



Duchesne Academy
of the Sacred Heart

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



School Communication

There are many ways in which the school will communicate with parents. Please explore them all so that you and your family can stay informed and learn about all the amazing opportunities Duchesne has to offer.

Portals

Log into your portal at duchesne.org/login. There is a parent portal and a student portal which provide easy access to all the various resources you will need to use at Duchesne. You created a login when you signed your school enrollment contract.

Tip: If you need assistance, please use the duchesneconnect@duchesne.org for help. Tech support is very responsive as they want you to have full access to all that is available to you. You can also ask for a reset of your password if you forget it.

DuchesneConnect

DuchesneConnect is the school's learning management system or LMS. This is where students will access their grade-level pages, class pages, homework assignments, calendars, and more.

My Backpack

My Backpack is part of our online student database. My Backpack is used for the following:

- Student schedule
- Report cards
- Standardized testing scores
- Update family contact information
- Online re-enrollment
- Extended programs registration

It is important to keep contact information current throughout the year for purposes of emergency contacts, online directories, and school communications.

Duchesne App

You can download the Duchesne app from the app store on your iPhone or Android device. The app includes helpful information such as calendars, directories to contact faculty/staff, students, and parents, lunch menus, and more.

Tip: The Parents Directory is easily accessible on the Duchesne App or from the portal.

Social Media

The school is active on several social media outlets:

Facebook - @DuchesneAcademyHouston

Instagram - @DuchesneHouston and @DuchesneUpperSchool

Twitter - @DuchesneHouston

Tip: Be sure to follow Duchesne Upper School even if you're a Lower or Middle School family because it is a great opportunity to preview what is to come in Upper School.

Weekly Newsletter

Each Thursday you can expect an email from Duchesne with weekly updates. There will be information about upcoming events, calendar items, and important information.

Tip: The newsletter is organized by division (Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School) and includes information about fine arts and athletics too. Make it a point to thoroughly read the newsletter each week.

Heartfelt from the Head of School Emails

These are periodic emails from the Head of School intended to share special and significant development throughout the year. This is a way for the school to keep the internal and greater community abreast of significant happenings affecting the community.

Emergency Notifications

You can sign up for alerts through the parent portal. These alerts will be sent via text to your phone or email when there is a school closure or emergency on campus.

Parent/Student Handbook

This is located in the parent portal. It contains the school's policies and procedures.

Tip: You will want to read this at the start of each year as policies and procedures do change throughout the school year and summer.



DUCHESNE DETAILS



Duchesne Details

What to Wear

School Uniforms

The official supplier of the Duchesne uniforms is Flynn O'Hara. Check out duchesne.org/uniforms for your daughter's grade level to see what is required.

Dress Uniform

For Middle School students, the dress uniform includes the plaid skirt, a long sleeve, white, button-down embroidered oxford shirt, the navy-blue blazer with Sacred Heart monogram, and white socks.

Tip: Girls will be expected to be in dress uniform for Merit Assembly, Prize Day, picture days, Mass days, and special event days, such as Grandparents' Day. Announcements will be made in the Thursday newsletter.

Uniform Shoe

A navy, white, or combination of navy and white, athletic shoe.

Tip: Please do not add a third color to the shoe.

PE Uniform

Any Duchesne t-shirt (e.g. Extravaganza shirt, Duchesne summer camp shirt, or shirts sold in the Spirit Store) paired with a navy athletic short. Students can wear the athletic shoes they wore to school in PE.

Cold Weather

Girls can wear Duchesne branded leggings and outerwear purchased from the Spirit Store while in the school building. They can wear their personal coats into and out of the building, which will be stored in their locker.

Uniform Resale

Uniform Resale is a wonderful service to our entire community enabling parents to purchase nearly new uniforms AND donate skirts, blazers, and jumpers that no longer fit. A win-win for everyone.

Tip: You can save a lot of money by purchasing nearly new uniforms. The used uniforms are softer, and girls prefer that. Be sure to be one of the first in line at any of the 3 Uniform Resales to purchase one of the donated navy-blue blazers! You can purchase and donate nearly new uniforms throughout the year by visiting the Spirit Store.

Relaxed Dress

Relaxed dress means a Duchesne t-shirt, jeans (without holes or tears), leggings, or skirt, and tennis shoes. Leggings should be worn with a full-length shirt. No crop tops please.

Free Dress

Free dress means an outfit of your daughter's choice. Skirts, shorts, and dresses should be of an appropriate length. Avoid strapless shirts and dresses or those with spaghetti straps. Please no crop tops. Jeans may not have holes or tears. Specific guidelines are in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

School Hours

Middle School begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:25 p.m.

Drop-Off

Students in 5th and 6th grade are dropped off in the Circle Drive outside the Kemple Dome. Students in 7th and 8th grade are dropped off at the canopy in the front of the school. Drop-off for Middle School begins at 7:30 a.m.

Tip: If you need to drop off your child early, you may do so after 7a.m.

Pick-Up

Middle School students gather in the Dome Area for pick up at 3:25 p.m. Any Middle School student wishing to attend a Middle School Study Hall in the afternoon, following dismissal, may do so in the Wilkinson Family Library until 6:00 p.m. Students may not be picked up in the parking garage or in front of the library.

