



DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit

Hi all,

As some of you may be aware, this week marked the official start of the “High School Night” season. If you need a refresher, High School Nights are the events designed to help grade school students choose their high schools. At each event grade school students can choose up to three high schools to visit for a twenty minute presentation. Duchesne’s approach to these nights is to allow our current students to tell their stories. In telling their stories, both **Maeve McCune** and **Maggie Schneider** spoke about Aha! moments.

For Maeve, the moment was about choosing Duchesne. Maeve is a freshman here and the moment came to her last year as she was coming home from a trip to Kansas City. It became clear to her on that trip, in a moment of revelation, that we were the perfect fit. Maggie’s moment happened much farther away. She was on the school trip to England and France. Walking on the beaches of Normandy and seeing *Much Ado About Nothing* in the Globe Theater crystalized for Maggie her history and literature lessons.

As teachers we live for these moments in our classrooms, the moments when the abstract and theoretical becomes personal and meaningful. We can see in the faces of our students when learning shifts from something the students need to do to pass a test to something that is fundamental to their life. On the day of our first High School Night I was teaching my class *The Bacchae* by Euripides. We were discussing the choral chant: “What is nobler than to hold a dominating hand above the bent head of the enemy?” We addressed how this line signals the value the Greeks placed on power and subjugation, and how dangerous such an approach to life can be for individual morality.

As I drove home from High School Night, I held these two worldviews in my mind—the curiosity at the heart of the Aha! moments and the emphasis of domination expressed in the Euripides ode. I also realized how lucky I am to be in a position to foster the former.

Sincerely,

Dominic D’Urso



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Upcoming Events

- September 6 **Home Tennis Opener:** The varsity matches start at 3:30.
- September 9 **Home Soccer Opener:** JV at 4:30, V at 6:00.
- September 10 **Home Tennis, Golf, Cross Country:** The tennis team will play on campus, Golf is at Bogey Hills and the Cross Country team will race at McNair.
- September 11 **Home Volleyball**
- September 12 **All School Mass:** As usual, all of our families are welcome to join us for Mass. The celebration will begin around 9:45.
-  **College Fair/Financial Aid Night:** Over 60 colleges will be on Duchesne's campus for a college fair. After the fair we will host a financial aid information session. All Duchesne families are welcome. Please see Mrs. Grass's email for more details.
- September 13 **Freshmen Retreat:** The retreat will take place during the regular school day, starting at 7:40 and ending before the final bell. This is a dress down day for freshmen and their senior retreat leaders. A pizza lunch will be provided. Please bring a bottle of water. Students can leave their iPads and books at home.
- September 18 **Power Hour:** Like a typical Wednesday, we will have a late start. I, however, will not have formal professional development for our faculty. Instead, teachers will be in their rooms from 7:45 to 9:00 to assist students with their studies.
- Austria, Germany, & Switzerland:** Mr. Schneider is hosting an informational meeting for families interested in attending Duchesne's next European trip (Summer 2026). Click on the link to sign up for the meeting: [Summer 2026 Trip](#).



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September 19

Home Doubleheader: Both the tennis and soccer teams play at home. Tennis starts at 4:00, varsity soccer at 6:00.

September 20

No School: The students do not have classes on the 20th. The faculty will be engaged in professional development.

Home Football: The game starts at 7:00. Our football families will host a tailgate in the 310 parking lot starting at 5:00.

September 25

Freshmen Testing: Freshmen will take a practice ACT in the morning. They will report to their first hour class and then move to the PAC for testing. The test should end prior to the lunch hour. The rest of the day will continue as usual.

September 28

Looking Ahead (More Details Soon)

Homecoming Dance

October 24

Parent/Teacher Conferences

