



# DUCHESNE HIGH SCHOOL

*shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit*

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Hi all,

It is my great honor to announce to the Duchesne community that senior **Ailsa Ide** was recently awarded the status of National Merit Semifinalist. I received the news last week but was sworn to secrecy until the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced all of the winners on Wednesday, the 11th. Ailsa earned her status by performing exceptionally well on last year's PSAT, and she now has the opportunity to compete for highly selective scholarships.

The press release from the NMSC states that their goals include, "honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence." The group of semifinalists represents "less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors" and includes "the highest scoring entrants in each state." Less than one percent is an astounding number. In my short tenure as principal, Ailsa is the first Pioneer to earn this recognition. For those of us who know Ailsa, and especially for those of us lucky enough to teacher her, it also makes perfect sense that she would be included in this extremely rare company.

Now that Ailsa is a semifinalist, she has the opportunity to compete for multiple scholarships, including scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and various corporate sponsored scholarships. Additionally, "about 150 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 3,600 college-sponsored Merit Scholarships awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution."

As a school we couldn't be happier for or prouder of Ailsa. If you see her, wish her luck (that she certainly won't need) as she pursues these Finalist scholarships.

Sincerely,

Dominic D'Urso



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## Upcoming Events

September 12

**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](#).

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.



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September 23

**Spirit Week Begins:** The 23rd kicks off spirit week as we prepare for Homecoming. There will be a variety of costume contests and activities leading up to the big game and dance.

**Home Tripleheader:** To kick off homecoming week, tennis, volleyball, and soccer all have home matches. Mr. Schneider might even grill up some hamburgers.

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 26

**Home Soccer**

**Home Tennis**

September 27

**Homecoming:** Our pep rally will be at 2:00 and will include an introduction of our Homecoming court. The game begins at 7:00. The Homecoming court will also be introduced prior to the game. As usual, all of our families are welcome to attend both events.

September 28

**Homecoming Dance:** The doors open at 7:00 with the ceremony starting at 7:30. The dance will follow the ceremony and end at 9:30. Students attending the dance are required to stay until 9:00.

## Looking Ahead (More Details Soon)

October 24

Parent/Teacher Conferences