



# PIONEER PRESS NEWSLETTER

JUNE • 2025

## Kicking Off Summer Camps!



Campers from 4 years old to eighth grade filled the PAC the week of June 2 to learn some new moves at Diamondline Dance Camp.

### UPCOMING DATES

**July 4**

Riverfest Parade

**July 14**

Alumni, Family, and Friends Golf  
Tournament

**August 15**

Grade School Mixer

# From the Assistant Principal of Student Life



**Debi Turner '96**  
**Assistant Principal of**  
**Student Life**

Dear Duchesne Families,

While we all look forward to the well-earned break summer brings, we also know how important it is to stay connected with one another during these months.

At Duchesne, we believe that community isn't something that pauses when the

school year ends – it's something that grows year-round. That's why we're excited to offer a variety of opportunities for students to stay engaged, active, and connected throughout the summer.

Our summer sports and academic camps are a great way for students to stay involved while building friendships, learning new skills, and welcoming future Pioneers to campus. Whether your child is trying a sport for the first time or preparing for next season, these camps are a fun and meaningful way to stay part of the Duchesne community.

We're also thrilled to share that our partnership with Emerge will continue throughout the summer months. These high-quality workouts, combined with

open gym times, provide students with a fantastic way to stay in shape, meet up with friends, and stay motivated—physically and socially. Whether your child is an athlete or simply enjoys staying active, there's something for everyone.

We encourage all our students to take advantage of these opportunities. Staying connected over the summer doesn't just build stronger bodies – it builds stronger friendships and a deep-

er sense of belonging. We are so proud of the vibrant, faith-filled community we have at Duchesne, and we love watching it grow, even during the summer months.

Wishing your family a joyful and restful summer. We look forward to seeing many of you on campus in the weeks ahead!

Warmly,

Debi (Westhues) Turner '96



## Summer workouts are in full swing

Duchesne students are taking advantage of the group strength training sessions offered on campus by Emerge Fitness.

Matt and Angie Pirtle bring years of expertise and excellence to the table. We can't wait to see our students thrive in their program. Trainings are being held in our newly remodeled fitness center.

**BIG THINGS ARE COMING!** We can't wait to share more details with you.





# Caleb Johnson appointed as Director of Community & Student Engagement and Girls Basketball Head Coach

**Nancy Kohl '78**  
**Director of Alumni**  
**Engagement and**  
**Donor Engagement**

President Paul Boschert '77 is pleased to announce the appointment of Caleb Johnson as the school's new Director of Community & Student Engagement and Girls Basketball Head Coach.

"One of the qualifications we were looking for when creating this new student engagement position was someone with a heart for listening, guiding, and helping students feel they belong. Caleb has a proven record of being that person for the students he's worked with," said Paul Boschert '77, Duchesne's President. "Caleb will be working with our school leadership to create a welcoming and inclusive environment

that reflects our values of Catholic education."

Additionally, Johnson will help plan and lead student life programming at Duchesne that promotes empathy, respect, and cultural understanding. He will also assist the Admissions team by building relationships with local schools and community groups to share Duchesne's mission with a wider audience. These responsibilities will be in addition to assuming the role of Girls Basketball Head Coach.

Johnson has over 10 years coaching experience, most recently as the assistant women's basketball coach at Millikin University, where the team finished 23-6, played in the first two rounds of the NCAA Division III Tournament, and was consistently ranked in the Top 25 nationally.

At Millikin, Johnson was nominated for the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's 30 Under 30 Award for top assistants under 30 years of age. Prior to Millikin, he was the boys basketball head coach at Elsberry High School for four years, where his accomplishments were recognized with Eastern Missouri Conference Coach of the Year and All-Area Coach of the Year honors.

"I am excited to welcome Caleb Johnson as our new girls basketball head coach," said Renee Moore '86, Duchesne's Director of Athletics. "With time spent coaching at both the high school and collegiate levels, he brings a wealth of experience that makes him an



Coach Caleb Johnson

excellent fit as a head coach at Duchesne. The positivity, empathy, and compassion he has shown as a coach are the same qualities that make Caleb a great fit as our new Engagement director as well."

Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in University Studies from Morehead (KY) State University and a Master's Degree in Athletic Administration from Union College in Schenectady, NY.

"My goal as a coach is to be there for the students on and off the court while helping them to be confident, make strides toward improvement, and become their best version of themselves," Johnson said. "I think this approach will serve me well as Duchesne's Director of Community & Student Engagement, too. I hope to be a mentor students can turn to for understanding and to help build awareness."



Coach Johnson runs drills during Girls High School Basketball Camp.

# Maddie Krause Now Head Volleyball Coach for Both Girls and Boys at Duchesne

**Nancy Kohl '78**  
**Director of Alumni**  
**Engagement and**  
**Donor Engagement**

Athletic Director Renee Moore '86 has announced that Duchesne High School Boys Volleyball Head Coach Maddie Krause '20 will now lead the Girls Volleyball program as Head Coach as well.

"Maddie has experienced every level of Duchesne Volleyball – first as a player, and then as an assistant coach and head coach," Moore said. "She knows the pride of being a Pioneer and will bring enthusiasm and passion to our Girls Volleyball program, just as she's done for Boys Volleyball."

Krause began coaching volleyball at Duchesne as an assistant in 2021. She was named Boys Volleyball head coach in 2023. She was heavily involved in the program as a Duchesne student as well, playing Girls Volleyball and managing Boys Volleyball

all four years, from 2016 to 2020. Additionally, she managed Boys Basketball for three years.

