

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

As we enter December and the season of Advent, let us remember the purpose of this special season by making time in our busy schedules to reflect on the truly significant gifts in our lives. The gifts of good health, loving families, and meaningful fellowship are gifts we often do, but cannot, take for granted. Thus, as your family prepares to celebrate the birth of Christ, I encourage you to attend Sunday Mass together and to break bread together more often. As you cherish the time spent with loved ones, please also pray for the many families that will be separated from one another this Christmas season.

Throughout the Advent season, our students will be challenged not only to give thanks for the many blessings in their lives, but also to be mindful of those who are in need and to recognize the ways they can help. In addition, we will celebrate our Immaculate Conception Mass on Friday, December 8, at 9:40 a.m. As always, all members of the Mater Dei community are welcome!

Of course, December also brings the end of the first semester! Our students will take their semester exams on Tuesday, December 19; Wednesday, December 20; and Thursday, December 21. We will then dismiss for Christmas break at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday.

On behalf of the entire Mater Dei community, I offer my warmest wishes for a very blessed Christmas season. Please join me in praying that all of our students will understand the reason for this special season. As always, may God bless you and your family!

ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program was established in education reform bill SB 1947, which was signed August 31, 2017.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Students, including current 8th graders, from a household with income below 300% of the federal poverty level. (example: \$73,800 for a family of four)

WHEN TO APPLY

Families may begin the application process January 2, 2018.

APPLYING EARLY IS IMPORTANT

WHERE TO APPLY

Information is available at <http://tax.illinois.gov/investinkids>, but not the online application. We will inform parents when the application is available.

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dennis Litteken with questions.

CLASS OF 2018 BOASTS 15 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

We are pleased to announce that the following seniors have been honored as Illinois State Scholars: Abby Arentsen, Grace Fuchne, Luke Goebel, Katherine Goring, Lauren Kampwerth, Caroline Kenow, Ben Logullo, Rachell Maue, Jaden Meadows, Alexa Rinderer, John Schlueter, Adam Seger, Zachary Sorgea, Hannah Timmermann, and Drew Tonnie. Moreover, these seniors represent 17% of the Class of 2018! (The average in Illinois is 10% of a class.)

Selection for this honor is based on a combination of a student's ACT and/or SAT test score(s), GPA, and class rank at the end of his/her junior year, unless he/she scores at or above the 95th percentile in Illinois on the ACT and/or SAT test(s). While students do not receive a monetary award, they are able to list this prestigious honor on both college applications and scholarship applications.

Please join us in congratulating our Illinois State Scholars - their dedication to achieving academic success has most certainly paid off!

KNIGHTS ANSWER THE CALL TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us in commending and thanking our students, faculty and staff for living the Gospel through their commitment to supporting those in need. Their generosity is truly amazing!

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We are proud to announce that our students, faculty and staff donated **a total of 1,824 canned goods** to our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive! The food was donated to BCMW in Breese and St. Vincent De Paul Society Food Pantry in Germantown; the money was donated to House of Manna. As the class competition winner, the freshman class will enjoy a jeans day. As the homeroom competition winners, the students in Mrs. Gramann's homeroom enjoyed a donut and Ski "breakfast." We thank our National Honor Society officers and members, National Honor Society moderator Mrs. Deb Foote, and St. Vincent de Paul Society moderator Mrs. KK Schneider for sponsoring this worthy event.

TEENS FOR LIFE JEANS DAY

By hosting a jeans day on November 14, Teens for Life raised \$440 to support Clinton County Citizens for Life, Food for the Hungry, and Small Victories. Students had the opportunity to wear jeans with an "I am the pro-life generation" shirt designed by Teens for Life members or a Mater Dei spirit shirt. We thank our Teens for Life members and moderator Mrs. KK Schneider for raising awareness of all aspects of the pro-life movement.

