

## 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

Warm greetings from Mater Dei! As we enter the month of February, a strong sense of spirit fills the halls as a result of both the return of our seniors and our Catholic Schools Week celebration. Knowing they have enriched the lives of others through giving of themselves, the seniors have returned with a renewed sense of energy, faith, and purpose.

Energy, faith, and purpose also drive our faculty as they continue to challenge your children to strive for their best in the classroom. I am confident our students will continue to rise to those challenges just as they did first semester, when 15 seniors were named as Illinois State Scholars and over half of the student body earned recognition on the second quarter honor roll (57%) and the first semester honor roll (58%). The success of our students is no accident, but rather a direct result of the commitment of our students, parents, and faculty!

Let us also commit ourselves to answering the call to serve others by sharing the gifts Christ has given to each of us. Many of our students continue to answer this call by serving as a “big” for Big Brothers Big Sisters, a leader for Confirmation retreats, a tutor for their peers, or a cantor, eucharistic minister, lector, server, or usher at Mater Dei and in their parishes. Please encourage your child to share his/her gifts at school and in church.

Finally, as parents and teachers, we play a vital role in passing our Catholic traditions to our students. Thus, we must remember that together, we can make a difference in the life of your child. As always, may God continue to bless you and your family!

### STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER

We are pleased to announce our “Students of the Quarter” for the second quarter of this school year:

seniors Angela Carey & Mitchell Pollmann

juniors Shannon Lampe & Junyong Moon

sophomores Allison Vonder Haar & Blake Kloeckner

freshmen Caleigh Arentsen & Gavynn Baer

The “Students of the Quarter” are selected by the faculty from the list of students who have earned high honor roll or honor roll recognition.

**Join us in congratulating these students and their families for this accomplishment!**

L

Love is *patient*, love is *kind*.



It always *protects*, always *trusts*, always *hopes*, always *perseveres*.

V

*Love never fails.*

E

Happy Valentine’s Day!

### KNIGHTS MARCH AND PRAY FOR LIFE

On January 18, two groups of students demonstrated their dedication to protecting life!

Attending the 46<sup>th</sup> annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., were Mya Albers, Alyssa Becker, Ben Cowgill, Taylor Goring, Spencer Gramann, Zach Holtgrave, Sophia Kenow, Andrew Stevenson, Christian Wascher, Katie Wieseman, and Meredith Wilke.

Attending the prayer vigil at the Clinton County Courthouse were Emerson Dermody, Alyssa Gall, Abbie Gross, Chris Kalmer, Liv Longshaw, Samantha Mansfield, Jordyn Muscarello, Josie Przygoda, Faith Rackers, Kailyn Skinner, and Allison Vonder Haar.

Please join us in thanking these students, as well as all of our Teens for Life members and their moderator Mrs. K.K. Schneider, for their continued dedication to protecting life!



## FEBRUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 2 Junior High Scholar Bowl Tournament
- 5 First Day to Collect Calendar Drive Prize Money  
School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 7 WYSE Regional (Kaskaskia College)
- 8 Band Grade School Tours
- 11 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 14 Band Grade School Tours  
Valentine's Day
- 15 No School — Tri-County Institute
- 18 No School — Presidents' Day  
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 20 Hall of Honor Nominations Due
- 23 Incoming Freshman Registration (8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.)
- 25 Junior Retreat Day  
Fathers & Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 26 Sophomore Retreat Day
- 27 Freshman Retreat Day
- 28 Last Day to Collect Calendar Drive Prize Money

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

The application is currently available on the Empower Illinois website, [www.empowerillinois.org](http://www.empowerillinois.org), under the "Student" menu. The "Student" menu also includes the following pages: "Do I Qualify," "How Do I Apply," and "How Does It Work."

As a reminder, students, including current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, from a household with an income below 300% of the federal poverty level are eligible to apply. (For example, a family of four with an income of \$73,800 is eligible to apply.) In addition, note that **applying early** is important.

As always, should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dennis Litteken.

## CONSIDER SERVING AS A HOST FAMILY FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

The Mater Dei community has been enriched by the presence of our international students, as the learning has been reciprocal in nature. Of course, the international students are able to attend Mater Dei as a result of gracious host families. Please prayerfully consider serving as a host family for the 2019-2020 school year, and contact Mr. Dennis Litteken for additional information.