A 2025 graduate of Lindenwood University, Krause has a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education with a minor in Coaching. While in college, Krause played for Arch Volleyball Club for a year and managed the LU Men's Basketball team for a season. In 2023, Krause spent a semester abroad at University College Cork, where she played Volleyball and was named 3rd middle in the 2023 Ireland intervarsities.

"I love being part of the Duchesne community. It has felt like my home since I was a freshman in high school," said Krause. "The volleyball program is especially near and dear to my heart – I've seen amazing progress in the last few years, and I'm looking forward to furthering my involvement in Duchesne athletics and helping to make Pioneer Nation even stronger."





Raising Funds with Raising Cane's

➤ Learn more about how we can support you at [CanesAndCommunity.com](https://CanesAndCommunity.com)

Minimum donation amount will be 15% of net sales\* from your purchase donated directly to the participating organization. Not valid on mobile app, online or kiosk orders. \*\*"Net Sales" means the selling price of regularly inventoried merchandise, food, and beverages sold during the event for the purpose of supporting your organization, excluding special or limited time offers, discounts, returns, and taxes.



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RaisingCanes



# Duchesne Board Matters

## Theresa (Lynch) Ruzicka '78

What a year! On July 1, 2024, we started the fiscal year with a new president, Paul Boschert '77, at the helm. We are so grateful Paul came out of retirement in 2020 to be the athletic director at Duchesne High School and then answered the call to be our next leader. We are blessed with his commitment to the Catholic faith, energy, compassion, and dedication to continue the mission of DHS.

The last two years have been a period of transition at Duchesne on multiple fronts. As a result of the St. Louis Archdiocese's All Things New strategic planning process, effective July 1, 2023, DHS (and all Archdiocesan-owned high schools) began to function as separately incorporated legal entities with boards of directors of limited jurisdiction. Before that, all those high schools were part of one legal entity and their respective boards were advisory, not governing. Bylaws were developed by the Archdiocese to outline the powers and procedures for operation of Duchesne High School as a new legal entity.

This change in governance comes at a pivotal time for Duchesne. We have a long, rich history and this now gives us the means to move forward with renewed purpose and enthusiasm for the future. Having a board of limited jurisdiction provides DHS with stronger, more local leadership and control to create: 1) a greater sense of empowerment and ownership by the school's constituencies, 2) a greater accountability for academic excellence, faith formation, and financial oversight, and 3) a greater focus on strategic planning for long-term sustainability.

We started in July 2023 with 10 board members and then added two more members in 2024. We recently voted and received approval to increase the maximum number of board members to 15. Our board members are giving their time, talent, and treasure to support Duchesne with strong leadership and oversight to help grow and sustain our school for another 100 years.

We are closing the 2024-2025 school year with gratitude to these board members, with a special Thank You to Terry Gravemann as he completes his 60th year of service to DHS. Terry has worn many hats for Pioneer Nation through the years, including those of teacher, dean of students, pres-



Duchesne's Board members at their last meeting of 2024-2025, from left: Terry Gravemann '68, Dana Buckner, DHS President Paul Boschert '77, Nick Brockmeyer, Dan Plackemeier '76, Mandy (Witzel) Shackelford '07, Mike Duffy of the St. Louis Archdiocese, Theresa (Lynch) Ruzicka '78, Ron Reimer '84, Ann (Johannesman) Tollefson '76, Jack Borgmeyer '97, Mike Ryan '77, Matt Johannesman '85, and Dave Romeo '77.

ident, and board member.

- Jack Borgmeyer '97 (Secretary)
- Ron Reimer '84
- Nick Brockmeyer
- Dave Romeo '77 (Vice Chair)
- Dana Buckner
- Theresa (Lynch) Ruzicka '78 (Chair)
- Terry Gravemann '68
- Mike Ryan '77
- Matt Johannesman '85 (Treasurer)
- Mandy (Witzel) Shackelford '07
- Dan Plackemeier '76
- Ann (Johannesman) Tollefson '76
- Paul Boschert '77\*
- Julie Soffner\*

\*Ex officio

The board has four committees (other than the executive committee, which is comprised of the four officers):

- Advancement and Admissions
- Catholic Identity
- Finance and Facilities
- Governance

Some highlights from the last two years:

- Approved a three-year strategic plan with eight key areas of focus (domains) – academics, advancement, Catholic identity, enrollment, facilities, finance, governance, and student life. Each domain has an overarching goal supported by several objectives to achieve. (February 2024)
- Formed a committee to lead the search

process for a new president that resulted in the selection of Paul Boschert. (Spring 2024)

- Represented Duchesne in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which traveled through St. Charles from St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church to the Shrine of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne and then to St. Peter Catholic Church. (July 2024)

- Established Duchesne endowment with the Roman Catholic Foundation of Eastern Missouri, an independent organization that works with donors, parishes, schools, and agencies to achieve their charitable and financial goals. Anyone can contribute to support DHS for years to come. (October 2024)

- Held a board retreat at the Shrine of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne. (January 2025) The freshmen class retreat in September will also be held there.

- Approved faculty pay scale for the next three years. (February 2025)

- Approved the purchase of indoor digital scoreboards in the gym. (February 2025) The external marquee recently erected and digital kiosk in the gym lobby were due to the generosity of two DHS alumni.