STUDENT COUNCIL BLOOD DRIVE

On October 23, our fall blood drive resulted in the successful collection of 56 units of blood! We thank the members of our junior class, senior class, faculty, and local communities who presented to donate – 66 total, including 31 first-time donors. We also thank our Student Council members and moderators Mrs. Christine Gramann and Mrs. Pam Zurliene for hosting this life-saving event in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

KNIGHTS PREPARE TO SERVE

The halls will be a little less crowded in January, for our seniors will be enjoying their Senior Service Project! Having received confirmation of their service sites in November, seniors have been completing required paperwork, arranging interviews, and receiving orientations. Please join us in praying for our seniors as they experience the joy of responding to our main calling as Catholics: to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

THE MAGIC OF *Christmas*
IS NOT IN THE PRESENTS,
BUT IN *Christ's* PRESENCE

OUR ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

Advent is our opportunity for renewal! Therefore, amid all the decorating, shopping, and gathering during this holiday season, let us take time to experience a new beginning — nothing is more healing, energizing, promising, or filled with hope!

Prepare for this special season by reflecting on the gifts God has granted and experiencing your parish's celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

OUR CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Christmas is the season to celebrate the love of God who chose to become so present to us that he took our own form. As we take time to gather and to celebrate, let us recall the true reason for the season and turn with grateful hearts to our God.

Let us then continue to carry out the Christmas celebration throughout 2018!



MATER DEI CALENDARS The Gift that Gives Back

Looking for the perfect gift? Give your family and friends a 2018 Mater Dei Calendar and a chance to win a share of \$21,150 in cash prizes! In addition, your child has the opportunity to win the following prizes:

- 8 sales = Friday jeans days & no school April 13
- 10 sales = \$5, then \$10 for each additional 5 sales; and special themed dress days
- for the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, each top seller wins a \$500 tuition credit and each second place seller wins a \$200 tuition credit
- for the senior class, the top seller wins a \$500 tuition credit, the second place seller wins a \$250 tuition credit, and the third place seller wins a \$150 tuition credit

THANK YOU for supporting this vital fundraiser - together, we can make a difference!

DECEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 4 School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 8 Immaculate Conception Mass (9:40 am)
- 10 Christmas Concert (7:00 pm)
- 11 Mothers and Friends Christmas Party (6:30 pm)
- 14 KC Registration for Dual Credit Courses (period 2)
- 15 Last Day for Second Semester Schedule Changes
- 18 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 pm)
Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 pm)
- 19 Semester Exam — period 7
- 20 Semester Exams — periods 1, 2, and 3
- 21 Semester Exams — periods 4/5, 6, and 8
Dismissal at 11:30 am
- 25 Christmas
- 27 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament
- 28 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament
- 29 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament
- 30 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament
- 31 New Year's Eve



SOUNDS OF THE SEASON Sunday, December 10, 7:00 pm

Join us for our Christmas Concert, featuring our concert band, jazz band, wind ensemble, and chorus.



CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT December 27, 28, 29, 30

When finalized, the schedule for our 57th Christmas Tournament will be available on our website.

EXAMS

TUE 19
WED 20
THU 21

Tuesday, December 19

pd 1		8:10 - 8:58
homeroom		9:02 - 9:07
pd 2		9:11 - 9:59
pd 3		10:03 - 10:51
pd 4/5	(lunch)	10:55 - 12:15
pd 6		12:19 - 1:00
pd 8		1:04 - 1:46
pd 7	exam	1:50 - 2:50

Wednesday, December 20

pd 1	exam	8:10 - 9:10
homeroom		9:14 - 9:19
pd 2		9:23 - 9:51
pd 2	exam	9:51 - 10:51
pd 4/5	(lunch)	10:55 - 12:15
pd 6		12:19 - 1:10
pd 8		1:14 - 1:46
pd 3	exam	1:50 - 2:50

Thursday, December 21

pd 4/5	exam	8:10 - 9:10
pd 6	exam	9:14 - 10:14
homeroom		10:18 - 10:23
pd 8	exam	10:27 - 11:30

DATES TO SAVE

KNIGHT AT THE RACES ♦ January 20

We'll be off to the races on Saturday, January 20, for the benefit of our music programs!

Plan to join us at "the track" for an evening of exciting horse races and chances to win prizes!

Reservation forms will be posted on our website when they become available.

A KNIGHT IN CASABLANCA ♦ April 14

Plan to enjoy an evening of fellowship, food and fun at the Mothers and Friends dinner auction, "A Knight in Casablanca," Saturday, April 14.

