



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Welcome back,

On Tuesday evening we celebrated our annual Freshmen Family Mass. The evening before the year officially begins, we encourage our freshmen and their families to join us in communion as we usher in a new stage in their lives. We see this mass as a nice bookend to the Baccalaureate Mass we celebrate with seniors prior to graduation.

After mass, I usually offer the class a few words of encouragement, and this year was no different. I worked on a short speech that emphasized their movement from childhood to adulthood. The speech highlighted many of the joys and responsibilities that come with being an adult: selecting a college, moving out on your own, full participation in our democracy, and serving in our military. In the speech, I also touched on Isaac Newton's "standing on the shoulders of giants" and collective learning as a means of discovering human greatness. It was going to be a good speech.

And then, Father Chris—Duchesne's chaplain—read the Gospel. In it Jesus tells his disciples, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven." Father Chris's homily focused on the idea that true greatness is found in communion with God and with each other. These messages put me in a bit of a bind. As I told the freshmen and their families, I didn't want my first words to the Class of 2028 to contradict the Gospel.

So, I ditched my speech and tried to follow the teaching of Jesus. After the line I quoted above, Jesus tells the disciples, "Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven." Again and again, my job (and the nature of education, more generally) teaches me humility. Just when I think I have some aspect of the profession figured out, I am reminded of how much I have to learn.

Humility is also a great lesson for our students as they begin their academic years. They will meet the unexpected. They will stumble. They may even fall. How will they respond? And in whom will they place their trust?

Looking forward to a wonderful year,

Dominic D'Urso



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Upcoming Events

August 15

Freshmen Parent Social Media Orientation: The Secondary Schools Coalition in conjunction with West County Psychological talk to our Freshmen parents about some of the experiences their students will face in high school. The presentation begins at 6:00 in the PAC.

August 19

Picture Day: Our photography company will be on site to take yearbook and student ID pictures.

August 21

Wednesday Late Start: Almost every Wednesday is a late start. School begins at 9:10 and ends at 2:50. The only exceptions are our exam days and Ash Wednesday.

August 22

New Family and Sports BBQ: For parents with students playing a fall sport, the evening begins at 5:00 in the PAC with a brief introduction followed by individual sports meetings. A BBQ dinner follows at 6:00 and all parents new to Duchesne are asked to join. After the dinner, the administration will run through a fairly quick “Duchesne 101” course for new families, providing them with some basic information about how the school operates. This event is for parents, not students.

August 27

The first meeting of **Duchesne Reads** will be on August 27th at 6:30. At that time, I'd like to discuss the introduction and the first 4 chapters of *The Anxious Generation*. I hope you'll join us. If you are planning on attending, please let Robyn Fuchs know (rfuchs@duchesne-hs.org).

August 29

Back to School Night: On Thursday 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.



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August 30

Home Football Opener: Kickoff is out 7:00. There will be a tailgate for our students hosted by Jogues House starting at 4:00 in our main parking lot. There will be a separate tailgate for our parents hosted by the football families in the 310 parking lot. It also begins at 5:00.

September 2

No School: Labor Day

September 3

Home Volleyball Opener: C-team and JV games start at 5:00. The varsity game follows at 6:00.

September 6

Home Tennis Opener: The varsity matches start at 3:30.

Looking Ahead (More Details Soon)

September 12

All School Mass

September 28

Homecoming Dance