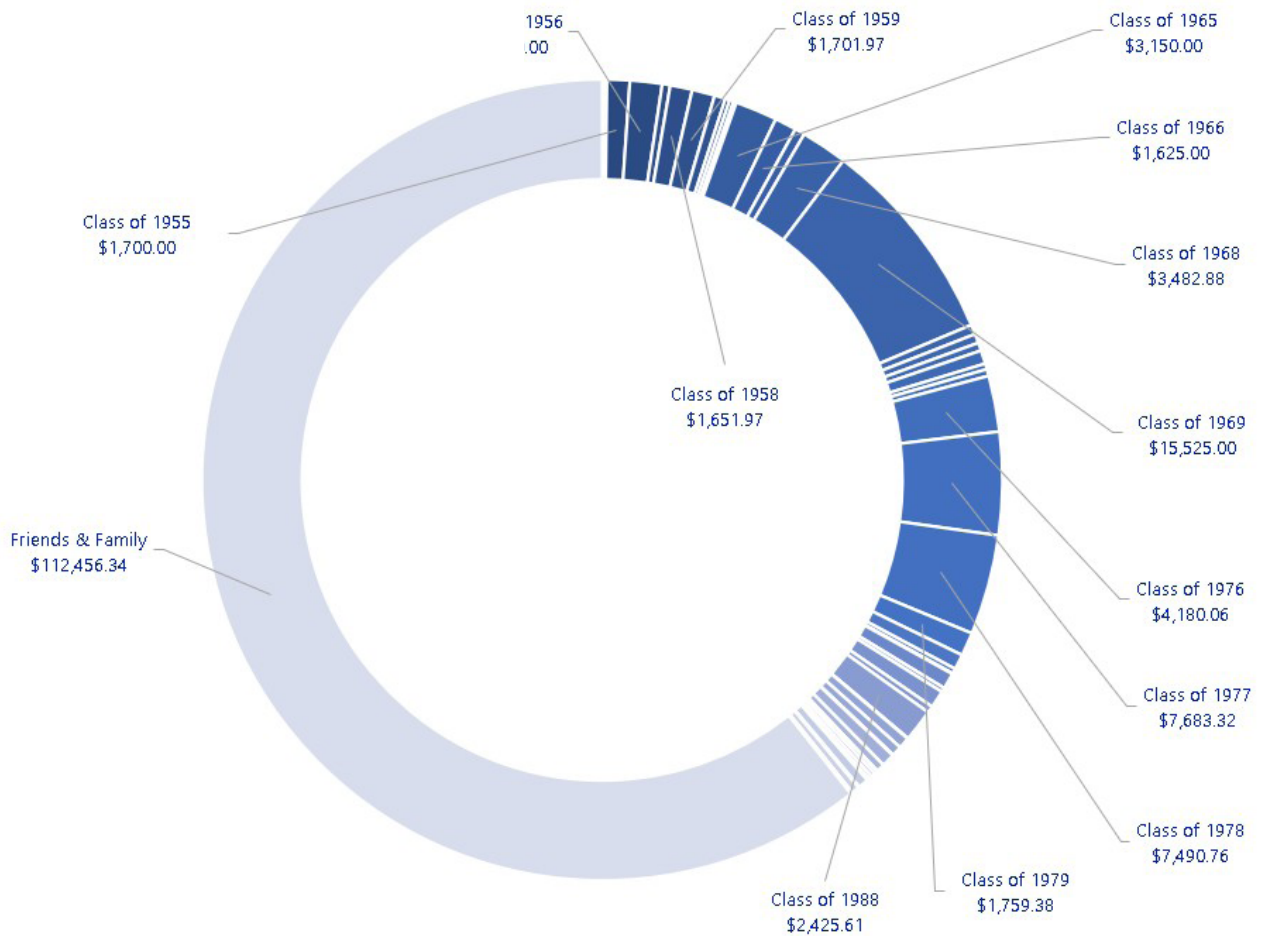
- Strengthened board effectiveness through development of governing policies and procedures. (Ongoing)

- Achieved 100% board giving with support of many fundraising initiatives – iGiveCatholic, Pioneer Fund, Pioneer Expedition Gala, and golf tournaments.

None of this could be achieved without the team efforts of the board; DHS alumni, parents, and friends; and the faculty and staff at Duchesne. On behalf of the DHS board of directors, we thank all of our stakeholders for your loyalty and support.

Duchesne has always been a special place with a welcoming family environment where people know each other and care about each other. We are committed to the mission of forming leaders in mind, body, and spirit for many years to come. Under the protection and guidance of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne we will continue to grow and build on our Catholic traditions at Duchesne.

