



# DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

*shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit*

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Hello all,

Last week I had the seniors nominate their classmates for several end of the year recognitions: Baccalaureate Speaker, Graduation Speaker, *Virtue of the Year* award, and the *St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Spirit of Resilience* award. The nominees were then voted on by the senior class and the faculty. Our Baccalaureate Mass speaker will be **David Rowberry**, and the graduation commencement address will be delivered by **Kate Mikkelsen**. I will share a little more about those speakers and their addresses as we get closer to graduation week.

At the beginning of the year, the seniors went on their overnight retreat and settled on “Fortitude” and the Virtue of the Year, and therefore theme of 2023-24. At our Baccalaureate celebration, **Alyssa Forti** will be presented with the award for being a standout example of what it means to best live the virtue of fortitude. When I had the students nominate their peers, I also had them explain their choices. What follows is a small sample of the kind words Alyssa’s peers had for her. “Even though she has had setbacks, she is always there for people who have questions and always has a smile on her face. She is always super helpful and an amazing friend.” “She doesn’t let anything stop her from excelling. She is an all around nice person who is there for the ones she cares about.” These are just a few of the ways Alyssa shows fortitude. Ask anyone at Duchesne, they can tell you how easy it is to see the truth of these words just passing Alyssa in the hallway.

This year’s *St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Spirit of Resilience* award goes to **Julia Winkeler**. Like this year’s virtue award, the *Duchesne* award honors a student who best exemplifies adjusting to obstacles with grace and joy. Julia’s peers also wrote about the reasons why she deserves the recognition. “She’s so smart and so tough and she’s willing to take on anything that comes her way as well as volunteer for anything to make sure everyone is happy and taken care of.” “Julia exemplifies adapting to setbacks in the best ways. She has proven more than enough times that she can handle whatever is thrown at her.” Again, these words are just a small representation of the way Julia’s peers see her. Speaking for the faculty, I can say her peer recommendations also pinpoint the way the staff feels about Julia. “Smart,” “Tough,” “Willing to take on anything.” I can’t think of a better way to describe the *St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Spirit of Resilience* winner.

Pax,

Dominic D’Urso



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## Announcements

May 4 **District Track** (Lutheran North), **Individual Tennis Districts** (Zumwalt East), **Volleyball Districts** (Howell Central)

May 6 **Spring Concert:** The Duchesne Performing Arts Department will host a spring concert in the PAC at 7:00

**Tennis Team Districts** (Zumwalt East), **Golf Districts** (South Shelby)

**Senior Day:** Monday is the last day of classes for our seniors. While their peers have planned a number of fun activities for them, Senior Day is also a great opportunity to turn in that final project, complete that last presentation, or get a little extra help for the final.

May 7 **Reading Day:** Juniors and Seniors are not required to be on campus. They can, however, come to campus to meet with teachers in preparation for their finals.

May 8 **7:45 Start:** The Juniors and Seniors will begin their finals on Wednesday. To accommodate the final schedule, we will not have a late start on the 8th.

May 8 **Period 3 Final:** 7:45-8:35

**Period 5 Final:** 9:55-10:45

**Period 8 Final:** 1:05-1:55

May 9 **Period 4 Final:** 7:45-8:35

**Period 6 Final:** 9:55-10:45

**Period 1 Final:** 1:05-1:55



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May 10

**Period 7 Final:** 9:55-10:45

**Period 2 Final:** 1:05-1:55

**100th Celebration:** On Friday evening we will celebrate 100 years of Catholic education. See the emails from our advancement department to RSVP.

May 11

**Baseball District (BMAC), Soccer District (Orchard Farm)**

May 14

**Baccalaureate Mass:** The Baccalaureate Mass is the last mass the seniors will celebrate as a class. It is also the kick-off to graduation week. The mass will be held at St. Peter Church in St. Charles. It will start at 6:00. We will have an awards ceremony immediately following mass. Doors will open at 5:30

May 15

**Graduation Practice:** All graduates need to be in the PAC by 9:45 a.m. for graduation practice. We will not start practice until everyone gets to school.

**Senior Sunset:** At the beginning of the year, many of our seniors met prior to the first day of school to watch the sunrise. On the evening prior to graduation, they will gather to watch the sun set. It should be a wonderful evening.

May 16

**Graduation:** The ceremony begins at 6:00. Graduates should arrive to school and be in the PAC by 5:30. The doors to the Ted Yeater Athletic Center will also open at 5:00 for the friends and families of our graduates. Each graduate will get 8 tickets (4 preferred seating, 4 general admission) to the ceremony at graduation practice on the 15th. If families would like more tickets, please let us know. For more details on graduation, please see the email from Mrs. Turner