



PIONEER PRESS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER • 2026

Archbishop Recognizes New School Charisms



Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski visited Duchesne High School on September 15 for a special all-school Mass marking an important moment in the school's history: the official recognition and solemn affirmation of Duchesne's new School Charisms.

PAGE: 3

UPCOMING DATES

October 12

Columbus Day – No School

October 14

PSAT

October 20

Report Card Night

October 25

Open House

October 26

No School



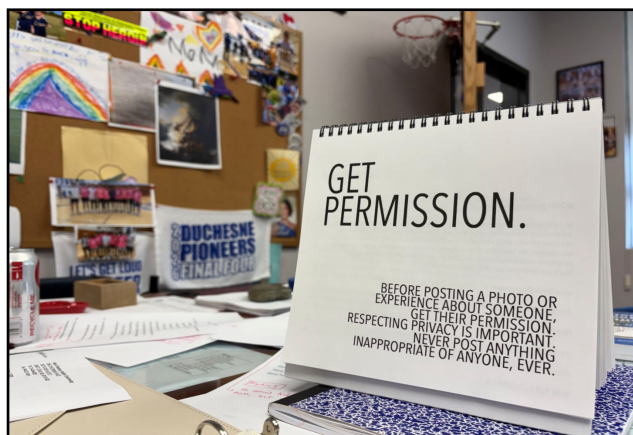
From the Assistant Principal of Student Life



Debi Turner '96
Assistant Principal of
Student Life

Be Careful What You Post

That same care for one another should carry into how we capture and share our memories of Homecoming, as well as those of every other day. There was certainly a sea of cell phones capturing all the beautiful moments that went hand in hand with an event like Homecoming. Those same phones, unfortunately, can also capture embarrassing moments that someone would rather forget.



What a FANTASTIC Spirit Week, thanks to our Jogues House leaders!

My favorite part was watching them work together, solve problems (because assembling chairs is difficult), and put their hearts into making Homecoming special for their peers. From planning the pep rally to giving the PAC their "Jogues Golden Eagle" touch, their excitement showed in every detail.

Please take a few minutes to talk with your kids about what they post online. Respecting someone's privacy means asking before sharing and honoring their answer. Encourage your kids to be people who look out for others. If a photo or video could embarrass someone or make them uncomfortable, don't post it.

Let's make sure the kindness and community we celebrated last week show up online, too. And yes, there's a good chance your kids captured ME on the dance floor at HOCO. Consider that their first opportunity to practice asking, "Does this really need to be posted?" Some memories are best left on the dance floor.

Drumline Places 3rd in Wright City Competition



The Drumline took 3rd place in their class at competition in Wright City on September 19! It was the group's first competitive outing, and they did an excellent job! Congratulations!

Charisms Officially Recognized by Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski



Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski visited Dukesne High School on September 15 for a special all-school Mass to mark a landmark moment in the school's history: the official affirmation of Dukesne's new charisms.

Drawn from the life and example of St. Rose Philippine Dukesne, the four charisms of Prayer, Missionary Discipleship, Community, and Pioneer Spirit were

chosen to serve as foundational pillars of formation for the Pioneer community, inspiring current and future generations of students and families.

During the liturgy, Archbishop Rozanski formally signed the charisms statement, concluding a 13-month review process involving the Catholic Identity Committee, the Archdiocese, and the Dukesne Board.

For Ann Tollefson '76, a committee member and longtime advocate for honoring St. Rose Philippine Dukesne's legacy at the school, the day represented far more than completing an approval process.

"We experienced a foundational moment in Dukesne High School history on September 15 when the Archbishop approved our charisms," Tollefson said.

School leaders noted that Archbishop Rozanski's presence made the occasion especially memorable.

"What a blessing to have Archbishop Rozanski on campus celebrating our All-School Mass prior to approving our Dukesne Charisms," said Dukesne President Paul Boschert '77. "His homily was perfect and his presence was very well received. We are deeply appreciative of his time at Dukesne High School."

Mike Deluvia '13, chair of the Catholic Identity Committee, echoed that sentiment, highlighting how the Archbishop connected with the message of the newly adopted pillars.

(continued on pg. 4)

CARROLLTON
BANK



Archbishop Recognizes Charisms

(continued from pg. 3)

"It was wonderful to have the Archbishop celebrate Mass and join us for the official adoption," Deluvia said. "He preached on the charisms as if he was the one who chose them! I'm proud of our students and campus ministry team for their reverent worship, and I'm excited for our students to be formed in these ideals. I think they can be the foundations of a holy and happy life."

That formation is already well underway. The four pillars have been introduced at the Freshman Family Mass, incorporated into Theology classes, featured in parent

communications and the Pioneer Press, and integrated into Thursday Communion periods. A charism emblem now stands outside the chapel, providing a constant visual anchor at the heart of the school.

Moving forward, Campus Minister Mike Fitzgerald is drafting supporting framework points for each charism with input from faculty, which will be submitted to the Catholic Identity Committee for review later this year.

A dedicated team worked behind the scenes to prepare the liturgy and signing ceremony, supported by school leadership, faculty, the choir, and the Catholic Identity Committee. Communications efforts also included launching a new charism emblem and related visual media.

Together, these efforts are helping transition the charisms from an official state-

ment into the everyday culture of Duchesne. They will soon provide the community a shared language for values that have long defined its spirit.

