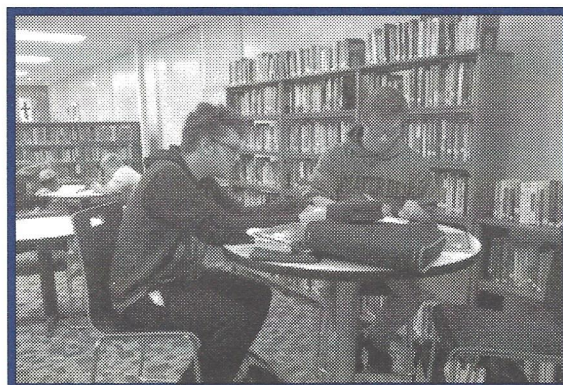


THE BECKER LEARNING CENTER TRANSFORMATION

The school library renovation project has transformed the outdated space into a contemporary study, research, and reading area, named the Becker Learning Center. This project included installing all new work stations, furniture, shelving, and carpeting and adding technological upgrades that benefit Mater Dei students and staff. New librarian, Beth Grapperhaus, oversaw the laborious task of deleting seldom used books and restocking the new bookshelves with fewer but still diverse offerings as Mater Dei continues to move into a Bring Your Own Device and online technology mode. See page 6 for more photos of the Becker Learning Center.



ACT PERFORMANCE



FUN (AND IMPRESSIVE!) FACT:

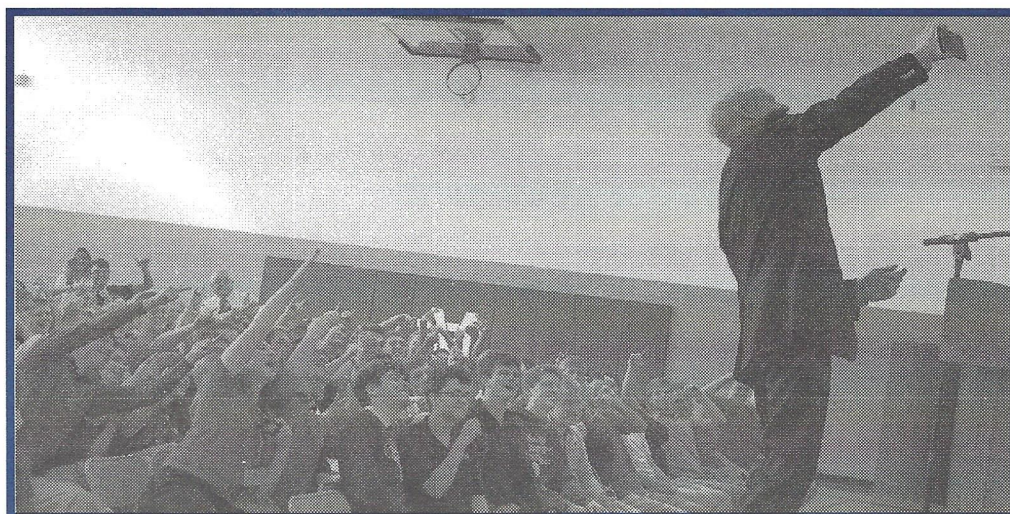
The Mater Dei Class of 2017 included thirty-one students (27%) who earned an ACT composite score of 28 or higher and nineteen students (17%) who earned an ACT composite score of 30 or higher!

For more ACT score information for the Class of 2017, please see page 5.

Congratulations to current Mater Dei senior Ben Logullo who was named a National Merit Commended Scholar!

GOVERNOR VISITS MATER DEI

Illinois Governor Paul Rauner visited Mater Dei on August 30, 2017, to promote the newly signed education bill (SB 1947) that includes a state tax credit for scholarship donations to private schools. See pages 2-4 for specific information on the Tax Credit Scholarship Program.



Gov. Rauner takes a selfie with Mater Dei students during his visit to MD.

MATER DEI AND THE INVEST IN KIDS ACT

The State of Illinois recently passed the Invest in Kids Act to help provide families with funding to attend the schools of their choice. A component of this legislation is the Tax Credit Scholarship Program which can benefit Mater Dei and Mater Dei families.

ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: KEY FACTS FOR DONORS

What is a Tax Credit Scholarship Program?

The program allows individuals and corporations to donate to scholarship granting organizations (SGO) and receive a credit on their state taxes in return. These organizations can then use this money to grant scholarships to qualifying students.

How much is the credit worth?

An individual or corporate donor will receive a 75% credit on their donation. This means that if a donor donates \$10,000, he or she will receive a state tax credit of \$7,500.

- Donations by both individual and corporate donors are capped at \$1 million.
- Individual donors can direct their donations to the school or subset of schools of their choice.
- Corporate donors cannot designate.
- The credit is non-refundable, but can be carried forward for five years.

Can a donor receive a federal tax deduction in addition to a state tax credit for the same donation?

No. The legislation specifically prohibits this.

Is there a program cap? If so, what is it?

Yes, there is a cap. It is \$75 million.

- The cap indicates the amount of tax credits that can be handed out; it does not cap the amount of scholarships that can be distributed under the program.
- In order for the \$75 million cap to be hit, \$100 million will have to be donated.

How does the donation process work?

Beginning on January 1, 2018, individual and corporate donors will be able to reserve tax credits on the Department of Revenue website. The reservation link to the Department of Revenue will not be available until late 2017.

They will then have 60 days to donate the amount they reserved to the scholarship granting organization of their choice.

After donating, they will receive a certificate of receipt from the scholarship granting organization, indicating that a donation was made.

The scholarship granting organization will then notify the Department of Revenue that a donation was made. The final Department of Revenue regulations have not been completed or filed. The regulations will be drafted and filed on an emergency basis by Thanksgiving. Since the regulations will be filed on an emergency basis, they will be effective immediately.

The Belleville Diocese and Mater Dei will keep all parties updated on current information as soon as it is received.

KEY FACTS FOR DONORS (CONTINUED)

Will all the tax credits and scholarships go to Chicago?

No. There is a requirement in the new law that the Department of Revenue ensure distribution of scholarships throughout the entire state in proportion with the nonpublic school enrollment. However, after June 1 of each year, remaining credits will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis without regard to location.

Also, individual donors must remember that they can designate a school or group of schools to receive the scholarship money.

How long will these tax credits be available?

A taxpayer may take a credit under this act beginning on or after January 1, 2018, and ending before January 1, 2023. If the legislature does not extend this tax credit, it will automatically be repealed on January 1, 2024.

What is a scholarship granting organization?

A scholarship granting organization, or SGO, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose primary aim is to give scholarships to students.

- The six Arch/Dioceses in the State of Illinois have agreed to create and use one single SGO.
- It is named Education Partnership of Illinois.
- The website will not be functional until January 1, 2018.

It is important to understand that this new legislation is not limited strictly to Catholic schools. It is open to all non-public schools in the state.

ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: KEY FACTS FOR PARENTS

Who qualifies for scholarships?

Initially, students whose families earn 300% of the federal poverty level or less (\$73,800 for a family of four) qualify. Once a student receives a scholarship, his or her family can earn up to 400% of the federal poverty level (\$98,400 for a family of four).

From January 1 to April 1, priority will be given to students from each of the following categories:

- Students who received a scholarship from an SGO during the previous school year;
- Students who are members of a household whose previous year's total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level (\$24,600 for a family of four);
- Students who reside within a focus district; and
- Students who are siblings of students currently receiving a scholarship.

After April 1, all other qualifying students will be able to receive scholarships.

KEY FACTS FOR PARENTS (CONTINUED)

How does an SGO determine the size of a scholarship a student receives?

In order to qualify for a scholarship, a student's family will have to give official documentation of its ability to receive a scholarship from the SGO.

Based on how a student's household income compares to the federal poverty level, a student will receive the following:

- For students whose household income is less than 185%, the scholarship will be 100% of tuition and necessary fees;
- For students whose household income is between 185% and 250%, scholarships will average 75% of tuition and necessary fees; and
- For students whose household income is above 250%, scholarships will average 50% of tuition and necessary fees.