Tip: Middle School students with Upper School siblings may be picked up in front of the library at 3:45 p.m.

Early Dismissal

On occasion, Middle School students will have an early dismissal. Parents will be notified in advance of those specific days. Dismissal is at 12:30 p.m., following lunch. Extended day programs are often provided, but there is no Middle School Study Hall on those days. Registration for extended day is required and is sent out in the weekly newsletter.

Tip: Notice for when extended programs are not available will be made in conjunction with the early dismissal and communicated in the weekly newsletter.

Extracurricular Activities

Junior Sports – 5th Grade Only

Duchesne offers three seasons of athletics for girls in grades K-5, soccer (fall), basketball (winter), and softball (spring). In 5th grade volleyball is an option for girls as well. The school oversees the program, parents coach, and the girls compete in a small local league comprised of area Catholic and Christian schools.

Tip: This is one of the best ways for new parents to meet other parents in their grade! Practices are held on Sunday and games are on Saturday.

Athletics

Students in 6th through 8th grade may participate on a Duchesne sports team. The school hires and oversees the coaches. In Middle School, sports offered include volleyball, field hockey, cross country, swimming, soccer, basketball, track and field, golf, tennis, and lacrosse. Girls compete in a local league, HJPC, comprised of Houston area private schools. Typically, the 6th-grade teams practice during the PE time and the 7th- and 8th-grade teams practice after school.

Tip: 6th grade athletics are open to any student who wishes to learn or play a sport. Team roster cuts begin with 7th grade athletics. Tennis and golf teams are open to students with strong fundamentals.

Extended Programs

Middle School girls can sign up for an Extended Program activity such as yoga. They can also attend the Middle School Study Hall in the Wilkinson Family Library until 6:00 p.m. Both activities will have a minimal charge attached.

Food

Snacks and Lunch

One snack and lunch are offered daily for the girls. Cost for these are included in tuition. Both are provided by Flik Independent School Dining.

Tip: If your daughter has any food allergies, Flik will work with your family to make accommodation. Be sure to meet with the Flik nutritionist before the school year.

Birthdays

If your daughter wishes to celebrate her birthday at school, you may bring her a special snack to enjoy. Please refrain from bringing treats to just her friends. Instead, treats for the entire advisory is recommended.

Eating with your Daughter

Parents may eat with their daughter on an infrequent basis as the lunch period is a social time for the girls. Parents who do eat lunch with their daughters will eat outside, weather permitting, and only with their child.

Tip: Your daughter's birthday is the BEST day to have lunch with her. Pick up a visitor lunch badge at the Business Office. Please do not bring in lunch from an outside restaurant.

Goûter

Pronounced (goo-tay), this is a French term for “snack” and a part of Sacred Heart tradition. Goûter is served on Feast Days and other special occasions at school. Generally, goûter is a cookie.

Cha Cha's Corner

Cha Cha's Corner is the school coffee shop and is open to all students and families. Middle School students may purchase non-caffeinated beverages and snacks before school. After school purchases are allowed if your daughter is in athletics or fine arts practice or if they are with their parent. Items must be consumed downstairs.

Spirit Store

Be Duchesne proud! Show off your Duchesne Charger spirit by purchasing spirit wear, water bottles, outerwear, car stickers, and more. The store is open daily and available online under the Campus Life tab of the website. Middle School students can purchase healthy snacks from the Spirit Store and charge their purchase to their student account. The minimum student account charge is \$5.00.

Tip: The Spirit Store is run by parent volunteers and a great way to meet the girls and other parents! Talk to your daughter about your family's spending limits at the Spirit Store.

School Supplies and Textbooks

All basic supplies will be provided for 5th through 8th grade students.

Tip: Your daughter may have a favorite binder or planner that she prefers. Also, you may need to purchase a specific calculator for your daughter's math class.

Textbooks are purchased through Follett Virtual Campus with a link provided by Duchesne. Follett offers parents the choice of renting textbooks, purchasing used or new print textbooks, or purchasing digital textbooks.

Tips: Books are purchased in July and you will be notified when the link to purchase is available. Don't wait too long to buy books as quantities will get low. Buying used books or renting books is a great way to save money!

Mod Schedule in Middle School

The Middle School mod schedule rotates every 30 days. Each mod will include three academic classes, fine arts, and PE.

Tip: The girls will adjust quickly to this schedule rotation.

Vidigami

Duchesne uses the Vidigami platform to provide families with a secure and private place to view school photos. You can also upload photos you take at school events. You will be invited to set up a Vidigami account once school starts. You can also download the mobile app by searching for “Vidigami” in the App Store.

Teacher Gifts

A great way to honor your daughter’s teachers is by making a gift to the Parents’ Association Christmas Gift Fund that is then distributed equally among all faculty and staff at Duchesne. This also includes security and food service personnel.

Student Accounts and Tuition Assistance

The Business Office will setup your student account in Smart Tuition, which is where tuition and incidentals are billed. Once the account is setup, you will receive a welcome email from Smart Tuition. When you receive this email, you can login to your account and select which payment option you prefer. Smart Tuition offers auto ACH, auto credit card, one-time credit card, or e-check payments. You're also welcome to make a cash or check payment (made payable to Duchesne Academy) in person at the school. The first payment for all payment plans is due May 20.