# Pioneer Class Challenge



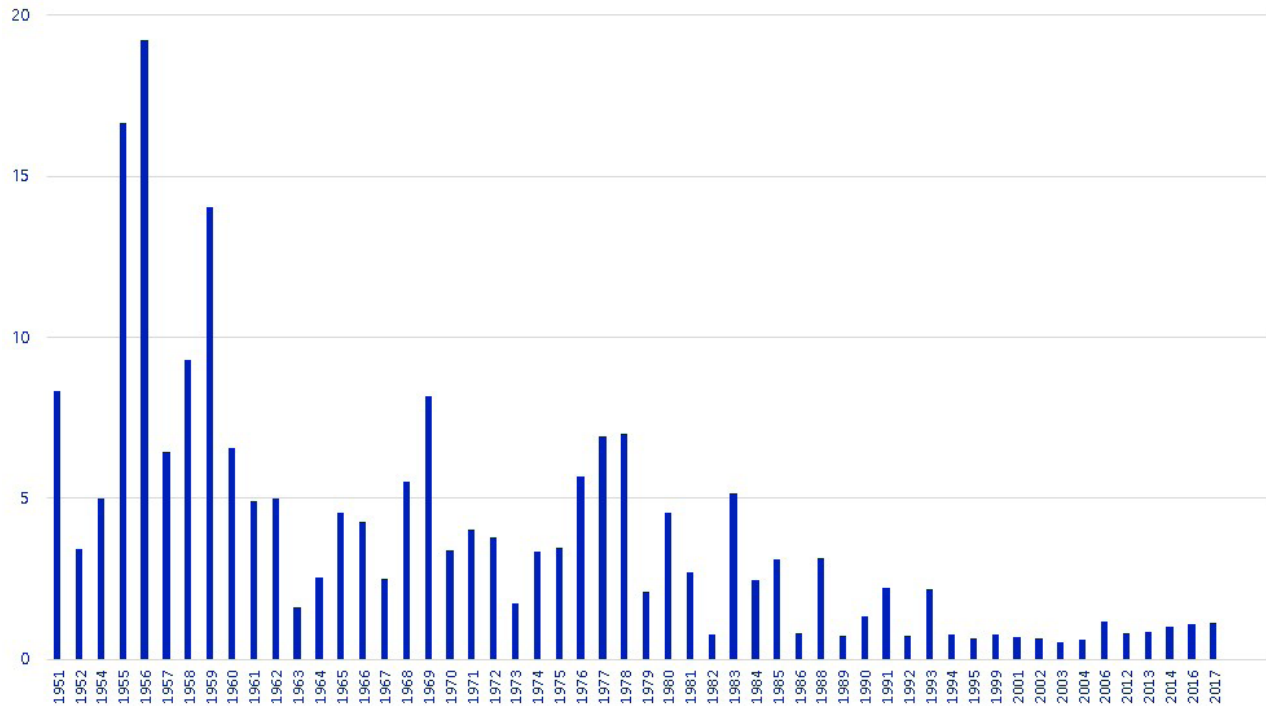
1951	\$100.00	1967	\$750.00	1983	\$1,194.00	1995	\$50.00	2016	\$50.00
1952	\$50.00	1970	\$728.94	1984	\$330.36	1999	\$250.00	2017	\$50.00
1954	\$200.00	1971	\$687.50	1985	\$1,311.38	2001	\$300.00		
1957	\$600.00	1972	\$603.94	1986	\$500.00	2002	\$259.38		
1960	\$825.00	1973	\$1,009.38	1989	\$40.00	2003	\$52.12		
1961	\$335.00	1974	\$428.94	1990	\$841.00	2004	\$103.94		
1962	\$300.00	1975	\$505.00	1991	\$753.94	2006	\$770.00		
1963	\$100.00	1980	\$1,137.45	1992	\$50.00	2012	\$84.00		
1964	\$125.00	1981	\$378.94	1993	\$984.20	2013	\$573.32		
1967	\$750.00	1982	\$51.97	1994	\$620.88	2014	\$50.00		

These totals are of gifts received as of 5.30.2025

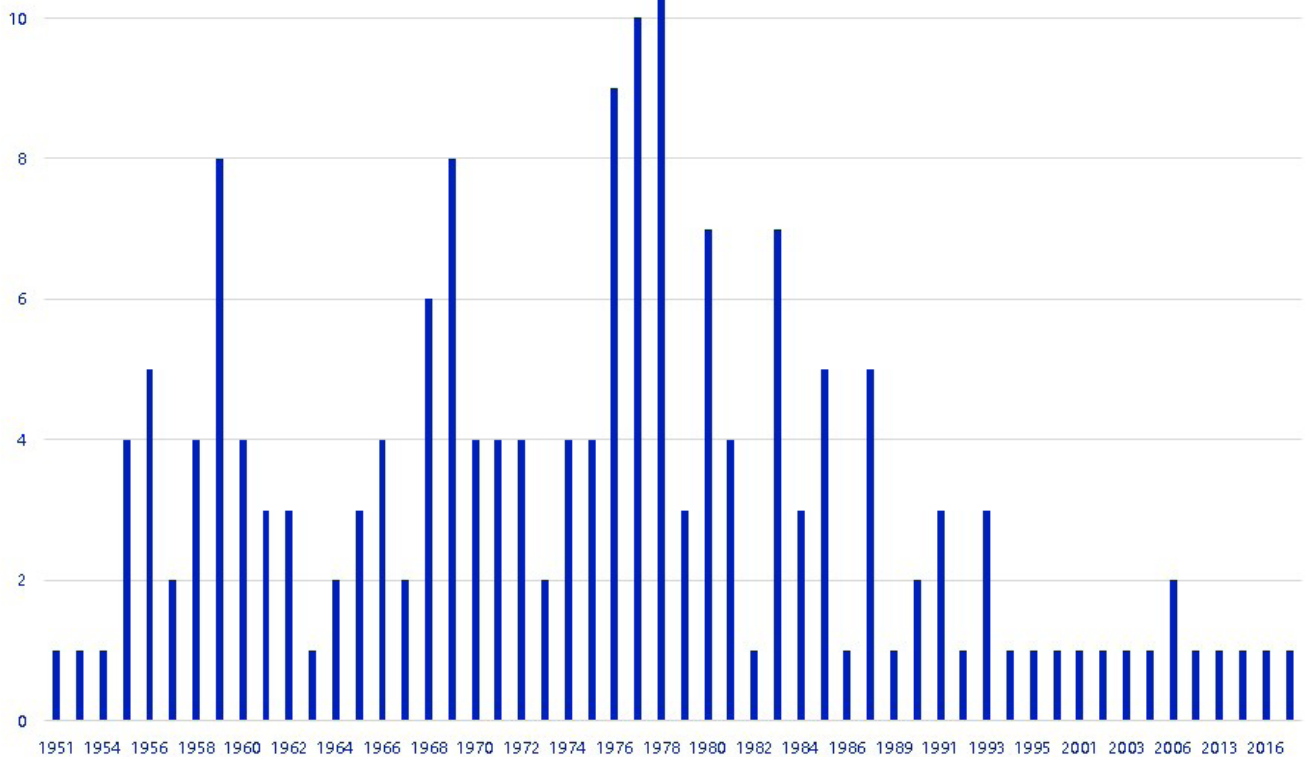
\$185,367.87 raised so far!



