

## 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

Happy New Year wishes from Mater Dei! I trust that each of you enjoyed a peaceful and holy Christmas season and are now filled with spirit for 2014!

As we begin the new year at Mater Dei, our senior students are sharing their spirit with others through their service projects. It is our belief that this experience allows our young people to develop self-confidence, to become aware of the needs of others, and to recognize the many ways they can serve others. When asked what the face of Jesus looks like, Mother Teresa responded by saying that Jesus is in every person who seeks help from his/her fellow man. Please join us in praying that our seniors experience the face and the hand of Jesus throughout their service work.

Let us also pray for a successful, spirit-filled second semester! We encourage you to utilize PlusPortals in order to review your child's schedule and to remain updated on his/her academic, attendance, and discipline reports. We are confident that with your continued involvement and encouragement, your child will achieve his/her best!

Finally, as we look forward to the joys of 2014, let us also continue to pray for families in our Mater Dei community who faced serious challenges or experienced the loss of a loved one in 2013.

As always, we at Mater Dei are here to serve and to support your family. Thus, please contact us should you need assistance. May the Lord bless your family throughout 2014!

### INTRODUCING ELECTRONIC REPORT CARDS

We are pleased to announce that quarter and semester grades will now be provided electronically through PlusPortals ([www.plusportals.com/materdeihhs](http://www.plusportals.com/materdeihhs)). Thus, we will not mail report cards. Please note that an email will be sent when the report card is available.

The report card will list a student's quarter grades, semester exam grades, semester grades, cumulative grade point average, and cumulative credits.

Finally, because the use of this technology is new, please do not hesitate to request assistance — as always, we are here to serve your family!

**VIEWING THE REPORT CARD** On the home page, in the window listing the student's name, select the "More ..." button. Next, in the menu bar, select "Report Card."

**VIEWING PERCENTAGE GRADES** On the home page, in the window listing the student's name, select the "More ..." button. In the "Progress" window, select the desired grade from the drop down menu: "First Marking Period," "Second Marking Period," "Semester One Exam," or "Semester One Grade."

**NOTE** If you would like a "traditional" report card mailed to your home, please contact Mrs. Deb Foote.

### REVISIONS TO OUR SCHOOL CALENDAR

As Mr. Litteken stated in his email January 15, we have revised our school calendar for the educational benefit of our students.

February 17 (Presidents' Day) - in attendance

March 3 (Casimir Pulaski Day) - in attendance

May 23 (Graduation) - underclass in attendance

NOTE: If necessary, we will also be in attendance on April 17 or 21. This decision will be made in March.

As always, do not hesitate to contact us should these changes affect your family's plans. Thank you for your understanding and support!

### SECOND SEMESTER DROP DATE

To "drop" a second semester class, a student must meet with his/her class advisor by the following dates:

underclass students — January 24  
senior students — February 13

## JANUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 6 School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 13 Mothers & Friends Executive Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 15 FAFSA Workshop (6:00 pm to 8:00 pm)
- 17 X-Schedule (11:15 am dismissal)
- 18 Placement Test — Incoming Freshmen (8:00 am)
- 20 No School — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Band Parents Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 21 FAFSA Workshop (6:00 pm to 8:00 pm)
- 27 Welcome Back Seniors!  
Catholic Schools Week: Community Day  
Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 28 Catholic Schools Week: Student Appreciation Day
- 29 Catholic Schools Week: Vocation Appreciation Day  
Mass — Catholic Schools Week (9:40 am)
- 30 Catholic Schools Week: Faith and Our Nation Day  
FAFSA Completion Night (6:00 pm to 8:00 pm)
- 31 Catholic Schools Week: Faculty Appreciation Day



Please share the dates below and promote Mater Dei to families in your community by sharing the benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei - we know they will be impressed!

- **Incoming Freshman Placement Test**  
January 18 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm  
NOTE: students completing the EXPLORE test (placement test) at their grade school are not required to take the test at Mater Dei. Their scores will be provided to Mater Dei.
- **Parent Information Night (postponed)**  
rescheduled date to be announced
- **Incoming Freshman Registration**  
February 22 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am



## Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service

Joining Catholic schools across the nation, the Mater Dei community will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Catholic Schools Week January 26 through February 1. The theme for this year's celebration is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."

On "Community Day" (Monday), students will celebrate the numerous communities from which Mater Dei is created by wearing shirts with their grade school's logo. They will then enjoy a special meal on "Student Appreciation Day" (Tuesday), for which the cafeteria will be decorated with tablecloths and balloons to create a festive environment. The Mater Dei community, joined by students from All Saints Academy and St. Paul Catholic Grade School, will celebrate "Vocation Appreciation Day" (Wednesday) with an all-school mass, which provides an opportunity to celebrate our Catholic identity with our priests, deacons, sisters, and lay leaders. Red, white, and blue will fill the halls on "Faith and Our Nation Day" (Thursday) to recognize the importance of faith in our nation's history. The celebration will conclude with "Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day" (Friday), when our faculty and staff will be spoiled with a lunch provided by Mothers and Friends.

During this special week, please join us in celebrating all members of our Mater Dei Catholic High School community who remain dedicated to ensuring that Mater Dei continues to serve as a community of faith, knowledge and service.



## LUAU IN THE COMMONS

Saturday, January 18

**FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES**  
are invited to enjoy a casual dance  
following the boys basketball game  
(the dance will end at 11:00 pm)

We thank our Student Council for hosting  
this dance at no cost to the students.

Please "kick-off" Catholic Schools Week by attending Mass with your family January 25 or 26.

## Serving to Learn ... Learning to Serve

The service experience has begun! We are proud to announce that our seniors have been responding to the needs of others in a variety of environments, including day care centers, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, civil agencies, and social agencies, in a variety of locations, including Clinton County, the metro-east area, St. Louis, Colorado, Indiana and Oklahoma. Thus, the benefits of their service are wide spread!