There are three payment plans to choose from, 1-pay, 2-pay, 12-pay, which are selected at the time you sign your contract. If you decide you would like to change your payment plan, contact Melanie Vallejo in the Business Office at melanie.vallejo@duchesne.org or extension 3192 and she will happily assist with those changes.

Information regarding Tuition Assistance can be found on the school website within the Admission section. Applications are accepted annually through Smart Aid from November - January.

Magnus Health and Medication

Magnus Health is Duchesne's health care portal that safely stores health care information on your daughter. Parents are required to upload immunization records, document food and other allergies, and provide emergency contact information as well as insurance information annually.

If your child is on prescription or non-prescription medication, either as needed or daily, a prescription medication permission form must be completed. This form can be found on Magnus Health. Make sure to read the full medication policy in the Student/Parent Handbook.

The school has at least one RN on campus from 7:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. during the school year. The nurse administers first aid and notifies the parents in the event of illness and injury.

Discipline and CARR

Management of discipline in the Middle School is based on the severity of the rule infraction. Minor disciplinary issues are handled by classroom teachers or grade-level deans. More serious disciplinary issues will be issued a CARR, which stands for Consequence, Apology, Reflection, and Restitution. A CARR is served after school for one hour. During this time, the student is asked to write a specific reflection and to make restitution for their actions.

Lockers

Lockers and locks are assigned to the girls before school starts. You will be notified of when locker set up is scheduled.

Tip: Middle School girls love to decorate the inside of their lockers with magnets, photos, mirrors, and other cute items. Locker shelves will make organization a lot easier for your daughter. In order to keep the lockers in good working order, a one-inch border around the edge and locking mechanism of the lockers needs to stay clear and without decoration.

Student Council

Middle School Student Council assists in planning Middle School student life, provides a forum for student expression and communication between teachers and students, and works to maintain good school spirit. The Student Council is composed of the Student Government and the class officers. Elections are held in the spring.

Tip: Encourage your daughter to get involved in Student Council.

Games Days and Dances

During the school year the Middle School sponsors games days and dances in conjunction with The Regis School. There is usually a games day in the fall and a dance in the spring depending on the grade level.

Appropriate dress for these events is discussed with students and accompanies permission forms for these events.

Tip: Event information, permission forms, and dress code can usually be found on the student's Duchesne Connect class page!

Academic Information

Grades

Online grade books are open to students and parents in My BackPack, and report cards are posted at the end of each mod. Advisory conferences are held in early November. If parents are concerned about a class, they are welcome to schedule an individual conference with that teacher at any time during the school year.

Homework Policy

Middle School is heavily project based and students generally have class time to work on projects. Any work not completed must be done at home. For grade level specific policies on accepting late homework, please see the Middle School Handbook.

Summer Work

Please check the website under admissions, new family tab at the beginning of June where English teachers will post summer reading assignments. You can also find the Math IXL assignments on this web page. The Middle School office will send out IXL usernames and passwords in June. If you have trouble logging in, please call or email the Middle School office for help.

Electives

5th grade students rotate each mod between Drama, Choir, Art, and Computer Science

6th grade students rotate each mod between Drama, Dance, Choir, Art, and Computer Science

Rising 6th grade students may choose between Spanish or French for their foreign language. This is a three-year commitment as the Middle School foreign language classes comprise the first level of High School Foreign Language credit,

Rising 7th and 8th grade students are asked in March to give their choice of Fine Arts for the following year. They may choose between Drama, Choir, Art, Computer Science, and Dance.

Student Learning Support

Middle School has a dedicated Learning Specialist that primarily works with students who have an identified learning difference, ADHD, or anxiety. Please see the handbook for evaluation guidelines and reach out to the MS Learning Specialist or Head of Middle School before going for an evaluation.

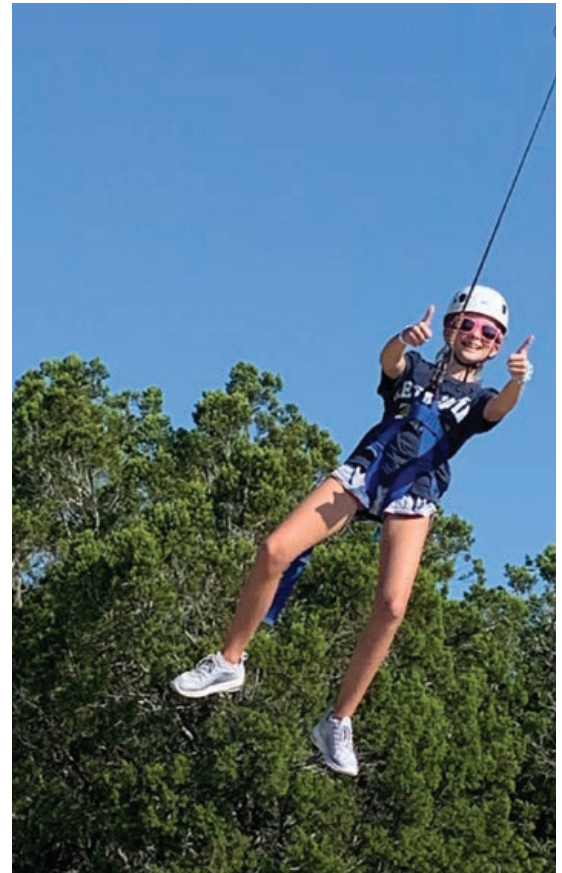
The Learning Specialist can see students during tutorial, PE exemption, and other pre-arranged times. In special circumstances, the Learning Specialist can see a student in lieu of Foreign Language. The goal of the Learning Specialist is to help students form strategies that will help them be successful including time management, executive functioning, specific learning strategies, and above all self-advocacy.

