Mater Dei Catholic High School

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.

On behalf of our entire school community, we thank you for providing us with the opportunity to share with you and your family the many unique aspects of Mater Dei Catholic High School. We are confident you will find that the information included in this brochure illustrates that our environment continually focuses on “family.”

Faith . . . our students not only learn their faith, but also live and share their faith through their experiences with service, liturgies, and retreats.

Atmosphere . . . our programs and our policies ensure the fulfillment of our Mission to “[nurture] the spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, and social growth of young men and women [in] a caring environment [that is] respectful of individual differences.”

Mentoring . . . our knowledgeable and dedicated faculty offer academic, personal, and spiritual guidance with the assistance of our class advisors, freshman mentors, campus minister, counselor, director of college placement, and PlusPortals (our online link between school and home).

Instruction . . . our extensive, multi-level curriculum fully prepares all of our students, including those needing academic accommodations, for continued academic success, as is exemplified by our ACT scores, our number of Illinois State Scholars, and the percentage of our students who pursue higher education after graduation.

Leisure . . . our numerous and varied extracurricular activities allow our students to discover, to share, and to further develop their many talents and gifts.

You . . . our commitment to serving our students and our parents results in our students’ ability to achieve their fullest potential.

In addition to reviewing the information included in this brochure, we encourage you to visit our website, which provides additional information regarding our programs and policies. We also invite you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (account information below).

Finally, to 7th and 8th grade students, we extend an invitation to shadow a knight (page 6) in order to truly experience the Mater Dei spirit – we know you and your child will be impressed with the Mater Dei family!

Again, we thank you for providing us with an opportunity to share with you and your family the many unique aspects of Mater Dei Catholic High School. Should you need additional information, please contact us.

May God continue to bless your family!

Sincerely,

Dennis A. Litteken
Principal

Maria B. Zurliene
Director of Enrollment

900 NORTH MATER DEI DRIVE
BREESE IL 62230
618.526.7216

EMAIL: knights@materdeiknights.org
WEBSITE: www.materdeiknights.org
FACEBOOK: Mater Dei Catholic High School
INSTAGRAM: breesematerdei
TWITTER: @breesematerdei
LEARNING OUR FAITH  Students enroll in a theology course each semester and participate in a day of retreat with their class each year. We welcome students of other faith traditions, who currently represent nearly 15% of our student body.

LOVING OUR FAITH  For masses, students serve as eucharistic ministers, greeters, lectors, musicians, servers, and ushers. Select seniors serve as catechists for Youth Faith Formation programs at local parishes.

LIVING OUR FAITH  

Service  Students participate in service both as a school community and as individuals. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors complete twelve hours of Works of Mercy each year; seniors complete a three-week Senior Service Project in January, during which they serve in the metro-east, including local communities, and St. Louis.

Class Missions and Special Causes  During the 2017-2018 school year, students donated $13,480.

Liturgical Opportunities  Students participate in masses and prayer both as a school community and in their theology classes. In addition, daily eucharist services and a reconciliation service are offered during Lent.

IN THE WORDS OF OUR STUDENTS . . .

“At Mater Dei, students learn not only academic subjects, but also skills to grow in their faith, become a leader, and develop friendships. In two short years, I have already grown as a person, spiritually and academically, and am building foundations for lifelong friendships. Mater Dei truly makes a difference in students’ lives!”
Gabrielle Millikin, Class of 2020, St. Clare Catholic Church (O’Fallon)

“Mater Dei has made a valuable impact on my life! The education my classmates and I receive prepares us for our future and helps us build a strong relationship with God. In the environment at Mater Dei, it has been easy for me to make new friends and reach my academic goals.”
Kate Toennies, Class of 2019, St. Bernard Catholic Church (Albers)

IN THE WORDS OF OUR PARENTS . . .

“Our decision to send our children to Mater Dei is one we take very seriously. Our family, as a whole, has made many sacrifices in order to afford the quality education that Mater Dei has provided our children. The environment that the administration, faculty, and staff provide all the students makes Mater Dei a special place and worth the investment. We have always believed the value of what we receive is worth more than the cost! We encourage parents to consider not only the educational benefits, but also, and more importantly, that Mater Dei nurtures the spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, and social growth of the students.”
Mark and Allison Cowgill, parents of Adam ’12, Molly ’13, Caroline ’15, Susy ’18, Ben ’22, Catey ’23, Becca ’25, and Maribeth ’30
**CURRICULUM** Our extensive, multi-level curriculum provides all students, including those needing academic accommodations, with the opportunity both to challenge themselves and to achieve success.

**FACULTY** Our knowledgeable and dedicated faculty offer academic, personal, and spiritual guidance to students before, during, and after school.

**CLASS SIZE** With a student-to-teacher ratio of 13:1 and an average class size of 18, students receive individual instruction, guidance, and assistance.

