



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Welcome Back,

The 2023-24 school year is off the ground and flying. I couldn't be more excited about this year and all of the potential I see in the faces of our students, teachers, and community. And I couldn't be happier to be back in the halls and classrooms engaging our students as they learn and working with our faculty as we guide them through the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of high school.

As many of you know, we try to center the year around one of the virtues. At Senior Retreat, I give the class a brief summary of the virtues and how we plan to use the theme throughout the year. Earlier this week I met with the small group leaders and they selected **Fortitude** as the theme for the year.

Fortitude, as defined by William Mattison in [Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues](#), is "synonymous with bravery and courage. Fortitude is most basically defined as the virtue that enables one to face obstacles or difficulties well. The brave person is not swayed by trials and tribulations from her pursuit or grasp of goodness. So fortitude may also be defined as the ability to suffer hardship well, whether the hardship is bodily or otherwise." Issues concerning fortitude or bravery pop up frequently in an English classroom, and when they do, I emphasize to my students that the brave person/character is brave because they face their fear, not because they are fearless. To be human is to suffer hardship. How we suffer that hardship marks our characters, and learning to suffer hardship well is a noble goal.

I ask the seniors to select the virtue because more than anyone they know who we are as a school and what we need. Consider how apropos fortitude is given our current circumstances. Last year as a school community, we suffered the hardship of the looming All Things New decision. Now, as we begin our strategic planning, we are asked to be vulnerable and bravely face who we are and who we will be as we chart our path for the next 100 years.

Finally, I'd like to close with a prayer we will be saying throughout the year to keep fortitude in mind: *Dear Jesus, alone I am weak, but with You I can do all things. Give me the grace to be strong against temptations and bold in proclaiming You and Your Church on earth.*

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



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Upcoming Events

- August 25 **Home Football:** Please note that the game will start at 8:00. At halftime, our cheerleaders will be joined by many of the grade schoolers who attended our cheer camp this summer.
- August 28 **Home Tennis & Soccer**
- August 29 **Home Golf** (at Bogey Hills Country Club)
- August 30 **Home Tripleheader – Tennis, Soccer, & Golf** (Bogey)
- August 31 **All School Mass:** We will celebrate our first all school mass on Thursday. All of our families are welcome to attend; we'd love to see you. The mass will not start before 9:45. To ensure that we have enough chairs, please email Robyn Fuchs (rfuchs@duchesne-hs.org) if you plan to attend.
- September 1 **Home Tripleheader – Tennis, Volleyball, & Soccer**
- September 1 **Home Cross Country:** The First Capitol Invitational will be held at McNair Park.
- September 4 **Labor Day:** No School
- September 5 **Back to School Night:** On Tuesday evening, parents will have the opportunity to come up to school, walk in the steps of their children, and meet the teachers. The evening begins at 7:00. A Happy Hour reception will start beforehand at 6:00.
- September 6 **Home Doubleheader – Tennis & Cross Country** (McNair)
- September 6 **Pioneer Spirit Night:** Encourage all of the grade schoolers you know (especially the 6th through 8th graders) to come out to the soccer game. There will be dessert trucks, scavengers hunts, and, of course, excellent soccer on the pitch!
- September 7 **Home Volleyball**
- September 8 **Home Football:** Swiftie Night! Over 100 grade schoolers will be performing with our Diamondline at halftime.



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September 11

Home Soccer

September 12

Home Soccer

September 13

Home Volleyball

September 14

All School Mass: We will celebrate mass as a whole school community on Thursday. All of our families are welcome to attend; we'd love to see you. The mass will not start before 9:45. To ensure that we have enough chairs, please email Robyn Fuchs (rfuchs@duchesne-hs.org) if you plan to attend.

Home Tripleheader – Volleyball, Soccer, & Golf (Bogey)

September 15th

Freshman Retreat: The retreat will take place during the regular school day, starting at 7:40 and ending before the final bell. This is a dress down day for freshmen and their senior retreat leaders. A pizza lunch will be provided. Please bring a bottle of water. You can leave your iPads and books at home.