The Learning Specialist will maintain continual communication and documentation with all of the student's contact points: parents, teachers, and Academic Team, as well as maintain a strict following of the Student Action Plan (SAP) guidelines, quarterly meetings with teachers, and bi-weekly meetings with the Student Support Team.

Grade Level Deans

In Middle School, each grade will have a grade level dean. Deans act as a liaison between your daughter and their teachers. They also help plan the class trip and sponsored activities, handle behavioral issues, and are there to help support your daughters.

Tip: Your first step when dealing with an issue is her advisor or the subject teacher.



WHO DO I CONTACT?



Who Do I Contact, When...?

My child is sick this morning: Ceirro Robinson, MS Assistant

My child is struggling socially: Her Advisor and the MS Counselor

My child is struggling academically: Her Advisor and MS Learning Specialist

My child feels stressed out: Her Advisor and MS Counselor

My child has a food allergy: Health Clinic and Flik Dining

My child is on prescription medication: Health Clinic

My child will be out of school for a family vacation: Grade Level Dean and Advisor

My child is getting picked up by someone new: Ceirro Robinson, MS Assistant

My child has been diagnosed with a learning difference: Jennifer Randall, Learning Specialist

My child has a doctor's appointment during the day: Ceirro Robinson, MS Assistant

I'd like to volunteer: Advancement Office, Grade Level Dean or MS Office

My child lost her homework or wasn't able to complete it: Subject Teacher / Grade Level Dean

My child will be late to school: Ceirro Robinson, MS Assistant

I need to sign up for afterschool care today: Sarah Baker, Extended Programs Director

I moved and need to change my address: Lydia Cruz, Database Manager

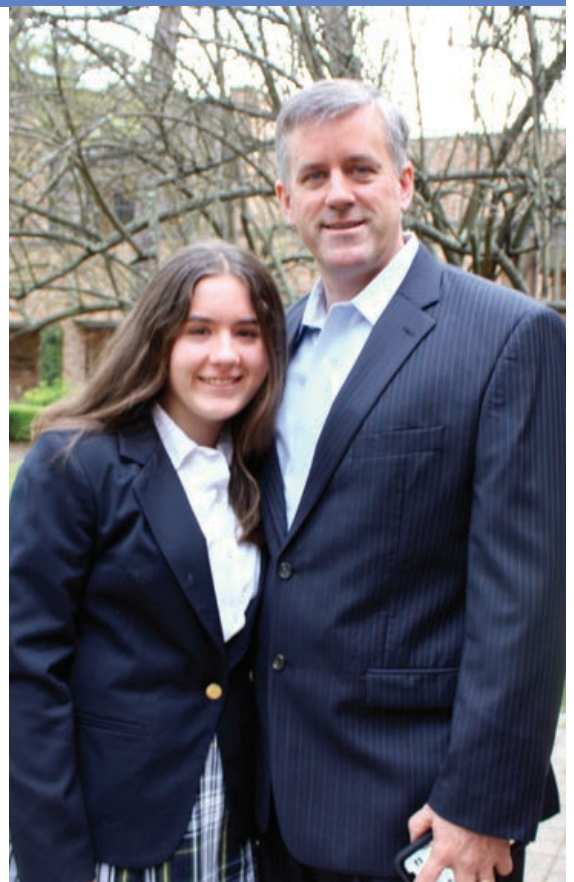
I want to make sure my parents are invited to Grandparents' Day: Advancement Office

I need another parking sticker: Ceirro Robinson, MS Assistant or Tom Womack, Operations Director

There's been a death or birth in my family, and I need help: Amy Witten, Head of Middle School



DON'T MISS EVENTS



Don't Miss Events

August Events

Orientation

Parents are invited to a new parent orientation before school starts. During this orientation parents learn all they need to know for a smooth start to the school year. Topics covered include schedules, textbooks, uniforms, carpool, athletics, Fine Arts, Duchesne traditions and everyday tips and tricks. Parents are encouraged to bring their questions!

Back-to-School Sale

This one-day event offers you the opportunity to buy gently used uniforms, buy your daughter's birthday banner, and see the new items available in the Spirit Store. You can register your daughter for one or more of the Extended Program afternoon activities.

Tip: Come early to get the best selection on used uniforms, especially navy blue blazers!

Out-of-Box

This is another name for computer orientation for all 5th graders and new students in grades 6th through 8th. Usually, this event is scheduled for the day or two before the first official day of school. It takes three hours and the girls receive their computers, login information, email addresses, and other pertinent technology items to begin the year.

Back-to-School Night

Teachers will walk you through the school year and explain their expectations for your daughters. A great time to ask questions and get acquainted with your daughter's new teachers!

Tip: Parent attendance is highly recommended. Teachers will review curriculum, classroom procedures, and expectations. This is not an ideal time for parent-teacher conference. That can be scheduled separately.

