October 17, 2026

The Class of 1976 is working on a plan for their 50th reunion, to be held on Saturday, Octo-

ber 17, 2026. Charlie Smith and Molly (O'Brien) Reilly are chairing the committee organizing the event. Watch the class's Facebook page for developments and details. If you're not on Facebook, please contact Molly at 636.345.1022 or [mcreilly1143@gmail.com](mailto:mcreilly1143@gmail.com) or Charlie at 636.795.7222 or [charles\\_and\\_christy@charter.net](mailto:charles_and_christy@charter.net).

#### 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. Marsha (Weber) Stocker and Keith Boschert are organizing. A save-the-date postcard is on its way to you. Please respond with an email to [marsha.stocker@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.stocker@gmail.com) with your email address, mailing address, and cell number so the class is sure to have everyone's current contact information. Thank you!

#### Class of 2001 — at Duchesne on Saturday, November 17, 2026

The Class of 2001 will hold their 25th reunion at Duch-

esne on Saturday, November 7, 2026. Jake Vehige and team are organizing. If you'd like to be involved, please contact Jake at [jake.vehige@gmail.com](mailto:jake.vehige@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto:nkohl@duchesne-hs.org) or 636.757.6925 to begin the conversation! Duchesne can you 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.



### 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](mailto:nkohl@duchesne-hs.org) with your contact details.*



# CAMPUS MINISTRY



**Mike Deluvia**

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

Hello Pioneers!

As June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I thought we could spend some time reflecting on this beautiful treasure of the Church and a defining aspect of Philippine's spirituality.

This devotion chiefly calls to mind God's infinite love for us. This great gift of love then invites a response: to love God in return, and our neighbor as ourselves. This devotion arose at a time when many doubted the love of God during the Jansenist heresy, and Pope Francis noted its relevance today: "It could be argued that today, in place of Jansenism, we find ourselves before a powerful wave of secularization that seeks to build a world free of God... For this reason, I turn my gaze to the

heart of Christ and I invite all of us to renew our devotion to it" (Dilexit Nos 87).

Philippine Duchesne's spirituality was deeply formed by this devotion, especially in how she embraced suffering. "We all have trials at this moment, and the Heart of Jesus lets us experience what our title requires of us: consecration to the sufferings that pierce that Heart." She teaches us the essential nature of Christ-like, sacrificial love: "The cross is for everyone and only those who know how to carry it are happy."

This devotion has meant a great deal in my own life. I've had to reckon with the fact

that He freely shed His blood for me despite my constant failures and lack of appreciation. In response, He calls me to love my wife and children with patience and sacrifice, even when little ones are waking up in the middle of the night (I'm looking at you, Leo). When I pray the Litany to the Sacred Heart, I find myself drawn to this title: Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity. That is the intensity of His love for me and the love He invites me to give to others.

I encourage you to join in this great devotion. I cannot recommend enough having an Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in your own home.

Ask your parish priest about it. It's a beautiful way to get the whole family involved. My kids loved it, and we made cupcakes with hearts on them to celebrate. You can also pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart. I recommend doing it slowly, focusing on a title that speaks to you.

As we draw to a close, I pray that you and your families enjoy a relaxing summer and are drawn closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I hope we can all make this prayer with Philippine: "All we do is for the divine Heart, and it is in the Heart of Jesus that we bring all to a close."



*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 DIAMONDLINE NIGHT  
Soccer vs Valley Park High



# FROM THE SPORTS DESK



**Renee Moore '86  
Athletic Director**

A serious question from my mom recently: "What do you do all day?" She wasn't being rude—she was genuinely curious about what keeps me busy day after day. I started to answer, but honestly, my mind went blank.

What do I do all day?

I'm not sure, Mom, but I promise I stay busy.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized why that question was so hard to answer. Not only is every day different, but every season brings its own set of responsibilities and challenges.

