



PIONEER PRESS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER • 2025



Our biggest #iGiveCatholic year yet!

On December 2, Giving Tuesday, students and members of the administration celebrated when Duchesne successfully reached and exceeded this year's #iGiveCatholic goal of \$500,000! Thank you, Pioneer Nation!

UPCOMING DATES

December 15

Last Day of Classes

December 16

All-School Mass/
Reading Day

December 17

Final Exams 1, 2, & 3

December 18

Final Exams 4, 5, & 6

December 19

Final Exams 7 & 8

December 22 - January 5

Christmas Break

From the Assistant Principal of Student Life



Debi Turner '96
Assistant Principal of
Student Life

Ah, December. The magical time of year when exams, projects, and holiday shopping collide... and your teen starts to resemble a cross between a sleep-deprived raccoon and a grumpy cat. Crabby? Check. Tense? Check. Moody? Double check.

Here's the tricky part: even if your teen acts like asking for help is the absolute last thing in the world they want to do, they still need you. They may not say it, they may roll their eyes, they may mutter "I got this," but deep down, your support is what keeps them moving forward (and somewhat sane).

On the bright side, there's some good timing with senior Tori Edler's capstone project on improving mental health in our community. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) made a presentation to our students on the importance of mental health, coping strategies, and resources — a perfect reminder right before finals hit.

So, breathe deeply, offer patience (and maybe chocolate), and remind your teen that while they may act like they don't need help, you've got their back. We're all in this together — crabby teen attitude included.

Hang in there, Duchesne families! We can survive finals, projects, and the holiday rush... and maybe even a little smile along the way.



CONGRATULATIONS ACA CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to our ACA essay winners: Bridget Caldwell '27, Christiana Newman '27, Sophia Lococo '27. The trio is pictured to the right with Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski



Duchesne participates in "No Hunger Holiday"



Kurt Schneider '93
Principal

Over the Thanksgiving break, we participated in the "No Hunger Holiday" event at the Knights of Columbus in Cottleville. Duchesne had well over 60 community members participate. We had coaches, administrators, teachers, parents, and many students. At the end of the event, we were the only KC volunteers still there and were instrumental in finishing up the work to be done. I am really proud of how we showed up and served our local community.

Celebrating St. Rose Philippine Duchesne's Feast Day on November 18

Nancy Kohl '78
Director of
Alumni Engagement
and Donor Engagement

What a Great Day to be a Pioneer! Our all-school Mass on our patroness's Feast Day included special guests such as DHS parents, Board members, and friends from the Archdiocese's Office of Catholic Education and Formation. Everyone was quite comfortable, thanks to the new folding chairs made possible by a gift from Tina Kelly '88. Fr. John Brockland did a beautiful job with his homily, relating the life of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne to our own. Then he blessed the third-class relic St. Rose Philippine Duchesne medallions, donated to our students and faculty by Ann (Johannesman) Tollefson '76. Each attendee at this holy celebration took home a reminder to live by example, as St. Rose did.



Kelly '88 donates chairs; Relics featured

New folding chairs, made possible by a gift from Tina Kelly '88, are shown (immediate right) next to St. Rose Philippine Duchesne third-class relic medallions that were blessed during the November 18 Mass (far right).



Nick Brockmeyer
Attorney at Law



**PREGNANCY IS A
BIG DEAL!**
What's Next?



LET'S TALK



2125 BLUESTONE DR.
636-724-1200



From the President



Paul Boschert '77
President

Dear Pioneer Family,

As we enter this joyful holiday season, we are reminded of the many blessings that

come from being part of such a strong, faith-filled community. This time of year encourages us to slow down, gather with loved ones, and reflect on the people and traditions that bring meaning and purpose to our lives. At Duchesne High School, one of our greatest blessings is YOU—our dedicated Pioneer Family.

Your time, your talents, and your generosity make all the difference. Whether you've attended events, volunteered, supported our students, or contributed financially, your commitment continues to shape the Duchesne experience for every student who walks our

halls. We are truly grateful for everything you pour into our mission.

As the year comes to a close, we also want to gently remind you that there is still time to support the Pioneer Fund. Each gift—no matter the size—helps ensure that we can continue offering exceptional programs, opportunities, and a faith-based education rooted in over 100 years of tradition. Your support strengthens our future and honors the legacy of those who came before us.

If you have not yet made your annual gift, we hope you will consider joining us before

the year ends. Together, we can continue to provide the resources our students need to grow, learn, and lead.

During this holiday season, may you enjoy meaningful time with family and friends, and may the peace and hope of Christmas fill your homes.

Sincerely,

Paul Boschert '77
President

From the Director of Advancement



Becky Williamson
Director of Advancement

Dear Pioneer Family,

What a crazy, but GREAT day we shared during this year's #iGC Giving Tuesday! Thanks to the remarkable generosity of our alumni, families, students, faculty, and friends, Duchesne High School collected nearly \$560,000 in just 12 hours and exceeded our \$500,000 Scheidegger Challenge! Your

dedication and belief in our mission continue to propel Duchesne forward in the most amazing ways.

Because of your support, Duchesne is now recognized as the top high school in both Missouri and the entire Nation for Giving Day participation. We also proudly hold the #2 spot among all charitable organizations in Missouri and #2 in the state for most donors participating. These rankings are a direct reflection of the incredible Pioneer spirit—one rooted in community, faith, tradition, and a shared commitment to our students.