DATES TO SHARE

Our events for families of incoming freshmen are scheduled for the following dates:

Parent Information Night

January 3, 2018, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Placement Test

January 13, 2018, from 8:00 am to 11:30 am

Registration

February 24, 2018, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am

In your community, please share these dates and promote Mater Dei by informing parents of the unique benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei. We know they'll be impressed!

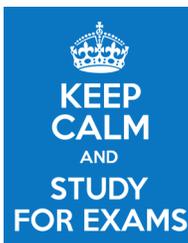
WHERE HAS THE FIRST SEMESTER GONE?

As the end of the first semester quickly approaches, our teachers are challenging our students to continue to achieve academic success by putting forth an extra effort to remain focused in class, to complete all assignments, and to prepare for semester exams.

Please remind your child that the final weeks impact not only his/her second quarter grades, but also his/her semester exam grades and final first semester grades! In addition, please note

that a student's final first semester grades, which are stated on his/her high school transcript, are used to calculate his/her grade point average (GPA). Thus, we encourage you to continue to play an active role in your child's academic success by helping him/her achieve his/her highest potential. Remember to use PlusPortals and to contact your child's teachers for assistance.

Achieving academic success this first semester will be a wonderful Christmas present all of our students can give to their parents and to their teachers, but most importantly, to themselves!



WANT TO HELP YOUR CHILD STUDY? strategies to encourage with students

Use index cards (or an app such as Quizlet) to organize key concepts. Referring to a set of cards is more efficient than referring to a textbook.

Rework (not simply reread) problems from previous homework assignments, review sheets, quizzes, and tests.

Review on a continual basis instead of studying for one extended period of time.

Study with a parent or friend who can "quiz" you.

Request help from teachers for topics you previously found difficult.

DUAL CREDIT COURSE REGISTRATION

On Thursday, December 14, during period 2 study hall, students enrolled in the following year long and second semester dual credit courses will register with Kaskaskia College: Accounting, Advanced Computer Applications, Building Trades II, Chemistry II, CISCO Routing & Switching, English Composition 102, Marketing (if Small

Business Management was completed), Physics Honors, Sociology, Speech, and Weightlifting and Conditioning. **Please note that students must possess their driver's license number and social security number.** Should you have questions, please contact Mrs. Deb Foote.

NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE? FILE THE FAFSA NOW

Parents may file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at this time at www.fafsa.ed.gov. For assistance, please contact Mrs. Goetz.

NOTE: Parents will utilize the 2016 income tax information that is on file with the IRS. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool simplifies this process.

NOTE: Parents must create an FSA ID for both the student and one parent prior to beginning the process (select the "FSA ID" icon in the menu bar on the FAFSA website). The information must match the information on each person's social security card.

NOTE: Remember to submit the FAFSA to all colleges to which your student plans to apply.

ACT PREP STUDY GROUP

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz offers ACT test preps in room 505 during every period 3 study hall (after silent reading).

These sessions are free to all interested students, who may participate in as many sessions as they choose. Mrs. Goetz will review all subject areas included on the ACT, but will focus on the subject areas deemed "most needed" by participants.

Students interested in participating should register on the "ACT Prep Study Group" page on Schoology (code: 24NHR-TCQ2N).

ACT TEST ANSWERS

Students who complete the ACT test on April 14 or June 9 have the opportunity to order (\$20) a "Test Information Release" (TIR).

The TIR provides a copy of the test questions, a student's answers, the answer key, and scoring instructions. For the writing test, a student will receive a copy of the writing prompt, the scoring rubric, and the scores assigned to the essay by two readers.

Students may order the TIR when they register for the ACT test.

ACT TEST DATES

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

February 10, 2018
(deadline January 12, 2018)

April 14, 2018 – at Mater Dei
(deadline March 9, 2018)

June 9, 2018
(deadline May 4, 2018)

July 14, 2018
(deadline June 15, 2018)

NOTES

In order for Mater Dei to receive ACT scores, the registration must include our CEEB code (where a student attends school): 140-395.

Test accommodations must be requested at the time of registration. International and ELL students are eligible for extended time.

To avoid extra fees in the future, students should list potential college choices (to which their ACT scores will be sent) at the time of registration.