

MATER DEI MISSION STATEMENT

Mater Dei, a Catholic, diocesan regional high school nurtures the spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, and social growth of young men and women.

In a caring environment, respectful of individual differences, her comprehensive program educates, fosters faith, and develops gospel values.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Just as the fall season is settling in, so too are the students as we approach the end of the first quarter. Please be assured that the faculty members are challenging our students each day and are excited to see them putting forth the effort required to meet those challenges. Also know that we, the administration and faculty, greatly appreciate your active involvement in helping our students achieve their highest potential. The support you provide at home, which is essential to your child's success, is second to none! Thus, on behalf of our faculty, I say "Thank you!"

October is a busy month, as our fall sports and band competitions come to an end and our drama students prepare for the upcoming fall play. As I observe the students participating in our many activities, I continually recognize their amazing commitment and I am pleased to know that our students are developing values which will remain long after they leave Mater Dei.

More importantly, I take immense pride in our students' remarkable commitment to meeting the needs of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. In addition to supporting our weekly mission collections, to which they donated \$11,974 last year, our students serve others as PSR teachers, Eucharistic Ministers, Murray Center volunteers, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Pro-Life members, and St. Vincent De Paul Society members. Moreover, our students actively participate in special service projects — just last month, members of our St. Vincent de Paul Society and girls cross country team raised \$571 for local food pantries by hosting a "Walk for the Poor."

Our Mater Dei community truly demonstrates our main calling as Catholics: *to love our neighbors as we love ourselves*. With this calling in mind, we will continue to challenge our students, faculty, and staff to follow the model of Mother Theresa, who once reflected that she saw the face of Christ in every man, woman, and child she met.

As you can see, Mater Dei truly is an exceptional school as a direct result of the commitment shown not only by our students, but also by our faculty and our parents. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation that our students need to become productive, Catholic adults. THANK YOU for being a part of our family!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES



October 26, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
October 27, 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm

The administration and faculty invite all parents to our annual Parent—Teacher Conferences, which provide an opportunity to discuss their child's academic progress with individual teachers.

Report cards will be available in the main office, along with a "map" to assist parents in locating teachers.

We would love to surpass last year's attendance, when 82% of our parents attended the conferences! This level of attendance clearly demonstrates that our parents recognize the importance of parent - teacher communication in the success of our students.

Remember to mark your calendar —
we hope to see you October 26 and 27!



JON ANG & ELLEN TOENNIES HONORED AS NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

Please join us in congratulating seniors Jon Ang and Ellen Toennies, who were recognized as commended students in the National Merit Scholarship Program!

Jon, the son of Stephen and Mayleen Ang, and Ellen, the daughter of David and Shelley Toennies, were among only 34,000 students in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition!

Each year, nearly 1.5 million students in the nation are entered into the National Merit Scholarship Program as a result of taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) as sophomores or juniors. Of those 1.5 million students, only 50,000 students in the nation are recognized as either a semi-finalist (16,000 students) or a commended student (34,000 students).

Congratulations to Jon, Ellen, and their families —
your dedication to academics is exemplary!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN READING & WRITING

We are pleased to share our school improvement goals, as stated in our current School Improvement Plan:

- 1) for all students "... to improve reading comprehension by implementing reading activities ..."
- 2) "... to improve writing skills ... through increased writing activities and expectations. ..."

The specific strategies our faculty has implemented across the curriculum in order to achieve these goals are outlined in a letter from Mr. Litteken (see page 5 of this newsletter).

We thank you for your support of our goals and our strategies, for together, we can make a difference in the academic success of all of our students!

ENJOY OUR FALL PLAY

Ten Little Indians

November 4 at 7:00 pm

November 5 at 7:00 pm

November 6 at 2:00 pm



MAKE TIME FOR MASS

As we enhance our Catholic identity at Mater Dei, the administration and faculty continually focus on our Mission, which is to educate, to foster faith, and to develop gospel values. Participation in Mass plays an essential role in fulfilling this Mission. Thus, please take to heart your vital role in supporting our Mission, for as parents, you serve as role models for our students.

While prayer at home is an important aspect of our faith, it cannot replace the celebration of Mass, which offers each of us the following opportunities:

- to experience community, especially through the Peace of Christ and the prayers.
- to receive inspiration from God's Word, through the readings, the homily, and the prayers, in order to strengthen our commitment to modeling the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives.
- to first acknowledge our sins and then seek and receive forgiveness for those sins.
- to experience the miracle of the Eucharist.
- to share our talents with others by serving as cantors, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, servers, or ushers.