This year's #iGC funds will have a transformative impact on our campus. Your generosity will directly support:

- The renovation and naming of our new Student Commons – a welcoming hub for collaboration, connection, and community life.
- A full renovation and upgrade to our STEM Lab, ensuring our students have cutting-edge resources that prepare them for the future.

- An improved Teachers Lounge, giving our dedicated faculty a refreshed and functional space.

- Ongoing professional development, helping our teachers continue to grow and deliver excellence in the classroom.

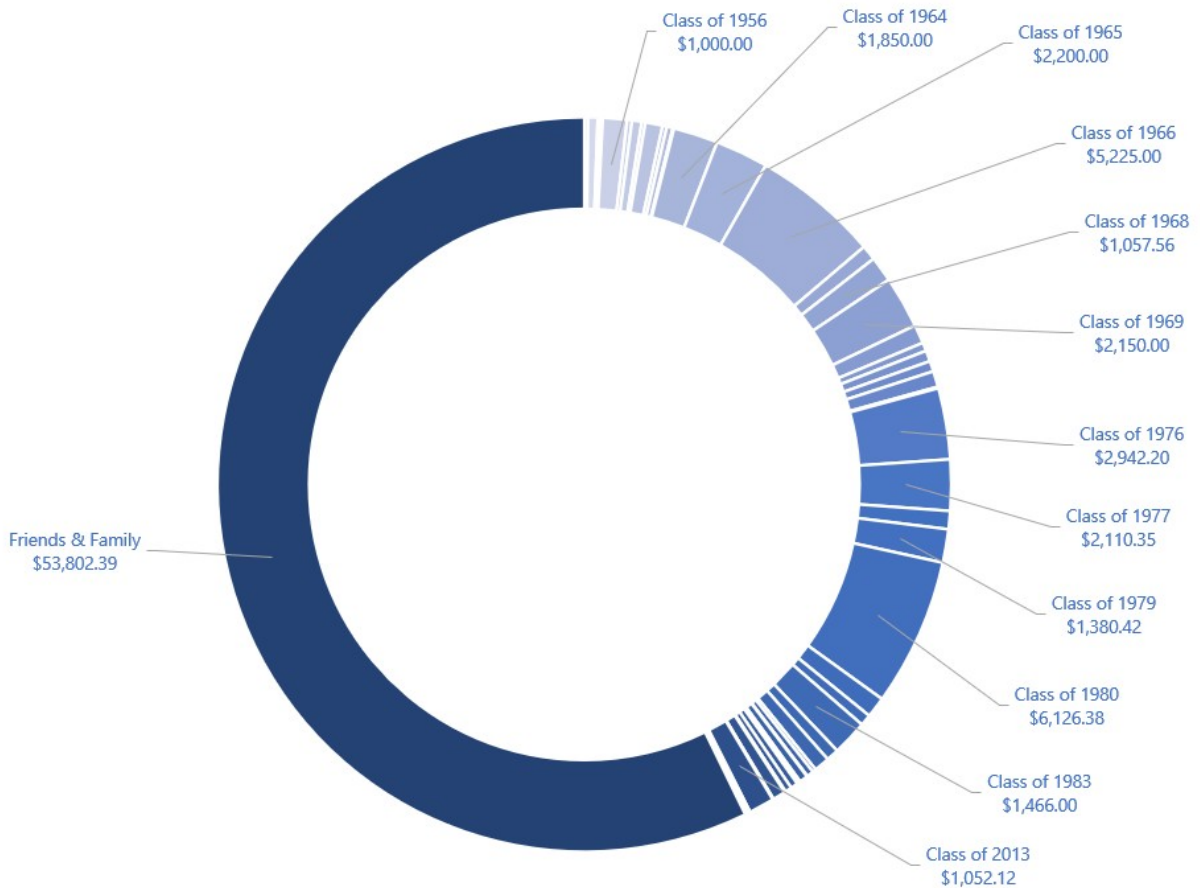
- Critical curriculum updates, strengthening the academic foundation for all students.

Every gift—large or small—moved us closer to this incredible milestone. Thank you for believing in Duchesne's mission, for supporting our students, and for championing the future of our school. We are successful because of the unwavering dedication of our Pioneer community.

