



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Welcome back and Happy December,

Like many, when I was a little kid I loved Christmas. And I loved just about everything associated with Christmas. I loved Christmas Eve Mass (primarily for the music). I loved the reindeer and Santa, the trees and lights. In theory, I loved snow, but growing up in Phoenix it was just a theoretical love. I even loved giving presents (when I could figure out good ones). But more than anything, I loved opening presents on Christmas Day.

I loved getting presents so much, that it frequently made me physically ill. I would turn my stomach in knots worrying about what I might get. My mom always reserved a number of “from Santa” presents to be placed under the tree on Christmas Eve. Eventually, my worrying became so great that she also refrained from placing any presents under the tree until that night, even ones she planned to give my dad. She was trying to help, but not being able to interrogate the gifts based on sound, shape, and size may have made my illness worse.

As an adult, I’ve tried to make sense of my annual and seasonal childhood mania. My family was relatively well-off when I was growing up, and I never experienced want. I also didn’t worry myself sick about potential birthday presents. As best as I can figure, the myth of Santa made the difference. As a little kid I really believed that “if I was good” Santa would get me what was on my list. I certainly wanted those items, but more than things, I wanted the tangible validation of my moral worth. I wanted to know I was good.

I think about my younger self every year as we get into the thick of our adopt-a-family charity. For those of you who do not know, Duchesne adopts families through Sts. Joachim & Ann parish and tries to provide them with a happy Christmas. Part of the adopt-a-family process includes getting lists of requests. Every year we have students who are appalled that somewhat expensive gifts are on those lists. I feel the same way at times. I then try to remind myself, and our students, how the myth of Santa conditions us. The kids whose families cannot afford to provide them with a present-filled Christmas are seeing the same commercials as the kids whose families can. If they are only good enough, Santa will bring them the full size lego X-Wing Fighter. Or maybe that was just me.

’Tis the Season,

Dominic D’Urso



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Upcoming Events

- December 2 **Dress Down Day:** We will have a \$2 dress down day to raise money for our adopt-a-families. The \$2 are in addition to any commitments made in each child's Communion.
- December 3 **Dance Competition:** This Saturday our Diamondline is competing in the Lindbergh Invitational.
- December 7 **Christmas Concert:** The Christmas Concert will start at 7:00. Audience members will have an opportunity to bid on Christmas cakes. All proceeds will support the fine arts department.
- December 8 **Home Girls Basketball:** The first home game for the girls basketball team will tip-off at 7:00.
- December 8 **All School Mass:** As usual, all of you are welcome to attend. If you are coming, please let Mrs. Bryan know.
- December 9 **Home Double Header:** The girls play at 5:45 and the boys at 7:00.
- 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.

December 16

Home Boys Basketball

December 17

Christmas Break Begins

December 27-29

Holiday Tournament: Duchesne will host our annual Girls Basketball Holiday Tournament.

January 3

Classes Resume: Our first day back will be a half day. All classes will meet. We will dismiss at 12:05.