

## 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

As we enter December and the season of Advent, let us remember the purpose of this special season by making time in our busy schedules to reflect on the truly significant gifts in our lives. The gifts of good health, loving families, and meaningful fellowship are gifts we often do, but cannot, take for granted. Thus, as your family prepares to celebrate the birth of Christ, I encourage you to attend Sunday Mass together and to break bread together more often. As you cherish the time spent with loved ones, please also pray for the many families who will be separated from one another this Christmas season.

Throughout the Advent season, our students will be challenged not only to give thanks for the many blessings in their lives, but also to be mindful of those who are in need and to recognize the ways they can help. Of course, December also brings the end of the first semester! Our students will take their semester exams on Wednesday, December 19; Thursday, December 20; and Friday, December 21. We will then dismiss for Christmas break Friday at 11:00 a.m.

On behalf of the entire Mater Dei community, I offer my warmest wishes for a very blessed Christmas season. Please join me in praying that all of our students will understand the reason for this special season. As always, may God bless you and your family!

### ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program was established in education reform bill SB 1947, which was signed August 31, 2017.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Students, including current 8<sup>th</sup> graders, from a household with income below 300% of the federal poverty level. (example: \$73,800 for a family of four)

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Information is available at [www.empowerillinois.org](http://www.empowerillinois.org).

The "Students" menu includes the following pages: "Do I Qualify," "How Do I Apply," "How Does It Work."

#### WHEN TO APPLY

Per the website, the application will be available mid-January.

**APPLYING EARLY IS IMPORTANT**

#### CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dennis Litteken with questions.

### CLASS OF 2019 BOASTS 15 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

We are pleased to announce that the following seniors have been honored as Illinois State Scholars: Sam AuBuchon, Morgan Berndsen, Amy Boeckman, Brady Boeckmann, Kata Bowen, Abby Brandenburger, Angie Carey, Justin Fritch, Max Harad, Olivia Holtgrave, Abigail Kay, Alexis Patton, Madison Stone, Madeline Sullivan, and Meredith Wilke. Moreover, these seniors represent 17% of the eligible members of the class. (The average in Illinois is 10% of a class.)

Selection for this honor is based on a combination of a student's ACT and/or SAT test score(s), GPA, and class rank at the end of his/her junior year, unless he/she scores at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in Illinois on the ACT and/or SAT test(s). While students do not receive a monetary award, they are able to list this prestigious honor on both college applications and scholarship applications.

Please join us in congratulating our Illinois State Scholars - their dedication to achieving academic success has most certainly paid off!

# KNIGHTS ANSWER THE CALL TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us in commending and thanking our students, faculty, and staff for living the Gospel through their commitment to supporting those in need. Their generosity is truly amazing!

## THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We are proud to announce that our students, faculty, and staff donated **a total of 2,060 canned goods and \$150** to our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive! The food was donated to BCMW in Breese, and the money was donated to House of Manna in Breese. As the class competition winner, the sophomore class will enjoy a jeans day. As the homeroom competition winners, the students in Mrs. Gramann's homeroom will enjoy a free beverage and treat at lunch. We thank our National Honor Society members, St. Vincent de Paul officers, National Honor Society moderator Mrs. Deb Foote, and St. Vincent de Paul Society moderator Mrs. KK Schneider for sponsoring this worthy event.

## FBLA JEANS DAY

By hosting a jeans day November 7, FBLA raised \$675 for Community Link First Step, which will be used to help families in need purchase Christmas gifts for their young children. We thank our FBLA members and moderator Mrs. Heather Land for sponsoring this worthy event.

## TEENS FOR LIFE JEANS DAY

By hosting a jeans day November 14, Teens for Life raised \$390 to support Clinton County Citizens for Life and Food for the Hungry. Students had the opportunity to wear jeans with this year's "Babies Matter, People Matter, Life Matters" pro-life shirt or a Mater Dei spirit shirt. We thank our Teens for Life members and moderator Mrs. KK Schneider for raising awareness of all aspects of the pro-life movement.