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CSW CHARITIES

**During Catholic Schools Week,  
the Mater Dei family donated  
an amazing total of \$3,150  
to our Bucks for Bowling Challenge!**

**The challenge was held for the benefit  
of RaeAnne Toennies and her family.**

**Our freshmen, the winning class,  
will soon enjoy crazy bowling.**



**During Catholic Schools Week,  
to share our faith in our community,  
the Mater Dei family donated  
108 activity books and  
colored cards of encouragement  
for the Chemo Survival Kits  
that will be distributed through the  
St. Joseph's Hospital Cancer Care Closet.**



## MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION

Please consider volunteering a bit of your time, for many hands make light work. Moreover, you will both help our students and create lasting friendships. Together, we can make this year's dinner auction the most successful one yet!

**VOLUNTEER TO SET UP APRIL 4 AND 5** On Thursday, volunteers are needed 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](http://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](mailto:mdauction19@gmail.com), or contact chairpersons Phyllis Marron (618-541-8333), Kim Schmitt (618-791-4340), or Dina Serven (618-246-7674).

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS ESSENTIAL FUNDRAISER!**

## Knights Surpass 2019 Calendar Drive Quota!

**THANK YOU** to the Mater Dei community for your dedication to the success of the 2019 calendar drive! We are pleased to announce that as of January 31, 4,410 calendars have been sold!

We are also pleased to announce the students who served as the top salesperson for their class: freshman Kiersten Kennedy; sophomore Jessie Timmermann, who also earned the honor of serving as the school's top salesperson with 100 calendar sales; junior Madi Strieker; and senior Parker Nicklin.

Please note that although the drive has officially ended, calendars are still available for purchase. **In addition, students may still sell calendars to earn a day off school April 5 (8 sales) and to join the 10+ Club (10 sales), whose members will enjoy jeans day and themed dress days on specific Fridays through April 5.** (Students are no longer eligible to earn cash prizes.) Prize money will be available in the Advancement Office February 5 through February 28.

**Again, THANK YOU for your commitment to Mater Dei! Together, we have made a difference!**



## WARM HEARTS CAMPAIGN

It's time to fill the cafeteria windows with hearts for our Warm Hearts Campaign! As a symbol of their commitment to helping pay the heating bills of families in need in our community, students, faculty, and staff who donate will receive a heart to display in the cafeteria.

Donors will also receive raffle tickets for a chance to win free treats at lunch and a Dairy King gift certificate (one ticket for a \$1 donation and five tickets for a \$5 donation).

Please join us in thanking our Theology Department and St. Vincent de Paul Society for reminding us that in times of need, God calls us to serve as "our brother's keeper."

## PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

### ACT PREP COURSE UPCOMING REGISTRATION

We are pleased to again offer our students an ACT prep course at Mater Dei! This month, students will have the opportunity to register for the ACT prep course taught by our faculty, which will be held on three Saturdays in March (dates to be announced). The cost is only \$25 for the course. For an additional \$24, students will also receive *The Official ACT Prep Guide 2018-2019*.

### ACT TEST AT MATER DEI APRIL 13

Despite a March 8 registration deadline, 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](http://www.act.org)).

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

**NOTE:** All Mater Dei students are expected to take the ACT test.

**NOTE:** Mater Dei school code (code for where you attend school) is 140-395. Mater Dei test center code (code for where you take the test) is 173-590. NCAA Eligibility code is 9999.

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

### HALL OF HONOR

The Hall of Honor recognizes members of the Mater Dei community whose lifetime achievements or service to Mater Dei exemplify our Mission.

Nominees must have graduated from Mater Dei, St. Mary's, or St. Dominic's at least twenty years prior to their nomination OR provided significant service to Mater Dei on a continuous basis for at least twenty years prior to their nomination.

To obtain nomination forms (due February 20), please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken ([dlitteken@materdeiknights.org](mailto:dlitteken@materdeiknights.org)).

### CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARDS

The Christian Discipleship Award, presented to one senior; and the Christian Service Awards, presented to one freshman, one sophomore, and one junior; serve to recognize students for unselfish service to school, church, and community.

To obtain nomination forms (due March 31), please contact Ms. Colleen McDermott ([cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org](mailto:cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org))

or visit our website

([www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org), "Faith" menu, "Service" sub-menu, "Service Awards" page)