What is the maximum amount of scholarship a student can receive?

The maximum equals tuition and necessary fees or the statewide average operating expense per student, whichever is lower.

For the current year, the statewide average operating expense per student is \$12,280.

Students identified as gifted, English Language Learners, and who receive services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act can receive higher maximum scholarship amounts.

How will it be determined whether students are benefiting from this program?

All students who receive scholarships will be required to take the state assessment.

ISBE will select an independent research organization to conduct an annual study examining the year-to-year learning gains of students receiving scholarships and a comparison of these learning gains to public school students with similar demographic backgrounds.

How will the process work?

In order to participate in the program, families will need to be either enrolled in a qualified school or have applied for enrollment.

Families will need to apply for a scholarship of tuition and fees through an SGO.

Authorization must be granted to the SGO by the family to access information needed to make the necessary income eligibility determinations.

The application process begins immediately on January 1, 2018.

The SGO will begin granting scholarships on February 1, 2018, for the 2018-2019 school year.

- February and March: Students residing in failing districts and students whose family income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level
- Beginning April 1: Students whose family income falls between 185-300% of the poverty level.

The Diocese of Belleville will open a page on the Diocesan website with information and links to Department of Revenue and the combined diocesan SGO.



CLASS OF 2017



ACT SCORES AND HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased to announce that our Class of 2017 earned exceptional average ACT Scores!

Average ACT Scores Mater Dei Class of 2017

Composite = 24.4 English = 24.7 Math = 23.9 Reading = 24.3 Science = 24.0

State Average

Composite = 21.4 English = 21.0 Math = 21.2 Reading = 21.6 Science = 21.3

Average ACT Scores for college prep curriculum* Mater Dei Class of 2017

Composite = 25.1 English = 25.5 Math = 24.7 Reading = 24.9 Science = 24.8

**This curriculum includes four years of English and three or more years each of mathematics, science, and social studies.*

HISTORY OF AVERAGE ACT COMPOSITE SCORES

Class	MDHS	State	Class	MDHS	State	Class	MDHS	State
'97	22.2	21.2	'04	22.0	19.6	'11	23.5	20.9
'98	22.3	21.4	'05	22.0	20.1	'12	23.7	20.9
'99	21.9	21.4	'06	22.0	20.3	'13	22.8	20.6
'00	22.2	21.5	'07	22.3	20.3	'14	24.4	20.7
'01	22.4	21.6	'08	22.7	20.7	'15	23.9	20.7
'02	21.7	20.1	'09	23.1	20.8	'16	24.4	20.8
'03	21.4	20.0	'10	23.3	20.7	'17	24.4	21.4