Please join us in thanking coordinator Mr. Jim Darr, who will visit each site in order to speak with both our students and the site supervisors, and those faculty members who have volunteered to mentor seniors during their service experience. The Mater Dei community will enjoy a video collage of photos from the all sites during the Catholic Schools Week mass later this month.

Finally, please pray that this experience is an opportunity for our seniors to both serve to learn and learn to serve.

## Helping Hands Around the World

We are pleased to announce that our students and faculty donated a total of **\$3,526.24** to our weekly mission collections during the first semester!

As in the past, students and faculty donate money to the missions each Wednesday during homeroom. Currently, the freshmen support Sr. Thea Bowman School in East St. Louis, Illinois; the sophomores support the Diocese of Belleville CYO's mission in Guatemala; the juniors support the Sacred Brothers, Sacred Sisters' orphanage in Venezuela; and the seniors support the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ's school in Mexico.

Please join us in thanking our students and faculty for living the Gospel through their commitment to addressing the needs of others —their generosity is truly exceptional!



## MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014**

## A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HELP

Plans are well underway for "Safari Nights," the Mothers and Friends annual dinner auction. One of our largest fundraisers, the dinner auction has raised over \$1,000,000 since its inception twenty-three years ago. To achieve such success, however, we need nearly seventy volunteers. **Therefore, we are asking for your help!**

### VOLUNTEER TO SET UP March 27 and 28

Volunteers are needed on Thursday to set up tables, to construct booths, and to begin decorating. On Friday, volunteers are then needed to finish decorating, to set the tables, to catalog the auction items, and to fill the booths and the gym with the auction items.

### VOLUNTEER AT THE AUCTION March 29

Volunteers are needed during the auction to assist with both the silent and blackboard auctions, the serving of the dinner, and the finances.

### VOLUNTEER TO CLEAN UP March 30

What goes up must come down! Thus, volunteers are needed on Sunday to clean up from the festivities.

### DONATE AN ITEM OR CUSTOM SERVICE FOR AUCTIONING

Contribute to the auction's success by donating items or custom services for auctioning. You can donate individually or coordinate with friends to donate a larger item, such as the always popular tailgating parties, card parties, and dinners. Feel free to also create your own party theme — new and creative ideas are always welcome!

Again, please consider volunteering a little of your time to help make "Safari Nights" the best dinner auction yet! You will both help our students and create lasting friendships!

To volunteer or receive further information, please contact chairpersons Sandy Koerkenmeier (920-9951) or Ruth Rieger (541-9645) or email [mdsafariknights@yahoo.com](mailto:mdsafariknights@yahoo.com).

**THANK YOU for supporting this essential fundraiser!**



## Nominations Sought for Christian Discipleship and Christian Service Awards

Campus Ministry invites you to submit nominations for the Christian Discipleship Award, which is presented to one senior; and the Christian Service Awards, which are presented to one freshman, one sophomore, and one junior. Since their creation in 1997 by the Mission Effectiveness Committee of the Mater Dei School Board, these awards recognize students for their unselfish service to school, church, and community. The senior award recipient will receive his/her award at graduation, while the underclass recipients will receive their awards at the Underclass Awards Night.

To obtain nomination forms, please visit our website ([www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org), "Faith" menu then "Service Awards" menu) or contact Mr. Jim Darr in Campus Ministry (526-7216). Nominations will be accepted until Friday, February 27.

**Thank you for helping us recognize students who dedicate themselves to serving others!**

### HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Please know that you are invited to submit nominations for the Mater Dei Catholic High School Hall of Honor.

The Hall of Honor serves to recognize members of the Mater Dei community whose lifetime achievements or service to Mater Dei exemplify the Mission of Mater Dei.

Nominees must have graduated from Mater Dei, St. Mary's, or St. Dominic's at least twenty years prior to their nomination **OR** have provided significant service to Mater Dei on a continuous basis for at least twenty years prior to their nomination.

To submit your nomination, please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken ([dlitteken@materdeiknights.org](mailto:dlitteken@materdeiknights.org)) by February 21.

**Thank you for helping us recognize those who truly exemplify our Mission!**



### CALENDAR DRIVE GOAL IN REACH!



**THANK YOU to everyone who has dedicated time and effort to the 2014 Calendar Drive!**

With 4,156 calendars sold as of January 14, we are in reach of our goal of selling 4,800 calendars!

The student incentive program and selling competition will continue through January 31, so please continue to sell, sell, sell!

Finally, please remember that students must sell eight calendars to earn their day off school on Friday, March 28.

**Good luck selling and THANK YOU for supporting this important fundraiser!**



## ATTENTION PARENTS OF SENIORS Attend a FAFSA Completion Night at Mater Dei



Mrs. Donna Goetz, our College Placement Director, is pleased to announce that she will offer three FAFSA Completion Nights to assist our parents in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

The sessions will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the library on Wednesday, January 15; Tuesday, January 21; and Thursday, January 30. Parents and their senior students should both attend. (Please note that families may arrive anytime between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm, as families will work at their own pace.)

Prior to attending the session, parents must visit the FAFSA website ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) to create an account and PIN number. (Please note that to avoid delays, the student's social security number and name must be entered exactly as they are listed on the student's social security card.) In addition, families must bring financial records, including tax returns, for both the parents and the student. (Please note that families may use 2012 tax returns and then file a change when their 2013 tax returns are complete.)

If you are unable to attend the scheduled sessions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Mrs. Donna Goetz (via phone: 526-7216, via email: [dgoetz@materdeiknights.org](mailto:dgoetz@materdeiknights.org)).