

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

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 65th 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. 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 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, we encourage you to utilize PlusPortals 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 during 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!



VERSES FOR A FAITH-FILLED SCHOOL YEAR

FOR CONFIDENCE: *Philippians 4:13*

FOR COURAGE: *Joshua 1:9*

FOR ENDURANCE: *Galatians 6:9*

TO FORGIVE OTHERS: *Colossians 3:12-14*

TO BE OBEDIENT: *Proverbs 19:20-21*

welcome

Join us in welcoming our new students, faculty, and staff, as well as their families!

Class of 2022
ninety-two freshmen

Class of 2021
Haley Castillo, Emma Siegler, Kailyn Skinner,
Nacho Martinez Garcia (Spain), and Paul Sae Xu (Thailand)

Class of 2020
June Leelaphannawat (Thailand), Minnie Liang (China),
Hannah Liu (China), Filippo Messina (Italy),
Rick Phajongteerapap (Thailand), and Jiabin Wang (China)

Class of 2019
Luke Delokluanpong (Thailand), Henry Lou (China),
May Pattarasuwan (Thailand), Jib Pettem (Thailand),
Ploy Salasil (Thailand), and Dee Seo (South Korea)

Faculty
Ms. Molly Cowgill and Mr. Thomas Schniers
Theology Department

Staff
Mrs. Lora Schultz and Mrs. Cristy Stone, cafeteria

ELECTRONIC LEARNING DAY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

We are pleased to announce that we will again utilize electronic learning days (ELDs) on snow days, during which learning is not lost, for technology allows our students to have class from home.

In preparation for potential snow days, **Friday, September 21, will serve as our first ELD, during which our students will attend class from home** via Schoology per the x-schedule (8:10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m).

Please know that students will receive instructions regarding our expectations, as attendance will be tracked and homework will be assigned.

As we continue this exciting use of technology, let us reflect on a fitting Chinese proverb: "Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time."

DID YOU FORGET?

If you have not yet returned the following forms, which were mailed with the student schedules, please do so as soon as possible:

- “School Messenger” form
- “School Insurance Exemption” form
- “Student Handbook Acknowledgement and Agreement 2018-2019” form
- “Data Collection” form (freshmen only)

Should you need new forms, please contact the office.

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**

KNIGHT LIFE GOES GREEN

In October, we will return to paperless *Knight Life* parent newsletters. Since January 2008, this use of technology has benefited our parents, school and environment!

Specifically, the *Knight Life* will be emailed and posted on PlusPortals and our website, but not mailed home, unless requested.

NOTE: To request receipt of the newsletters by mail, please contact the office.

PLUSPORTALS: In the “School Links and Files” window, select the “Knight Life Parent Newsletters” folder in the drop-down menu.

WEBSITE: In the “Parents” menu, select “Knight Life Parent Newsletters.”

2018-2019 CLASS ADVISORS

Freshmen: Ms. Colleen McDermott

Sophomores: Mr. Marvin Eversgerd

Juniors: Mrs. Donna Goetz

Seniors: Mrs. Deb Foote

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

together everyone
TEAM
achieves more

For the benefit of our students,
join our active parent organizations
and share your time and talents.

Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Mothers & Friends
second Monday, 7:00 pm, Lampe Commons

Band Parents
third Monday, 7:00 pm, band room

Fathers and Friends
last Monday, 7:00 pm, Lampe Commons

WHERE TO FIND INFO

- The events calendar is available on the PlusPortals home page in the “School Links and Files” window (select “School Folder” in the drop-down menu) and on our website in the “Parents” menu.
- The daily announcements and lunch menu are available on the PlusPortals home page in the “School Announcements” window.
- School news is posted on our website and on our Facebook page (“Mater Dei Catholic High School”).
- Athletic schedules are available on our website in the “Athletics” menu and on our 8to18 page (www.il.8to18.com/materdei).

NOTE: Events may be exported from our website.

For all school events (including athletics): on the home page, select the “Event Calendar” button; on the calendar page, on the bottom right, select the “+Export Events” button.

For only athletic events: in the “Athletics” menu, select “Athletics Calendar;” on the calendar page, on the bottom right, select the “+Export Events” button.

PlusPortals www.plusportals.com/materdeihs

We are pleased to provide our students and parents with PlusPortals, an online link between school and home! Specifically, PlusPortals provides families with academic, attendance, and discipline information, as well as general school information. Should you need assistance utilizing PlusPortals, please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken.

ACTIVATION

Login information (website, user name, password) was emailed to all parents and students. If you did not receive this email, please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken. (Please note that for individual accounts, different email addresses are required.)

VIEWING GRADES

current quarter grades: listed in the “Progress” window on the home page

individual grades: in the “Progress” window on the home page, select the applicable class; on the class page, select “Performance” from the menu bar. (Additional courses may be selected from the “Class” drop-down menu.)

VIEWING CLASS INFORMATION

In the “Progress” window on the home page, select the applicable class; on the class page, select “Class Page” from the menu bar to view the following windows: “Class Summary,” “Homework/Assignment,” “Class Announcements and Alerts,” “Links” and “Files.” (Additional courses may be selected from the “Class” drop-down menu.)

SEPTEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 No School - Labor Day
- 4 School Board Meeting (7:30 p.m.)
- 10 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 16 Freshman Mass (10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral)
- 17 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 18 Major Gift Donors Mass (7:00 p.m.)
- 21 Electronic Learning Day (x-schedule, 11:15 a.m. dismissal)
Faculty Retreat with Bishop Braxton
- 24 2019 Calendar Drive Kick-Off
Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Planning for Homecoming Week October 9-13

- 9 Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 10 Homecoming Shirt Day
Parade, Coronation, and Bonfire (6:00 p.m.)
- 11 Costume Day
- 12 Spirit Day; Lip Sync-Talent Contest and Pep Rally
- 13 Dance (8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.)