The celebration concluded on a lighter note following the ceremony, when Archbishop Rozanski was presented with a gift from the school: his own Duchesne sweatshirt for the upcoming winter. It was a fitting end to a day that tied together the school's heritage, Catholic identity, and future path.



Kudos to Gabi Wagner '29, recipient of the 2026-2027 Evan Kielty Memorial Scholarship at Duchesne, for getting up before daylight on Saturday, September 12, to volunteer at the annual golf tournament that honors Evan's life.

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A Deeper Look at the Charisms: Prayer

Mike Deluvia
Duchesne Board
of Limited Jurisdiction
Catholic Identity
Committee

What do we mean when we say, "Duchesne Pioneers Pray Without Ceasing?" The line comes from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Surely, he can't mean we need to pray every single moment? We've all got a ton of things to do. So how can we live out this instruction? Here are three ways from the Catholic tradition, with St. Rose Philippine Duchesne as our guide.

First, we need dedicated time for daily prayer. Just like we make time for dates with our spouse or coffee with friends, we need specific time to talk with God. This requires planning, discipline, and humility. Better to actually pray for 10 minutes a day than aim for 30 minutes and never reach it. It helps to plan your next day's prayer the night before, choosing a time and a devotion or meditation. Philippine was devoted to her regular prayer time in the chapel before the Blessed Sacrament.

Second, we can practice what the tradition calls "recollection": remembering God



throughout the day in simple prayer and glances of the mind. You notice a beautiful sunrise. That's an opportunity to give thanks to God. You encounter a challenging situation with your child. That's a time

to ask for God's help. We can keep up a conversation with God all day. One of Philippine's short prayers: "Strengthen in us, O God, the work You have begun in us."

Third, we can offer up our works as prayer. God knows we have duties to attend to, but they can become prayer too. In the morning, we can offer God all our good works. Then when we're working, conversing with our children, attending to the household, all these things take on a new character, becoming a source of sanctification for us. Philippine made her offering this way: "Jesus, I live for Thee, I labor for Thee, I desire only Thee. Thou in me and I in Thee; Thou with me and I with Thee; Thou all mine and I all Thine."

God desires to draw us near to Him through prayer. When we strive to pray without ceasing, and when we ask for His help, our lives are transformed as we live in His Presence.

EXPLORE OUR CHARISMS



From the Campus Minister

Mike Fitzgerald
Campus Minister

Hello to all parents, alumni, students, and anyone else I missed in the Duchesne community. We had our annual senior Kairos retreat Sept 1-4, and it was amazing.

Since the program is newer, I wanted to give just a few thoughts on its purpose to remind everyone why I wanted to bring the retreat to our Duchesne students with the Administration's blessing. Kairos, much like Chronos, is a form of time. Chronos is measured in length or duration; Kairos, on the other hand, is not measured by its length, but rather by the intensity of the moment. Kairos literally translates to "head time"; it's a time when things come to a head and a choice must be made.

The retreat is built around personal testimonies by seniors and faculty that try to get the retreatants to reflect on their own lives, look back, and look for where God was in those moments when we missed Him the first round. The hope is to get our seniors to wake up a little and start to realize the world is much bigger than them and the small communities they are currently a part of, and to start to realize that their choices can have real impact in the world and really affect those they love and care for.

After last year, student leaders and faculty had a much better grasp on the program, and this year's retreat was nothing short of phenomenal. The seniors (retreatants, not leaders) started coming by my office a few weeks before the retreat to inform me how excited they were after hearing all the good things about the retreat from last year's graduates. One young man spoke to the

parents after the retreat and stated, "I had high expectations for this retreat and it surpassed them all!"

The retreatants bought into the program early on and real-life events and faith events were discussed by all. Goals were created, and faith was grown amongst all who attended. I would like to take a brief moment to thank the student and adult leaders for all their hard work that week, and thank Mr. Boschert and Mr. Schneider for allowing me to start up a Kairos program here at Duchesne. The retreat has been a huge blessing throughout my high school and adult life, and I love sharing its gifts with students each year.

Sincerely,

Mike Fitzgerald (Mr. Fitz)
 Director of Campus Ministry

Pray the Rosary for Duchesne This October

OCTOBER ROSARY RUSH

Every Friday at 7:15am in the Duchesne Chapel
Duchesne faculty, students, and parents are invited to celebrate the month of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary by joining us every Friday in October in the chapel for prayer.

Let's fill the chapel and honor our Blessed Mother!



October is the Month of the Rosary, and we're inviting Pioneers to offer a Rosary for Duchesne High School on each day of the month.

Our Blessed Mother promised great graces to those who faithfully pray the Rosary, and that it would make virtue and good works flourish. One Rosary for Duchesne lets you:

✓ Ask for Mary's intercession for our school

✓ Live out our charism of Prayer

✓ Follow the example of our patroness, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, "the Woman Who Prays Always"

Students, parents, alumni, faculty, and friends are all welcome. Pick a day, or several, and commit to praying one Rosary for our school community that day. Pray it alone, with your family, or with friends. Pray it at home, on a walk, or before the Blessed Sacrament.

Sign up using the link below:

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

Thank you for joining us in prayer this month.

SIGN UP & PRAY!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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				Sign Up	Sign Up	Sign Up
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11 Pray the Rosary for D...	12 Pray the Rosary for D...	13 Pray the Rosary for D...	14 Pray the Rosary for D...	15 Pray the Rosary for D...	16 Pray the Rosary for D...	17 Pray the Rosary for D...
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Pick a day to pray the Rosary for our Duchesne Community!