THE MATER DEI FOUNDATION

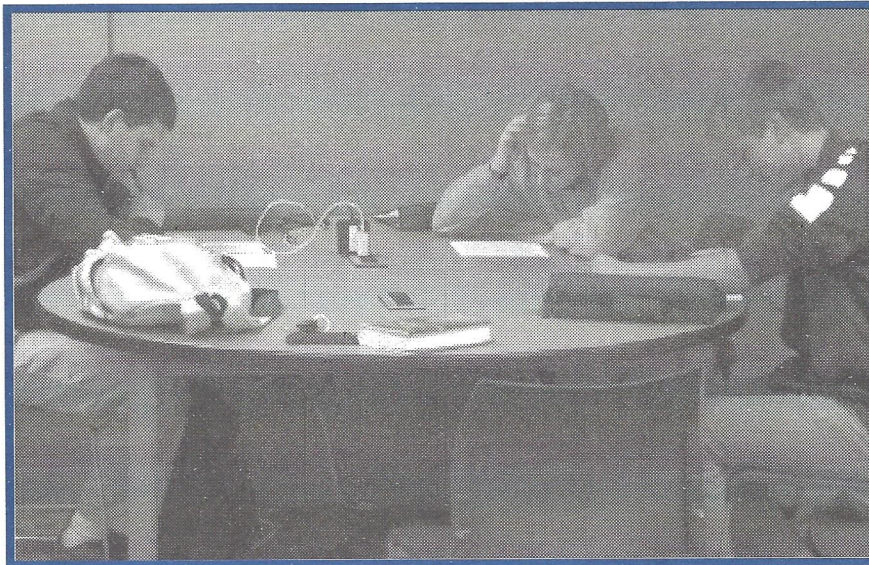
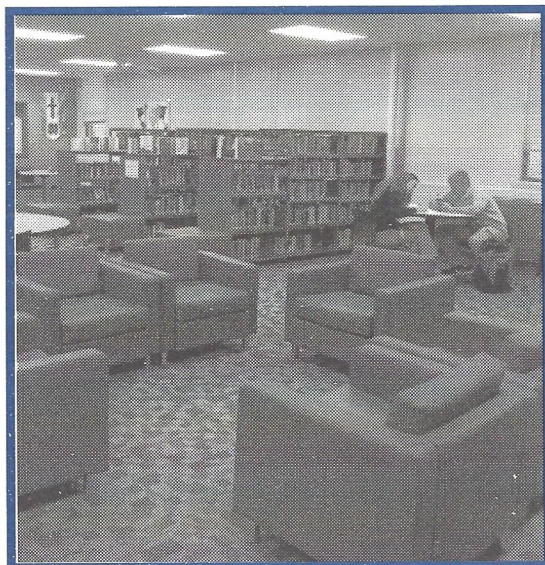
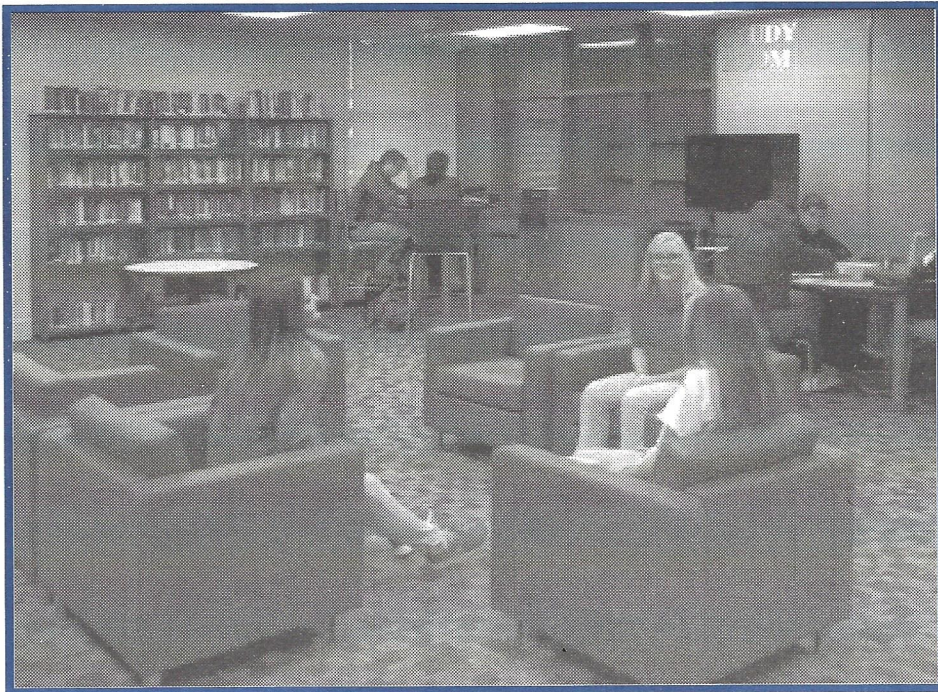
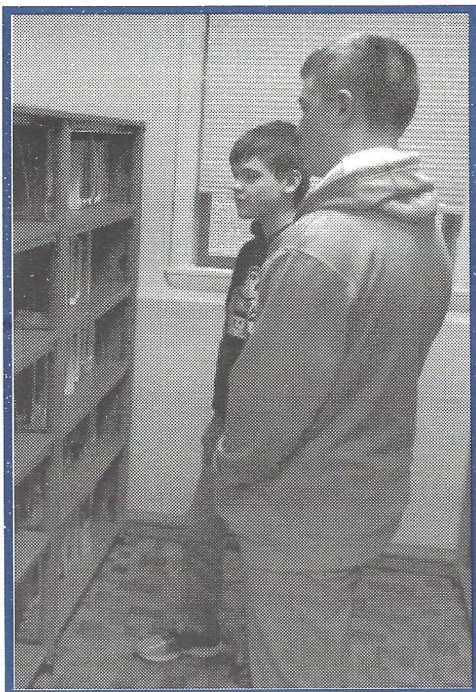
The Mater Dei Foundation, Inc., is a separately incorporated, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable endowment. The Foundation was established in 1988 to provide financial support solely to Mater Dei Catholic High School. Since its inception, the Foundation has contributed \$2,341,316 to be used for expenditures, thereby reducing the operating costs of the school. This in turn helps to maintain reasonably low tuition rates, making a quality Catholic education affordable.