With Pioneer Pride,

Becky Williamson
Director of Advancement

Pioneer Class Challenge

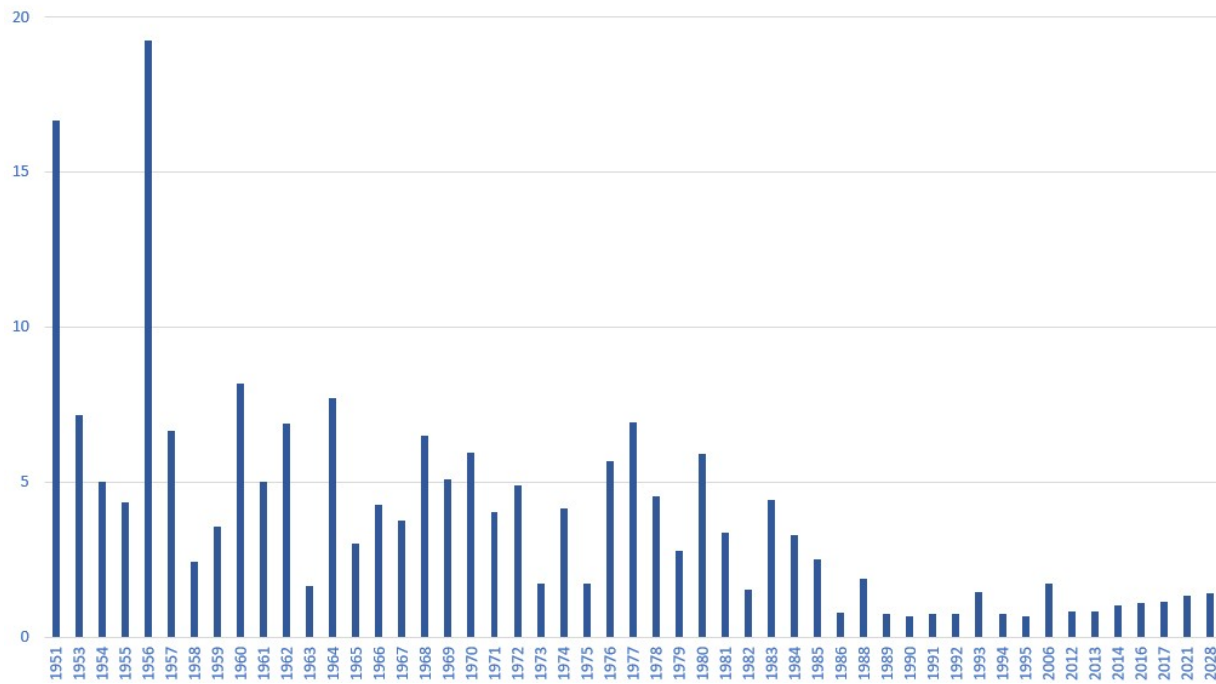


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|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|
| 1951 | \$150.00 | 1960 | \$715.00 | 1972 | \$452.12 | 1984 | \$518.91 | 1992 | \$50.00 |
| 1953 | \$400.00 | 1961 | \$177.80 | 1973 | \$436.35 | 1985 | \$645.82 | 1993 | \$296.04 |
| 1954 | \$100.00 | 1962 | \$250.00 | 1974 | \$653.94 | 1986 | \$150.00 | 1994 | \$275.00 |
| 1955 | \$103.94 | 1963 | \$50.00 | 1975 | \$63.11 | 1988 | \$279.77 | 1995 | \$50.00 |
| 1957 | \$200.00 | 1967 | \$625.00 | 1978 | \$750.00 | 1989 | \$25.00 | 2006 | \$530.00 |
| 1958 | \$400.00 | 1970 | \$775.00 | 1981 | \$859.38 | 1990 | \$344.00 | 2012 | \$38.50 |
| 1959 | \$150.00 | 1971 | \$350.00 | 1982 | \$467.55 | 1991 | \$100.00 | 2014 | \$50.00 |

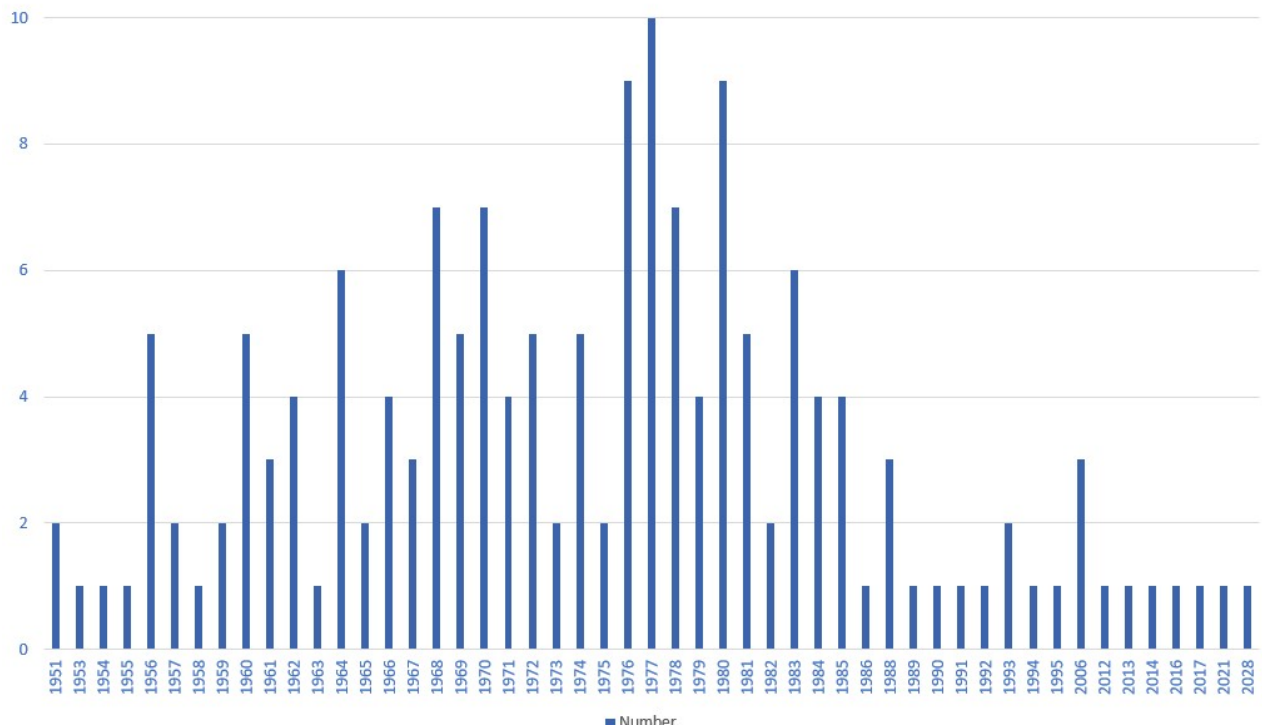
These totals are of gifts received as of 12.5.25
\$94,017.81 raised in the fiscal year so far!*

*unaudited number

PERCENTAGE OF LIVING CLASSMATES WHO HAVE DONATED TO PIONEER FUND 7/1/25-12/5/25



NUMBER OF CLASSMATES WHO HAVE DONATED TO PIONEER FUND TO DATE



From the Director of Admissions



Dana Bryan
Director of Admissions

Admission season was an energizing and rewarding time for our community, filled with a robust schedule of fairs and high school

nights that allowed us to connect with prospective families and share the many strengths of Duchesne High School. These events provided valuable opportunities for families to experience firsthand the welcoming environment, academic excellence, and vibrant student life that define DHS.