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Tuskegee Airmen History Comes to Aviation Classroom



Air Force Major Yolande M. Wood recounts the struggles of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Duchesne Aviation students received a lesson in aviation history on September 21 from retired United States Air Force Major Yolande M. Wood.

Wood visited the class to speak about the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and the lessons students can take from their experiences.

"Most of the youth have not heard of the Tuskegee Airmen," Wood said. "But I try to make it relatable to them based on some characteristic that they may not be able to control. I may ask them, 'Have you ever been told you're too tall or too short, or you wear glasses? Have you been excluded based on those attributes?'"

The approach stood out to junior Aiden Williamson.

"She was very interactive," he said. "She described how they were treated. She would make her point by asking students to sit or stand based on their characteristics to show how black people were treated back then."

For Aviation Teacher Dave Kleinschmidt, the presentation offered students an opportunity to learn about an important part of the country's history.

"That's a history of our country," he said. "We're great, but we're not perfect. Everything in history is not perfect, but that's why we learn about it. You learn from your mistakes."

Wood currently serves as president of the Hugh J. White Tuskegee Airmen Chapter and formerly served as executive national recording secretary of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. She said she has been speaking about the Tuskegee Airmen since joining the organization around 1987.

"My message has evolved [over the years] as I have created parables or stories and integrated my Toastmasters experience," she said.

Wood also brings an extensive aviation

background of her own to the classroom.

A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, she flew multiple KC-135 and EC-135 models as a navigator, special operations officer and navigator instructor until 1993. She later earned two Master of Arts degrees before returning to the Air Force Academy as an assistant professor of history and T-43 instructor navigator.

While stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base, Wood flew more than 35 combat missions and four combat support missions in support of NATO Kosovo efforts. She retired from the Air Force in 2006 from the Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott Air Force Base.

Kleinschmidt first became familiar with Wood through the tight-knit local aviation community.

"I started using her for the summer camp," he said. "She has them flying drones, and they love that. The more I talked to her, the more I learned from her."

That experience also gave Kleinschmidt a firsthand look

at Wood's ability to connect with students.

"Best I've ever seen," he said of her teaching style. "She's gifted."

Senior Liam Boyd said the presentation gave him a greater understanding of what the Tuskegee Airmen faced and how they responded.

"She taught me a lot about how this was mishandled and how even though they were treated so terribly, they stuck by their mission," he said.

For Wood, that perseverance is at the heart of what she hopes students remember.

"The biggest lesson that I want them to take away is to have perspective about the obstacles they face," she said. "If they have the confidence of the Tuskegee Airmen, if they have the perseverance of the Tuskegee Airmen, then they can make history. They can change the world."

It is a message Kleinschmidt said extends beyond the history lesson itself.

"She's about motivating them and teaching them," he said. "When someone says, 'You can't do that,' you tell them, 'Watch me.'"



*Knights of Columbus St. Charles Council #823
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Admissions Season Is Here at Duchesne!

From the Admissions Team: Dana Bryan & Danielle Lowe

It's an exciting time at Duchesne High School—admissions season is officially here! We are looking forward to welcoming future Pioneers and their families to campus over the next few weeks. If you know an 8th-grade student who is considering Duchesne, now is the perfect time to encourage them to visit, apply, and see what makes our community so special.

Sign Up to Shadow!

If you know an 8th grader who hasn't shadowed at Duchesne yet, now is the perfect time! A Shadow Day gives students 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>

Don't Forget to Apply!

The Archdiocese transcript request application closes November 8, so families should make sure they complete the application process before the deadline. This allows grade schools to send the necessary records and transcripts to Duchesne as part of the admissions process. We encourage families not to wait until the last minute!

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

8th Grade Informational Night — Tuesday, October 13, 5:30-7:00pm

Our 8th Grade Informational Night is a great opportunity for students and parents to learn more about life at Duchesne. Hear directly from our staff and students about academics, faith, athletics, activities, our House System, and the community that

makes Duchesne feel like family.

Come with your questions and discover what it means to be a Pioneer!

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

Open House — Sunday, October 25, at 10:00am

Open House is one of the best ways to experience Duchesne! Future students and their families will have the opportunity to tour our campus and talk one-on-one with the people who make Duchesne such a special place.

Meet our teachers, coaches, current students, and parents. Learn about classes, clubs, athletics, faith opportunities, student life, and the many ways to get involved. Student-athletes can also connect with coaches and learn more about tryouts, offseason

(continued on pg. 11)

DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit





**8TH-GRADE
INFORMATIONAL NIGHT**

OCTOBER 13 | 5:30-7:00pm

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A Reflection on Gratitude, from Duchesne President Paul Boschert '77



Paul shared these thoughts with alumni, families, and friends at Duchesne's recent Gratitude Gathering for donors, and we wanted to share them with all of Pioneer Nation here as well.

On behalf of the entire Duchesne High School community, thank you for believing in Duchesne.

Thank you to the members of our Board of Limited Jurisdiction, who spend countless hours on behalf of our school. A large part of our success is because of this dedicated group of alumni and alumni parents. We thank them sincerely for all the time, talent, and treasure they give to Duchesne.

I'd also like to thank the members of our Advancement and Admissions Team. Thank you for the passion, energy, and heart you bring to Duchesne each day. Your work is helping to shape the future of Duchesne and ensuring every student knows this is a place where they belong. Thank you.