As an endowment fund, all gifts are permanently retained and invested. Revenue generated by careful stewardship of this investment is disbursed annually to the school. Since donations made to the Foundation are never spent, any donations made provide financial stability and security to Mater Dei in perpetuity and will positively impact the lives of generations of Mater Dei students.

Donations to the Foundation can be made online via the school website, www.materdeiknights.org, or through a contribution to the annual fund drive. Other ways to contribute are through estate planning and scholarships overseen by the Foundation. George Kruse has agreed to assist the Mater Dei Foundation in growing its endowment assets by developing and directing a Planned Giving program.

For more information, please contact Mr. Kruse or Mr. Litteken at gkruse@materdeiknights.org or dlitteken@materdeiknights.org.

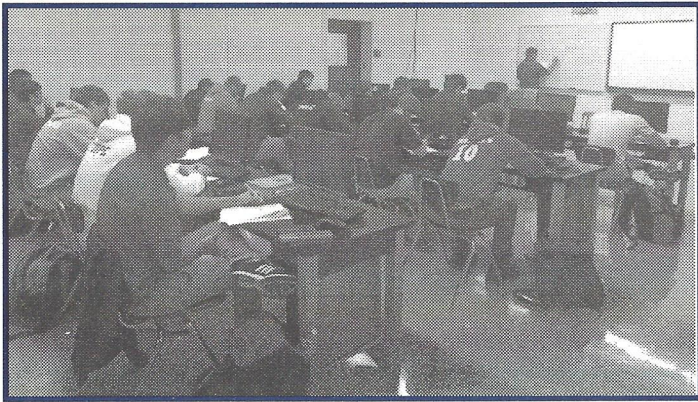
THE BECKER LEARNING CENTER



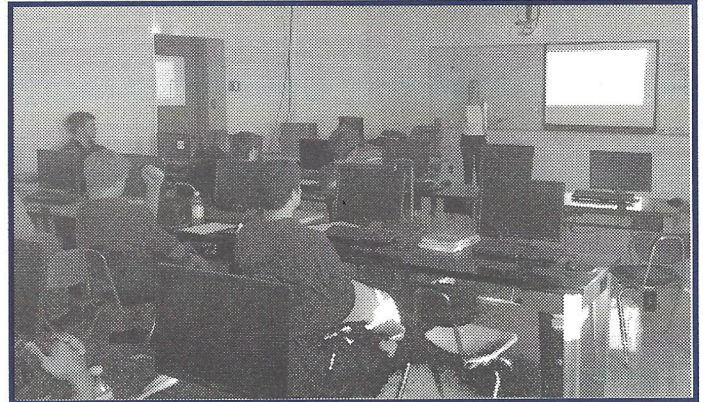
**PLEASE REMEMBER
MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
AND THE MATER DEI FOUNDATION
IN YOUR YEAR-END GIVING!**

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING COURSE ADDED TO MD CURRICULUM

Mater Dei evaluates its curriculum every year in order to ensure that courses offered are consistent with its mission and also are up-to-date with current education trends. With that in mind, Mater Dei added an Introduction to Engineering course for the 2017-2018 school year that is designed to introduce students to the field of engineering. The course incorporates different disciplines of engineering with STEM projects an integral part of the course. Mr. Doug Ratermann of the engineering firm HMG Engineers, Inc. teaches the class, which meets every day during first period and is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Seventeen students chose to include the engineering class in their schedules for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Ratermann hopes that the course can be expanded and more students added for next year.