FOR SALE

YEARBOOK \$50 — NEWSPAPER \$8 AUGUST 27 — SEPTEMBER 7

Students may place orders in their homeroom for a 2018—2019 *Knight*, our school yearbook, and a subscription to *The Lance*, our school newspaper. (After September 7, the yearbook costs \$55 and the newspaper subscription costs \$10.)

NOTE TO KNIGHT CLUB MEMBERS: Knight Club memberships include both a yearbook and a newspaper subscription. (Order forms must be submitted.)

BUZZ BOOK \$3

SEPTEMBER 5, 6 and 7

Students may place orders in their homeroom for a 2018—2019 *Buzz Book*, our school directory.

The *Buzz Book* lists addresses and phone numbers for students, administration, faculty, staff, coaches, school board members, foundation board members, and parish representatives.

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!

To review the benefits, visit our website ("Athletics" menu, "Knight Club" page)

To join, please contact the office.

SAFE HOMES NETWORK

To begin the 2018-2019 Safe Homes Network, Campus Minister Ms. Colleen McDermott will be emailing an informational letter, which includes an enrollment form, to families.

Members of this program pledge to provide a safe home, free of alcohol and drug use, for the students in our community. Following the membership drive, a member directory will be provided to families.

For the safety of our children, we encourage you to join the Safe Homes Network and demonstrate for your child(ren) your commitment to preventing alcohol and drug abuse. (Please note that last year's members must re-enroll.)



**TOGETHER,
WE CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE!**

HOMECOMING 2018

Members of our Student Council are busy planning the events for this year's Homecoming, "A Knight in Clinton County." We encourage all students to participate in this important week, which builds spirit and unity within our Mater Dei family!

The celebration, scheduled for October 8-13, will begin Tuesday, when as a school community, we celebrate our annual Homecoming Mass (9:40 a.m.). Class pride will be evident on Wednesday, "Homecoming Shirt Day," as students wear their Homecoming shirts, the color of which varies by class. The festivities will continue that evening with the parade (6:00 p.m.), followed by the coronation ceremony and bonfire. Students will show their creative side on Thursday for "Costume Day." On Friday, "Spirit Day," music from the popular lip-sync and talent contest, as well as cheers from the pep rally, will fill the gym. Homecoming week will then culminate Saturday with the dance from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Please join us in thanking our Student Council members, as well as moderators Mrs. Christine Gramann and Mrs. Pam Zurliene, for their dedication!



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION



PSAT TEST registration required

All juniors and high achieving sophomores are encouraged to register for the

Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test, which will be administered October 10. The PSAT assesses critical thinking, math, and writing skills, and 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. The test fee is \$16 and must be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei). Early registration is recommended, as we possess a limited number of tests.

MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT

Mater Dei families are invited to our annual College Night Wednesday,

October 3, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In addition to gaining information from a variety of institutions, families may attend a financial aid presentation at 6:30 p.m. or 7:15 p.m. in the Lampe Commons.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT OFFICE ON SCHOOLGY

Mrs. Goetz invites parents to enroll in the College Placement Office Schoology groups of their choice: the Class of 2019 (senior) group access code is JDRJ9-TWNNS, the Class of 2020 (junior) group access code is TSBMM-7D85B, and the Class of 2021 (sophomore) group access code is 4BQW2-34F3K. A Class of 2022 (freshman) group will be added at a later date. (Students are automatically enrolled in the group for their class.)

In addition, Mrs. Goetz will publish a College Placement Office newsletter, which will be emailed to all parents and posted on Schoology and PlusPortals (on the home page, in the "School Links and Files" window, select "College Placement Newsletters" in the drop-down menu).

The Schoology pages and newsletter include information related to college fairs, college visits to Mater Dei, ACT test prep and test dates, and scholarship opportunities; as well as 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.

KEY STEPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGES

Application Deadlines Students must carefully review application deadlines, as meeting application deadlines may be a requirement for merit scholarships.

Transcripts Students must order transcripts through Parchment Exchange. Mrs. Goetz will then review the order with the student prior to processing the order.

The Common Application Mrs. Goetz will electronically submit transcripts and the "Counselor's Report." Students must verify that the teachers from whom they requested recommendations have successfully submitted the recommendations. Students must also verify that the colleges to which they applied successfully accessed their completed application and supporting materials.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) The new FAFSA will be available October 1. To begin your application, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

NCAA ATHLETICS ELIGIBILITY

Sophomores, juniors and seniors who are considering playing athletics at an NCAA Division I or Division II college or university should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA Eligibility Center website is www.eligibilitycenter.org

ACT TEST DATES

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

October 27, 2018

(deadline September 28, 2018)

December 8, 2018 (at Mater Dei)

(deadline November 2, 2018)

February 9, 2019

(deadline January 11, 2019)

April 13, 2019 (at Mater Dei)

(deadline March 8, 2019)

June 8, 2019

(deadline May 3, 2019)

July 13, 2019

(deadline June 14, 2019)

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, at the time of registration, students should list potential college choices (to which their ACT scores will be sent).

COLLEGE VISITATIONS

Recognizing the importance of college visits for our seniors, we have established the following college visitation policy:

Seniors are provided two school days between August 17 and April 30 for visits.

Seniors must request permission for a visit from the College Placement Office one week in advance. A note with a parent signature must be presented at the time of the request.

Seniors must obtain the signature of a college official on the visitation form provided by the College Placement Office. This form must be presented to the main office when students return to school.