As an alumnus of the Class of 1977, this school has been part of my life for a very long time. I have had the privilege of seeing Duchesne through many seasons, but there is something incredibly special about what is happening on our campus right now.

And so much of it is happening because of the people who believe in and support Duchesne in so many ways. We cannot thank you enough.

Thank you for investing in our students.

Thank you for supporting our teachers.

Thank you for helping families who want a Catholic education for their children.

Thank you for providing scholarships and tuition assistance.

And thank you for helping us create a campus that reflects the quality of education and experience we want for every Pioneer who walks through our doors.

Over the past year, you have helped us make tremendous improvements throughout our campus.

This summer alone, we added two new classrooms to accommodate our growing student body. We completed renovations in our Performing Arts classrooms, added new furniture to our Student Commons, renovated our front lobby, and completed a major upgrade to our STEM Lab.

Our STEM improvements are especially exciting because they allow our students to learn in a space designed for the way science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are taught today. Along with our growing programs in areas such as robotics, aviation, broadcasting, digital photography, and sports media, these investments are helping us prepare students for opportunities that may not have even existed when many of us were in high

school.

We have also continued investing in the overall student experience—from improvements to our fitness center and locker rooms to updated learning and gathering spaces across campus.

But, as exciting as those improvements are, there is one project that is truly transforming the future of Duchesne. Our new Sports Complex represents one of the most significant campus investments in our school's history. This \$3.2 million project will include:

- a new turf game field with a shock pad
- a six-lane all-weather track
- a 50-yard turf practice field
- batting cages
- a digital scoreboard
- a renovated press box
- new lighting
- and updated field-event areas for long jump, triple jump, shot put, and discus.

And this project is about so much more than athletics. The new Sports Complex will serve:

- our physical education classes
- marching band
- cheerleaders
- Diamondline
- House activities
- school celebrations
- community events
- and even opportunities to gather together in faith.

It will be a place where students compete, celebrate, learn, pray, and build lifelong friend-

ships.

I am thrilled to tell you that our community has already raised approximately \$2.6 million toward this project. Even more exciting, we successfully met our \$1 million matching challenge. That is an extraordinary accomplishment.

We are now in the final stretch, working to raise the last \$600,000 necessary to fully fund this transformational project.

When the new Sports Complex opens, generations of students will benefit from it. Some of them will never know the names of all the people who made it possible—but we will. And that brings me to something even more important.

Buildings matter. Classrooms matter. Our Duchesne Charisms matter. Athletic Facilities matter. But ultimately, Duchesne is about people.

It is about the student whose family needs a little help to make tuition possible.

It is about the young person who receives a scholarship and discovers that Duchesne can become home.

It is about the teacher who recognizes something special in a student before that student recognizes it in him- or herself.

It is about retreats, service opportunities, classroom experiences, athletics, fine arts, clubs, friendships, and moments of faith.

Your gifts to our Pioneer Fund, your support of tuition assistance and scholarships, and your investment in our

(continued on pg. 10)

A Reflection on Gratitude

(continued from pg. 9)

campus make those moments possible.

Because of you, families who might otherwise have to say, "We simply can't afford Duchesne," are able to say, "Yes, my child can be a Pioneer." That is an incredible gift.

We talk often about our mission of shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit. Your generosity allows us to live that mission every day. And we are

seeing tremendous momentum.

Our enrollment is growing. Our campus is changing. Our programs are expanding. There is an energy at Duchesne that you can feel when you walk through the doors.

But through all that growth and change, the heart of Duchesne remains the same.

We are still a school where students are known by name.

We are still a school where faith matters.

We are still a school where teachers, coaches, staff members, parents, alumni, and

friends come together because we believe young people deserve a place where they can discover who they are and who God is calling them to become.

And we are still a place that feels like home.

For those of us who graduated from Duchesne, we know that being a Pioneer doesn't end when you walk across the stage at graduation. It stays with you.

You have chosen to give back to a place that has meant something to you, to your family, or to this community. Please know that we do not take that generosity for granted.

Whether you have supported a scholarship, helped a family with tuition assistance, contributed to the Pioneer Fund, invested in a classroom or campus renovation, supported the Sports Complex, or simply answered the call when Duchesne needed you—you have made a difference.

There are students walking our hallways today whose Duchesne story is possible because of you.

And there will be students walking these hallways, competing on that new field,

learning in our STEM Lab, performing on our stage, praying in our chapel, and graduating as Pioneers years from now because the people of Pioneer Nation decided that the future of Duchesne was worth investing in. For that, I am deeply grateful.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, our Board, our families, our alumni, and most importantly, our students, thank you.

Thank you for believing in our mission.

Thank you for believing in our students.

Thank you for believing in the future of Duchesne High School.

Together, we are not simply improving a campus.

We are creating opportunities.

We are changing lives.

We are building a legacy.

And we are continuing to shape leaders in mind, body, and spirit.

May God bless each of you, may God bless our students and families, and may God continue to bless Duchesne High School.

DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit





OPEN HOUSE

OCT. 25

10am -2pm



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From Admissions

(continued from pg. 8)

opportunities, and individual sports programs.

Most importantly, Open House gives future Pioneers the chance to picture themselves here—to walk the halls, meet our community, ask questions, and experience the welcoming atmosphere of Duchesne.

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

Know a future Pioneer? Help us spread the word! Share these upcoming dates with friends, family, neighbors, and any 8th-grade families who may be looking for

the right high school.