## KNIGHTS PREPARE TO SERVE

*The halls will be a little less crowded in January, for our seniors will be enjoying their Senior Service Project! Having received confirmation of their service sites in November, seniors have been completing required paperwork, arranging interviews, and receiving orientations. Please join us in praying for our seniors as they experience the joy of responding to our main calling as Catholics: to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.*

THE MAGIC OF *Christmas*  
IS NOT IN THE PRESENTS,  
BUT IN *Christ's* PRESENCE

### OUR ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

Advent is our opportunity for renewal! Therefore, amid the decorating, shopping, and gathering during this holiday season, let us take time to experience a new beginning, for nothing is more healing, energizing, promising, or filled with hope!

Prepare for this special season by reflecting on the gifts God has granted and experiencing your parish's celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

### OUR CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Christmas is the season to celebrate the love of God who chose to become so present to us that he took our own form. As we take time to gather and to celebrate, let us recall the true reason for the season and turn with grateful hearts to our God.

Let us then continue to carry out the Christmas celebration throughout 2019!



## MATER DEI CALENDARS The Gift that Gives Back

Looking for the perfect gift? Give your family and friends a 2019 Mater Dei Calendar and a chance to win a share of \$21,150 in cash prizes! In addition, your child has the opportunity to win the following prizes:

- 8 sales = Friday jeans days & no school April 5
- 10 sales = \$5, then \$10 for each additional five sales, as well as special themed dress days
- for the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, each top seller wins a \$500 tuition credit and each second place seller wins a \$200 tuition credit
- for the senior class, the top seller wins a \$500 tuition credit, the second place seller wins a \$250 tuition credit, and the third place seller wins a \$150 tuition credit

**THANK YOU** for supporting this vital fundraiser - together, we can make a difference!

## DECEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 4 Senior Retreat Day (females)
- 5 Senior Retreat Day (males)
- 9 Christmas Concert (7:00 p.m.)
- 10 Mothers and Friends Christmas Party (6:30 p.m.)
- 12 KC Registration for Dual Credit Courses (period 1)
- 14 Last Day for Second Semester Schedule Changes
- 17 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)  
Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 19 Semester Exams — periods 6 and 7
- 20 Semester Exams — periods 1, 2, and 8
- 21 Semester Exams — periods 3 and 4/5  
Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament
- 27 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament
- 28 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament
- 29 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament



## SOUNDS OF THE SEASON Sunday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for our Christmas Concert, featuring our concert band, jazz band, wind ensemble, and chorus.



## CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT December 26, 27, 28, 29

When finalized, the schedule for our 58<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tournament will be available on our website.

## EXAMS

**WED 19**  
**THU 20**  
**FRI 21**

### Wednesday, December 19

pd 1		8:10 - 8:58
homeroom		9:02 - 9:07
pd 2		9:11 - 9:59
pd 3		10:03 - 10:51
pd 4/5	(lunch)	10:55 - 12:15
pd 6	exam	12:19 - 1:19
pd 7		1:23 - 1:49
pd 7	exam	1:50 - 2:50

### Thursday, December 20

pd 1		8:10 - 8:30
pd 1	exam	8:30 - 9:30
homeroom		9:34 - 9:39
pd 2		9:43 - 10:05
pd 2	exam	10:05 - 11:05
pd 4/5	(lunch)	11:09 - 12:35
pd 3		12:39 - 1:15
pd 8		1:19 - 1:50
pd 8	exam	1:50 - 2:50

### Friday, December 21

pd 3		8:10 - 8:30
pd 3	exam	8:30 - 9:30
homeroom		9:34 - 9:40
pd 4/5		9:44 - 10:00
pd 4/5	exam	10:00 - 11:00

## DATES TO SAVE

### **KNIGHT AT THE RACES ♦ January 19**

We'll be off to the races on Saturday, January 19 for the benefit of our music programs!

