

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 17 seniors were recognized as Illinois State Scholars and over half of the student body earned recognition on the second quarter honor roll (61%) and the first semester honor roll (61%). 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 tutor or a peer helper; a leader at confirmation retreats; or a cantor, extraordinary 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 Emma Timmermann & Caleb Zurliene

juniors Haley Castillo & Ethan Deerhake

sophomores Sophie Hustedde & Sebastian Bissonnette

freshmen Shyanne Thompson & Ben Miller

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!



PRO-LIFE KNIGHTS

On January 24, the following students attended a prayer vigil at the Clinton County Courthouse: Gavynn Baer, Rebekah Boyer, Sierra Brinker, Ben Cowgill, Emerson Dermody, Philip Harper, Chris Kalmer, Ella Klostermann, Cade Kramer, Samantha Mansfield, Ben Miller, Jordyn Muscarello, Braelyn Proksha, Shane Sauer, Kailyn Skinner, Allison VonderHaar, and Ashley Wuebbels.

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!



Love is *patient*, love is *kind*.
It always *protects*, always *trusts*,
always *hopes*, always *perseveres*.
Love never fails.

Happy Valentine’s Day
from Coco, our therapy dog!

FEBRUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 1 Junior High Scholar Bowl Tournament
- 3 First Day to Collect Calendar Drive Prize Money
School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 5 Band Grade School Tours
- 6 Academic Challenge Team Regional (Kaskaskia College)
Junior Vocations Field Trip
- 10 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 14 No School — Tri-County Institute
- 17 No School — Presidents' Day
Hall of Honor Nominations Due
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 19 Band Grade School Tours
- 22 Incoming Freshman Registration (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
- 24 Fathers & Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 26 Mass — Ash Wednesday (9:00 a.m.)
- 28 Last Day to Collect Calendar Drive Prize Money
X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)

ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

The application is currently available on the Empower Illinois website, 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 8th 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 \$77,250 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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 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 \$4,620** to our
Sumo Wrestling Charity Challenge!

The challenge was held for the benefit
of Maren Poettker and her family.



During Catholic Schools Week,
the Mater Dei family donated
nearly 800 toiletries for the benefit of
the Night Drop-In Center and the
Outreach Ministry Center sponsored by
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Belleville.

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION

Please consider volunteering 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! Thank you in advance for your support of this essential fundraiser!



VOLUNTEER TO SET UP APRIL 16 AND 17

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 18 AND 19

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

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 mdauction20@gmail.com, or contact chairpersons Susan McCray (618-210-7971) or Kellye Holtgrave (314-497-8017).

Knights Surpass 2020 Calendar Drive Quota!

THANK YOU to the Mater Dei community for your dedication to the success of the 2020 calendar drive! We are pleased to announce that as of January 31, 4,280 calendars have been sold!

We are also pleased to announce the students who served as the top salesperson for their class: freshman Carmen Foppe, sophomore Kiersten Kennedy; junior Jessie Timmermann, who also served as the school's top salesperson with 110 calendar sales; and senior Alyssa Gall.

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 17 (8 sales) and to join the 10+ Club (10 sales), whose members will enjoy themed dress days on specific Fridays through April 14.** (Students are no longer eligible to earn cash prizes.) Prize money will be available in the Advancement Office February 3 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 following ACT sessions that will be taught by our faculty on Saturdays in March: science March 14, English and reading March 21, and math March 29. Students may enroll in all three sessions for \$30 or individual sessions for \$12 per session. For an additional \$22, students may purchase *The Official ACT Prep Guide 2019-2020*.

ACT TEST AT MATER DEI APRIL 4

Despite a registration deadline of February 28, Mrs. Goetz encourages students to register early for the April 4 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 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 17), please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken (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).