And truthfully, many days don't even feel like a job. They feel like a labor of love. So, I began to think about the major highlights of the athletic season and decided to report as my travel log.

The miles I drove to many places I'd never been...

- New Bloomfield to watch Leah Krupich '27 and Kannah Kesler '29 compete in the state golf tournament
- Columbia to watch Isabel Rakers '26 and Audrey Hoffmann '27 compete in the state cross country meet
- Cadet to watch our girls basketball team take on Kingston High School in sectional basketball play
- Hannibal to watch Bennett Borgmeyer '26, Hunter Dodson '26, Drew Heischmidt '26, Eric Greifzu '27, and Austin Schoene '27 compete in district golf
- Farmington to watch Eric Greifzu '27 and Austin Schoene '27 play in the state golf tournament
- Jefferson City to watch Isabel Rakers '26, Audrey Hoffmann '27, Charley Pirtle '28, and

Addi Willman '28 race at the state track meet

- Wardsville to watch our girls soccer team compete in the district tournament
- Macon to watch our baseball team play in the sectional baseball game
- Springfield for the Class 3 Final Four Baseball State Championship
- Fenton for the Class 1 Final Four Soccer State Championship

So many gyms, stadiums, and courses traveled to by our Duchesne teams and coaches, families, and community; no regret for a single mile driven or single minute spent cheering our Duchesne teams to victory or defeat. The excitement our teams brought to our Duchesne community this season only adds to the positive direction our school is headed. The way our teams conducted themselves on and off the field of play makes me proud. Winning a state championship is great, but not winning requires great poise and class as you watch another team celebrate five feet from you. Life lessons are hard, but I couldn't be prouder of our teams and coaches. Seeing tears is hard, but for someone who has been around and seen lots of change, it made me smile to see how much is the same. These athletes care so much about their school and the community that showed up to support them. Also, nothing to hang your head about finishing 2nd in State. We will be back!

Happy Summer Everyone!

## THANK YOU'S

Thank you to our Duchesne Booster club for helping us afford some of the expenses incurred from our state championship runs.

Thank you to Becky Williamson. She does so much for our athletic department, but I wanted to thank her for helping with senior night T-shirt orders, state T-shirt orders, and rally towels! Mrs. Williamson offers so much behind-the-scenes help, expecting no recognition or praise.

Thank you to our parents! Our parents stepped up whenever help was needed. Team dinners and breakfasts, waters and Gatorades, team travel goody bags, pickle packs (who knew?); you provided us with things we didn't even know we needed!

Thank you to Jeff Locker and Ambush Soccer

for allowing us to utilize the Ambush bus for travel. Special shoutout to Brian Wagner who drove our teams wherever they needed to go! He drove the baseball team to Springfield on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and turned around to drive our soccer team to Fenton on Saturday!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO CLASS OF 2026 ATHLETIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

On Tuesday, May 12, at the Baccalaureate Mass and Award Ceremony the following athletic awards were presented:

### MSHSAA Sportsmanship Award

- Brooke Kammerer
- Michael Shaw

### Duchesne High School Outstanding Athlete

- Isabel Rakers
- Drew Heischmidt

### Post Dispatch Scholar Athlete

- Jackson Nikodym

### St. Charles County Amateur Sports Hall of Fame Award

- Isabel Rakers
- Drew Heischmidt

### Pioneer Pride Award for Three-Sport Athletes

- Bennett Borgmeyer
- Liam Daleo

## RECORD-BREAKING SEASONS FOR OUR SPRING ATHLETES

- Baseball – Class 3 State 2nd Place
- Individual Recognition Missouri High School Baseball Coaches Association
  - Ryan Finnegan '26 – Class 3 District 5 First Team Outfielder
  - Jaymeson Forest '26 – Class 3 First Team All-State Infielder, Class 3 District 5 First Team and Offensive Player of the Year
  - TJ Griese '26 – Class 3 First Team All-State Pitcher, Class 3 District 5 First Team and Pitcher of the Year
  - Alex Hopf '26 – Class 3 District 5 Second Team Outfielder
  - Jackson Nikodym '26 – Class 3 First Team

