



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hello all,

December 31st and January 1st seem like such silly days to celebrate the new year. Sure, January 1st used to be the College Football National Holiday (the day when all of the most anticipated bowl games were played), but even that isn't true any more. As a life long academic, my New Year's Eve always came the day of Spring Finals. New Year's Day was the first day of Fall classes. In between those two days are ten weeks of New Year's holiday. Beats watching a ball drop.

On Tuesday we celebrated our last All School Mass of the year. During his homily Fr. Eddie hit on the reason I've equated summer break with New Year's. For an unrelated reason, Fr. Eddie started discussing the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In doing so, he stressed the notion that the sacrament lightens the soul and gives the person receiving the sacrament a rejuvenated spirit. In a secular sense, this is what New Year's is all about. New Year's resolutions (even those that are hastily made and short lived) focus on rejuvenating some aspect of the self. (I'm going to work out more, make better financial decisions, spend less time on my phone and more time talking with my family, etc.)

For students, teachers, and administrators, the summer is an opportunity for rejuvenation, but one that is also coupled with a ten week period of contemplation. This opportunity is most noticeable for our students making big changes (moving from 8th grade to high school, graduation high school and moving out of the family home, etc.). The opportunity, however, is available to all of us. Freshmen will no longer be freshmen; sophomores will be upperclassmen; juniors will be seniors. Our faculty will teach new courses, or new students, or both. The question is, how do we use the ten week period to make the most out of our new year, to ensure that the new year's resolutions are not abandoned.

My personal answer to this question usually revolves around a summer reading list. What will I get to read in the summer and how will that reading rejuvenate me and prepare me for the new year. I'm doing something similar this summer, but the reading list has been created for me. I am starting a Masters in Theology program at the University of Notre Dame. In July, I will be taking "Theology of Revelation" on Notre Dame's campus. My first class, "The Apologetics of Love," is online and started Wednesday night. Our texts include the Catechism as well as excerpts from philosophers like Plato and theologians like St. Augustine, Pope Benedict, and Pope Francis. Even before the school year officially ends, I am already feeling a tiny spark of rejuvenation.

Have a great summer,

Dominic D'Urso



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2023-2024 Dates:

We will send out more detailed information about many of the events listed below as we progress through the summer.

May 30-Aug 17

Summer Break: The front office will be open Monday through Thursday (excluding holidays, and the week of June 19th) from 7-11.

August 7-8

Senior Retreat: This overnight retreat will take place at the White House Retreat Center.

August 7

Freshmen Parent Coalition Meeting: Parents of incoming freshmen are required to attend this evening meeting hosted by the West County Psychological Associates. The meeting will be held at Duchesne and highlights some of the challenges and expectations students face while in high school.

August 8 & 9

New Student Tech Orientation: New students are required to attend one session to establish their digital footprint at Duchesne.

August 16

Freshmen Family Mass: The Class of 2027 will celebrate mass together as a class.

August 17

New Student Orientation: New Student Orientation is the first day of school for all students new to Duchesne. You will meet your teachers and get sorted into your houses.

August 17

Fall Parent Meeting & BBQ: All parents new to Duchesne and the parents of fall sports are invited to attend.

August 18

First Day of Classes: All students will run through a half day schedule.

August 18

Summer Reading Due: Please see the handout given to your children or check our website for the summer reading assignments.



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September 30	Homecoming
October 19-21	Fall Play
November 20-24	Thanksgiving Break
December 18-20	First Semester Finals
December 21	Christmas Break Begins
January 4	Classes Resume/Second Semester Begins
January 27	Coronation
February 29-March 2	Musical
March 4-8	Mission Week
March 11-15	Spring Break
March 28-April 1	Easter Break
April 4	Junior Ring Mass
May 3	Prom
May 8-10	Jr/Sr Finals
May 13-17	Junior Week of Service
May 16	Graduation
May 22-24	Fr/So Finals