



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hello all,

Before I dig into the focus of my letter, I wanted to take a moment to thank our extraordinary community. We came out in droves to support our soccer team at the state competition. In fact, over 86% of our faculty and staff cheered on our team as we won the state title. I couldn't be prouder to be a Pioneer!

Now for the letter: The end of the term is rapidly approaching. Next week is our last full week of classes. The following week ends with a special schedule on Friday, the 15th, for our Adopt-a-Family mass and reading day. And the week after that is finals week. Does it make sense that our students might feel a little stressed during this time of year?

The last few weeks of any semester are usually stressful. During these weeks teachers typically ask students to show evidence of their learning. Major projects and papers come due as we approach finals week, and then finals week itself presents all of the stressors associated with taking major tests. On top of the typical stress, the end of the first semester has the added joy and anxiety of the holidays. So, what's to be done? How do we best manage our time to minimize our stress?

The best way for students to deal with the stress brought on by the end of a semester is for them to stay on top of their work. As major assessments are assigned, they should section them out and work on them over several days. I know from experience (as both a student and a teacher) that avoiding last minute work can be seen as idealistic thinking, but it is also incredibly helpful.

We will also do our best to make the end of the term a successful one for our students. I am sure our teachers will be more than happy to help students take big projects or papers and break them down into manageable components. Additionally, on Wednesday (12/6) we will have our December Power Hour (see the note below). Finally, on December 15th we will have our first semester Reading Day. We will start the day with mass. After mass, teachers will be in their rooms until noon to assist students and help them prepare for their finals.

Pax,

Dominic D'Urso



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Announcements

The Boosters Need Your Help: Currently the concession stands for home basketball games are understaffed. Parent volunteers are vital to the success of any school program. Please consider volunteering your time to help our school. Here are the links to sign up: [Girls Basketball](#), [Boys Basketball](#).

Upcoming Events

December 1

eSports State Competition: Our eSports Rocket League team qualified for the state competition to be held in Springfield, this Friday (11:30 & 2:00). You can watch [here](#) or [here](#). Will Kielhofner individually qualified for state in Super Smash Bros. Wish them luck.

December 4

Girls Basketball Home Opener: JV plays at 5:45. Varsity follows at 7:00.

Musical Informational Meeting: Students interested in the Spring Musical: *School House Rock* should speak with Mrs. Owen after school on Monday. At 5:30 there will be a watch party.

Swim Meet: The girls swim team competes at the St. Peters Rec-Plex at 8:30.

December 5

Home Girls Basketball: JV plays at 5:45. Varsity follows at 7:00.

December 6

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, the Duchesne community is welcome to attend. Mass should start around 9:45.

December 11

Swim Meet: The girls swim team competes at the St. Peters Rec-Plex at 8:30.



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

December 12

Christmas Concert: The Christmas Concert will start at 7:00. Audience members will have an opportunity to bid on Christmas cakes (baked by our fine arts students). All proceeds will support the fine arts department.

Boys Basketball Home Opener: JV plays at 5:45. Varsity follows at 7:00.

December 13 & 14

Musical Auditions: Those interested in performing in the musical or working crew should see Mrs. Owen for more information. This year's musical is *School House Rock*.

December 15

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.

December 18

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

December 19

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 20

Final Exams 7 & 8

Period 7 Exam: 8:00—9:05

Period 8 Exam: 9:15—10:15



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Exam Information

Students only need to be on campus when they are taking their 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 in 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 21

Christmas Break Begins!

January 4

THE SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS!!!: The first day of the second semester will be an all classes meet half-day dismissing at 12:05.

January 5

Day 1: The first full day of classes will begin on January 1st.