September Events

Parent Welcome Coffees

The Parents' Association invites all mothers and fathers to school, generally in early September, for a Mothers' Welcome Coffee and a Fathers' Welcome Coffee. Both events are held from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. on separate days. Feel free to drop by to network and build community with your fellow dads and moms. You can also sign up to volunteer for any of the Parents' Association events as well as join Patrons' of Fine Arts and Booster Club.

Tip: These are parent-only events. Drop your daughter off and come build community with your fellow mothers and fathers. Breakfast and coffee are served at both events. Come as you are...no need to dress up for this event.

5th Grade Lock-In

The 5th graders stay on campus after school on a Friday to build community. Since all the 5th graders are new to the Middle School, this is a great opportunity for the girls to team-build with classmates and faculty.

6th Grade Mo Ranch Trip

The 6th graders go to Mo Ranch in Hunt, Texas for four days of community building and personal growth. The girls stay in a lodge for four days and three nights, challenge themselves on high and low rope activities, and have a lot of fun at this wonderful camp on the Guadalupe River.

Tip: Girls should pack an extra pair of shoes you don't mind getting muddy, a water bottle, and a rain jacket!

October Events

Halloween

It is a fun day on campus! Everyone dresses up and Middle School Student Council hosts a costume contest in the morning. The girls will attend this assembly with their costumes and then change into their uniform for the rest of the day.

Tip: Middle School girls love to make their own costumes or will do a group costume/theme.

Sporting Clays Tournament:

This skeet tournament fundraiser is open to moms and dads of all skill levels. There are typically 50 teams of four competing for awards and bragging rights. Tournament starts at noon.

November Events

Field Day

The Lower and Middle School partakes in a celebration of teamwork, community, and activities as the Gold and Blue teams vie for school supremacy. There is lot of face-paint, team colors, and school spirit as girls compete in friendly competitions throughout the day.

Tip: Girls stay on the same team, blue or gold, throughout their time at Duchesne. Siblings are placed on the same team.

Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day

Middle School girls and their special guests begin their afternoon by having a wonderful Thanksgiving meal with their granddaughter followed by classroom visits, goûter, photos on the White House Lawn, and early dismissal.

Tips: Middle School loves having their grandparents and/or special friends visit and have lunch with them. Make travel arrangements early, if needed. And, be sure that the school has grandparent address information for the invitation.

December Events

Middle School/Upper School Choir Christmas Concert

This is one of the highlight events of the Christmas season and a must-see at least once while your family is at Duchesne. This concert is the result of a season of rehearsals for our award-winning choir.

Advent Mass

Celebrate the Season of Advent with the entire Duchesne community at an early Saturday evening Mass in December. A reception in the Jones Gallery follows Mass.

Tip: Come before your holiday party or bring some friends with you and then enjoy dinner together after.

January Events

Father-Daughter Prayer Service

This is a must-attend for dads, if possible. A short, student-run prayer service in the chapel is followed by breakfast. This is a great opportunity for some father/daughter time and to meet and visit with other dads.

Tips: Please put this on your calendar early. This is a really nice event for dads and you won't want to miss it. Get here early – parking is at a premium!

Family Fun Night Bingo

Join the Duchesne Lower and Middle School community for the perfect family-oriented event! Bingo packages for adults and children include delicious food, bingo cards, and door prize tickets. Cash prizes are awarded to lucky winners!

Tip: This is not a drop off event...stay and enjoy a great time with your family. All children in your family are invited to attend.

Catholic Schools Week Mass

Duchesne and Regis School of the Sacred Heart kick-off a school wide celebration of Catholic Schools Week with a combined Sunday morning Mass that alternates between the two schools.

February Events

Go Texan Day

The school goes Texan for the day! The girls are invited to don their western wear!

Tips: Western wear encouraged.

7th Grade Trip to Tour Texas History

The 7th graders will spend three days and two nights visiting historic Texas areas. This trip will tie into the 7th grade Texas History Curriculum. This trip is still in its planning stages, more info will follow.

8th Grade trip to Washington DC

One of the final and memorable experiences for the 8th graders is the trip to Washington DC. This four-day, three-night trip to our nation's capital is spent seeing monuments, visiting historic sights, and visiting our Sacred Heart sisters at Stoneridge in Bethesda, MD.

Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Honor the commitment and dedication of Duchesne's faculty and staff community by providing each of them a beautiful luncheon experience.

Tip: Middle School parents may volunteer to serve and clear the meal. This is a great way to get to know other parents and the faculty of the Middle School.

March Event

Extravaganza

Duchesne's annual dinner and auction is a fun party attended by current parents, staff, alumnae and friends and includes live auction, silent auction, raffle, sign-up parties, and more!

Tip: Get a table together and have fun dressing in the theme of the gala!

April Event

Mother-Daughter Style Show and Luncheon

This style show and luncheon celebrates the Senior class and the mother-daughter relationship. Tootsies and other retailers are the featured fashion providers, and girls from PK3 – 11th grade also participate as models. Fathers, uncles, brothers, and grandfathers are welcome to attend!

Tip: Wear your Sunday best and be ready to be awed by the letters the senior girls write to their mothers.

