

# 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.

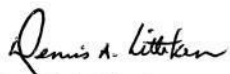
In addition to reviewing this brochure, we encourage you to visit our website for more specific information, including our *Curriculum Guide*, and to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (account information below).

Finally, to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, we extend an invitation to shadow a knight (last page) 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. We hope to serve your family in the future!

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 further develop their faith through enrollment in a theology course each semester and participation in a day of retreat with their class each year. We also welcome students of other faith traditions (currently 13% of our student body).

**LOVING OUR FAITH** For masses, students serve as extraordinary 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; and 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 2018-2019 school year, our students, administration, faculty, and staff donated nearly \$18,000 in support of the class missions and a variety of special causes.

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

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

"With an environment that promotes and encourages students to achieve their best, Mater Dei is a remarkable place for academics. The faculty challenges students in their classes, and students strive to attain high goals. Mater Dei's academic environment truly values the success of students and prepares them for the next level of education."

Logan Mattson, Class of 2021, St. Boniface Catholic Church (Germantown)

"Mater Dei instills in her students a firm foundation to love and to serve others. With faith-based clubs such as St. Vincent de Paul Society and Teens for Life, my classmates and I have been given opportunities to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C., and to hold fundraisers for those in need. Thanks to Mater Dei, I am excited to live out Jesus' mission and to incorporate it into my everyday life."

Katherine Wieseman, Class of 2020, St. Paul Catholic Church (Highland)



# 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, indoor percussion, jazz, marching, and wind ensemble), Bass Fishing, 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, 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 (boys and girls), Football, Golf (boys and girls), Soccer (boys), Volleyball

**Winter** Basketball (boys and girls), Bowling (boys and girls), Cheerleading

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



## **IN THE WORDS OF AN ALUMNA . . .**

"Throughout my four years at Mater Dei, I received continuous support to pursue my goals. From the outstanding education, to the numerous leadership opportunities, to the genuine friendships, Mater Dei provided all I could have wanted in my high school experience. Following graduation, attending the University of Alabama was a huge transition. However, the skills I learned at Mater Dei made my transition easier, as I was prepared to conquer any challenge. More importantly, if I ever need help, whether academic or personal, I know I can always contact a Mater Dei faculty member for guidance. Finally, the friendships that began the first day of my freshman year still remain strong to this day - the friendships turned into family, and family is forever. It is with great pride that I say, "Once a Knight, always a Knight!"

Chloe Higgins, Class of 2019, currently attending University of Alabama

# 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. The curriculum also includes multiple courses in art, business education, and industrial education; an introduction to engineering course; and an introduction to agriculture course.

**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 14:1 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.

**DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE PLACEMENT** Our director of college placement 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. We also host a College Fair and offer an ACT prep course at Mater Dei.

**COLLEGE CREDIT HOURS** Dual credit courses provide our students with numerous advantages following graduation: experience with college-level coursework, financial savings, and the opportunities to earn additional minors or majors or graduate early. The courses are offered at Mater Dei for no additional fee in conjunction with Kaskaskia College. During the 2018-2019 school year, students earned 1,683 hours of college credit, which equates to a savings of at least \$600,000 (based on an average of \$350 per credit hour).

## **DUAL CREDIT COURSES OFFERED AT MATER DEI**

Accounting Principles  
Advanced Computer Applications  
Building Trades II  
Chemistry II  
Child Development  
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 IV \*\*

*\*\* While not official AP courses, the level of 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 five devices.

## **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 A STUDENT . . .**

"As a student commuting from a town 30 miles from Mater Dei, starting high school was a very daunting experience for me. However, the Mater Dei community is welcoming, which helped relieve my stress and fear. With several activities and sports available, I became involved and quickly made friends. Mater Dei has something for everyone! In addition, Mater Dei provides a first day for only freshmen and an overnight freshman lock-in. These events bring the freshman class together and make the transition to high school easier. My experience at Mater Dei has certainly been worth traveling the distance!"

**Faith Rackers, Class of 2020, St. Clare Catholic Church (O'Fallon)**



## TUITION AND FEES

**TUITION** Families choose from the following payment schedules: twelve-month, ten-month, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual. The 2019-2020 tuition rates are as follows:

**Catholic Students** first student \$5,686, second student \$4,816

**Non-Catholic and Out-of-District Students** first student \$6,186, second student \$5,786

*NOTE: Additional students enrolled during the same year 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

### UNRESTRICTED SCHOLARSHIPS

Adam Conrad Memorial Scholarship  
Assumption Catholic H.S. Alumni Scholarship  
August E. Becker Memorial Scholarship  
Bishop Zuroweste Scholarship  
Brent Meyer Memorial 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  
Matt Heinzmann Leadership Scholarship  
Mulvin Foundation Scholarship  
Pay It Forward Scholarship  
Robert J. Klostermann Scholarship  
Sr. Miriam Coovert 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 (\$750 maximum) for qualified education expenses, including tuition and course and activity fees, in excess of \$250.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS

#### **FRIENDS - How will I meet people? Will I make friends?**

When surveyed, our freshmen consistently report that meeting new people and making new friends are two of their favorite aspects of attending Mater Dei.

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.

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

### 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 2018 ACT SCORES AND ACT COLLEGE READINESS

For the ACT composite score, twenty-seven students (27%) earned a score of 27 or higher, and ten students (10%) earned a score of 30 or higher.

## AVERAGE ACT SCORES FOR COLLEGE PREP \*

Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science
24.2	24.3	23.4	24.6	24.0

## AVERAGE ACT SCORES FOR ALL STUDENTS

Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science
23.5	23.6	22.7	23.8	23.5

Through research with postsecondary institutions nationwide, ACT has established minimum score benchmarks as a means of more precisely measuring college readiness: English—18, Math—22, Reading—22, and Science—23. The chart below provides the percentage of students who met those benchmarks.

