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 observe 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 donating to our class missions and special causes ($14,202 in the 2015-2016 school year), our students serve others as Youth Faith Formation teachers, Eucharistic Ministers, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Teens for Life members, and St. Vincent De Paul Society members. Moreover, our extracurricular organizations also sponsor service projects throughout the year.

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 members of the Mater Dei family!

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

October 20, 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm

The administration and faculty invite all parents to our Parent—Teacher Conferences in order to discuss the academic progress of their child(ren) with individual teachers.

Report cards will be available in the main office, as well as a “directory” to assist parents in locating teachers.

Please note that the format of our conferences is “first come—first served.”

Of course, if you are unable to attend the conferences, please feel free to contact teachers via phone or email.

Remember to mark your calendar — we hope to see you October 20!

TWO SENIORS HONORED AS NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS

Please join us in congratulating seniors Amber Litteken, daughter of Ron and Cindy Litteken, and Sarah Maller, daughter of Peter and Marsha Maller, for earning recognition as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Amber and Sarah are among only 34,000 students in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition as a result of placing in the top 5% of more than 1.6 million students who entered the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as sophomores or juniors. Of those 1.6 million students, only 50,000 total students are recognized as a commended student, semi-finalist, finalist.

Congratulations to Amber, Sarah and their families for their exemplary dedication to academics!
2017 CALENDAR DRIVE HAS BEGUN

We are pleased to announce that our 2017 Calendar Drive has begun! The only fundraiser for which we request participation from all students, the Calendar Drive, now entering its 32nd year, serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising.

Did you know that the cost to educate each student is $8,161? As a result, $3,000 per student must be funded from two sources: parishes ($1,387 per student) and fundraising ($1,163 per student). Thus, the participation of all families in the Calendar Drive is essential!

Fr. Tuttle, Director of Advancement, met with our students to discuss their vital role in the drive and the many incentives they may earn. Each student is asked to sell a minimum of eight calendars, for which he/she will earn a day off school on March 24, as well as a jeans day each Friday thru January 27. Last year, 86% of our students met this quota.

Additionally, students who sell ten or more calendars earn cash prizes, as well as special dress up days. Last year, 42% of our students sold 10 or more calendars.

Finally, top sellers in each class earn tuition credit ranging from $500 to $150.

Thank you for your support!
Together, we can make the 2017 Calendar Drive a record-breaking success!

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 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 lives.
- to first acknowledge our sins and then to seek and receive forgiveness for those sins.
- to experience the miracle of the Eucharist.
- to share our talents with others by serving as cantors, lectors, servers, ushers, or Eucharistic ministers.

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!

2016 OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, November 6
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Prospective students and their families are invited to explore the unique opportunities we offer our students. Guests will enjoy a guided tour of our campus and receive information regarding our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs; tuition assistance; and transportation.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6!
If you are unable to attend the Open House, but want to receive an informational folder, please contact Maria Zurliene (mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)
**OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE**

3  Homecoming: T-Shirt Day  
   Freshman Retreat Day (Abbott — McSparin)  
   School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
4  Homecoming: Costume Day  
   Freshman Retreat Day (Milikin — Zurliene)
5  Homecoming: Mass (9:40 am); Parade, Coronation and Bonfire (6:00 pm)
6  Homecoming: Lip Sync—Talent Show and Pep Rally
7  No School — Liturgical Convention
8  Homecoming: Dance (8:00 pm—11:00 pm)
10 No School — Columbus Day  
   Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
12 Mater Dei College Night (6:30 pm—8:00 pm)
13 Bishop Braxton’s Visit
14 End of the First Quarter
16 Fall Concert (7:00 pm)
17 Band Parents Meeting (7:30 pm)
19 PSAT Test (registered sophomores and juniors)
20 Parent—Teacher Conferences (4:30 pm—8:00 pm)
27 Senior Retreat Day (females)
28 Senior Retreat Day (males)
31 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**SOUNDS OF THE KNIGHTS ♦ October 16**
Enjoy the sounds of our bands and chorus at the fall music concert, held in the main gymnasium, at 7:00 pm.