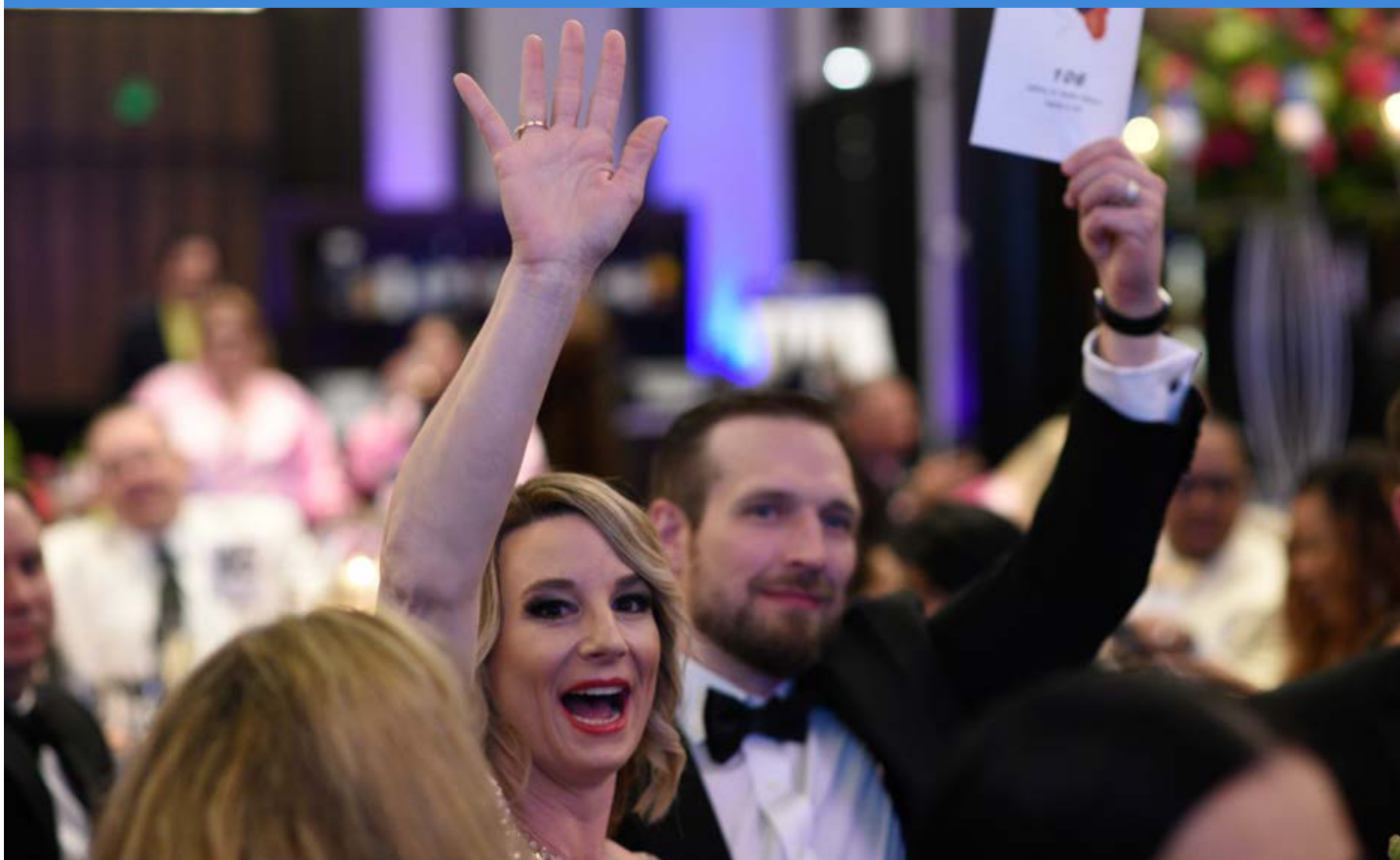
May Event

Middle School Prize Day

This long-standing Sacred Heart Tradition is a celebration of the girls' yearlong accomplishments. This is the last event of the school year for the Middle School. At the completion of Prize Day, the girls are dismissed for summer. Unlike the Lower School, parents are not able to attend Middle School prize day and not every girl will get a prize or award.



WAYS TO SUPPORT DUCHESNE



Ways to Support Duchesne

The Duchesne Fund

Every gift to Duchesne is a statement: “This is our school, we believe in it, and we’re all in this together.” Everyone’s participation matters.

The Duchesne Fund, the annual fund for Duchesne, is the foundation of our fundraising efforts. Duchesne asks families and friends to support excellence at Duchesne through a contribution to The Duchesne Fund each year. Your voluntary contribution to The Duchesne Fund ensures that the programs we offer continue to grow and expand to meet the needs of our talented girls. Every class that reaches 100% in parent participation is treated to goûter to celebrate. The Duchesne Fund runs for only six weeks in September/October.

Tip: Make your gift as soon as you receive the letter from Patricia Swenson! You’ll avoid a call from one of the parent volunteers.

Sporting Clays Tournament

Grab your friends, your customers, your best clients, or your spouse to enjoy a fabulous afternoon of skeet, camaraderie, and delicious food and beverages at the Greater Houston Sports Club! No prior experience is necessary. Moms are encouraged to play, and we have more and more all-women teams participate. Teams consist of four people each, competing for trophies and bragging rights. The Sporting Clay Tournament is an underwriting event for Extravaganza.