At Duchesne, you're more than a number—you're part of a family.

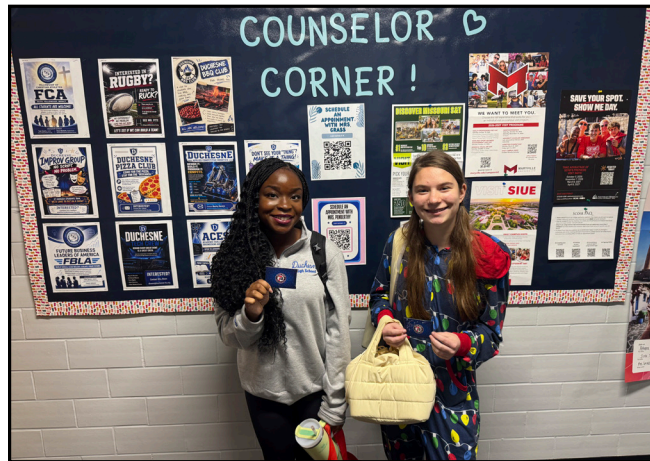
Where you belong. Where you become.

Updates on Student Life at Duchesne

Caleb Johnson
Director of Community
and Student Engagement

Duchesne High School is proudly celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring the rich cultures, traditions, history, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. This celebration throughout the months of September and October is an opportunity for our students and staff to learn, connect, and appreciate the diversity that makes our school community special. Together, we celebrate heritage, culture, and the many contributions that continue to inspire all of us!

This past week we also held our first Club Rush event here at Duchesne. This is an



Students who participated in our all-new Club Rush were entered to win a gift card to 7Brew.

opportunity for our students to learn more about the different clubs and activities we offer at Duchesne. Our students were giv-

en a passport and challenged to visit at least three different clubs during Communio and learn about each club. To encourage participation, we entered students who collected at least three moderator signatures into a drawing for a gift card. Our goal with Club Rush was to give our students a chance to truly find their place here at Duchesne! Go Pioneers!

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ALUMNI FEATURES AND UPDATES



God Puts Us Where We Are Needed

Theresa Ruzicka '78

"God puts us where we are needed."

It's a simple belief that has followed Theresa (Lynch) Ruzicka '78 through a career that took her from the business world to Catholic Charities and, eventually, back to Duchesne.

Looking back, Theresa can see how her faith, education and professional experiences prepared her for opportunities she never necessarily planned for herself.

That foundation began at home and was strengthened during her years at Duchesne.

Theresa grew up in a deeply Catholic family. Her parents prayed the rosary together every night, and prayer was a regular part of family life.

"They set the tone," Theresa said. "They set the example for us."

Duchesne provided another community where that faith could continue to grow.

Theresa remembers being a quiet student, but she still found ways to get involved. She worked on the yearbook staff and was a member of National Honor Society. She also remembers Duchesne as a place that prepared students for more than their next academic step.

"I think that Duchesne prepares you for life outside of Duchesne," she said.

Business classes helped point Theresa toward her eventual career. College-level courses allowed her to finish her undergraduate degree in three and a half years, while teachers like Ron Kjar encouraged her to think critically.

After college, Theresa began working at McDonnell Douglas, where she had previously completed summer internships. A few years later, she decided to continue her education and earned an MBA from Washington University.

That decision led to a career in public accounting. Theresa earned her CPA license and spent nine years with Arthur Young, which later became Ernst & Young. Her career eventually included time at Washington University, several entrepreneurial ventures and a return to public accounting with RubinBrown.

Then came an opportunity she hadn't expected.

Theresa had become involved with non-profit organizations throughout the community, particularly those focused on human services. While serving on a United Way committee, another member encouraged her to become involved with Catholic Charities.

She first joined a committee and later became a member of the organization's board.

What she found there made an impression.

"So many dedicated people with a passion and a heart for helping other people," she said.

After serving on the board for five years, Theresa took on the role of president.

"I believe God led me there," she said. "I know God led me there."

It was a significant change from the business and public accounting world she knew well. Theresa quickly discovered, however, that her professional experience could be put to use in support of Catholic Charities' mission.

"You need to have the business and the operational side in order to do the mission," she said.

Theresa brought her experience in finance, operations and leadership to the organization while learning more about the needs facing people throughout the St. Louis region.

Her faith remained central to that work.

While serving as president, Theresa regularly prayed for strength, faith, wisdom, and compassion to help her do the job.

"God never fails," she said.

One of the initiatives she is most proud of from her eight years leading Catholic Charities was Pathways to Progress.

The organization began to look beyond meeting immediate needs and consider

how it could help people create lasting stability in their lives.

Through Pathways to Progress, Catholic Charities and partnering organizations could work with individuals and families for two to five years, helping address needs such as employment, housing, education and family support.

"We're wrapping services around you to help you towards a better life," Theresa said.

For Theresa, the program reflected a basic understanding of what people want for themselves and their families.

"We're all human beings," she said. "We want a safe neighborhood. We want a nice house. We want a good education for our kids."

Another memorable experience came following flooding in the St. Louis area in late 2015 and early 2016.

Catholic Charities joined other organizations in operating Multi-Agency Resource Centers, where people affected by the disaster could connect with different forms of assistance in one place.

Theresa was struck by how well the organizations worked together, each understanding its particular role in helping the community recover.

She later nominated the collaboration for recognition through Focus St. Louis' What's Right with the Region awards. The participating organizations were honored for their work.