This year's Open House was our most successful yet. We were honored to welcome 120 families to campus and showcase the meaningful enhancements we have made—from facility updates to expanding our academic offerings. Our new Aviation course (complete with a flight simulator!) and the new Apprenticeship Program (that includes

class credit as well as hourly wages) continue to position Duchesne as a leader in innovative, hands-on education. These additions reflect our ongoing commitment to preparing students for the future through engaging, real-world learning experiences.

As a result of these efforts, we are proud to have a strong and promising Class of 2030 already forming. We continue to welcome applications and look forward to meeting more families in the coming weeks. Our team is excited to celebrate our newly admitted students on Decision Day, Friday, January 30, as they take the next step in becoming part of the Duchesne tradition.

Throughout the month of November, Duchesne participated in the Month of Gratitude



Caleb Johnson
Director of Community & Student Engagement
and Head Girls Basketball Coach

Throughout November, our school community focused on appreciation,

generosity, and the many ways we can uplift one another. We participated in different activities and service projects, giving back to families in need.

As part of this celebration, we participated in **World Kindness Day** on November 13. Students were encouraged to participate in acts of kindness—big or small—that reflect the spirit of compassion and unity at the heart of Duchesne. Our students spent time writ-

ing notes of appreciation to many of our teachers and staff. Lastly, students received a KIND bar that had a daily affirmation attached to it!

Together, we look forward to continuing

spreading positivity, strengthening our community, and showing gratitude for the people who make Duchesne and this community such a special place.





The Duchesne
High School
Board wishes
you and your
family a blessed
Christmas!



**PLEASE NOTE THESE
TTEF SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION DATES**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026 —
Saturday, February 28, 2026**

The Today & Tomorrow Educational Foundation will have their TTEF scholarship applications open online for the 2026–2027 school year between January 20–February 28, 2026. This includes new families as well as renewals for existing scholarship recipients. (Families currently on TTEF scholarships will receive requalification instructions and application requirements from TTEF.)

Find more information at <https://ttof-stl.org/>
or contact the TTEF office at ttof@archstl.org
or 314.792.7777.

DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

Shadow Days



Sign Up



SPRING SHADOW DAYS

January 9 & 23
February 6 & 20
March 13 & 27

April 10
April 24
Pioneer for a Day

Lunches
provided by



2026 Pioneer Expedition Gala

The 2026 Pioneer Expedition Gala will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Ameristar Casino at 6pm. Tickets are now available by scanning the QR code below. You may also register by mailing a check to Duchesne at 2550 Elm St, Saint Charles, MO 63301. Early bird ticket pricing is open through Friday, January 2, 2026, at \$150 per person, with 10 people per table. Tickets purchased after January 2 are \$175 per person.

Our 48th annual Gala will feature STL Magazine A-List "Best Original Band" Russo & Co for entertainment after the live auction! You do not want to miss this AMAZING event!

Specially discounted Ameristar hotel rooms for the evening of the Gala are \$249 each if reserved by 8:00am on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 1-855-888-7273 and mentioning Duchesne High School Gala or code DHSB26C.



We are still looking for sponsors, as well as live and silent auction items. If you would like to donate, please visit <http://bidpal.net/duchesnegala> and fill out a donation form or contact Becky Williamson at 636.757.6931 or bwilliamson@duchesne-hs.org.

THE GIVING BRANCH 

 EMERGE
Fitness Training



LEAVES

ALUMNI FEATURES AND UPDATES

Building character through life experiences

U.S. Navy Ret. Rear Admiral Jack Zerr '59 Addresses Duchesne's Aviation Class

Nancy Kohl '78
Director of
Alumni Engagement
and Donor Engagement

"Talking to people who are interested in airplanes, about airlines, well, that's just dad-burned nice." – So said DHS alum and three-career man Jack Zerr '59 in reflecting on his recent talk to Duchesne's Aviation class, the first for the school.

Zerr is a U.S. Navy Ret. Rear Admiral as well as a retired Boeing engineer. He is now an author of historical fiction, much of which has an autobiographical background.

After graduating from Duchesne High School, Adm. Zerr entered the Navy as a seaman apprentice and retired 36 years later as a rear admiral. While in the Navy, he received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University and a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Adm. Zerr is a highly decorated Vietnam veteran with many prestigious honors, including:

- 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses



Admiral Jack Zerr (Class of 1959) visited with our Aviation class to share his flight experience with our students and some visiting alumni.

- An Air Medal and 24 Strike Flight Awards
- 5 Navy Commendation Medals, including medals for the Legion of Merit and for Meritorious Service
- 2 Navy Unity Commendations
- and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross

His years of service included three deployments to the Tonkin Gulf – two of those as a fighter pilot aboard the aircraft carrier USS Hancock. During those tours, he logged 321 com-

bat missions over Vietnam and Laos.