Tip: Don’t be afraid to participate. You can enjoy the event and still make it back in time to pick up your daughter!

Patrons of the Fine Arts

Support for the arts through the Patrons of Fine Arts at Duchesne provides students with the opportunity to explore their creativity, to perform within an ensemble and contribute to something larger than themselves, to exercise design skills in the service of storytelling, and to express themselves in countless ways that will enrich our community and the world. Duchesne’s Director of Fine Arts is the liaison with the Patrons of Fine Arts.

Tip: Membership in the Patrons organization secures you great seats at special events! Look for details in August.

Booster Club

Membership in Duchesne's Booster Club enables the school to provide student athletes with the resources necessary to develop and maintain outstanding athletic teams for each sport, and to support the development of our girls on the field and at home. Funds raised by the Booster Club support a variety of school-spirit activities such as all-school Spirit Nights, senior night recognition for each team, individual and team banners, tailgating at important football games, and the year-end Upper School Sports Banquet.

Tip: The Booster Club is always looking for concession stand volunteers. This is a great way to watch your daughter play and support Booster Club!

Extravaganza

Extravaganza is Duchesne's annual dinner and auction. This fun party, attended by current parents, staff, alumni, and friends includes a live auction, silent auction, raffle, sign-up parties, and more! Extravaganza raises close to \$1 million each year that goes directly to the school's annual budget. Extravaganza funds, along with the Duchesne Fund, allows Duchesne to offer all the "extras" that make Duchesne exceptional, including teacher training, special programs and tools in the classroom, new equipment for athletics, and many more items.

Fun Event

- Each year we have a theme that steers the event's décor, attire, and energy
- Many people dress up for the event. Some attendees go all out in full costumes or add a touch of the theme to their outfit while others decide to dress "normal" in business or cocktail attire.
- The event includes cocktail hour during silent and big-board auction, followed by a seated dinner and live auction, and ends with lively music and dancing.

Surrounding Events

- Duchesne hosts several events leading up to Extravaganza that contribute in some way to offset expenses of the gala so that funds raised will have the biggest impact on the school.

Amazing Auction Items

- Silent auction items include sports memorabilia, jewelry, baskets and gift certificates from local vendors, and much more.
- Sign-up parties are parties hosted by the teachers for students in each grade or division to attend, or hosted by parents for families, moms, dads or couples to attend later.
- Big board items include concert tickets, vacations, designer handbags, special wine collections. They are auctioned at the event as mini-live auctions.
- Live auction items include a puppy, big international or domestic trips, and more.
- Paddles Up occurs during the live auction and is a way to donate money to the school for a specific addition to the school.
- Raffle tickets will be sold prior to the event and the raffle winner will be announced at the gala. Previous raffle items have included tuition, jewelry, and even a Jeep!

Support When You Shop

Amazon Smile

Visit smile.amazon.com and sign in using your regular Amazon login. Select “Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart” from the list of Amazon Smile charities. Be sure to select Duchesne in Houston! Duchesne will earn 0.5% of every future purchase you make originating from Amazon Smile!

Kroger Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program

Visit kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/ to register your Kroger Plus Rewards Card with Duchesne Academy (Org. #NA719). The purchase total of your groceries, fuel, and other items will be recorded to the Duchesne account, generating an automatic donation of a percentage of your total purchases.

Randalls’ Good Neighbor Program

At Randalls, stop by the service desk and have your Randalls’ card linked with Duchesne’s Good Neighbor #2729.

Office Depot Office Max Give Back to Schools

Simply make a purchase of qualifying school supplies, provide your Duchesne’s ID (70097845) at checkout (in store and online) and Duchesne will receive 5% back in credits for FREE supplies! It’s a small act that can make a huge difference.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Ways to Get Involved

Parents' Association

Every parent of a student at Duchesne is a member of the Parents' Association. By volunteering your time and talents in one or more of the following activities, you help build community and school unity at Duchesne. At the Mothers' and Fathers' Coffees, you will have the opportunity to volunteer for any or all these events.

- Mothers' and Fathers' Coffee
- Sporting Clays Tournament
- Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day
- Advent Mass
- Catholic Schools Week Mass
- Family Fun Bingo Night
- Faculty Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Extravaganza
- Mother-Daughter Style Show and Luncheon
- Uniform Resale

The Parents' Association also sponsors the following year-round activities:

Spirit Store

Be Duchesne proud! Show off your Duchesne Charger spirit by purchasing spirit wear, water bottles, outerwear, car stickers, and more! The Spirit Store is exclusively run by volunteers.

Tip: You can volunteer weekly or monthly and for one- to two-hour shifts.

Helping Hearts

Helping Hearts is a compassion outreach for families experiencing either great joy (birth of a baby) or sorrow (illness or death). The Helping Hearts committee will work together to meet the short-term needs of families such as meal deliveries and care calendars.

Parent Rosary Group

This ministry meets every week to pray the Rosary and for any special community intentions.



DUCHESNE GLOSSARY



Duchesne Glossary

Charger

Our school mascot is known as the Charger. Our icon is a horse affectionately named “Cha Cha.” The school colors are French blue, navy, and gold.

Congé

(konzhay: French for leave taking, farewell)

It’s congé! This announcement is recognized by students at Sacred Heart schools as signaling a day when they take leave of their regular studies and channel all energy into having fun. Congés come when they are least expected, since the planning of them is done in secret. This tradition provides an opportunity for older students to exercise skills of planning and organizing as they work with administrators and faculty members to prepare activities for the entire student body.