- All-State Utility Player, Class 3 District 5 Player of the Year
- Rudy Weber '26 – Class 3 Honorable Mention All-State Pitcher, Class 3 District 5 Second Team Pitcher
  - Ryan Whitworth '27 – Class 3 District 5 Second Team Pitcher
  - Ben Winterer '28 – Class 3 Honorable Mention All-State Catcher, Class 3 District 5 First Team Catcher
- Individual Recognition Missouri High School Baseball Coaches Association Academic All State
    - John Cooper '27
    - Isaac Garner '29
    - Jackson Nikodym '26
    - Mason Shaw '29
    - Michael Shaw '26
    - Ryan Whitworth '27
  - Duchesne Baseball Records
    - Jaymeson Forest '26 – 100 Career Hits: Fastest to accomplish based on number of at bats and plate appearances
    - TJ Griese '26 – 150 Strikeouts, Single Season Hit Record with 45
    - Jackson Nikodym '26 – Career RBI Record, 150 Career Hits, Career Hits Record, Career Doubles Record, All-Time Strikeout Record, 200 Career Strikeouts, Career Pitching Wins Record
    - Ben Winterer '28 and Drake Fortman '28 Tied for Single Season Walks Record
    - Team Records – Most Regular Season Wins (23), Most Overall Wins (28), Best Winning Percentage
  - Golf
    - Eric Greifzu, 1st place in Class 2 State Golf – Class 2 All-State Honor
  - Soccer (Girls) – Class 1 State 2nd Place
    - Charley Pirtle '28 – Class 1 All-State Honorable Mention, Class 1 All-Region
    - Emma Rogles '29 – Class 1 First Team All-State, Class 1 All-Region Co- Goalkeeper of the Year
    - Presleigh Smith '29 – Class

- 1 First Team All-State, Class 1 All-Region
- Sarah Smith '27 – Class 1 Second Team All-State, Class 1 All-Region
- Cadie Welchko '28 – Class 1 All-State Defensive Player of the Year, Class 1 All-Region Defensive Player of the Year
- Coach Patrick Turner '03 – Class 1 All-Region Private Schools Coach of the Year
- Volleyball Record Breaker
  - Will Johannesman '26 – All-Time Career Kills
- Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer – District 3-Peat
  - Daley Meyer '27 was a vital member of three teams in the 2025-2026 athletic season that were crowned district champions. Who says you can't be a three-sport athlete! Help me Pioneer Nation! Has this ever been accomplished before?

### SUMMER STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING TRAINING WITH COACH MORRIS AND EMERGE FITNESS

We are beyond excited to offer a fantastic opportunity for our student athletes to train for eight weeks this summer with Coach Morris and trainers Matt '94 and Angie Pirtle, owners of Emerge Fitness. The program kicked off the first week of June at Duchesne High School in the Fitness Center/Mezzanine area of the gym. This program is completely FREE to any Duchesne student (incoming 9th grader to senior). Sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday mornings, either 8am-9am or 9am-10am. Just show up and we will take it from there. Please reach out to Renee Moore at [rmoores@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:rmoores@duchesne-hs.org) with any questions. It is NOT too late to join in the fitness fun!

### MANDATORY ATHLETIC PARENT MEETING ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

I cannot stress the importance of attending this meeting. The number of questions received each year that are covered at this ONE-TIME Mandatory Meeting is countless. ALL parents who have a student who will play a sport during ANY athletic season must attend. Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 20. If your son or daughter intends to play a sport (including cheer, dance, or Esports) at Duchesne in 2026-27, it is mandatory for at least one parent to attend.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER:

- Duchesne Dead Period: August 1-9, 2026. No sport or activity practices or meetings
- 2026 High School Sports Physicals
  - MSHSAA requires all student athletes to have an up-to-date physical on file before trying out for a sport. In most cases, physicals are good for two years. Please see scan the QR code on the SSM flyer to find information provided by SSM Health Sports Medicine for free sports physicals. You may not try out without an up-to-date physical. Absolutely no exception. Please email trainer Kate Mir for further information at [athletictrain-er@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:athletictrain-er@duchesne-hs.org).