## PERCENTAGE OF LIVING CLASSMATES WHO HAVE DONATED TO PIONEER FUND TO DATE



## NUMBER OF CLASSMATES WHO HAVE DONATED TO PIONEER FUND TO DATE



# Register for our Alumni, Family, and Friends Golf Tournament!



*Bogey Hills*  
Country Club



**DUCHESNE  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**ALUMNI, FAMILY,  
& FRIENDS  
GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**



**Monday, July 14, 2025**  
Bogey Hills Country Club  
Foursome Scramble  
\$200 per player (includes skins and mulligans)

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

- 9:00am Registration & light breakfast
- 10:00am Shotgun start
- 11:00am Lunch on course
- Dinner and awards after scramble





**MORE INFORMATION**

Scan QR code to sign up your team and/or buy a sponsorship!

Please contact Jennifer Krupich with any questions at 636.757.6910 or [jkrupich@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:jkrupich@duchesne-hs.org)

**See reverse for sponsorship opportunities!**

## Sponsorships

### LEGACY SPONSOR: \$2,500 (3 available)

- Golf for four (4) in the tournament
- Company logo on Visage GPS system on the golf carts during the tournament
- 30 second prerecorded ad before one of our Pioneer Pulse podcast episodes
- Logo recognition on Duchesne social media
- Tent on course with company swag, signage, and featured drink for players served at designated tent

### PIONEER SPONSOR: \$1,200 (4 available)

- Golf for four (4) in the tournament
- Company logo on Visage GPS system on the golf carts during the tournament
- Two hole sponsor signs on course
- Logo recognition on Duchesne social media

### BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR: \$500 (2 available)

- Company logo signage on beverage cart

### LONGEST DRIVE SPONSOR: \$350 (2 available)

- One Longest Drive sponsorship sign with company logo at designated hole

### CLOSEST TO THE PIN SPONSOR: \$350 (2 available)

- One Closest to the Pin sponsorship sign with company logo at designated hole

### BOURBON & WHISKEY BARREL RAFFLE SPONSOR: \$350 (1)

- Company signage at raffle table
- Company logo on container to hold bottles of bourbon and whiskey

### HOLE SPONSOR: \$200

- One hole sponsorship sign with company logo at designated hole



Please contact Jennifer Krupich with any questions at [jkrupich@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:jkrupich@duchesne-hs.org) or 636.757.6910

## Duchesne Dream Raffle Winners Announced

We announced our 2025 Duchesne Dream Raffle winners on Wednesday, May 14. Congratulations to the grand prize winner, Katelyn Caimi! If the Caimi name sounds familiar, you may be remembering Katelyn's husband, Blake '10, his sister Maria '11, and their parents, Brian and Sue. We love it when alum families participate in our fundraisers!

Our other prize winners were:

2nd-place prize of \$5,000: Norm Eaker (alum parent)

3rd-place prize of \$1,500 each: Terri Wood, Kathy Massey, and David Carlton

4th-place prize of \$750 each: Therese Moynihan, Bruce Meyer, Eve Slusser, Patrick McKay and Cathy Sullivan

5th-place prize of \$500 each: Justin Foust (Amanda '02), Mike '68 and Becky Sullen-trop, Barbara Grayson (alum parent), Kathy Ferder, Terry Gravemann '68, Kristen Weber '00, Kevin and Ann '76 Tollefson, Dennis Swann '74, Kimberly Starostki (alum parent), and Kimberly Schierholz '02

Congratulations to all!

And a big thank you to our Duchesne Dream Raffle sponsor, Fischer & Frichtel Homes!!





# From the Director of Advancement

**Becky Williamson**  
**Director of Advancement**

## Let's Finish Strong: One Final Gift to the Pioneer Fund

As another AMAZING school year at Duchesne High School draws to a close, we're filled with gratitude—for Pioneer traditions, the values we live by, and the remarkable students who continue to inspire us every day.

But before we turn the page this year, we have one final goal in sight: reaching \$200,000 for the Pioneer Fund. With your help, we are so close!

The Pioneer Fund is the heart of giving at Duchesne. It directly supports the students who walk our halls today—helping them become leaders, thinkers, and innovators. It uplifts our faculty and staff, ensuring they have the resources and support to carry out our mission of shaping leaders in mind, body, and spirit. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a real and immediate impact.

We're also proud to celebrate the friendly spirit of our Pioneer Class Challenge, which is heating up! Currently, the Classes of 1969, 1977, and 1978

are leading the charge, showing what Pioneer Pride really looks like. But there's still time—if your class hasn't jumped in yet, this is your moment!

Whether you've given before or are considering your first gift, we invite you to make this final push count. Help us cross the finish line. Help us reach \$200,000. Help us show today's students that the Duchesne family stands strong—always!

Your support isn't just appreciated. It's felt every single day.

Make your final gift to the Pioneer Fund today. Let's finish

strong, together.

<https://www.duchesne-hs.org/make-a-gift.html>

With Pioneer Pride,

*Becky Williamson*

Becky Williamson  
Director of Advancement



**August 15**  
**6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

*Come to Duchesne and kick off the new school year in style!*

For grade school kids in grades 5–8

Dance • Food • Fun

\$25 to pre-register or \$30 at the door

Don't miss out—see you there



<https://duchesnehighschool.regfox.com/2025-back-to-school-mixer>



We are still welcoming Class of 2029 and transfer students for the 2025-2026 school year.

