

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

Just as the fall season is settling in, so too are the students as we approach the end of the first quarter. Please be assured that our faculty members are challenging our students each day and are excited to observe them putting forth the effort required to meet those challenges. Also, know that we, the administration and faculty, greatly appreciate your active involvement in helping our students achieve their highest potential. The support you provide at home, which is essential to your child's success, is second to none! Thus, on behalf of our faculty, I say "Thank you!"

October is a busy month, as our fall sports and band competitions come to an end, and our drama students prepare for the upcoming fall play. As I observe the students participating in our many activities, I continually recognize their amazing commitment, and I am pleased to know that our students are developing values that will remain long after they leave Mater Dei.

More importantly, I take immense pride in our students' remarkable commitment to service. In addition to donating to our class missions and special causes (nearly \$18,000 during the 2018-2019 school year), our students serve as Youth Faith Formation teachers; cantors, extraordinary ministers, lectors, and servers in their parishes; and members of Teens for Life and St. Vincent De Paul Society. Moreover, our extracurricular organizations also sponsor service projects throughout the year.

Our Mater Dei community truly demonstrates our main calling as Catholics: to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. With this calling in mind, we will continue to challenge our students, faculty, and staff to follow the model of Mother Theresa, who once reflected that she saw the face of Christ in every man, woman, and child she met.

As you can see, Mater Dei truly is an exceptional school as a direct result of the commitment of all members of the Mater Dei community. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive, Catholic adults.

THANK YOU for being members of the Mater Dei family!

FRIENDLY REMINDER

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

OCTOBER 23, 4:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

The administration and faculty invite all parents to our Parent-Teacher Conferences in order to discuss the academic progress of their child(ren) with individual teachers.

Report cards, as well as a "directory" to assist parents in locating teachers, will be available in the office.

Please note that the format of our conferences is "first come, first served."

Of course, if you are unable to attend the conferences, please feel free to contact teachers via phone or email.

Remember to mark your calendar . . . we hope to see you October 23!

TWO KNIGHTS HONORED AS NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

We are pleased to announce that seniors Taylor Goring, daughter of Kevin and Jacqueline Goring, and Wren Heiligenstein, daughter of Joe and Ann Heiligenstein, earned recognition as 2020 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists.

Of the 1.6 million students nationwide who entered the competition by taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) Test as juniors, only approximately 16,000 students receive this prestigious recognition.

Taylor and Wren now have the opportunity to continue in the competition, as approximately 15,000 students will attain Finalist standing, and 7,500 students will earn the Merit Scholar title and accompanying scholarship.

Please join us in congratulating Taylor and Wren for their exemplary dedication to academics!

OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 2 2020 Calendar Drive Begins
- 4 No School: Liturgical Convention
- 7 Bishop Braxton's Visit
School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 9 College Fair (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 11 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)
- 13 Fall Concert (7:00 p.m.)
- 14 No School: Columbus Day
Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 16 PSAT Test (registered sophomores and juniors)
- 18 End of the First Quarter
- 21 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 23 Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 28 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Homecoming Week

- 30 Costume Day
- 1 Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 2 Homecoming Shirt Day
Parade, Coronation, and Bonfire (6:00 p.m.)
- 3 Spirit Day; Lip Sync-Talent Contest and Pep Rally
- 5 Dance (8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SOUNDS OF THE KNIGHTS ♦ October 13

Enjoy the sounds of our concert band, jazz band, wind ensemble, and chorus at the fall concert, held in the main gymnasium, at 7:00 p.m.

GRANDPARENTS MASS ♦ November 1

We are pleased to invite our students' grandparents to join us for Mass at 9:40 a.m.

FALL PLAY ♦ November 1, 2, and 3

Enjoy a performance of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, based on the fantasy novel for children written by C.S. Lewis, at 7:00 p.m. November 1 and 2 and 2:00 p.m. November 3.

ROCK 'N ROLL BINGO ♦ November 8

Gather your family and friends for an evening of Rock 'N Roll Bingo to support our band programs. Held at the Albers American Legion, tickets cost \$30 per person. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and Bingo begins at 7:00 p.m. For reservations, contact a band student, call 618-444-1310, or email mdknightsmusic@gmail.com.



O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life. May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

WE CARE FOR AND SUPPORT OUR KNIGHTS

Each of us possesses an inner strength and resilience that can help us find our way, even during the most challenging times. At times, however, it becomes difficult to remember this strength, and we can become anxious, depressed, overwhelmed, and hopeless.

Mater Dei Campus Minister Ms. McDermott, Counselor Mrs. Carroll, and therapy dog Coco are always available to provide our students with the support they need in order to achieve academic, personal, social, mental and spiritual well-being. When working with students in "crisis," we strive to help them regain their sense of balance, focus on their strengths, create positive support networks, and rekindle their spirit of hope.

Please email, call, or visit us at any time throughout the year!

Mrs. Tammy Carroll, Counselor (and Coco, our therapy dog)

phone: extension 352

email: tcarroll@materdeiknights.org

Ms. Colleen McDermott, Campus Minister

phone: extension 102

email: cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org

Crisis Text Line: text HOME to 741741

The Crisis Text Line (www.crisistextline.org) provides free support for people of any age who are experiencing any type of crisis. After texting HOME to 741741, a brief process will connect you to a counselor. (You may "test" this text line and then text STOP prior to connecting with a counselor.) Add the Crisis Text Line to your contacts today!



MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

academic excellence in a faith-filled environment

OPEN HOUSE Sunday, November 3, 2019
FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES WITH STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Discover the unique opportunities of joining the Mater Dei family!
Guests will enjoy a guided tour and receive information regarding our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs; scholarships and tuition assistance; and free transportation.

Free transportation is offered east to Salem, north to Highland, south to Mt. Vernon, and west to I-64/Air Mobility Drive.



