

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 a renewed spirit for 2019!

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 2019, let us continue to pray for families who faced serious challenges or experienced the loss of a loved one in 2018.

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 2019!

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 8th 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. The "Students" menu includes the following pages: "Do I Qualify," "How Do I Apply," and "How Does It Work."

WHEN TO APPLY

Per the website, the application opens January 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

APPLYING EARLY IS IMPORTANT

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AS PARENT AMBASSADORS

Recognizing that the unique story of Mater Dei is most powerful when told by our families, we developed a Parent Ambassadors program in 2016 to assist us with sharing our story with prospective families. **At this time, we are offering the opportunity for additional parents to join this program.**

ROLE As a Parent Ambassador, you will serve as a contact for and/or directly contact prospective families from your community (as well as surrounding communities, if you choose). Through these contacts, you will provide the different and valuable parent perspective. **Know that this role does NOT require an extensive amount of time.**

TRAINING To gain the knowledge required for this role, volunteers must attend one training session from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on **Thursday, January 17 or Tuesday, January 22.**

RSVP To volunteer as a parent ambassador, contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene to provide the date(s) of the training sessions you are able to attend (mzurliene@materdeiknights.org). (If all volunteers are able to attend the same session, only one session will be held.)

THANK YOU for taking the time to consider volunteering for this important role! As always, your dedication to Mater Dei is greatly appreciated!

JANUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 Parent Information Night (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)
- 4 School Resumes
- 7 Senior Service Project Begins
School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
Mothers & Friends Executive Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 Schedule Change Deadline for Underclass Students
- 12 Placement Test (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
- 19 Knight at the Races (6:00 p.m. gates open, 7:00 p.m. races begin)
- 21 No School — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 28 Seniors Return
Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 30 Mass — Catholic Schools Week (9:40 a.m.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Catholic Schools Week: January 27 — February 2
Schedule Change Deadline for Seniors: February 1

WE ARE RETURNING TO ELECTRONIC REPORT CARDS

We are pleased to return to electronic report cards via PlusPortals (www.plusportals.com/materdeihhs). **Thus, we will not mail report cards. An email will be sent when the report card is posted.** The report card will list a student's quarter, exam, and semester grades, as well as his/her cumulative grade point average and credits.

As always, please do not hesitate to request assistance, as we are here to serve your family!

VIEWING THE REPORT CARD On the home page, select "More..." (right of the student's name). Then, in the menu below the student's name, select "School" and select "Report Card."

VIEWING PERCENTAGE GRADES On the home page, 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.

CALENDAR DRIVE GOAL IN REACH

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE
2019 CALENDAR DRIVE!

With 4,225 calendars sold as of January 7, we are still in reach of our goal of selling 4,700 calendars!

The student incentive program and selling competition will continue through January 31, so please continue to sell! Students must sell only eight calendars to earn their day off school April 5.

Good luck selling, and thank you, again, for supporting this important fundraiser!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2019 January 27 — February 2

Joining Catholic schools across the nation, the Mater Dei community will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 27 through February 2. The theme for this year is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed." Like last year, we are planning a week of fun-filled events!

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 the

we continue to serve as a community in which students may learn, serve, lead, and succeed!



Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

NOTE When finalized, the schedule of events will be emailed to parents and students.

... WANTED ... Knights for the Class of 2023

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

Placement Test

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

NOTE: Students completing the EXPLORE placement test at their school are not required to take the test at Mater Dei. We will receive their scores.

Registration

February 23, 2019, 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!

If you would like an informational folder to share with a prospective family, please contact Director of Enrollment Mrs. Maria Zurliene (mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)

SERVING TO LEARN LEARNING TO SERVE

On Monday, January 7, our seniors began 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, and St. Louis. Thus, the benefits of their service are wide spread!

We thank coordinator Campus Minister Ms. Colleen McDermott, 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 all the sites during Catholic Schools Week.

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



AMAZING HELPING HANDS

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is pleased to announce that during the second quarter, our students, faculty, and staff donated a **total of \$7,326.50** to our weekly collections for class missions and special causes.

Additionally, they donated \$675 for the jeans day our FBLA hosted in November for the benefit of Community Link's First Step program, as well as 135 items to the toy and winter clothing collection our St. Vincent de Paul Society hosted in December.