Please remember that we are all called to live our faith. We make time to answer many other calls - please make time to answer God's call to celebrate Mass with your family every week. God bless you!

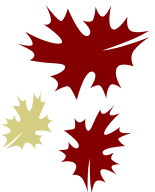


KNIGHT CLUB APPRECIATION DINNER

Sunday, November 13, 4:00 pm

As an expression of our sincere gratitude for our 285 Knight Club members, we will host our sixth annual Knight Club Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, November 13. The event, held at Hidden Lake Winery, will begin at 4:00 pm with a social hour, followed by dinner.

Please note that this event is available only to our Knight Club members. If you are interested in becoming a Knight Club member, please contact the Main Office.



2012 MATER DEI CALENDAR DRIVE KICK - OFF

We are pleased to announce that our 2012 Calendar Drive will kick-off on October 17! Now entering its 27th year, the Calendar Drive serves as the cornerstone of our fund raising. This year our goal is to sell 4,800 calendars.

Beginning October 11, Fr. Tuttle, our Director of Advancement, will meet with our students to discuss their vital role in the drive and the many incentive awards they may earn by participating in the drive. As in the past, each student is asked to sell a minimum of seven calendars, for which he/she will earn a day off school on March 23. Moreover, after selling seven calendars, students earn a jeans day each Friday during the drive.

Please know that the support you provide is essential to the success of this fund raiser and is greatly appreciated!

Together, we can make this drive a record-breaking success!

OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 School Board Meeting(7:30 pm)
Freshman Retreat (Albers—Kitowski)
- 4 Freshman Retreat (Koerkenmeier—Wuebbels)
- 5 Sophomore Retreat (Abbott—Koch)
PLAN Test (sophomores Kohnen—Zachry)
- 6 Sophomore Retreat (Kohnen—Zachry)
PLAN Test (sophomores Abbott—Koch)
- 7 X-Schedule (11:15 am dismissal)
- 10 No School - Columbus Day
Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 12 PSAT Test (registered sophomores and juniors)
Mater Dei College Night (7:00 pm —8:30 pm)
- 15 Murray Center Visit (8:00 am—12:00 pm)
- 17 Band Parents Meeting (7:30 pm)
2012 Mater Dei Calendar Drive Kick-Off
- 18 Visit by Bishop Braxton
- 21 End of the First Quarter
- 25 Senior Retreat (males)
Fall Concert (7:00 pm)
- 26 Senior Retreat (females)
Parent—Teacher Conferences (5:30 pm—8:00 pm)
- 27 Parent—Teacher Conferences (3:00 pm—5:30 pm)
- 31 Happy Halloween!
Fathers and Friends Meeting (8:00 pm)



OPERATION SAFE HOMES

We are pleased to announce that a list of families who have chosen to participate in our Safe Homes program is available on Edline (under “Contents”), as well as the Safe Homes pledge card (under “News”).

Members of this program, who are indicated in the Buzz Book, our school phone book, pledge to provide a safe home, free of alcohol and drug use, for the students in our community. **THANK YOU** to all Safe Home families for helping make our community a safer and more positive place for our children!

Please return the pledge card to Mr. Jim Darr to join—
it's never too late to provide a safe home!

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 24, 2012

MOTHERS & FRIENDS
DINNER AUCTION



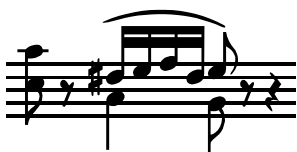
PASS ON THE INVITATION!

Please help us spread the good news about Mater Dei by offering the invitation below to prospective families and sharing stories of the many benefits your child has received as a student at Mater Dei.

We know they will be impressed!

ENJOY THE SOUNDS OF FALL

FALL CONCERT
OCTOBER 25 AT 7:00 pm



INTERESTED IN WRESTLING?

REGISTRATION MEETING
OCTOBER 25 AT 6:00 PM IN CAFETERIA

Students interested in wrestling, as well as their parents, are invited to attend a registration meeting with Mr. Kyle Graham and Mr. Shane O'Brien, who will serve as coaches for an independent wrestling club.

The season, which begins the day after the football season ends, will culminate in February at the IHSA State Tournament. (Mater Dei will sponsor the team only at the IHSA State Tournament.)