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Breese IL 62230
618.526.7216

Email: knights@materdeiknights.org
Website: www.materdeiknights.org
Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
Instagram: [breeseaterdei](https://www.instagram.com/breesematerdei)

EVENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2024

Placement Test
December 7, 2019

Parent Information Night
December 12, 2019

Registration
February 29, 2020

SHADOW A KNIGHT students in grades 7 and 8

Join us for a day of
school to experience
the Mater Dei spirit!

Contact Maria Zurliene
for additional information.

SHARE OUR INVITATION

To help us spread our unique story to prospective families, please share the invitation to our Open House (left).

Please also share the many benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei.

Your story is the
most important story!

SELL, SELL, SELL OUR 2020 MATER DEI CALENDAR

We are excited to announce that the 2020 Calendar Drive began October 2! Entering its 35th year, the Calendar Drive, the only fundraiser for which we request participation from all students, serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising.

Did you know that the cost to educate each student is \$8,852? As a result, approximately \$3,166 per student must be funded from two sources: parishes (approximately \$1,504 per student) and fundraising (approximately \$1,662 per student). **Thus, the participation of all families in the 2020 Calendar Drive is essential!**

Director of Advancement Fr. Chuck Tuttle met with our students to discuss their vital role in the drive and the many incentives they may earn. Each student is asked to sell a minimum of **eight** calendars, for which he/she will earn a day off school on April 17, as well as a jeans day each Friday thru January 31. Last year, 83% of our students met this quota.

Additionally, students who sell ten or more calendars earn cash prizes, as well as special dress up days. Last year, 52% of our students sold ten or more calendars.

Finally, top sellers in each class earn tuition credit ranging from \$500 to \$150.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of this vital fundraiser! For the benefit of our students, let's make the 2020 Calendar Drive a record-breaking success!

Buy



Calendars may now be purchased online!
Visit our website, www.materdeiknights.org,
and select the "Buy a Calendar" button.

(You can name the student to receive credit.)



MAKE TIME FOR MASS

As we enhance our Catholic identity at Mater Dei, we continually focus on our Mission to educate, to foster faith, and to develop gospel values. Participation in Mass plays an essential role in fulfilling this Mission. Thus, please take to heart your vital role in supporting our Mission, for as parents, you serve as role models for our students.

While prayer at home is an important aspect of our faith, it cannot replace the celebration of Mass, which offers the following opportunities:

- to experience community, especially through the Peace of Christ and the prayers;
- to receive inspiration from God's Word, through the readings, the homily, and the prayers, in order to strengthen our commitment to modeling the teachings of Jesus in our lives;
- to first acknowledge our sins and then to seek and receive forgiveness for those sins;
- to experience the miracle of the Eucharist;
- to share our talents with others by serving as cantors, lectors, servers, ushers, or extraordinary ministers.

Please remember that we are all called to live our faith. We make time to answer many other calls - please make time to answer God's call to celebrate Mass with your family every week. God bless you!



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION



MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT

Mater Dei families are invited to our annual College Night on **Wednesday, October 9**, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In addition to gaining information from a variety of institutions, families may attend a financial aid presentation at 6:30 p.m. or 7:15 p.m. in the Lampe Commons.

FREE VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIRS

Students now have the opportunity to attend a virtual college fair via College Fairs Online (www.collegefairsonline.com). For students located in the Midwest, the fall fair will be held **October 7-12**. Students must register for the fair on the College Fairs Online website.

Utilizing virtual booths, colleges and universities provide information related to a variety of topics, including academics, tuition, financial aid, and housing. College representatives are also available to answer questions.

Finally, students are entered to win a \$300 scholarship when they register and each time they ask a question at a virtual booth or complete an information request form.

FREE ACT PREP – PERIOD 1 STUDY HALLS

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz will host ACT test preps in room 505 during **every period 1 study hall** (after silent reading) **beginning October 10**.

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 may check dates on the PlusPortals calendar.

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.

ORDER ACT PREP GUIDE NOW

Mrs. Goetz is now accepting orders for ACT’s *The Official ACT Prep Guide 2019-2020*. The cost is \$22 (retails for \$35). Students who order at this time will receive their guide before Thanksgiving break. This guide is utilized for the ACT prep course we will offer in February and March.

NOTE: Students will have a second opportunity to order just prior to the start of the ACT prep course.

MATH ACT REVIEW IN DECEMBER

Ms. Sackett will offer a Saturday math ACT review prior to the December ACT (date to be determined). The cost will be \$10 per student. Additional information will be provided soon.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT OFFICE ON PLUSPORTALS

Mrs. Goetz is pleased to announce that all parents are enrolled in the College Placement group on PlusPortals. (To access the group, on the homepage, above the main menu, select “Groups.”)

This group includes information related to college fairs, college visits to Mater Dei, ACT test prep and test dates, and scholarship opportunities; as well as websites related to the college placement process, including preparing for the ACT and SAT, searching for colleges, applying to colleges, applying for financial aid, and NCAA eligibility.

PSAT TEST

All juniors and high achieving sophomores are encouraged to register for the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test, which will be administered **October 16** (during the school day). The PSAT assesses critical thinking, math, and writing skills, and prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam. In addition, students who earn high scores on the PSAT are then eligible for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program.

Students must register at the College Placement Office. The test fee is \$16 and must be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei).

Registration is required, as we possess a limited number of tests.

ACT TEST DATES

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

December 14, 2019 (at Mater Dei)
(deadline November 8, 2019)

February 8, 2020
(deadline January 10, 2020)

April 4, 2020 (at Mater Dei)
(deadline February 28, 2020)

June 13, 2020
(deadline May 8, 2020)

July 18, 2020
(deadline June 19, 2020)

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).