**GRANDPARENTS MASS ♦ November 1**
We are pleased to invite our students’ grandparents to join us for Mass at 9:40 am.

**FALL PLAY ♦ November 4, 5 and 6**
Enjoy a performance of our fall play, Frank Capra’s fantasy drama *It’s a Wonderful Life*, presented at 7:00 pm on November 4 and 5, and at 2:00 pm on November 6.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION**
**MARCH 25, 2017**
WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

**OPERATION SAFE HOMES**

It’s not too late to join!
If you have not yet joined Safe Homes it’s not too late!
Simply contact Mr. Jim Darr to participate.

Members of this program pledge to provide a safe home, free of alcohol and drug use, for the students in our community.

An updated directory of participating families will be available on PlusPortals (see “School Links And Files”).

**THANK YOU** to our Safe Home families for making the commitment to provide a safe home, free of alcohol and drugs, for the students in our community!

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

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**OPERATION SAFE HOMES**

It’s not too late to join!

We are pleased to announce that Mater Dei is a registered participant in the Prairie Farms Our Caps Your Cause program!

Simply purchase Prairie Farms white or flavored milk in gallon or half gallon sizes and enter the code found on the special cap sticker at www.prairiefarms.com.

Prairie Farms will then donate $0.05 per cap to Mater Dei!

Please know that your participation is greatly appreciated!

**NOTE:** On the site, first select the “Our Caps Your Cause” icon in the upper right corner. Next, select the “Enter Cap Codes” icon. Finally, select “Mater Dei Catholic High School” from the “Select an Organization” menu.
To assist our students with preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz will host ACT test preps in room 505 during every period 1 study hall (after silent reading) beginning October 17. These sessions are provided free to all interested students. Students may participate in as many sessions as they choose.

Mrs. Goetz will review all subject areas included on the ACT, but will initially focus on the subject area determined “most needed” by participating students.

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

For additional information, please contact Mrs. Donna Goetz, Director of College Placement.

NOTE: An additional extensive ACT test prep will be offered later in the school year.

ACT TEST DATES
Registration information is available in our College Placement Office or on the ACT website (www.actstudent.org).
December 10, 2016 — at Mater Dei (deadline November 4, 2016)
February 11, 2017 (deadline January 13, 2017)
April 8, 2017 — at Mater Dei (deadline March 3, 2017)
June 10, 2017 (deadline May 5, 2017)

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

PSAT TEST — October 19
registration required

All juniors and high achieving sophomores are encouraged to register for the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test.

This test, which assesses students’ skills in the areas of critical reading, math, and writing, prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam. In addition, students who earn high scores on both the PSAT and the SAT are then eligible for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program. Students must register at the College Placement Office. Know that because we possess a limited number of tests, early registration is recommended. The test fee is $16, which may be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei).

Mrs. Goetz invites students and parents to review the College Placement Office page on Schoology (code 4N3C9-XM2CR) and the College Placement Office newsletter, which will be emailed and posted on the PlusPortals home page in the “School Links and Files” window (select “College Placement Newsletters” in the drop-down menu).

The Schoology page and newsletter include information related to college fairs, college visits to Mater Dei, ACT test prep and test dates, and scholarship opportunities. In addition, Mrs. Goetz provides websites related to the college placement process, including preparing for the ACT and SAT, searching for colleges, applying to colleges, applying for financial aid, and NCAA eligibility.
October, 2016

Dear Parents:

Greetings from Mater Dei! I am pleased to share with you 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. Specifically, our goals are for all students “. . . to improve reading comprehension by implementing reading activities . . .” and “. . . to improve writing skills . . . through increased writing activities and expectations . . .”

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 enjoy reading! Thus, we recommend that students possess a 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. Our Faculty Council also adopted both a writing rubric and a standardized writing style sheet that our faculty and students are expected 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