Plan to join us at "the track" for an evening of exciting horse races and chances to win prizes!

Reservation forms will be posted on our website when they become available.

### **A KNIGHT AT THE BEACH ♦ April 6**

Plan to enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and fun at the Mothers and Friends dinner auction,

A Knight at the Beach, Saturday, April 6.

## DATES TO SHARE

Our events for families of incoming freshmen are scheduled for the following dates:

### Parent Information Night

January 3, 2019, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### Placement Test

January 12, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### Registration

February 23, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

In your community, please share these dates and promote Mater Dei by informing parents of the unique benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei. We know they'll be impressed!

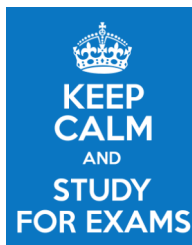
## WHERE HAS THE FIRST SEMESTER GONE?

As the end of the first semester quickly approaches, our teachers are challenging our students to continue to achieve academic success by putting forth an extra effort to remain focused in class, to complete all assignments, and to prepare for semester exams.

Please remind your child that the final weeks impact not only his/her second quarter grades, but also his/her semester exam grades and final first semester grades! In addition, please note

that a student's final first semester grades, which are stated on his/her high school transcript, are used to calculate his/her grade point average (GPA). Thus, we encourage you to continue to play an active role in your child's academic success by helping him/her achieve his/her highest potential. Remember to use PlusPortals and to contact your child's teachers for assistance.

Achieving academic success this first semester will be a wonderful Christmas present all of our students can give to their parents and to their teachers, but most importantly, to themselves!



## WANT TO HELP YOUR CHILD STUDY? strategies to encourage with students

Use index cards (or an app such as Quizlet) to organize key concepts. Referring to a set of cards is more efficient than referring to a textbook.

Rework (not simply reread) problems from previous homework assignments, review sheets, quizzes, and tests.

Review on a continual basis instead of studying for one extended period of time.

Study with a parent or friend who can "quiz" you.

Request help from teachers for topics you previously found difficult.

## DUAL CREDIT COURSE REGISTRATION

On Wednesday, December 12 during period 1 study hall, students enrolled in the following year long and second semester dual credit courses will register with Kaskaskia College: Accounting, Advanced Computer Applications, Building Trades II, Chemistry II, CISCO Routing & Switching, English Composition 102, General

Psychology, Marketing (if Small Business Management was completed), Speech, and Weightlifting and Conditioning. **Please note that students must possess their driver's license number and social security number.** (International students without these forms of identification will still register.) Should you have questions, please contact Mrs. Deb Foote.

## NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE? FILE THE FAFSA NOW

Parents may file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at this time at [www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa). For assistance, please contact Mrs. Goetz.

NOTE: Parents will utilize the 2017 income tax information that is on file with the IRS. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool simplifies this process.

NOTE: Parents must create an FSA ID for both the student and one parent prior to beginning the process ("FAFSA: Apply for Aid" menu, "Filling Out the FAFSA Form" sub-menu, "The FAFSA ID" page). The information must match the information on each person's social security card.

NOTE: Remember to submit the FAFSA to all colleges to which your student plans to apply.

## FREE ACT PREP – PERIOD 8 STUDY HALLS

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz is hosting ACT test preps in room 304 during **every period 8 study hall** (after silent reading).

These sessions are provided free to all interested students, who 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: 822XH-G8XM7).

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

## ACT TEST ANSWERS

Students who complete the ACT test on December 8, April 13, or June 8 have the opportunity to order the ACT Test Information Release (TIR) for \$20 per test date. The TIR may be ordered at the time of registration or during the six-month period after the student's test date.

The TIR provides a copy of the test questions, a student's answers, and the answer key. For the writing test, a student will receive a copy of the writing prompt, the scoring rubric, and the scores assigned to the student's essay.

## ACT TEST DATES

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

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).