**STUDY HALL** Our daily schedule includes a school-wide study hall. Following ten minutes of silent reading, students may receive assistance from teachers and peer tutors, attend meetings, or complete assignments.

**CLASS ADVISORS** Our class advisors monitor our students’ academic success and provide guidance with course selections.

**PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE** Our College Placement Director provides information and workshops related to the college placement process, including preparing for the ACT and SAT, searching for and applying to colleges, applying for scholarships and financial aid, and NCAA eligibility. In addition, we host a College Fair and offer an ACT prep course taught by Mater Dei faculty.

**COLLEGE CREDIT HOURS** During the 2017-2018 school year, students earned 1,876 hours of college credit at Kaskaskia College through enrollment in our dual credit courses. These credits are then transferable to the colleges in which our students enroll following graduation.

**DUAL CREDIT COURSES**
- Accounting Principles
- Advanced Computer Applications
- Building Trades II
- Chemistry II
- CISCO Networking Basics
- CISCO Routing and Switching
- English Composition 101
- English Composition 102
- General Psychology
- Life Span Growth and Development
- Marketing *
- Small Business Management *
- Speech 103
- Statistics
- Weightlifting and Conditioning

* To earn credit, both Marketing and Small Business Management must be completed.

**AP COURSES**
- American History
- Calculus **
- Spanish **

**TECHNOLOGY**

**Bring Your Own Device Program**
For academic purposes, students may utilize the school-wide Wi-Fi and the electronic device of their choice (except cell phones).

**Electronic Learning Days**
Days of learning are no longer lost to “snow days,” as students attend class electronically using Schoology.

**Electronic Textbooks (e-books)**
The use of e-books has been implemented in numerous courses.

**PlusPortals**
Our interactive web portal provides students and parents with academic, attendance, and discipline reports, as well as general school information.

**Microsoft Office 365**
Students receive an Office 365 email address and a license to utilize Microsoft Office 365 products on their device(s).

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**
- Religion 4.0 credits
- English 4.0 credits
- Mathematics 3.0 credits
- Science 2.0 credits
- Social Studies 2.0 credits
- (including American History)
- Physical Education 1.5 credits
- Consumer Economics 0.5 credit
- Fine Arts 0.5 credit
- Health 0.5 credit
- Speech 0.5 credit
- pass U.S. Constitution Test
- complete Senior Service Project

**NOTE:** For science and social studies, 3.0 credits are recommended for college.

**NOTE:** For foreign language (Spanish), 2.0 credits are recommended for college.

---

**IN THE WORDS OF OUR ALUMNI . . .**

“The top-notch Catholic education I received at Mater Dei is very valuable! Because Mater Dei helped me to grow in the areas of faith, academics, service, and extracurricular activities, I have a solid foundation for future success. The holistic education helped shape me into who I am today.”

Sam Krebs, Class of 2016, currently enrolled at the U.S. Air Force Academy

“I was truly fortunate to attend Mater Dei! In addition to offering a faith-filled environment, Mater Dei provided me with a strong academic curriculum taught by caring teachers who ensured I met my academic goals. I also met many new people who are now lifelong friends.”

Alexa Rinderer, Class of 2018, currently enrolled at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
TUITION AND FEES

COURSE AND ACTIVITY FEE The course and activity fee, paid in August, helps offset the expenses related to instructional materials, graduation (seniors), library services, retreats, technology, testing (sophomores), and free admission to home athletic events, the musical, and the play. This fee ranges from $260 to $340 depending on a student’s grade level and courses.

NOTE: Additional fees are not charged for transportation, participation in extracurricular activities, or parking.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND TUITION ASSISTANCE

UNRESTRICTED SCHOLARSHIPS
- Adam Conrad Memorial Scholarship
- Assumption Catholic H.S. Alumni Scholarship
- August E. Becker Memorial Scholarship
- Bishop Zuwester Scholarship
- Catholic Holy Family Scholarship
- Connie Wade Memorial Scholarship
- Fr. Jerome Feldmann Scholarship
- Helping Hands Scholarship
- Jerome Timmermann Family Scholarship
- Linnemann and Davis Scholarship
- Mater Dei Class of 1963 Scholarship
- Mater Dei Class of 1966 Scholarship
- Matt Heinzmann Leadership Scholarship
- Pay It Forward Scholarship
- Robert J. Klostermann Scholarship
- Sr. Miriam Coover Memorial Scholarship
- Tillie Hustedde Memorial Scholarship

PARISH SCHOLARSHIPS
- St. Anthony, Beckemeyer
- St. Augustine, Breese
- St. Bernard, Albers
- St. Boniface, Germantown
- St. Cecilia, Bartelso
- St. Damian, Damiansville
- St. Dominic, Breese
- St. Felicita, Beaver Prairie
- St. Francis, Aviston
- St. George, New Baden
- St. Joseph, Lebanon
- St. Mary, Carlyle
- St. Mary, Trenton
- St. Paul, Highland
- St. Rose, St. Rose
- St. Teresa, Marydale