Thus, a **grand total of \$14,087.89** has been raised during the first semester! Please join us in thanking the members of our Mater Dei family for living the Gospel through their commitment to helping those in need. Their generosity is truly exceptional!

**SCHOLARSHIP
AVAILABLE FOR
CURRENT STUDENTS**

**Parents are encouraged to apply for the
Sr. Miriam Covert, SSND, Memorial Scholarship,
which is available to current students for the current school year.**

**To receive an application or further information,
contact Mr. Dennis Litteken (dlitteken@materdeiknights.org).**

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE THURSDAY, JANUARY 31.

MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HELP

Plans are well underway for "A Knight at the Beach," the Mothers & Friends annual dinner auction on Saturday, April 6. One of our largest fundraisers, the dinner auction has raised over \$1,000,000 since its inception in 1991. To achieve such success, however, we need nearly seventy volunteers. **Therefore, we are asking for your help!**

VOLUNTEER TO SET UP APRIL 4 AND 5

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

VOLUNTEER TO CLEAN UP APRIL 6 AND 7

What goes up, must come down! Volunteers are needed Saturday evening following the auction for a quick start to the clean-up and Sunday morning for the final clean-up.

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! **Donation forms are available in the office and on our website (www.materdeiknights.org, "Parents" menu, "Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction" page).**

CONTACT INFORMATION

To volunteer or to receive further information, visit the dinner auction Facebook page, "Mater Dei Mothers & Friends Dinner Auction," email mdauction19@gmail.com, or contact chairpersons Phyllis Marron (618-541-8333), Kim Schmitt (618-791-4340), or Dina Serven (618-246-7674).

Again, please consider volunteering a little of your time to help make this year's dinner auction the most successful one yet! Many hands make light work! You will both help our students and create lasting friendships!



FREE ACT PREP – PERIOD 8 STUDY HALLS

The ACT prep study sessions offered by Mrs. Goetz are held during **every period 8 study hall** (after silent reading) in room 505.

Students interested in participating should register on the “ACT Prep Study Group” page on Schoology (code: 822XH-G8XM7).

These sessions are free to all students, who may participate in as many sessions as they choose.

ACT PREP COURSE UPCOMING REGISTRATION

Later this month, students will have the opportunity to register for the ACT prep course taught by our faculty beginning in March.

When finalized, Mrs. Goetz will provide the details to families.

ACT TEST AT MATER DEI APRIL 13

Despite a registration deadline of March 8, Mrs. Goetz encourages students to register early for the April 13 ACT test at Mater Dei, as she anticipates a large number of students from other schools. Registration information is available in the College Placement Office and on the ACT website (www.act.org).

NOTE If the registration page shows no available seats, please immediately email or Schoology message Mrs. Goetz, as she can add additional seats.

ATTN: PARENTS OF SENIORS 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.

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.

HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Mr. Dennis Litteken invites you to submit nominations for the Mater Dei Catholic High School Hall of Honor, which 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 obtain a nomination form, please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken (dlitteken@materdeiknights.org). Nominations will be accepted until February 20.

Thank you for helping us recognize members of our Mater Dei community who exemplify our Mission!

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Ms. Colleen McDermott 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 recipient will receive his/her award at graduation; the underclass recipients will receive their awards at the Underclass Awards Night.

To obtain a nomination form, please visit our website (www.materdeiknights.org, “Faith” menu then “Service Awards” menu) or contact Ms. Colleen McDermott (cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org). Nominations will be accepted until March 30.

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

KNIGHT AT THE RACES



**Saturday,
January 19**

**6:00 p.m. gates open
7:00 p.m. races begin**

We're off to the races!

In support of our music programs, meet us at "the track" for an evening filled with friendship, horse races, and chances to win prizes.

Tickets (\$35 per person) include appetizers, open bar, funny money for wagering, and chances to win prizes.

For your convenience, a registration form is provided below.

For additional information, email mdknightsmusic@gmail.com

Reservation Form

Mater Dei Music's

Knight at the Races

January 19, 2019

6pm to Midnight

Student Name

() Received by 01/04/19

() Received after 01/04/19

List the first & last names of everyone included in your reservation:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Total number of Reservations _____ X \$35 = _____ (checks payable to MDMK)

Reservations including 8 or more will have a reserved table at the Knight at the Races.

Contact name phone number

For additional information email: mdknightsmusic@gmail.com