All told, Adm. Zerr has nearly 4700 flight hours – 123 of which were in helicopters, with almost 4500 hours in jets. His carrier ship landings included 1,017 fixed wing and 52 rotary. His Naval career included six aviation commands, with the aircraft carriers USS Hancock, USS New Orleans, and USS Constellation among them. (Adm. Zerr calls the USS Constellation "the greatest warship in the universe.")

Upon retirement from the Navy, he joined McDonnell Douglas in 1996 as director of flight test and laboratory operations and was assigned to Boeing's P-8A Multi-mission Maritime Aircraft program as vice president and program manager in 2002.

He retired from Boeing in 2007 and has since published 15 historical novels and a book of short stories.

Adm. Zerr's best story is his love story with his wife, Karen, also a 1959 graduate of Duchesne, with whom he moved 25 times, living across the United States and abroad. Jack and Karen have six children, all educated in Catholic schools.

In introducing Admiral Zerr, DHS Aviation instructor Dave Kleinschmidt said, "He is a big deal, what he's done is a big deal, and he's not done yet. He's still going; he's the Energizer Bunny!"

"Admiral Zerr had all the same opportunities you do; he walked the same halls, sat in the same classrooms, read from the same Bible," Mr. Kleinschmidt told his class. "It's what a person does with those opportunities and the choices they make

(Continued on page 18)



REUNITING WHERE AT ALL BEGAN — CLASS REUNIONS AT DUCHESNE HIGH

TODAY!!

DUCHESNE WELCOMES OUR ALUMNI CHEERLEADERS!

Come see our Alumni Cheerleaders perform "We're All in This Together" with our current cheer squad – today, Friday, 12/12/25, during halftime at the boys varsity basketball game, which starts at 7pm. (Reserved seating is behind our team bench for these alumni guests and their families.)

In the Works...

CLASS OF 2010's 15th Reunion – at Duchesne in the Spring of 2026

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. More info to come.

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 and Cheryl (Pollack) Johnson are organizing.



CLASS OF 1981's 45th Reunion – at Duchesne on Saturday, October 10, 2026

The Class of 1981 will hold their 45th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, October 10, 2026. John Orf and Pat (Suter) Sommer are among the organizers. More info to come.

CLASS OF 1976's 50th Reunion – at Duchesne on Saturday, October 17, 2026

The Class of 1976 will hold their 50th reunion at Duchesne on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Charlie Smith is again organizing this class's reunion. More info to come.

What About Your Class?

ALUMNI REUNIONS – is it time to plan yours?

Does your class year end in a 1 or 6 (such as 2001 or 1996)? It's time to plan your reunion! Contact Nancy (Rothermich) Kohl '78 at nkohl@duchesne-hs.org or 636.757.6925 to begin the conversation! Duchesne can provide you with a class list and save-the-date postcards for those groups that have their event at DHS. You will have use of our Garden Courtyard, Chapel for Mass, and/or PAC for your get-together, dinner, dancing, games, etc. Smaller groups may want to gather in our Esports Center. A self-guided tour outline will be available for your guests. Alumni groups are not charged a rental, just a maintenance fee (and a student tech fee if applicable).

Recently Celebrated...



CLASS OF 1965's 60th Reunion – at the KC Hall on Saturday, November 22, 2025

Thanks to Sheila (Honerkamp) Eckstein, Marilyn (Podhorsky) Geery, and Elaine (Machens) Rufkahr for planning this get-together. Those in attendance were:

Left to Right, Front Row: Nancy (Carbrey) Kuberski, Marilyn (Podhorsky) Geery, Debbie (Tintera) McCambell, Carolyn (Menze) Kelly, JoAnn (Roesslein) Houser, Pat Penkoske, Jean (Goellner) Reust, Kathy Wil-

liams, and Kathy (Bolte) Conley.

Back Row: James Yates, Elaine (Machens) Rufkahr, David Vadnais, Gary Mirka, Robert Schaberg, Bill Voigt, Sheila (Honerkamp) Eckstein, Rick Rothermich, Marilyn Boerding, and Marge (Feldewerth) Pugh.

Also in attendance but not pictured: Donald Ohmes.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS!



Recently Celebrated... (cont.)



CLASS OF 1985's 40th Reunion – at Duchesne on Saturday, October 11, 2025

The Fantastic Four of Melanie (Wynn) Douglas, Kathy Goldkamp-Jones, Eric Kozak, and Brian Ringwald spearheaded a great party for the Class of 1985's 40th Reunion, held at DHS on Saturday, October 11, 2025. The turnout included classmates from as far as Washington State and Texas. All enjoyed tours, heavy appetizers, a wonderful slide show, and more!

Seated on the Floor: Jim Podhorsky

First Row: Brett Renken, Kathy Goldkamp, Jane (Boschert) Jennings, Leslie (Sturmon) Brock, Melanie (Wynn) Douglas, Maria (Clever) Hill, Maureen (Bishop)

Wiszkon, Lydia (Kaminski) Kroninger, Donna (Luetkenhaus) Owen, Anne (Boschert) Ritter, and Laura (Lambert) Daues.

Middle Row: Matt Burke, Russ Philipps, Amy (Kelley) Phillips, David Sommer, Jimmy Fenning, Tom Luetkenhaus, Brian Ringwald, Bob Grothe, Christina Grenga, Lori (Lamb) Alms, and Ann (Rauch) Granquist.

Back Row: Jeff Borgmeyer, Ken Struckhoff, Joe Lynch, Jeff Goetges, Steve Hagen, Doug Weber, Dave Boschert, Mark Guttman, Eric Kozak, Matt Johannesman, Kristen Komis, and Sue (Linsenmeyer) Rioux.