Espacio

A school-wide time of quiet reflection and daily prayer that lasts two minutes.

Feast of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

Madeleine Sophie Barat, foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart, was born in Joigny, France in 1779. She received a remarkable education at home from her Jesuit educated brother. At 16, she and her brother studied together in Paris. While there, she learned of plans to form a new religious congregation that was to be rooted in prayer, dedicated to education, and, ultimately, committed to glorifying the Heart of Christ. In 1800, with three others, she consecrated her life “to make known the revelation of God’s love, whose source and symbol is the Heart of Christ.” Elected Superior General in 1806, she held this post until her death on May 25, 1865. She was canonized a saint in 1925. Her feast day is celebrated on May 25.

Feast of St. Philippine Duchesne

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne was born in Grenoble, an ancient city in the French Alps, in 1769. Educated at home and at the Visitation Monastery near her home, Philippine entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1804. Philippine’s greatest desire was to be a missionary to America and serve the Native Americans. In 1818, Mother Sophie Barat consented to Philippine’s many requests and on May 29 of that year, Philippine and four companions established the first free school for girls west of the Mississippi in St. Charles, Missouri. Philippine died on November 18, 1852 at the age of 83 in St. Charles. She was canonized in July 1988. Her feast day is celebrated on November 18.

Goals and Criteria

The five Sacred Heart goals have been articulated to help define what a Sacred Heart institution, true to the inspiration of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, strives to do. Specific criteria further define how the goals are to be lived by all members of the school community—students, faculty, staff, administrators, and Religious. The first Goals and Criteria were published in 1975 and refined in 1990, 2005 and are currently being reviewed and updated.

- Goal I: A personal and active faith in God.
- Goal II: A deep respect for intellectual values.
- Goal III: A social awareness that impels to action.
- Goal IV: The building of community as a Christian value.
- Goal V: Personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom.

Graduation

Graduation is a tradition that ends our school year with the awarding of diplomas to our senior class. The formal graduation is held on the front lawn of the White House. The graduates wear long white dresses, lace crowns, and carry roses.

Mass and Prayer Services

The Duchesne community comes together several times a year, either as an entire school or division, to celebrate faith, friendship, and community. Prayer Services are generally less formal than a Mass at Duchesne.

Tip: All students attend scheduled prayer services and Masses at Duchesne. For those who are not Catholic, the Mass is a great time to reflect on faith in general.

Mater

In 1844, a young novice of the Society of the Sacred Heart painted a fresco of the Virgin Mary on a wall of the convent. The novice painted Mary as a young woman in a rose colored dress. A lily at Mary's side represented her purity; the distaff and spindle, her love of work; a book, her dedication to study. When viewing the fresco for the first time, Pope Pius IX proclaimed "Mater Admirabilis!" (Latin for "Mother Most Admirable"). The feast day of Mater Admirabilis is October 20. There is a statue or painting of Mater in each of the Sacred Heart schools today. This special day is marked with liturgical celebrations and pink goûter.

Merit Assembly

Merit Assembly celebrates the achievements of students. Students receive merit cards for success and improvement in academics and character. This is a student-only event.

Network

The Network of Sacred Heart Schools is an association of 21 Sacred Heart schools across the United States. There are also Sacred Heart schools in 44 countries around the world. Together they are dedicated to the values of Christian education articulated nearly 200 years ago by the foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat.

Prize Day

Prize Day brings a formal end to the school year. Students are recognized for their academic achievements throughout the year and for character formation. The faculty and students come together in a formal setting to distribute the prizes. From the youngest to the oldest, students are taught to accept awards graciously and to applaud the skills and talents of others.

Religious

The term “Religious” is used to refer to the nuns who serve in the schools of the Society of the Sacred Heart. The Religious of the Sacred Heart sign their names followed by RSCJ, which is derived from the French Religieuses du Sacré Coeur de Jesus. There are three RSCJs living on Duchesne’s campus: Sister Ann Caire, Sister Sharon Karam, and Sister Cecile Meijer.

Coeur de Jesus

Coeur de Jesus is our school song. You will hear it sung by the girls during events and Masses on campus. Generally, it is sung in French. The girls are taught the words in all three divisions at retreats and during Masses.

Refrain:

Coeur de Jesus sauvez le monde,	Heart of Jesus, save the world
Que l’univers vous soit soumis	May the world be submitted to you
En Vous seul notre espoir se fonde	In you alone our hope is founded
Seigneur, Seigneur, Vous nous l’avez promis.	Lord, Lord, you have promised us this.

Vous l'avez dit: Votre promise
Fait notr 'espoir, notre bonheur:
Je benirai dans ma tendresse
Les enfants de mon Sacre Coeur

You have told us: your promise
Will be our hope, our happiness:
"In my tenderness, I will bless
The children of my Sacred Heart"

Vous l'avez dit: Sauveur fidele,
Votr' amour nous l'a revele:
Le Coeur brulant pour Moi de zeile
Par le Mien sera console!

You have said, O faithful Savior
Your love has revealed it to us:
"The heart that burns with zeal for Me
Will find consolation in my Heart."