Mr. Ratermann draws an equation on the board for the Intro to Engineering students to compute and complete.



Nicki Ripperda, MD Class of 2012, speaks to the Introduction to Engineering class on her field of Industrial Engineering and the applications in her work for Nascote Industries in Nashville, Illinois.



Intro to Engineering students work on running a level circuit in the north parking lot. The students start with a point of known elevation and then move the level through a series of points, as if working around a construction site, then check back at the point at which they started. The ideal outcome would be to have the same elevation at all points. The class discussed how this would be used before construction for design and during construction to check the contractor's work.

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Breese, IL 62230

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A FAMILY TRADITION

Mater Dei would like to commend and congratulate the Eugene and Lorene Niemeyer Family for graduating 40 members of its immediate family from Mater Dei!

<i>John Huelsmann</i>	1967	<i>Angi Niemeyer</i>	1998
<i>Gary Niemeyer</i>	1969	<i>Derek Huelsmann</i>	1999
<i>Marie Niemeyer</i>	1969	<i>Nick Niemeyer</i>	1999
<i>Nancy Huelsmann</i>	1970	<i>Craig Niemeyer</i>	2000
<i>Mike Niemeyer</i>	1972	<i>Jeff Niemeyer</i>	2003
<i>Mark Niemeyer</i>	1974	<i>Kelly Zurliene</i>	2003
<i>Carol Niemeyer</i>	1974	<i>Luke Niemeyer</i>	2004
<i>Cindy Niemeyer</i>	1975	<i>Drew Niemeyer</i>	2004
<i>Jim Niemeyer</i>	1975	<i>Sara Doyle</i>	2005
<i>Carl Niemeyer</i>	1977	<i>Chris Niemeyer</i>	2005
<i>Teresa Niemeyer</i>	1978	<i>Katrina Wright</i>	2005
<i>Rita Niemeyer</i>	1980	<i>Laura Thompson</i>	2006
<i>John Niemeyer</i>	1982	<i>Alison Pate</i>	2009
<i>Janice Niemeyer</i>	1982	<i>Erica Niemeyer</i>	2011
<i>Carol Voyles</i>	1985	<i>Brian Niemeyer</i>	2012
<i>Brad Niemeyer</i>	1993	<i>Abby Niemeyer</i>	2014
<i>Keri Monken</i>	1993	<i>Patrick Niemeyer</i>	2015
<i>Tricia Popelar</i>	1995	<i>Alexis Voyles</i>	2015
<i>Erin Nelson</i>	1997	<i>Jared Niemeyer</i>	2017
<i>Kevin Niemeyer</i>	1998	<i>Tori Voyles</i>	2017

CLASS GIFTS

1963 – Has raised \$7,894.76 from 81 donors for the permanent memorial for military veterans on the MD campus as a reminder of the sacrifices many MD alumni have made who have served, fought, and died for our country.

1965 – Made a class donation to Mater Dei for computer/technology needs.

1966 – Made a class gift to the Scholarship Fund in memory of their deceased classmates. The Class of 1966 is also hoping raise funds for a purchase from the wish list of the science and/or technology departments.

1982 – Made a class donation for its 35th class reunion.

1987 – Made a class donation for its 30th class reunion.

1997 – Made a class gift to honor the memory of its two deceased classmates, Scott Detmer and Michelle (Langenhorst) Varel.

FUTURE CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1963 - July 21, 2018

Class of 1968 – Sept. 22, 2018