Contact Dana Bryan at [dbryan@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:dbryan@duchesne-hs.org) or 636.757.6932 for more information!

# LEAVES

ALUMNI FEATURES AND UPDATES

## Two alumnae making a difference

Denise Loewenstein '83 and Erin Kramer '04

**Eric Seiffert**  
**Director of Marketing**

Two Duchesne alumnae are collaborating to expand the services of a local charity.

Beginning in April, Denise (Westhues) Loewenstein '83 partnered with Gwendolyn's Gifts CEO Erin (Walker) Kramer '04 to develop a way to further support families who have lost a child due to lengthy illness.

The effort is part of a community ambassador program run by Loewen-

**Gwendolyn's  
Gifts has always  
been at the  
center of my  
heart."**



Denise (Westhues) Loewenstein '83 (left) and Erin (Walker) Kramer '04

ening medical conditions. It was inspired by their oldest daughter, Gwendolyn, who courageously fought a progressive neurological condition for eight years before passing away on May 12, 2023. To date, the charity has donated over \$450,000 and assisted over 1,500 local families.

One of Cigna's guiding forces is philanthropy, and this year, Loewenstein's project will align with its focus on adolescent health resources. The ambassadorship will build on a current program that offers \$5,000 in funeral assistance to families during the most difficult time in their lives. However, there is more here than just a monetary contribution.

stein's employer, Cigna Healthcare. Every year, Cigna employees can apply for a \$20,000 contribution to be used in partnership with a charitable organization to support a specific project or need.

Gwendolyn's Gifts seemed like the natural choice to Denise.

"Gwendolyn's Gifts has always been at the center of my heart," she said. "When I approached Erin and explained

the premise of the project, she was really excited."

Founded in 2019, Gwendolyn's Gifts was created by Mark and Erin Kramer to help St. Louis families with children fighting life-threat-

"I was blown away," said Kramer. "It's generosity in two forms: Cigna provides a \$20,000 grant for us to complete the project, but then secondly, they allow the employees a three-month sabbatical to come work for



the charity, to be the project lead on it."

The new program, named Gwendolyn's Circle, will form partnerships with local funeral homes to provide reduced funeral costs to families in need, with the added goal of creating pre-packaged plans to assist grieving parents in the decision-making process following the death of a child. A resource guide containing lists of organizations that can help with other issues, such as mental healthcare for siblings, will also be produced.

In these ways, Loewenstein and Kramer hope to take some of the leg work out of the planning that follows the loss of a child, as well as assist parents who have lost their children in ways other than illness.

"This is a project I've wanted to do for a long time, but I didn't have the manpower to take it on," said Kramer. "I'm

just super excited to bring this project to life."

To date, six funeral homes have signed up to partner with Gwendolyn's Gifts. A marketing group has been hired to create the resource guide and provide web updates. A promotional video will also be produced.

Loewenstein plans to continue to volunteer her time and spearhead Gwendolyn's Circle past the end of the ambassadorship.

"This will be a great springboard for awareness," said Loewenstein. "A ton of people have read about her charity and are excited to help and continue to make it work past the three-month timespan."

To learn more about Gwendolyn's Circle, scan below.



**FOLLOW  
DUCHESNE  
ON SOCIALS!**



## Forever Friends



Gentlemen from the Class of '77 meet monthly for lunch and held their most recent gathering at DHS, hosted by their classmates DHS President Paul Boschert and DHS Board Member Mike Ryan '77. Their group photo in the PAC (Performing Arts Center, aka "the old gym") included, from left: Jim Schneider, Dave Achelpohl, Bill Hill, Paul Boschert, Mike Ryan, Jim Baker, Gene Carroll, Ted Orf, Dave Bethmann, Mike Didion, Mary Lynch, Keith Wilhelm, Russ Hubert, Don Kaemmerer, Mark Stahlschmidt, and Joe Kasprzycki.

After a catered lunch by Nagels BBQ in Duchesne's beautiful Garden Courtyard, Paul and Principal Kurt Schneider '93 led a tour of the school and showcased some of our many changes and high-

lights – including the newly remodeled classrooms and chapel, the 3D anatomy board, the "hall of fame" interactive photo kiosk in the Ted Yeater Athletic Center lobby, the gym's new scoreboards, the new weight room, our Esports Center and TV/broadcast studios, the Robotics classroom and Fab Lab, and more. Support from DHS alumni and their families have made a lot of our additions and improvements possible – including that of Mike Didion '77, who with his wife, Lisa, contributed the new electronic message board on the corner of Elm Street and Duchesne Drive.

We would love to share a photo of your alumni friend group's gathering! Please submit your pic(s) and a brief description to [nkohl@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:nkohl@duchesne-hs.org). It's a Great Day to be a Pioneer!

**HL HOLLANDER LEGAL**  
**ESTATE PLANNING**



## ALUMNI REUNIONS

*Is it time to plan yours?*

Does your class year end in a 0 or 5 (such as 2000 or 1965) – or even a 1 or a 6 (1986 or 2016)? It's time to plan your reunion! Contact Nancy Kohl at [nkohl@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:nkohl@duchesne-hs.org) or 636.757.6925 to begin the conversation!

Duchesne can provide you with a class list and save-the-date postcards for those groups that have their event at DHS. You will have use of our Garden Courtyard, Chapel for Mass, and/or PAC for your get-together, dinner, dancing, games, etc. A self-guided tour outline will be available for your guests. Alumni groups are not charged a rental, just a maintenance fee (and a student tech fee if applicable). Various catering options with different menus and price points are available for your group to choose from. Please contact [nkohl@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:nkohl@duchesne-hs.org) for more information, or call Nancy at 636.757.6925.