MATER DEI MEMORIAL GRANTS
- St. Paul Catholic School
- All Saints Academy and St. Paul Catholic School Scholarships

EDUCATION EXPENSE TAX CREDIT
Parents with a qualifying income may apply for a scholarship through the Illinois tax credit scholarship program (for specific information, visit www.empowerillinois.org).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS

FRIENDS - How will I meet people? Will I make friends?
Meeting new people and making new friends, initial concerns of incoming freshmen, quickly become two of their favorite aspects of attending Mater Dei, as indicated by 80% of the Class of 2020 when they were surveyed as freshmen.

As a school community, we focus on assisting freshmen with their transition. In May, we host a Freshman Welcome to provide the opportunity for freshmen to meet their new classmates. To begin the school year, freshmen experience two unique events: a freshmen-only first day and an overnight freshmen lock-in led by the faculty and seniors. Throughout the year, the freshmen meet monthly with their mentor group, which includes classmates from various towns. Our administration and faculty also observe and communicate with students on a continual basis.

EXTRACURRICULARS - Will I be interested? Will I have time?
We are proud to offer an extensive variety of activities and athletics to provide our students with opportunities to explore, to develop, and to share their gifts and talents. To ensure students are aware of all opportunities, we provide an Extracurricular Activities Guide, which includes descriptions of our activities and athletics, and host an activities fair during which students sign up for activities and receive information from current members.

Aside from athletics, numerous activities hold meetings during the daily school-wide study hall, which not only minimizes or eliminates the need for meetings after school hours, but also allows our students to participate in multiple activities.

QUESTIONS FROM PARENTS

TRANSPORTATION – Where do you provide service?
We provide free transportation (to and from school) for students living outside the Central Community High School district – east to Salem, north to Highland, south to Mt. Vernon, and west to I-64/Air Mobility Drive. (Routes may change due to the demographics of our students.)

EXTRACURRICULARS - Will living outside of Breese limit my child’s participation in extracurricular activities?
Aside from athletics, numerous activities hold meetings during the daily school-wide study hall, which minimizes or eliminates the need for meetings after school hours. Additionally, students are welcome to remain on campus and utilize the Lampe Commons (student center) after school. On a daily basis, we observe students studying, relaxing with peers, or preparing a snack (vending machines and microwaves are available). Finally, families develop carpools to share travel obligations.

ACADEMICS - Can you meet my child’s academic needs?
Our extensive, multi-level curriculum allows all students, including those needing academic accommodations, to enroll in the level of courses that meets their needs. We do not “track” students, knowing that their needs vary by academic discipline. Students may also receive additional assistance from teachers or peer tutors during the daily school-wide study hall. Finally, our faculty welcomes communication with parents to ensure our ability to work hand-in-hand for the benefit of our students.
IN THE WORDS OF OUR STUDENTS . . .

“I am grateful that I am continuing my Catholic education at Mater Dei. Attending Mater Dei has allowed me to grow in my faith, has been the best decision in my academic career, and has provided the opportunity to make many new friends.”

Alyssa Noll, Class of 2019, St. Paul Catholic Church (Highland)

“The Catholic education I receive at Mater Dei is very valuable to me! Mater Dei has enabled me to recognize my potential. I have also discovered my talents and met new people through the many extracurricular activities Mater Dei offers. Finally, I have learned so much from the remarkable teachers.”

Matthew Fuehne, Class of 2020, St. Damian Catholic Church (Damiansville)
We invite 7th grade and 8th grade students to join us for a day of school in order to truly experience the Mater Dei spirit! By shadowing a knight, which includes attending classes, enjoying lunch, and receiving a tour, prospective students gain valuable insight into life at Mater Dei. On the day of his/her choice, a prospective student may shadow a knight of his/her choice or request the selection of a knight with similar interests.

Accept our invitation today! We know you will enjoy the Mater Dei family!

NOTE: For additional information on planning a shadow day, visit our website: “Future Knights” menu, “Shadow a Knight” page.

The following events are held for current 8th grade students and their families.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT
January 3, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

PLACEMENT (EXPLORE) TEST
January 12, 2019, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION
February 23, 2019, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FRESHMAN WELCOME
information provided in the spring

NOTE: Families who are unable to attend an event may contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene (618.526.7216 or mzurliene@materdeiknights.org).

JOIN OUR CLASS OF 2023

900 NORTH MATER DEI DRIVE
BRESEE IL 62230
618.526.7216

EMAIL: knights@materdeiknights.org
WEBSITE: www.materdeiknights.org
FACEBOOK: Mater Dei Catholic High School
INSTAGRAM: breesematerdei
TWITTER: @breesematerdei