THOUGHTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Let me begin by saying “Welcome!” to our new parents and “Welcome back!” to our veteran parents. It is with great respect for you that I am writing, for I recognize that the support you provide to the students, administration, faculty, and staff is the key to our continued success!

As we begin our 59th academic year, let us be drawn to the Mission of our school. Just as the administration, faculty, and staff are guided by the Mission as they work with our students, we expect our students to develop and to demonstrate attitudes and habits which reflect the Mission as well. It is our belief that by working together, we can provide a positive environment in which our students will achieve their full potential. Thus, please join me in praying that our students will experience a safe, enjoyable, and successful year.

Please also know that all the members of the administration and faculty are committed to maintaining open lines of communication with your family. Thus, in addition to reading the monthly Knight Life parent newsletters and Campus Ministry newsletters, we encourage you to utilize ParentPlus and to contact a member of the administration or faculty for assistance.

In closing, please allow me to say “THANK YOU!” in advance for your support throughout this school year. Know that we recognize the responsibility you have placed on our administration, faculty, and staff and we are committed to making a difference in the life of each of our students.

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.

WELCOME TO THE MATER DEI FAMILY

Class of 2017
our 121 freshmen

Class of 2015
Christin Meyer from Germany

Class of 2014
David Cabello from Mexico
Molly Willey from Greenville
Tom Zhu from China

Faculty
Miss Emily Renschen, who serves in our English Department, as co-moderator of our newspaper, and as moderator of Book Club.

Mr. Ron Schadegg, who serves in our Advancement Office and as our boys basketball coach.

Join us in welcoming our newest knights and their families!
DID YOU FORGET?

If you have not returned the following forms, which are required for all students, please do so as soon as possible:

- “Student Handbook Acknowledgement and Agreement 2013—2014” form
- “School Insurance Exemption” form

Should you need new forms, please contact the main office.

NEWSLETTERS
GO GREEN IN OCTOBER

We are pleased to announce that starting in October, we will return to paperless monthly Knight Life parent newsletters and Campus Ministry newsletters. Since January 2008, this use of technology has benefited our parents, school and environment! Specifically, we will post the newsletters on PlusPortals and our website and no longer mailed home, unless requested. For your convenience, we will send an email to inform you when the newsletter is posted.

NOTE: To continue receiving paper copies of the newsletters by mail, please contact the office.

PLUSPORTALS: The current newsletters are located under “School Files And Links.”

WEBSITE: The current and archived Knight Life parent newsletters are located under “Future Knights” — “For Parents” — Knight Life Parent Newsletters.” The current and archived Campus Ministry newsletters are located under “Faith” — “Campus Ministry Newsletters.”

NEED TO KNOW WHEN?

- The 2013—2014 events calendar and daily schedule (study hall rotation) are available on the PlusPortals home page under “School Links And Files.”
- The events held during our daily study halls will be available on the PlusPortals home page under “Calendar.”
- Athletic schedules are available on our website under “Athletics.”

CLASS ADVISORS
FOR 2013—2014

Freshmen: Mr. Jim Darr
Sophomores: Mr. Marvin Eversgerd
Juniors: Mrs. Donna Goetz
Seniors: Mrs. Deb Foote

Please feel free to contact your child’s advisor for assistance.

SEE YOU ON MONDAYS!

Please join our parent organizations, which provide essential support.

SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY MEETINGS

Mothers & Friends
second Monday at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria

Band Parents
third Monday at 7:30 pm in the band room

Fathers and Friends
last Monday at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria

PlusPortals
www.plusportals.com/MaterDeiHS

We are pleased to offer PlusPortals, our new online link between school and home, to our students and our parents! As you know, the implementation of this system has just begun. Therefore, we sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding as we “iron out the kinks.” Still, should you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dennis Litteken or Mrs. Maria Zurliene.

ACTIVATION The login information (website, user name, password) was emailed to all parents and students. If you did not receive this email, please contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene or Mr. Dennis Litteken.

NOTE: Please check that the email was not sent to your “spam” folder.
NOTE: For individual accounts, different email addresses are required.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS For maximum function, PlusPortals requires the Windows 7 operating system and the latest version of Internet Explorer 10 (10.0.9200.16660) or Google Chrome (29.0.1547.66).

VIEWING “FINAL” GRADES On the home page, in the window listing the student’s name, select the “More …” button. The current “final” grades are listed in the window titled “Progress.”

VIEWING INDIVIDUAL GRADES On the home page, in the window listing the student’s name, select the “More…” button. Next, in the menu bar, select “Scores.” Finally, select the desired class. The grades of individual assignments are listed in the window titled “Activity Scores.”
OPERATION SAFE HOMES:
PLEASE JOIN TODAY

For the safety of our students, we encourage all parents to join our Operation Safe Homes program. Members of this program pledge to provide a safe home, which is free of alcohol and drug use, for the students in our community.

A directory of members will be available on PlusPortals home page under “School Links And Files.” Please show your child that you are in charge and preventing alcohol and drug abuse by contacting Mr. Jim Darr to enroll in this vital program. (Last year’s members are automatically enrolled.)

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

NOTE: Members of this program are indicated in the Buzz Book (our school phone book), which students have the opportunity to order in their homeroom.

SEPTEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No School—Labor Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Freshman Mass (12:30 pm at the Cathedral)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Senior Retreat Day (females)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Senior Retreat Day (males)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>No School—Institute Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Band Parents Meeting (7:30 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lampe Commons &amp; Cafeteria Dedication (2:00 pm to 4:00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Junior Retreat Day (females)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Junior Retreat Day (males)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sophomore Retreat Day (Abert - Koopmann)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PLAN Testing (sophomores Krebs - Wise)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sophomore Retreat Day (Krebs - Wise)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PLAN Testing (sophomores Abert - Koopmann)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Freshman Retreat Day (Abbott - Kreke)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Freshman Retreat Day (Kuenstler - Zurliene)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming 2013 — “A Knight Around the World”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>T-Shirt Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mass (9:40 am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Costume Day—Parade, Coronation and Bonfire (6:00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spirit Day—Lip Sync and Talent Contest and Pep Rally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dance (8:00 pm to 11:00 pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOSTERING FAITH AND DEVELOPING GOSPEL VALUES

Campus Ministry is pleased to announce that during our annual days of retreat, the NET team will lead our freshmen, sophomores, and juniors on their faith journey, while the REAP team will lead our seniors students on their faith journey. (Please refer to the enclosed letter for specific information.)

We are also grateful to St. Anthony Church in Beckemeyer for providing their facilities for our retreats.

Please join us in praying that our students will utilize their retreats as an opportunity to reflect on the many gifts God has given each of them.

OPERATION SAFE HOMES:
PLEASE JOIN TODAY

For the safety of our students, we encourage all parents to join our Operation Safe Homes program. Members of this program pledge to provide a safe home, which is free of alcohol and drug use, for the students in our community.

A directory of members will be available on PlusPortals home page under “School Links And Files.” Please show your child that you are in charge and preventing alcohol and drug abuse by contacting Mr. Jim Darr to enroll in this vital program. (Last year’s members are automatically enrolled.)

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

NOTE: Members of this program are indicated in the Buzz Book (our school phone book), which students have the opportunity to order in their homeroom.

WANT TO JOIN THE KNIGHT CLUB? IT’S NOT TOO LATE!

The benefits of the Knight Club, for both individuals and businesses, have just begun—it’s not too late to join!

To review the benefits, visit our website. (“Athletics” — “Knight Club”)

To join, please contact the office.

HOMECOMING 2013: A Knight Around the World

Members of our Student Council are busy planning the events for this year’s Homecoming celebration, for which they have selected the theme “A Knight, Around the World.”

The celebration, scheduled for September 30 through October 5, will begin on Monday with “T-Shirt Day,” when class pride will be evident as students wear their Homecoming shirts, which were designed by senior Lexi Kohnen. Unity will be built on Tuesday when as a school community, we celebrate our annual Homecoming Mass at 9:40 am. On Wednesday, students will show their creative side for “Costume Day.” The festivities will continue that evening with the parade at 6:00 pm, followed by the coronation ceremony and bonfire. Music from the popular lip-sync and talent contest, along with school spirit, will fill the halls on Thursday. “Spirit Day,” which ends with our Homecoming pep rally. Homecoming week will then culminate with the dance on Saturday from 8:00 pm until 11:00 pm in our gym.

We encourage all students to participate in this important week, which builds spirit and unity among our students!
IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

**ACT TEST DATES**

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

- **October 26, 2013** (deadline September 27, 2013)
- **December 14, 2013** (deadline November 8, 2013)
- **February 8, 2014** (deadline January 10, 2014)
- **April 12, 2014** — at Mater Dei (deadline March 7, 2014)
- **June 14, 2014** (deadline May 9, 2014)

**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.

**PLAN TEST**

for all sophomores

September 25 and 26

Students take the test on the day which is not their retreat day.

**PSAT TEST**

PSAT = Preliminary SAT

sophomores and juniors registration required

October 16

The PLAN test, which assesses the students’ skills in English, math, reading, and science reasoning, will be administered on September 25 and 26 to all sophomores (students take the test on the date which is not their retreat day).

This test also prepares students for the ACT college entrance exam, which is required of all juniors, and provides students with a valuable occupational interest inventory.

Please know that there is no fee for this test, which is administered during school.

**PSAT TEST**

PSAT = Preliminary SAT

sophomores and juniors registration required

October 16

The PSAT test, which assesses the students' skills in critical reading, math, and writing, will be administered to registered sophomores and juniors on October 16. This test, which prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam,

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

We encourage high achieving sophomores and all juniors to register for the test—due to a limited number of tests, early registration is recommended. Please note there is a $15 fee, which is payable to Mater Dei by check (no cash).

**COLLEGE VISITATION POLICY**

Recognizing the importance of college visits for our senior students as they plan for life after graduation, the following college visitation policy has been established:

- Senior students are provided with two school days between August 14 and April 30 for college visits.
- Students must request permission for a college visit from our College Placement Office one week in advance. A note with a parent signature must be presented at that time.
- Students must obtain the signature of a college official on the visitation form provided by our College Placement Office. This form must be presented to the main office upon the student’s return to school.

Please contact Mrs. Goetz should you need additional information.