"That was really neat to see how these organizations all work together to help people," she said.

Her years at Catholic Charities also reinforced a lesson that had surrounded Theresa since childhood.

"Jesus set the example, right?" she said. "He told us to love our neighbor, to help our neighbor. That's what we're taught."

Retirement did not mean the end of Theresa's desire to serve.

She continues to volunteer and particularly enjoys opportunities that allow her to work directly with people.

"I want to help people. I want to use my hands," she said.

It also wasn't long before her experience brought her back to Duchesne.

Around the time Theresa retired, then-Duchesne President Susan Noonan was meeting with alumni and members of the community. Theresa's experience with Catholic Charities, a ministry of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, gave her a background that could be useful to the school.

When Duchesne established a governing board in 2023, Noonan asked Theresa to serve on it and become its first chair.

Theresa accepted and led the board through its first two years.

It was another opportunity she had never necessarily planned for, but one that fit a familiar pattern.

"God puts us where we are needed," she said.

One of Theresa's proudest moments on the board was helping reconnect Duchesne with the roots of its Catholic identity.

The board held its first retreat at the Shrine of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, giving members an opportunity to learn more about the woman whose name the school carries.

"She was a pioneer," Theresa said. "She had a tough life, but

she was a very caring person, and she wanted to share the faith."

Today, Theresa continues to serve Duchesne through committee work and remains excited about the school's future.

She hopes to see continued investment in academics, programs, facilities and the people who make Duchesne what it is. Just as important is maintaining the Catholic identity that helped shape her own life.

It is the same faith that carried her from Duchesne into the business world, from business into service, and eventually back to where the journey began.

There will always be new challenges and new places where help is needed.

Theresa's response is the same.

"We stay faithful to God," she said. "He will provide."



SAVE THE DATE

Pioneer Gala

AT AMERISTAR CASINO

Saturday, January 30, 2027

Brilliance Ballroom

TICKETS ON SALE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026

Leaving Our Legacy. Pioneering Our Future.



REUNITING WHERE AT ALL BEGAN — CLASS REUNIONS AT DUCHESNE HIGH

Recently Celebrated...

35th Reunions for the CLASSES OF 1990 and 1991 — at Duchesne on Saturday, September 12, 2026 – Thanks to reunion chairs Nikki (Zander) Holmes '90 and Kara (Rufkahr) Reynolds '91 for all their time and efforts to create this great gathering!



Class of 1990 members in attendance at their 35th reunion on Saturday, September 12, 2026.



Class of 1991 members in attendance at their 35th reunion on Saturday, September 12, 2026.



CLASS OF 1986's 40th Reunion — at Duchesne on Saturday, September 19, 2026 – Thanks to reunion organizer and Garden Courtyard sponsor Jennifer (Horton) Silvestri, her class partied inside and out!



CLASS OF 1966's 60th Reunion — at Duchesne on Saturday, September 26, 2026 – Thanks to reunion chairs Fred Wilke and Cheryl (Walters) Wapelhorst for creating a renewed sense of community with their class, which now plans to meet quarterly!

Fred Wilke's reunion website can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/view/dhs1966/home?authuser=0>



15th Reunion for the Classes of 2010 and 2011 — at Duchesne on Friday, October 2, 2026 – Thanks to reunion chairs Tyler Loewenstein '10 and Jenna (Friedel) Graham '11 for organizing the Garden party for these two classes!

Classmates enjoyed the festive atmosphere at Duchesne last Friday evening, with live music at the pregame tailgate, the pregame ceremony described on page 15, and the Homecoming football game. We had alumni from these classes outside, inside, and touring the halls, but were able to catch a representative group for a photo.



Duchesne's 1976 Softball State Championship Team Honored at the October 2 Football Homecoming Game – A 50th Anniversary Celebration!

Thanks to the team members, family, and friends of the 1976 State Championship Softball team who joined us last Friday night. What a beautiful tribute AD Renee (Reimer) Moore '86 prepared for them. (You can read that [here](#).)

This team was

- the first-ever state championship softball team,
- the first DHS state champions of any sport,
- and the first female state champions in the history of St. Charles County sports.

Joining us at the pregame recognition: (pictured, front row) GAC First Team member Mary (Rufkahr) Ohlms '78, Martha (Boschert) Hollander '79, GAC First Team member Pam (Boschert) Ohrman '78, Head Coach and GAC Coach of the Year Sue (Burkemper) McClintock '69, Assistant Coach Marita (Freymuth) Malone, Joan (Feldmann) Duello '80; (pictured, back row) Robyn (Schmitt) Peyton '79, Anne (Thro) Eichler '79, GAC Honorable Mention member Etta (Burmeister) Greene '78, GAC First Team and Most Valuable Player Kathy (Cassmeyer) Urbish '77, and GAC Second Team member Joan (Hammond) Kane '77. A post-game celebration was held in Duchesne's Garden Courtyard.

Other members of the team who could not attend: Kathy Alloway '78, Bonnie (Kuehler) Getzinger '78, Jennifer (Wynn) Iffrig '80, Margaret (Schelich) Moore '79, Linda (Steinhoff) Nash '77, Barb (Reiling) Rogers '80, Nancy (Meyer) VanDover '79, and Jill (Honerkamp) Zupec '80. Special remembrance was given for those no longer with us: Dawn Boschert '78, Jane Hammond '79, and Nancy (Abeling) Malin '78.