*Upcoming Duchesne High School Reunions include:*

### **CLASS OF 1975's 50th Reunion – at Duchesne on Saturday, August 23, 2025**

Brian Klutenkamper, Theresa Thro, and Geri (Henderson) Willbrand are organizing the Class of 1975's 50th Reunion. Please look for Brian's email with details, which will include 4:00 Mass at St. Cleatus, Happy Hour in the DHS

Garden Courtyard at 5:30, and dinner in the PAC (old gym) at 6:30. If you would like to reach out, call Brian at 314.570.0576 or email him at [bklutenkamper@englube.com](mailto:bklutenkamper@englube.com). If you've recently had a change of address, email address, or cell number, please let Brian know.

### **CLASS OF 1980's 45th Reunion – at Duchesne on Saturday, September 27, 2025**

Mike Boschert is organizing the next reunion for the Class of 1980. If you want to help, please contact Mike at [boschfam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:boschfam@sbcglobal.net). If you've recently had a change of address, email address, or cell number, please let Mike know.

### **CLASS OF 1985's 40th Reunion– at Duchesne on Saturday, October 11, 2025**

Eric Kozak has begun plans for the Class of 1985's 40th Reunion and is looking for ideas and assistance. If you are interested in being on the committee, please email [eric.kozak@yahoo.com](mailto:eric.kozak@yahoo.com). Details will be published in this newsletter and on our website under Alumni as they develop. There is also a class Facebook page: Duchesne HS Class of 85. If you've recently had a change of address, email address, or cell number, please let Eric know.

### **CLASS OF 1986's 40th Reunion – at Duchesne on Friday, September 26, 2025**

Jen (Horton) Silvestri and

Cheryl (Pollack) Johnson have begun plans for the Class of 1986's 40th Reunion. Please save the date and look for more information to come. If you've recently had a change of address, email address, or cell number, please email that to [nkohl@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:nkohl@duchesne-hs.org). "Duchesne Class of 1986" is the Facebook page.

### **CLASS OF 2005's 20th Reunion – at Duchesne on Saturday, October 18, 2025**

Thanks to Dan Amiri, Brian Hu, and Emily (Friedel) Epley for initiating the Class of 2005's 20th Reunion! Details will be published in this newsletter and on our website

under Alumni as they develop. In the meantime, if you'd like to help in the planning, email [emily.e.epley@gmail.com](mailto:emily.e.epley@gmail.com). If you've recently had a change of address, email address, or cell number, please let Emily know.

## **PIONEER NATION INFO UPDATES**

Alumni! Family! Friends! Help us keep you updated by making sure we have your best contact information! And please share this link with friends and family members who may not be receiving our communications. Thank you! <https://www.duchesne-hs.org/alumniupdate.html>



## **JOIN US FOR THE RIVERFEST PARADE ON JULY 4!**

The July 4 Riverfest Parade will begin at Bales Park, continue south on Second Street, go left on Clark, and then right on Main. Line up begins at 8:00am at Bales Park (2598 N Main St, Saint Charles, MO 63301) on a first-come, first-served basis.

Register to join us at <https://www.duchesne-hs.org/july-riverfest-parade.html>.





Julia (Burns) Daugherty '05 (right) presents the first Daugherty Pay It Forward Scholarship she and her husband, Patrick Daugherty '05 are sponsoring for Emily Small '27. The scholarship will follow Emily through her years at Duchesne. President Paul Boschert '77 and Karen Small joined the happy meeting.

Quinn Wagner of Sts. Joachim & Ann Catholic School is the 2025-2026 winner of the Timothy O. Hill Memorial Scholarship. Her parents, Jason and Hilary (right) joined the presentation with DHS President Paul Boschert '77 and Hill family members, Dale Hill, Karen (Hill) Meers '74, and Steve Hill '84.



Mrs. Mary Kay Venvertloh represented her family in awarding the Anita Venvertloh Memorial Art Scholarship to Ada Marks, incoming freshman from St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Grade School. DHS President Paul Boschert '77 and DHS visual arts teacher Rylee Knobbe met with Mary Kay and Ada and her family.



**Renee Moore '86**  
**Athletic Director**

Wow, what a year! Reflections from a first-year athletic director begin with this: I never thought I would care so much about the weather! I heard from many that it was one of the rainiest springs we have had in decades, lucky me! Weather aside, I enjoyed every minute of watching our Pioneer teams compete in 2024-25. So many highlights! Here are but a few of them:

- Walking 18 holes with our State Champion Golf girls in Farmington this past fall
- Driving a carload of our

girls volleyball players to Hermann for our sectional volleyball game after a 'no-show' from our bus

- Sharing in the excitement of Katie Stockhausen surpassing the 1,000 career point mark during basketball season
- Attending the Duchesne Winter Classic game at Centene Ice Center and cheering on the Pioneer hockey team
- Nervously watching the girls soccer team claim victory over Villa Duchesne in PK's as goalkeeper Maddie Denker made a few incredible saves!
- Standing on the track sidelines this spring at St. Dominic witnessing Oliver Rothweiler vault over 15 feet in the air in his record-setting pole vaulting season
- Watching in admiration as our girls track team put their heart and souls into off-season training and witnessing all their hard work pay off at the State Championship track meet

• Watching our community come together to raise over \$5,000 for Pioneer alum Nathan Spiess '12

• Cheering on our Pioneer baseball team as Jackson Nikodym fielded a shot up the middle and doubled off a runner at first to win the district title over St. Charles West 2-1 in Class 4 tournament action

• Loving every time our Senior Super Fans (you know who you are) showed up to cheer on any and all of our Pioneer teams

So many more wonderful days and nights spent with our athletes and their families. I couldn't love what I do more or be prouder of our coaches and athletes who represent Duchesne High School so well. Happy Summer, Everyone!