CLASS OF 2005's 20th Reunion – at Duchesne on Saturday, October 18, 2025

Thanks to Dan Amiri, Julie (Glosier) Dreher, Emily (Friedel) Epley, Brian Hu, Caroline (Weber) Politsch, and Sarah (Leach) Worth for the lovely 20th Reunion they planned for the Class of 2005. The evening featured Mass, tours, a wonderful dinner with cloth linens, a fun photo corner, and, of course, reconnections and conversations that made the night complete.

Those in attendance included, front row: Caroline (Weber) Politsch, Olivia Witte, Brian Hu, Sarah (Leach) Worth, Rebekah Witte, and Kristin Hogan.

Middle Row: Brittany Schultenrich, Mariah Harder,

Emily (Friedel) Epley, Kristen Banocy, Katie (Orzel) Meers, Keith Ziercher, Emily (Dalton) Hu, Sarah (Entzerth) Hartzke, Annette (Bettag) Gresick, Susanna (Steimel) Stark, Julia (Burns) Daugherty, and Brandon Knoblauch.

Back Row: Jason Kasper, Mike McNamara, Brandon Blase, Pat Conley, Casey McMurry, Dan Amiri, Megan (Warhol) Renner, Jon Meier, Andrew Kalicak, Ryan Meers, Andrew Elmendorf, Corey Dreher, Julie (Glosier) Dreher, Julianne Jones, Kelly Travis, Lauren (Thoele) Lowe, Mary McBride, Lauren Carrell, and Patrick Daugherty.



LATE 70s/EARLY 80s Reunion – at Duchesne on Saturday, October 18, 2025

Thanks to Mike "Oz" Oslance and Msgr. Tom Dempsey for gathering some of their compatriots from their Duchesne years back at DHS for dinner and discourse. Guests included (front) Tom Walmsley and Msgr. Robert Jovanovic, with (back)

Chuck Nolan, Msgr. Tom Dempsey, Terry Gravemann, Sr. Linda Jansen, Jeannine LaZear Chunn, Mike Oslance, and Marti Coleman. Dale Burkemper and Mike Hobart joined the group via some nice speaker phone visits.



Mike Fitzgerald Campus Minister

The last two months have been busy ones for Campus Ministry! Here are some of the highlights:

- Our Duchesne Kairos team joined the St. Francis Borgia community at their Kairos retreat to train, in preparation for leading their classmates through the DHS seniors' Kairos retreat in March. DHS Campus Minister Mike "Mr. Fitz" Fitzgerald and Fr. Chris Holtmann were joined by senior leaders Chris Hernandez, Brooke Kammerer, Eve McGowan, Isabel Rakers, Leo Reyes Marquez, Gabi Ulrich, and Mia Young.

- A two-day food drive sponsored by our Houses netted 82 boxes of food and household supplies for Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service. We are PIONEER PROUD of all our students, faculty, and staff for their generosity!

- We had a 9-day novena, praying in union with our patroness, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, which culminated on her feast day of November 18.

- Also on the feast day of our saint, Fr. Chris blessed third-class relics of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, which were then shared with our students, faculty, and staff. Thank you to DHS Catholic Identity committee and Board member Ann (Johannesman) Tollefson '76 for making this possible with the donation of these medallions for this special all-school Mass.

- At our all-school Mass on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, House Rosaries were distributed. These Rosaries were custom made to represent



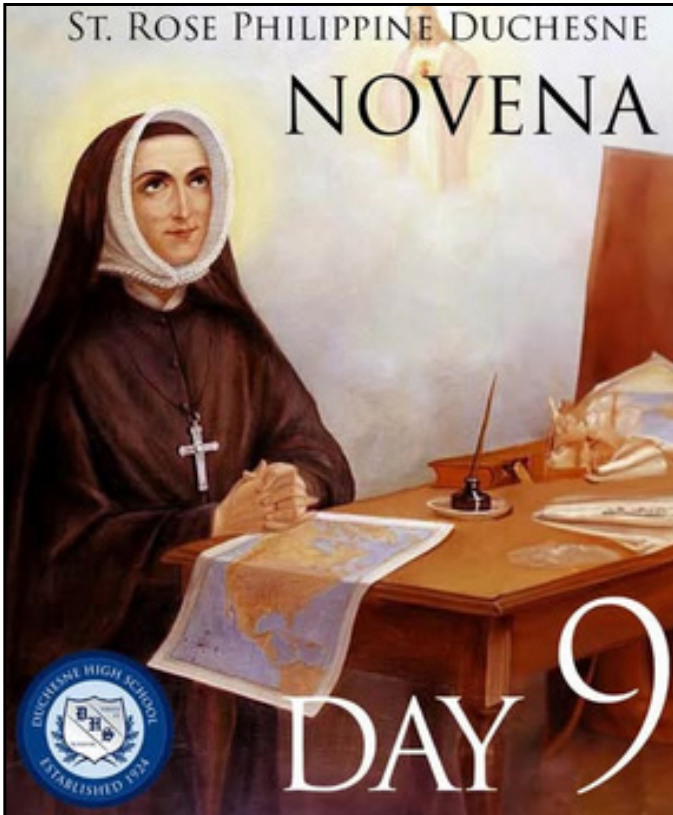
Two-day House Food Drive competition supports Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service.

the colors of our four houses: DeVeuster (green), Drexel (red), Jogues (yellow), and Kateri (purple). Thank you to our DHS Catholic Identity committee and Board members who sponsored these special prayer aids in conjunction with Adam and Bethany Camp of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish and Bishop Sheen Rosaries.