Save the Date...

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

The Class of 1981 will have their 45th reunion at Duchesne this weekend, on Saturday, October 10, 2026, in the Performing Arts Center (aka PAC and "old gym") from 6-10pm. Casual attire. Dinner catered by Concetta's; bring your own beverages (coolers allowed). If you haven't RSVPed yet but would like to join your classmates, please contact Peggy (Ell) Skaggs at 314.304.5277 or pegell3@hotmail.com, or Karen (Borgmeyer) Toigo at 636.248.0131.

Class of 1976 — on Saturday, October 17, 2026

The Class of 1976 is holding their 50th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Festivities begin at 6pm. Call Joan (Salter) DeSplinter at 314.313.1404 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. Thanks to Marsha (Weber) Stocker and Keith Boschert for organizing. Email marsha.stocker@gmail.com with questions re: late RSVPs.

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

The Class of 2001 will hold their 25th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, November 7, 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.

Class of 1996 — at Duchesne on Saturday, November 28, 2026

The Class of 1996 will hold their 30th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, November 28, 2026. Julie (Smith) Weber is helping to organize the

event. Email reuniondhs96@gmail.com or contact her at 636.219.2957 if you would like to help or have questions.

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 handout will be available for your guests.



DETAILS:

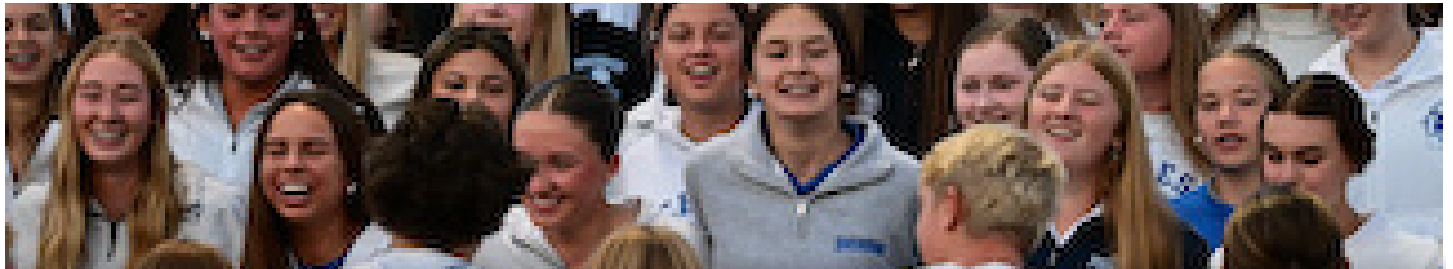
- Mass in the DHS Chapel 5:00pm
- Self-guided tours through the halls 6-7:15pm
- Food | Open Bar | Music in the PAC 6-10pm

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

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

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





FROM THE SPORTS DESK



Renee Moore '86
Athletic Director

EXCITEMENT IS IN THE AIR AS WE HIT THE HALFWAY MARK OF OUR FALL SPORTS SEASON!

With postseason play kicking off this month, we want to extend a special thank you to all the parents who have given their time to the concession stand and Oktoberfest booth. Your support is invaluable! Be sure to check out the amazing senior banners decorating our gym and stadium—thanks to the Duchesne Athletic Booster Club for making these possible.



The Honorary Captain for our First Responder Football Game was St. Charles City Police Sergeant Bob Homann.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND THANKS

Thanks to the guests of honor at our Veterans and First Responder football game on 9/11. We were honored to have color guard and first responders from the St. Charles City ambulance and fire department as well as the St. Charles County ambulance district join us to commemorate the 25th anniversary.

Our honorary captain for the night was retired St. Charles City police sergeant Bob Homann. Bob was joined by his wife Betty and the rest of his immediate family on this special evening. Bob served in the military and then served and protected the citizens of St. Charles for 26 years as a police officer.

SPECIAL GUESTS AND THANKS

Thanks to residents and staff of New Perspective Senior Living who attended our football game on September 25. Mallory Lasman '27, who is a member of our Duchesne Diamondline, and Mason Lasman '27, who plays for our Pioneer football team, both work at New Perspective. The residents and staff showed great spirit for our Pioneers, arriving with posters and poms to cheer our Pioneers on to victory! What an amazing sight it was!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to volleyball player Daley Meyer '27, who attained a career milestone by surpassing 1,000 digs in her career. Daley was recognized before the volleyball game on September 9 for this accomplishment.

Congratulations to the following volleyball players who received recognition in recent tournament action:

Emmie Nikodym '29 – Pattonville Tournament Most Valuable Player

Mia Piskulich '28 – Orchard Farm Varsity All-Tournament Team

Congratulations to cross country runner Audrey Hoffmann '27, who thus far has medaled in two cross country meets. Audrey finished 15th and 19th, respectively, in the First Capitol Invitational and the Gans Creek Classic. These meets were highly competitive, with the pool of runners surpassing 100 participants. Great job, Audrey!

Congratulations to our Duchesne Athletes of the Month. New this year, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Steve McKinstry and U.S. Bancorp Advisors, we are excited to honor our athletes who have stood out in the areas of ability, sportsmanship, leadership, and community involvement.