### THANK YOU'S

Thanks to Jenni DeGuentz for single-handedly organizing the shoe drive. Congratulations to Kateri House for winning the House competition and thank you to everyone who dropped off shoes. The drive will continue through June 15; we are still a bit short of collecting 2,500 shoes, so continue to clean out your closets and drop off your retired shoes in the front office at Duchesne. (Open 7-12, Mon-Thur)

Thank you to Kevin Slattery, Booster Club president, and his group of volunteers who spent a Saturday afternoon helping in the demolition for our locker room project by removing ceiling tiles and ceiling brackets. Thank you to Kevin and Matt Cleary, Jacob Denker, Paul Edler, Jeff Glosier, Ben Horst, Joe Ledbetter, Shawn McCarthy, Luke Meyer, and Matt Shaw for helping us get one step closer to completing our Locker Room renovations.

Thank you to Jason Boschert and Mike Ryan for their work as our Duchesne Soccer Broadcast Team for our boys in the fall season and girls this spring. Anyone who had a chance to tune in to this broadcast was certainly entertained and educated by their dialogue.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2025 ATHLETIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

The following athletic awards were presented at the Baccalaureate Mass and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, May 13:

**Duchesne High School  
Outstanding Athlete**  
Maddie Denker  
Sam Jost

**IABBO Officials Award**  
Scottie Alberson





**MSHSAA Sportsmanship Award**

Madisyn McCarthy  
Jack Burle

**Post Dispatch Scholar Athlete**

Maddie Denker

**St. Charles County Amateur Sports Hall of Fame Award**

Katie Stockhausen  
Sam Jost

**Pioneer Pride Award for Three-Sport Athletes**

Cole Brockmeyer  
Jack Burle  
Maddie Denker  
Trenton Gebben-Thompson  
Carson Kuhn  
Mackenzie Nave  
Bryce Rogles  
Katie Stockhausen  
Zaria Watson

**POST-SEASON HONORS FOR OUR SPRING ATHLETES**

Post-season honors have started to roll in for our Pioneer athletes. Congratulations to those announced to date:

**Volleyball**

2025 All-District, 2nd Team  
Bryce Rogles

**Baseball**

2025 Academic All-State  
Sam Jost, Michael Shaw,  
Jackson Nikodym,  
and Lucas Daleo

**Varsity Baseball**

Academic All State  
Qualifying Team

**Varsity Baseball**

Class 4 District Champions

**Soccer**

2025 All-District, 1st Team  
Sophomores Violet Sahaida  
and Sarah Smith

**Soccer**

Seniors Katie Stockhausen,  
Cole Brockmeyer, and

Brendan Donovan chosen to represent Duchesne in the 2025 MAC All-Star game on Friday, June 13, at World Wide Technology Soccer Park

**Track and Field**

Oliver Rothweiler STATE CHAMPION in Class 2 Pole Vault and Duchesne record holder with a vault of 15'9"

**Track and Field**

Claire Burks 8th Place in Class 2 State 400M with a time of 1:01.2

**Track and Field**

Audrey Hoffmann, Addison Willman, Isabel Rakers and Claire Burks finish in 6th Place in Class 2 State 4x400M relay run with a time of 4:15.87

**SUMMER STRENGTH & CONDITIONING TRAINING WITH COACH MORRIS AND EMERGE FITNESS**

We are beyond excited about offering a fantastic opportunity for our student-athletes to train for eight weeks this summer with Coach Morris and trainers Matt '94 and Angie Pirtle, owners of Emerge Fitness. The program kicked off this week at Duchesne High School in the Fitness Center/Mezzanine area of the gym. This program is completely FREE to any Duchesne student (incoming 9th grader to senior). Please reach out to Renee Moore at [rmoore@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:rmoore@duchesne-hs.org) with any questions.

**MANDATORY ATHLETIC PARENT MEETING -- THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025**

NEW for the 2025-26 school year will be a ONE-

**TIME Mandatory Meeting for ALL parents who have a student who will play a sport during ANY athletic season. We will be replacing the three meetings for each season with ONE meeting for all parents. MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Thursday, August 21. Details to follow, but if your son or daughter intends to participate during the 2025-2026 school year in a DHS sport – including Cheer, Dance, and Esports – it is mandatory for at least one parent to attend.**

**LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER**

- Duchesne Dead Period: August 2 – 10, 2025. No sport or activity practices or meetings
- First Fall Practice Date: Monday, August 11, 2025

- Mandatory Parent Meeting: Thursday, August 21, 2025

**STAY INFORMED**

ATTN Students – if you need contact information for Duchesne coaches to get summer workout schedules, please email [rmoore@duchesne-hs.org](mailto:rmoore@duchesne-hs.org) and I will share the respective coaches' contact information. Don't miss out on summer opportunities to get stronger in the weight room, improve your athletic skills, and spend fun, quality time with your coaches and teammates.ches and teammates!

- Follow Athletics\_DHS on X for real-time updates.
- Visit Big Teams-Schedule' Star for full schedules. The fall schedule for 2025 has already been published!



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Duchesne is seeking an Assistant Coach for the Boys Basketball program for the 2025-26 school year.

Find out more about the position and apply at <https://www.duchesne-hs.org/assistant-boys-basketball-coach.html>



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