

# 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.

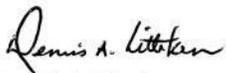
In addition to reviewing the information included in this brochure, we encourage you to visit our website, which provides additional information regarding our programs and policies. We also invite you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (account information below).

Finally, to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

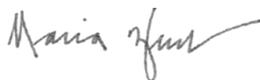
Again, we thank you for providing us with an opportunity to share with you and your family the many unique aspects of Mater Dei Catholic High School. Should you need additional information, please contact us.

May God continue to bless your family!

Sincerely,



Dennis A. Litteken  
Principal



Maria B. Zurliene  
Director of Enrollment



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# FAITH

**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.

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## **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)



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES GUIDE** Students receive a guide that provides descriptions of and contacts for our activities and athletics.

**ACTIVITIES FAIR** Held the first week of school, the fair provides students with the opportunity to sign up for activities and receive information from current members.

**MEETINGS DURING STUDY HALL** Numerous activities meet during a designated school-wide study hall, which allows students to participate in multiple activities.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Academic Challenge Team, Art and Photography Club, Band (concert, jazz, marching, wind ensemble, winter drum line), Bass Fishing, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Book Club, Chess Club, Chorus, Color Guard, Fall Play, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), Liturgical Music Group, Liturgical Planning Team, National Honor Society, Newspaper (*The Lance*), Peer Helpers, Peer Tutors, Pep Club, P.O.P.S. (Power of Positive Students), Sacred Brothers Sacred Sisters, Scholar Bowl, Spanish Club, Spring Musical, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Student Ambassadors, Student Council, Teens for Life, Yearbook (*The Knight*)

## **ATHLETICS**

**Fall** Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer (boys), Volleyball

**Winter** Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading, Wrestling

**Spring** Baseball, Soccer (girls), Softball, Track and Field



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## **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

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# ACADEMICS

**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 \*\*

*\*\* While not official AP courses, the level of the coursework fully prepares students for the AP test.*

## **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.*

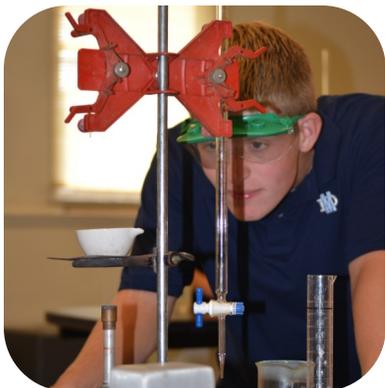
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## **IN THE WORDS OF OUR ALUMNI . . .**

"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**

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## TUITION AND FEES

**TUITION** Families choose from the following payment schedules: twelve-month, ten-month, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual. The 2018-2019 tuition rates are as follows:

**Catholic Students** first student \$5,536, second student \$4,716

**Non-Catholic and Out-of-District Students** first student \$6,036, second student \$5,636

*NOTE: Additional students are not charged tuition.*

**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

Mater Dei is committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of financial resources, receive the opportunity to attend Mater Dei. Thus, families are encouraged to apply for scholarships (academic, leadership, need-based) and tuition assistance. Applications are available following registration.

### UNRESTRICTED SCHOLARSHIPS

Adam Conrad Memorial Scholarship  
Assumption Catholic H.S. Alumni Scholarship  
August E. Becker Memorial Scholarship  
Bishop Zuroweste 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. Felicitas, 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

### ALL SAINTS ACADEMY AND ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

### TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Parents with a qualifying income may apply for a scholarship through the Illinois tax credit scholarship program (for specific information, visit [www.empowerillinois.org](http://www.empowerillinois.org)).

### EDUCATION EXPENSE TAX CREDIT

When filing Illinois state income taxes, parents may claim a credit (\$500 maximum) for qualifying education expenses, including tuition and course and activity fees.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below we address the most frequently asked questions from prospective families. Families with additional questions are welcome and encouraged to contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene, our Director of Enrollment.

### 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 - To 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.

# CLASS OF 2017 ACT SCORES AND ACT COLLEGE READINESS

For the ACT composite score, thirty-one students (27%) earned a score of 28 or higher, and nineteen students (17%) earned a score of 30 or higher.

## AVERAGE ACT SCORES

Composite = 24.4 (state 21.4)  
 English = 24.7 (state 21.0)  
 Math = 23.9 (state 21.2)  
 Reading = 24.3 (state 21.6)  
 Science = 24.2 (state 21.3)

## AVERAGE ACT SCORES FOR COLLEGE PREP \*

Composite = 25.1  
 English = 25.5  
 Math = 24.7  
 Reading = 24.9  
 Science = 24.8

\* This curriculum includes four years of English and three or more years each of mathematics, science, and social studies.

Through research with postsecondary institutions nationwide, ACT has established minimum ACT score benchmarks as a means of more precisely measuring college readiness: English – 18, Math – 22, Reading – 22, and Science – 23.

NOTE: Data for the Class of 2018 was unavailable at the time of this publication.

## PERCENTAGE ACHIEVING ACT READINESS BENCHMARKS

	English	Math	Reading	Science	Met All
Mater Dei college prep	93	78	72	72	53
Mater Dei all students	89	70	68	64	48
Carlyle	65	52	50	38	25
Central	73	46	51	43	30
Centralia	69	34	54	32	25
Greenville	79	62	57	57	45
Highland	84	57	62	50	38
Lebanon	70	65	55	55	45
Mt. Vernon	62	32	44	30	21
O'Fallon	88	66	70	59	50
Salem	70	36	44	31	21
Triad	74	48	56	50	33
Wesclin	77	67	67	60	44

# CLASS OF 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

## KNOWLEDGE

**Scholars** The Class of 2018 included fifteen Illinois State Scholars (17%) and one National Merit Commended Scholar.

**Scholarships** Seventy-five percent of the Class of 2018 received scholarship offers, which totaled \$10 million.

**College Credit Hours** During their four years at Mater Dei, the Class of 2018 earned nearly 1,900 hours of college credit through enrollment in our dual credit courses.

**National Honor Society (NHS)** Forty-two percent of the Class of 2018 were members of NHS, having earned a GPA of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

## INSTITUTIONS AT WHICH MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2018 ARE CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION

Arnhem Business School (Netherlands)	Lindenwood University	University of Evansville
Auburn University	Maryville University	University of Illinois
Benedictine College	McKendree University	University of Kentucky
Central Methodist University	Missouri State University	University of Minnesota
Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)	Missouri University of Science & Technology	University of South Carolina
Eastern Illinois University	Monmouth College	University of Southern Indiana
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Murray State University	University of Washington
Handong Global University (South Korea)	North American Lineman Training Center	University of Wisconsin
Illinois State University	Ranken Technical College	University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
John A. Logan College	Riverside City College	Villanova University
Kansas University	St. Louis University	Webster University
Kaskaskia College	Southeast Missouri State University	Western Kentucky University
Lewis and Clark Community College	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	West Virginia University
Lewis University	Southwestern Illinois College	Yale University
Lincoln College of Technology	University of Alabama	

## 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)



## SHADOW A KNIGHT

We invite 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.*



## JOIN OUR CLASS OF 2023

The following events are held for current 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)).*



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