All students, regardless of prior experience, are welcome to join! The \$125 fee includes a team singlet, headgear, and USA wrestling card.

If you are unable to attend the registration or possess questions, please contact Mrs. Dineen Czar (314-614-2265).



VISIT THE HOME OF KNIGHTS!

Mater Dei Catholic High School Open House
Sunday, November 6, 2011
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

The Mater Dei Catholic High School community cordially invites prospective students and their families to explore the unique opportunities we offer our students.

In addition to receiving a wealth of information regarding our academic, extracurricular, and spiritual programs, guests will enjoy a guided tour of our campus and a demonstration of Edline, our online link between school and home which includes weekly progress reports.

Should you have questions, please contact us at 618 - 526 - 7216.

We look forward to seeing you on November 6!

Please also visit us at www.materdeiknights.org



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION



Representatives from numerous universities, technical schools, and religious orders, as well as military recruiters, are eager to meet the students and parents of Mater Dei at our annual College Night, which will be held in our gym on Wednesday, October 12. This evening provides an opportunity for both students and parents to gain information about a variety of institutions.

Please also note that St. Louis University will be hosting the St. Louis National College Fair at their Simon Recreation Center on Sunday, October 16, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm, while SIUE will be hosting the ICE College Fair at their Morris University Center on Tuesday, October 18. Flyers with additional information will be posted at school.

Mater Dei College Night

October 12
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm



Need money for your child's college education?

Attend Financial Aid Night

Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 pm—8:30 pm

From a presentation by Mr. Luke Cairney, you will gain valuable information on grants, scholarships, work study programs, and loans. In addition, Mr. Cairney will share tips on completing the FAFSA (the Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Mr. Cairney currently serves as the New Student and Outreach Coordinator at St. Louis University.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mrs. Donna Goetz in the College Placement Office.

All parents and students are invited to attend!



PSAT TEST

registration required

October 12

The PSAT test will be administered to registered sophomores and juniors during periods 1, 2, and 3 on October 12. Similar to the PLAN test, this test prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam that they may take as juniors and seniors.

Additionally, students who earn high scores on the PSAT test and the SAT college entrance exam are then eligible for entrance into the National Merit Scholarship Program.

We encourage all high achieving sophomores and juniors to register for the test, which has a \$14 fee that is payable to Mater Dei by check (no cash).

Please contact Mrs. Donna Goetz should you need additional information.

ACT TEST DATES

Registration information is available from our College Placement Office or the ACT website (www.actstudent.org)

October 22, 2011
(standby registration only)

December 10, 2011
(deadline November 4, 2011)

February 11, 2012
(deadline January 13, 2012)

April 14, 2012
held at Mater Dei
(deadline March 9, 2012)

June 9, 2012
(deadline May 4, 2012)

NOTES

The Mater Dei school code
(for where you attend school)
is 140-395.

The Mater Dei test center code,
(code for where test is taken,
which applies to the April test,)
is 173-590.

MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL

900 N. Mater Dei Drive • Breese, Illinois 62230 • Telephone: 618/526-7216

October, 2011

Parents,

Greetings from Mater Dei! As stated in this month's *Knight Life*, I am writing to provide you with specific information regarding the strategies the faculty has developed and is currently implementing in order to achieve our school improvement goals, which were adopted in the spring of 2007.

In regard to our reading strategies, we provide a ten-minute silent reading period at the beginning of our daily study hall. This period is designed to provide students with time to simply read! Thus, we recommend that students possess a library book each day, for we request that they do not read textbooks or assignments. Starting in January, 2009, we expanded our reading program to include a timed reading, which includes an assessment of the passage. This activity, which develops both reading and comprehension skills, occurs during each period 4/5 study hall.

In regard to our writing strategies, we adopted a "Word of the Week," which is featured by each teacher throughout the week and displayed on the "Word of the Week" board in the cafeteria. Our Faculty Council also adopted both a writing rubric and a standardized writing style sheet that our faculty and students are to use for writing assignments. Finally, our teachers have been asked to include an essay question on every test in order to provide our students with opportunities, across the curriculum, to practice their writing skills.

In closing, please know that in order for us, as a learning community, to improve and to achieve our school improvement goals, we need your help and your commitment to our mission at Mater Dei Catholic High School. Therefore, please promote these strategies and discuss with your child his/her individual experiences.

As always, if you have any questions regarding our goals or strategies, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis A. Litteken
Principal