- Our students all had the opportunity to experience the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation on Thursday, December 11. Our thanks go out to the many community priests who helped to make this possible.

- Adopt-a-Family this year is featuring four big gifts – one sponsored by each

(Continued on page 15)



A prayer card graphic from day 9 of our St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Novena (left) and House Rosaries that were provided to our students by the DHS Catholic Identity committee (right).

(Continued from page 14)

House – in addition to fulfilling a special request by a foster child to take her foster mom to a Blues hockey game. Excess DHS donations for this annual Christmas tradition are being used for gift cards to supplement Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service's adopt-a-family program. Our gifts will be

delivered after our all-school Christmas Mass, which will be at 8:15am on Tuesday, December 16. (All are welcome!)

Looking ahead, our team of 39 student volunteers is working with Mr. Fitz to plan Mission Week, March 23-27, centered around the color-related theme, "Paint the World with Purpose."

**FOLLOW DUCHESNE
ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



HL **HOLLANDER LEGAL**
ESTATE PLANNING

FastLane

2060 Digital

+

HB **Hubbard**
BROADCASTING



Renee Moore '86
Athletic Director

What an exciting fall athletic season it has been, filled with fun and unforgettable moments at our athletic events!

We've been treated to beautiful performances of the Star-Spangled Banner by our talented Duchesne Choir members. A new treat this football season was the return of alumni singers to share their amazing talent and perform their own renditions of the Star-Spangled Banner. Thank you to Donna (Luetkenhaus) Owen '85, Mike Boschert '80, Steven Baker '16, and Renata (Mueller) Sweeso '17 and the dynamic duo of our very own President Paul Boschert '77 and his ever-so-talented sister Beth (Boschert) Duello '78 for spending their Friday nights at Frank Barro Stadium.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Golf

A huge congratulations to **Leah Krupich '27** and **Kannah Kesler '29** who competed in the two-day state golf

tournament at Meadow Lake Acres golf course in New Bloomfield.

The Missouri High School Golf Coaches Association is pleased to recognize the following Duchesne Pioneers who qualified for the 2025 MHSGCA Academic All-State team:

Ella Burke '28

Bridget Caldwell '27

Naomi Grizzle '27

Leah Krupich '27

Kate Wieman '28

Cross Country

Fantastic performance by **Isabel Rak-ers '26** and **Audrey Hoffmann '27**, who ran in the state cross country meet in Columbia. Audrey earned First Team All-State with her 7th place state finish.

Continued congratulations to **Audrey Hoffmann '27**, who broke the Duchesne girls school record in the 5,000 meter cross country race on Saturday, October 25, with a time of 19:01.5. The record was previously held by Kristen (Bruening) Rehm '96.

Soccer

Congratulations to **Will Johannesman '26** and **Max Nenninger '29**, who received Class 2 All-District Honors.

Football

Congratulations to the following Class 2 All-District Football selections:

Bennett Borgmeyer '26

First Team Kicker

CJ Kielhofner '27

First Team Linebacker

Evan Kundel '27

First Team Defensive Back

Ben Hanson '27

Second Team Linebacker

Landon Pezold '28

Second Team Offensive Line

Volleyball

Our **girls volleyball team** made us Pioneer Proud, winning the **Class 2 District 5 Championship**. They put up a strong effort in the sectional round before losing to a tough Hermann squad.

Congratulations to **Emmie Nikodym '29**, who earned All-Tournament Team honors at the Lutheran St. Charles Volleyball tournament.

Congratulations to the following players who earned Class 2 All-District Honors:

First Team

Gabi Ulrich '26

Daley Meyer '27

Mia Piskulich '28

Emmie Nikodym '29

Second Team

Molly Glosier '27

FALL SPORTS THANK YOUS

Thank you to everyone who helped make our fall season run so smoothly. Thanks to our Booster club members and parents for countless hours working the concession stand, especially to Scott '97 and Tara Hubert for their coordinating efforts. To all our livestream broadcasters, especially our soccer broadcast duo of Jason Boschert '98 and Mike Ryan '77, and our theology teacher turned football broadcaster Doug Becker for bringing life to the game for those Pioneer fans watching from home. Thank you to our dedicated football chain crew

of Dave and Jake '16 Hearst, John Bornhop '83, and Mike Ryan '77. Finally, thank you to Oktoberfest Chair Jason Boschert '98 and all our parent and alumni volunteers who continue to show up year after year to make Duchesne's the go-to booth on the Riverfront! Your passion and dedication to making Duchesne the best is unmatched.

WINTER SPORTS DATES

- Friday, December 12: Alumni Cheer Night at half-time during the 7pm Boys Basketball game vs Elsberry
- Tuesday, December 23; Monday, December 29; Tuesday, December 30: We will host the 49th Annual Girls Duchesne Holiday Basketball Tournament
- Friday, January 16: Coronation Game, 7pm Boys Basketball vs Affton
- Tuesday, January 20: Hosting Sparks Cheer Team, 7pm

Boys Basketball vs Winfield

- Friday, February 6: Junior Diamondline 7pm Boys Basketball vs Sumner
- Saturday, February 7, Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball Action at the Mike Fahnestock State Farm Shootout at East Alton Wood River High School:
- Girls Tip-Off at 9am vs Alton Marquette HS
- Boys Tip-Off at 10:30am vs Alton Marquette HS
- Tuesday, February 17: Grade School Basketball Night, 4:30pm, 5:45pm, 7pm vs Brentwood (girls varsity) and Maplewood (boys JV/Varsity)
- Friday, February 20: Senior Night for Basketball, Cheer, and Diamondline

WINTER THANK YOUS

Special thanks to the Girls basketball team for hosting a canned food drive for the St.