- First Fall Practice Date: Monday, August 10, 2026
- Information about practice times and places will be forthcoming, but plan to practice each day leading up to the start of classes
- Mandatory Parent Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2026

### STAY INFORMED


Students who need contact information for Duchesne coaches to get summer workout schedules please email [rmoores@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:rmoores@duchesne-hs.org) and I will share the respective coaches' contact information. Don't miss out on summer opportunities to get stronger in the weight room, improve your athletic skills, and spend fun, quality time with your coaches and teammates.

*Duchesne athletics is in the process of transferring to a new scheduling software. We will no longer be utilizing BigTeams/Schedulestar. We are transitioning to Eventlink.*

*Details will be shared with parents as soon as the transition is complete.*

Follow Athletics\_DHS on X for real-time updates





## 2026 High School Sports Physicals

SSM Health Sports Medicine is offering **FREE** Sports Physicals for our partnered High Schools. You **MUST** sign up on the link below in order to receive a physical.

Please sign up with the link below or the QR code


Please sign up for one 10 minute appointment slot, but please allow up to 45 minutes for your appointment. Be sure to sign up with the child receiving the physicals name, not the parents name. Please note there are several dates and locations available.

Your child **MUST** be entering high school at one of the following High Schools:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A\\_4A728A7FEC61-63640109-2026](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A_4A728A7FEC61-63640109-2026)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bayless High School</li> <li>Belleville East High School</li> <li>Belleville West High School</li> <li>Bishop DuBourg High School</li> <li>Collinsville High School</li> <li>Duchesne High School</li> <li>Hillsboro High School</li> <li>Lutheran North High School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lutheran South High School</li> <li>Kirkwood High School</li> <li>Nctre Dame High School</li> <li>Orchard Farm High School</li> <li>Pattonville High School</li> <li>Ursuline Academy</li> <li>Vianney High School</li> <li>Visitation Academy</li> </ul>
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Questions?  
Contact Katie Smith at  
[Katie.Smith2@ssmhealth.com](mailto:Katie.Smith2@ssmhealth.com)  
Or call 833-776-7767





  
**ENDLESS SUMMER  
LUAU**  
 Get ready for a night of  
tropical fun!  
**14 AUGUST, 2026**  
 DOORS OPEN AT 5PM  
 MIXER 6-8PM  
 2550 ELM ST.  
 ST. CHARLES, MO 63301




  
**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](mailto: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**  
 ENTREPRENEURIAL, 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](mailto: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](mailto:bgrass@duchesne-hs.org)






# JOIN US AT THE RIVERFEST PARADE ON JULY 4TH!




# THE GIVING BRANCH




## REC HALL

800 S. DUCHESNE

# Class of 2031 Kickoff!

Come for the Fun, Stay for the Connections!

**July 19<sup>th</sup> 5-7 pm**  
Dinner, Drinks, Games, and More!!




## Skip Laundry. Support DHS.

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Schedule now at [FluffRush.com](https://FluffRush.com) or scan the QR code:

Locally owned. No gig workers. Always reliable.



[FluffRush.com](https://FluffRush.com)



**ONE LOVE**

*Raising Funds with Raising Cane's*

Learn more about how we can support you at [CanesAndCommunity.com](https://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.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/RaisingCanes) [i](https://www.instagram.com/RaisingCanes) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@RaisingCanes) [y](https://www.youtube.com/RaisingCanes) [RaisingCanes](https://www.RaisingCanes.com)

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