



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Welcome back and Merry Christmas,

I hope everyone had a restorative and peaceful Christmas Break. These first few days back, like the ones that start the first semester, will give all of us an opportunity to ease out of vacation mode and into the daily rhythms of an academic calendar. Before long, students will be taking tests, writing papers, and conducting experiments. But, as we all know, second semesters tend to be a little chaotic, especially during the winter months. With that in mind, I'd like to use this space to highlight some of the procedures we will use if weather and poor driving conditions cause us to close school for a day or two.

Ideally we will implement late starts or eDays to prevent learning loss as a result of inclement weather. We will call **late starts** if the road conditions are bad enough to warrant extra caution, but not hazardous enough to call school. Late start schedules due to poor driving conditions will run like our regular Wednesday late starts. The first warning bell will ring at 9:10.

When we have ample warning and can anticipate hazardous road conditions, we will call an **eDay**. The goal of these days is to provide teachers and students with the opportunity to supplement the learning that happens in the classroom. These days will implement a half-day schedule (see below), and students will be required to virtually attend their classes via the conferencing tool on Schoology. These days will be called in advance, giving teachers the opportunity to go over the expectations for the day with their students.

eDay Schedule:

1. 7:45-8:18
2. 8:23-8:56
3. 9:01-9:34
4. 9:39-10:12
5. 10:17-10:50
6. 10:55-11:28
7. 11:33-12:06

Obviously the above schedule is not great, but, when used sparingly, it is better than the alternative. It allows us to assign just enough work to keep our classes on schedule. **Snow Days**, on the other hand, can be calendar destroyers. We will call snow days when the weather happens unexpectedly and quickly, or in the event that expected winter weather lasts for multiple days. Let's hope we don't have too many.

More of my typical ponderous prose next week,

Dominic D'Urso



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Announcements

- January 4 **First Day:** Our first day of classes will be a half day dismissing at 12:05.
- January 5 **Day 1:** Friday will be a full day of classes with a 2:50 dismissal time.
Home Hockey (Senior Night): A reception starts at 8:30. The game follows at 9:30.
- January 6 **Home Hockey:** 6:30
- January 8 **Basketball Quadrupleheader:** All four basketball teams play at home. The afternoon starts with both the JV and Varsity girls teams. The evening follows with the JV and Varsity boys.
- January 9 **Strategic Planning Listening Session:** With the advice of the larger Duchesne community, we have created a strategic plan that will guide our school for the next several years. All are welcome to attend the listening session that explains that plan. Light food and drink will be provided. Register [here](#).
- January 12 **Basketball Quadrupleheader:** All four basketball teams play at home. The afternoon starts with both the JV and Varsity girls teams. The evening follows with the JV and Varsity boys.
- January 12 & 13 **Wrestling Meet:** The Pioneer wrestlers are competing at St. Charles West on Friday and Saturday.
- January 15 **No School:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 17 **Basketball Tripleheader:** The afternoon starts with the JV Varsity girls team. The evening follows with the JV and Varsity boys.



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January 18

All School Mass: Our first all school mass of the semester. Everyone is welcome to attend.

January 20

Science Olympiad: The regional competition will be held at Lindenwood University.

Robotics: Duchesne will host a robotics competition in our gym.

January 23

Basketball Quadrupleheader: All four of our basketball teams will be competing at home. The afternoon starts with our JV teams. The evening follows with our varsity teams.

January 26

Coronation Game: The varsity game tips off at 7:00.

January 27

Coronation Dance

