



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Happy December and Merry Christmas,

For those of you who do not know, Duchesne adopts families through Sts. Joachim & Ann parish and tries to provide them happy Christmases. Mostly through our Communios, we hope to raise enough money and goods to provide the families in our care with a sense of hope and joy on a day devoted to hope and joy. Raising the money, however, can sometimes be a challenge.

The challenge arises often times for completely valid reasons. This time of year is very demanding on families. Time is in short supply, and our resources—be they physical, emotional, or financial—are heavily taxed. Additionally, the families we adopt tend to remain abstract. We are given names and relations, shirt and shoe sizes, but we don't get to know the families we are helping. When these two factors are combined, it is easy to understand why the families in our care are not a top priority.

Despite the challenges, I can also tell you that something rather miraculous happens to many of our students during the days leading up to our Adopt-a-Family mass. As the gifts for the families start to come into our Communios, and as our students start to wrap them, the families start to become less abstract. The administration, front office, and advancement have a family, and I was assigned to get some gifts for the little boy. This week a Hot Wheels set, a plush Ninja Turtle, a stretchable Sonic the Hedgehog, and some undeniably cool Ninja Turtle underwear came to my house. While I cannot see the boy's face who will be opening these gifts, the feeling I had when imagining his Christmas morning was similar to when I think about the gifts I get for my own nephews. More importantly, our students experience the same thing when they start to wrap. I remember walking into one Communio last season as a few of our boys were trying to figure out how to wrap a basketball. Amusing in its own right, it was also touching to see these teens remember what it was like to get their first basketball and anticipate the joy they were bringing.

Our Adopt-a-Family mass is Friday, December 15th. In order to have enough time to wrap the gifts, it is imperative that our shoppers get the money by December 8th so they can do their shopping. If your child hasn't yet contributed to his or her Communio's family, and you are able, please do so by Friday.

Merry Christmas,

Dominic D'Urso



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Announcements

- 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.
- 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 **Wrestling:** Duchesne Wrestlers compete at St. Charles High at 5:00.
- 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 14 **Wrestling:** Duchesne Wrestlers compete at Francis Howell Central.
- December 15 **All School Mass/Reading Day:** The day will begin in Communio 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



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

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

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!

Winter Classic: Join us in the North Rink of the St. Peters Rec-Plex for a scrimmage between participating 4th through 8th grade students and our current DHS Hockey team.

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.