



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hi all,

Secular rituals, much like their sacred counterparts, are important reminders. They put in front of us those values we claim but might not practice as well as we could. These secular rituals, however, can sometimes become rote and cliché. How many of us have begrudgingly said “what we are thankful for,” while thinking more about the fried turkey than our genuine gratitude? When rituals become rote, they can lose their meaning and simply become about the trappings. July 4th is a holiday celebrating back yard barbecues, isn't it?

So, with the risk of sounding cliché, I'd like to take a moment and express my gratitude. Like many of you, I am blessed in numerous ways. I am thankful for my family and friends, my colleagues and our students. Today, however, I'd like to turn my attention to the part of our mission that doesn't get discussed much. We celebrate bodies when they achieve success, but how often are we grateful to be embodied? When we think about our bodies, we frequently focus our attention on what they cannot do, or the pain they feel. My mind is convinced that I can run down that shot on the tennis court; my body, for some reason, just doesn't get there. It is our bodies that take on anything from minor aches and pains, to life threatening diseases. Those of you who attended either the football district championship or the soccer quarterfinal match last weekend have recent experience with how painful it can be to have a body. It is our bodies after all that feel the sting of the cold.

As we prepare to attend the football quarterfinal game on Saturday (expected high of 38), it's important to remember why we should be grateful for having bodies. Sure, it will be cold and that cold will make our bodies ache. But those same bodies will taste the hot chocolate and feel its warmth, as we watch the game. Those same bodies will smell the pumpkin and apple pies baking on Thanksgiving, and savor the turkeys and mashed potatoes. The cold our bodies feel in winter will certainly bring about discomfort and pain. As I experience that discomfort, I will try to be grateful for the fact that having a body also allows me to feel the warmth of the bonfire and the wonder of flannel.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Dominic D'Urso



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Upcoming Events

November 19

Craft Fair & Quarterfinal Football (Home): We will host a craft fair from 8:30-2:00 and the state quarterfinal game at 1:00. The parking lot will be packed. Come early for the crafts, stay late for the football.

November 21-25

Thanksgiving Break: We have all of Thanksgiving week off. We hope you enjoy that time with your friends and families.

November 30

Power Hour: The faculty will not have formal professional development. Instead, they will be in their classrooms and available to our students as we approach the end of the quarter.

December 8

All School Mass: As usual, all of you are welcome to attend. If you are coming, please let Mrs. Bryan know.

December 8 & 9

Musical Auditions: Those interested in performing in the musical or working crew should see Mrs. Owen for more information. This year's play is *The Little Mermaid*.

December 13

All School Mass/Reading Day: The day will begin in Communion at 7:45. Students will have around 30 minutes to finish wrapping their Adopt-a-Family presents. We should start mass around 8:15. After mass, teachers will be in their rooms until noon. Students may leave after mass to begin studying for their finals. They can also see a teacher for individual support. Everyone is invited to the all school mass. If you plan on attending, please let Mrs. Bryan know.

December 14

Final Exams 1, 2, & 3:

Period 1 Exam: 8:00—9:05

Period 2 Exam: 9:15—10:15

Period 3 Exam: 10:25—11:25



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December 15

Final Exams 4, 5, & 6:

Period 4 Exam: 8:00—9:05

Period 5 Exam: 9:15—10:15

Period 6 Exam: 10:25—11:25

December 16

Final Exams 7 & 8

Period 7 Exam: 8:00—9:05

Period 8 Exam: 9:15—10:15

Exam Information



Students only need to be on campus when they are taking exams. If, for example, they do not have a period 3 exam, they are free to leave after their period 2 exam is finished. Also, if they do not have a period 1 exam, they do not need to get to class until their period 2 exam begins. If a student is off between exams, they should report to the cafeteria and study for the third exam of the day.

All of the exams end by 11:30. This is done intentionally to give students time to prepare for their finals the following day.