Charles Borromeo Mini Vinnie backpack program at their Jamboree. The drive collected 116 food items.

Also thank you to our coaches and boys and girls basketball teams, who spent the Tuesday before Thanksgiving with the Cottleville Knights of Columbus and other volunteers at the Pezold Banquet Center. Our Pioneers helped to fill over 2,000 box-

es to provide Thanksgiving meals for the No Hunger Holiday campaign.

STAY CONNECTED!

Duchesne Athletic Booster Club, you can email duch-esnebooster@gmail.com.

Stay connected and follow Duchesne Athletics on X at @Athletics_DHS and on Big Teams for updates!



Girls basketball team hosts canned food drive for the St. Charles Borromeo Mini Vinnie backpack program (top image) and boys and girls basketball teams helped to fill over 2,000 boxes to provide Thanksgiving meals for the No Hunger Holiday campaign at the Pezold Banquet Center with the Cottleville Knights of Columbus (bottom image).

Building character through life experiences (cont.)

(Continued from page 11)

along the way that make the difference between becoming a U.S. Navy ship commander and being behind bars. As a former police officer, I can tell you, everyone has the potential to achieve great things if they make good decisions and choices as they go through their lives."

In talking with our students, Adm. Zerr shared his personal philosophy on decision-making and life experiences. He emphasized the importance of teamwork, precision, and the lessons learned from his academic and military experiences.

"I'm here today as a Navy pilot, but that's not how I think of myself. My mind, body, and spirit are made up of physical, mental, and moral Lego bricks. And I get a new brick from every person I meet and thank you for the ones you've already given me. I'm not so much me as I am a little bit of everybody I've met, and all the experiences I've had. And I had some here at Duchesne.

"My freshman and sophomore year, I was knocking down As and Bs... but then I got my driver's license, and grades wound up kind of slipping down a rung on the ladder of importance to me. Then there was this dating thing. And I confess to you, my brothers and sisters, I was a little bit distracted. So, first semester, junior year, my report card had nothing but Bs and Cs on it. Then, Sister Matthew gave me a stink bomb of an F in Literature on the mid-semester report card for the second semester. I knew

I'd been a little distracted, but I mean, an F? Did I deserve that F? Heck no!

"When the bell rang, I was out the door, down the hallway, and busted into Sister Matthew's classroom. She was sitting up there at her desk, reading a book. She didn't even look up to see who had busted into her place. Well, I stomped up there and I slapped that report card down and I said, 'Sister, you gave me an F! I should have gotten a C!' Very placidly, she looked up, there wasn't an emotion of any kind whatsoever showing on her face, and she said, 'No, Jack, you should have gotten an A.'

"Right. I'm 84 years old now. That turned out to be the best, the most effective boot to the rear I have ever gotten. And in all the time I spent in the Navy, let me tell you, there were some experts at administering boots to the rear. But that one, from Sister Matthew, set me back on my heels, and I figured I was losing sight of some things that were awfully important, and just like what Mr. Kleinschmidt was talking about when we first started here, whatever you're shooting for, shoot for a stinkin' A. As long as you've given it an A effort, it doesn't matter if you get a B, C, D, or even an F. If you've given it the effort, that's what matters."

Adm. Zerr went on to share with the group a number of situations throughout his life that "Jack, you should have gotten an A" echoed in his mind. Through the opportunities for schooling and advancement in the Navy to the life-and-death instances in service, he has always done his best to "give it an A."

Having worked with Mr. Kleinschmidt in advance of the class meeting, Adm. Zerr was able to show video of his aircraft carrier experience in 1971 that helped to illustrate his stories of excitement and danger. He told the kids about his reason for wanting to learn to fly in the Navy, to be part of the action and try to make a difference. He informed them of the tight timing and proximity required for carrier flights, refueling in the air, and being in bombing situations. He talked about being shot down, and how his roommate became a POW.

Assistant Student Principal Debi (Westhues) Turner '96, who was among the adults in

the room, said, "I wish this had been the first class of the day, rather than the last class. I could listen to Admiral Zerr's stories all day long."

"I think the students absorbed Admiral Zerr's message as I had hoped they would. They've endorsed his presentation for future classes to hear as well," Mr. Kleinschmidt said. "Jack connected all the dots – to life, religion, the whole thing. He's the real deal. Education wise, this was the best 50 minutes I could give my students this whole semester."

Reunions (cont.)



FOREVER FRIENDS

This group of guys from Duchesne's classes of 1978 and 1979 have gone hunting on the day after Thanksgiving for 25 years. They are pictured here at the Black Hawk Valley Hunting Preserve in Old Monroe, MO.

From left: Jim Davis '78, Alex Davis, Brian Hercules, Joseph Schneider, Keith Schneider '78, Mike Mossberger '78, Mitch Mossberger, Matt Mossberger, Dave Hellrich '79, Duane Hercules '78, Joe Glosier '78, Jim Willbrand '78, Brett Willbrand, Tony Glosier '04, and Tyson Glosier '03.

A favorite poem of Adm. Zerr's, which he quoted
when addressing the question of,
"What does it feel like to fly a plane?"

High Flight

By John Gillespie Magee Jr.

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and
soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew—
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

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Featuring Junior
Diamondline
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