## PERCENTAGES FOR COLLEGE PREP \*

English	Math	Reading	Science	Met All
85%	58%	72%	58%	43%

## PERCENTAGES FOR ALL STUDENTS

English	Math	Reading	Science	Met All
83%	52%	69%	56%	40%

\* Eighty-four percent of the Class of 2018 completed a college prep curriculum, defined as “core or more” by ACT, which includes four years of English and three or more years each of mathematics, science, and social studies.

NOTE: Official data for the Class of 2019 was unavailable at the time of this publication.

## CLASS OF 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

### KNOWLEDGE

**Scholars** The Class of 2019 included fifteen Illinois State Scholars (15%) and one National Merit Commended Scholar.

**Scholarships** Sixty-three percent of the Class of 2019 received scholarship offers, which totaled over \$5 million.

**College Credit Hours** During their four years at Mater Dei, the Class of 2019 earned nearly 1,600 hours of college credit, an average of seventeen hours per student, through enrollment in our dual credit courses.

**National Honor Society (NHS)** Forty-five percent of the Class of 2019 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 2019 ARE CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION

Appalachian State University  
Bangkok University  
Bellarmine University  
Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary  
Boston College  
Concordia University Irvine  
Drury University  
Heartland Community College  
John A. Logan College  
Kaskaskia College  
MacMurray College  
Marian University  
Maryville University

McKendree University  
Missouri Baptist University  
Missouri State University  
Murray State University  
North Park University  
Oakland University  
Ranken Technical College  
St Louis Community College  
St. Louis University  
Southeast Lineman Training Center  
Southeast Missouri State University  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Southwestern Illinois College  
State University of New York  
University of Alabama  
University of Evansville  
University of Illinois  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Mississippi  
University of Missouri  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
University of Southern Indiana  
Wabash Valley College  
West Virginia University

### IN THE WORDS OF OUR STUDENTS . . .

“Mater Dei offers the opportunity to participate in multiple activities. Personally, I participate in both band and athletics. The band directors and coaches are very supportive and willing to “split” practices when a conflict arises. Additionally, serving as a member of multiple activities has helped me develop leadership skills, time-management skills, and a variety of friendships.”

Ellen Antonacci, Class of 2021, St. Dominic Catholic Church (Breese)

“As a student who enjoys learning, I appreciate the dedication of the teachers at Mater Dei. They take the time to know their students, academically and personally, and challenge their students to push themselves. Also, the teachers are flexible when arranging a time to discuss my questions. I know I will be well prepared for the future!”

Trina Brokering, Class of 2021, St. George Catholic Church (New Baden)





## OPEN HOUSE

November 3, 2019  
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Guests will enjoy a guided tour and receive information regarding our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs; scholarships and tuition assistance; and parent organizations.

## JOIN OUR CLASS OF 2024

Families who are unable to attend an event are invited to contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene (618.526.7216 or [mzurliene@materdeiknights.org](mailto:mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)).

### PLACEMENT TEST

December 7, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

December 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### REGISTRATION

February 29, 2020, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### FRESHMAN WELCOME

information provided in the spring

Prospective families with students in grades 5-8 are invited to discover the unique opportunities of Mater Dei.

The following events are held for current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families.

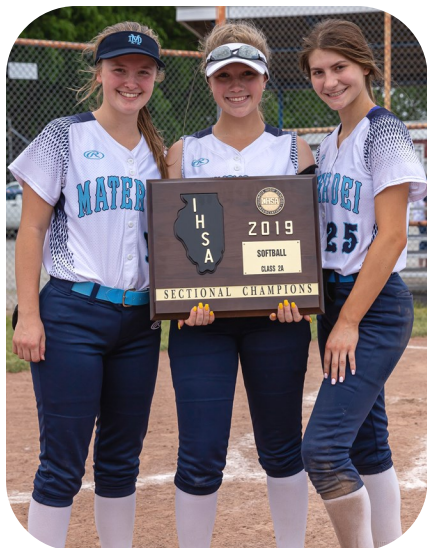
## IN THE WORDS OF OUR PARENTS . . .

"With a current student and two graduates, we are proud members of the Mater Dei family. For our daughters who graduated, now a pharmacist and a nurse, the dual credit courses offered at Mater Dei prepared them for college-level course work and gave them an advantage. Moreover, the dedication and availability of the faculty, as well as the one-on-one college counseling, contributed to their success. Our children are who they are partly because of the core values Mater Dei represents and instills in her students. We are forever grateful and truly blessed!"

Monica and Michael Mensing, parents of Maddy '13, Melanie '16, and Maggie '22

"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



## IN THE WORDS OF OUR STUDENTS . . .

"Before participating in the Shadow a Knight program, we each had mixed emotions about attending Mater Dei. However, we agree that when we shadowed, we were able to experience aspects of Mater Dei that we could never learn by reading a brochure. For example, we saw how teachers taught and how students interacted with each other, received answers to our questions, and enjoyed lunch. (The tater tots were amazing!) Overall, we were able to experience life as a Mater Dei student. The day was enjoyable and made a positive difference. We strongly recommend shadowing a knight!"

Carley Emig, Emily Jansen, Ellen Nuxoll, and Madelyn Vogelbacher; Class of 2023; St. Paul Catholic Church (Highland)

## 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 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.

Schedule today by contacting Mrs. Maria Zurliene (618.526.7216 or [mzurliene@materdeiknights.org](mailto:mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)). We know your child 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.