August – Evan Kundel '27

September – TBA



Duchesne Athlete of the Month:
Evan Kundel '27

IMPORTANT ATHLETIC DATES FOR OCTOBER

Senior Nights

- Football: Pregame on Friday, October 9, 6:30pm
- Golf, Tennis: Halftime of the football game Friday, October 9
- Volleyball and Cross Country: Thursday, October 15, between the JV and Varsity games (approximately 5:30pm)
- Soccer: Monday, October 26, prior to the 6pm game

We've seen fantastic support from parents, students, alumni, and the community for our Pioneer teams this fall. Let's keep the momentum going into postseason play! Below is the information we know to date about the when and where of postseason tournament play.

Postseason Tournament Play

- Tennis: Class 1 District 4 – Singles play begins Thursday, October 8, at Mexico High School; Doubles play begins Monday, October 12, time and location TBD
- Golf: Class 2 District 1 – Monday, October 9, at Wolf Hollow Golf Course
- Volleyball: Class 3 District 5 – Bracket not set, dates of play October 20, 21, 23; hosted by us – Duchesne High School
- Football: Class 2 District 2 – Friday, October 30 – Opponent and Location TBD

• Cross Country: Class 2 District 3 – Saturday, October 31, at Owensville High School

• Soccer: Class 2 District 4 – Bracket not set, dates of play October 31 – November 5 at St. Charles West High School.

On behalf of the coaches and athletic staff of Duchesne, we wanted to recognize our Senior Fall athletes who have been great leaders the last four years on the field or court as well as in the Duchesne community. Pioneer class of 2026 Fall Student-Athletes:

Cross Country: Audrey Hoffmann

Football: Liam Boyd, John Cooper, CJ Kielhofner, Evan Kundel, Mason Lasman, TJ Yeager

Soccer: Lucas Brockmeyer, James Kristo, Oliver Potts, Dylan Slattery

Tennis: Allison Slattery, Claire Zwick

Volleyball: Molly Glosier, Daley Meyer, Violet Sahaida

LOOKING AHEAD TO WINTER

Any boys or girls interested in joining our wrestling teams please see Mrs. Moore for program information.

Key Winter Dates

• Boys and Girls Basketball First Practice: Monday, November 2

• Girls Wrestling First Practice: Monday, November 2

• Boys Wrestling First Practice: Monday, November 9

• Winter Athletic Pictures: Friday, November 13, at 3pm

Please check with Coach Bouslog (wbouslog@duchesne-hs.org) for tryout schedules for boys basketball, Coach Johnson (cjohnson@duchesne-hs.org) for try-out schedules

for girls basketball, and Mrs. Moore (rmoores@duchesne-hs.org) for information about wrestling tryouts.

Remember, we held our mandatory parent All-Sports meeting in August. There will be no Winter Sports parent meeting. For information about the benefits of joining the Duchesne Athletic Booster Club, you can email duchesnebooster@gmail.com.

Stay connected and follow Duchesne Athletics on X at @Athletics_DHS, Instagram at duchesnehs_athletics, and on Eventlink for game schedules and updates.

Let's finish strong this fall and gear up for an exciting winter season! Go Pioneers!



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.



Mallory Lasman '27, who is a member of our Duchesne Diamondline, and Mason Lasman '27, who plays for our Pioneer football team, both work at New Perspective. The residents and staff showed great spirit for our Pioneers, arriving with posters and poms to cheer our Pioneers on to victory!


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Follow Our Athletic Schedule With Our New Eventlink Calendar!

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Hey Crafters! DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL'S
Fall Craft Fair

SPONSORED BY THE DUCHESNE MUSIC BOOSTERS
Nov. 21, 2026 | 8:30 am - 2 pm

Join on campus as a vendor at Duchesne High School for its annual Fall Craft Fair!

Scan the QR code and grab your spot.
 Deadline to sign up is one week before the Craft Fair.

Questions? Send an email to:
DuchesneCraftFair@gmail.com





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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.





ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL!
 THANK YOU, KNIGHTS!

Fried Chicken Dinner

\$12 PER PERSON
3-6PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #823
 20 WESTBURY DR.
 ST. CHARLES, MO

Chicken dinner includes:
 corn, green beans, & mashed potatoes and gravy







Raising Funds with Raising Cane's

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

Raising Cane's

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 i t d RaisingCanes



CLUE NIGHT

A NIGHT INSPIRED BY THE GAME CLUE

Can you solve the **murder mystery** before the other groups?

Work in teams of 5-6 people to investigate, solve puzzles, and uncover the truth!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

5:00-7:00 PM

FOR 6-8TH GRADERS

EVENT INCLUDES:

- 10 MYSTERY ROOMS
- PUZZLES AND CLUES
- TEAMWORK AND STRATEGY
- A RACE AGAINST OTHER GROUPS!

TOP SECRET

Duchesne High School
2550 Elm Street Saint Charles, MO 63301



DUCHESNE DIAMONDLINE DANCE TEAM'S

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS DONATION DRIVE

JOIN THE DIAMONDLINE IN SUPPORT OF ST. LOUIS CRISIS NURSERY!

OCT 9 @ 7 PM

PLEASE DONATE WISH LIST ITEMS AT THE STADIUM ENTRANCE.

THANK YOU, PIONEER NATION!

Wish list
NEW

- DIAPERS SIZES 4, 5, 6
- PULL UPS
- UNSCENTED WIPES
- TOOTHBRUSHES
- TOOTHPASTE
- TOILET PAPER
- PAPER PLATES
- PLASTIC SPOONS & FORKS
- LEGO SETS
- PLAY DOH
- DISINFECTANT WIPES
- NON PERISHABLE SNACKS
- DISH DETERGENT

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