

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 the many unique aspects of Mater Dei Catholic High School! We are confident you will find that the information included in this brochure illustrates the Mater Dei difference – a difference that positively impacts our students both during and following their four-year high school journey.

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 counselor, campus minister, class advisors, freshman mentors, 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, number of Illinois State Scholars, and percentage of students who pursue higher education after graduation.

Leisure . . . Our numerous and varied extracurricular activities and athletics allow our students to discover, to share, and to further develop their many talents and gifts.

You . . . Our exceptional commitment to serving our students and our parents results in our students' ability to achieve their fullest potential.

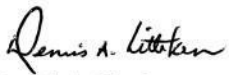
In addition to reviewing this brochure, we encourage you to visit our website for more specific information and to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Finally, to 7th and 8th grade students, we extend an invitation to shadow a knight in order to truly experience the Mater Dei spirit – we know you 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!

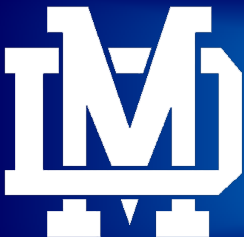
Sincerely,



Dennis A. Litteken
Principal



Maria B. Zurliene
Director of Enrollment



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WEBSITE: www.materdeiknights.org
FACEBOOK: Mater Dei Catholic High School
INSTAGRAM: [breesematerdei](https://www.instagram.com/breesematerdei)
TWITTER: [@breesematerdei](https://twitter.com/breesematerdei)

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 11% 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.

Class Missions and Special Causes During the 2019-2020 school year, our students, administration, faculty, and staff donated nearly \$13,600 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 . . .

"As members of St. Vincent de Paul Society and Teens for Life, my peers and I are able to serve others through events such as prayer vigils, Marches for Life, and our Walk for the Poor. I am grateful that Mater Dei offers numerous opportunities for me to live out Jesus' mission and to strengthen my faith."

Benjamin Miller, Class of 2023, St. Dominic Catholic Church (Breese)

"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)



ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES GUIDE AND FAIR Students receive a guide with descriptions of and contacts for our activities and athletics. They also have the opportunity to sign up for activities and receive information from current members at the activities fair.

MEETINGS DURING STUDY HALL Numerous activities meet during a designated school-wide study hall, which allows students to participate in multiple activities.

ACTIVITIES

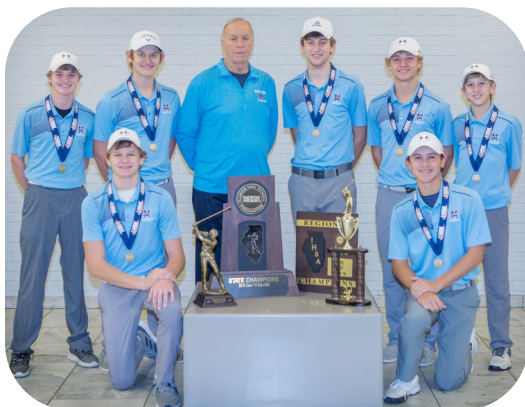
Academic Challenge Team, Art and Photography Club, Band (concert, indoor percussion, jazz, marching, and wind ensemble), Bass Fishing, Book Club, Chess Club, Chorus, Color Guard, Fall Play, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), Liturgical Music Group, Liturgical Planning Team, National Honor Society, Newspaper (*The Lance*), Peer 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 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 they 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)

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.

CLASS SIZE With a student-to-teacher ratio of 12:1 and an average class size of 17, students receive individual instruction, guidance, and assistance from our knowledgeable and dedicated faculty.

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 2020-2021 school year, students earned 1,961 hours of college credit, which equates to a savings of at least \$700,000 (based on an average of \$350 per credit hour).

DUAL CREDIT COURSES OFFERED AT MATER DEI

Accounting Principles
Advanced Computer Applications
CISCO Networking Basics
CISCO Routing and Switching
English Composition 101
English Composition 102
General Psychology
History of American Music
Life Span Growth and Development
Marketing *
Small Business Management *
Speech 103
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.

Electronic Learning Days

Days of learning are not lost to "snow days," as students attend class electronically using Schoology and Microsoft Teams.

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

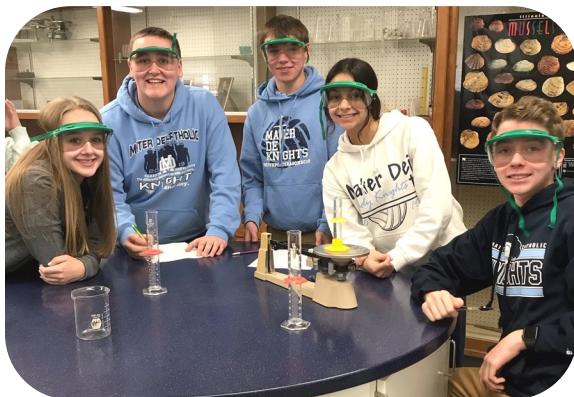
Speech 0.5 credit

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 AN ALUMNA . . .

"From the amazing friendships to the numerous academic opportunities, Mater Dei provided me with an incredible high school experience that was better than I ever could have imagined! Because I spent a lot of time there for school, practices, and events, Mater Dei became my home away from home, and the Mater Dei community became my second family. As a result, I never felt alone because there was always someone there for me no matter what I needed, whether it was a friend, faculty member, or coach. I also know my dream of becoming an engineering student at U of I became a reality because Mater Dei teachers challenged me to become the best version of myself. I can confidently say that even though I was sad to move on, I know Mater Dei prepared me for the next stages of my life."

Meredith Innes, Class of 2020, St. Damian Catholic Church (Damiansville) currently attending University of Illinois

TUITION AND FEES

TUITION Families choose from the following payment schedules: twelve-month, ten-month, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual. The 2020-2021 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

Mater Dei is committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of financial resources, receive the opportunity to attend Mater Dei. Thus, families are encouraged to apply for scholarships (academic, leadership, need-based) and tuition assistance. Applications are available following registration.

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
Joseph Schurman Memorial Scholarship
Linnemann and Davis Scholarship
Mater Dei Alumni Scholarship
Matt Heinzmann Leadership Scholarship
Pay It Forward Scholarship
Robert J. Klostermann Scholarship
Sr. Miriam Coovert Memorial Scholarship
Tillie Hustedde Memorial Scholarship

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).

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.

PARISH SCHOLARSHIPS

St. Anthony, Beckemeyer
St. Augustine, Breese
St. Bernard, Albers
St. Boniface, Germantown
St. Cecilia, Bartelso
St. Damian, Damiansville
St. Dominic, Breese
St. Francis, Aviston
St. Mary, Carlyle
St. Mary, Centralia
St. Mary, Trenton
St. Paul, Highland
St. Rose, St. Rose

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 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.

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, as we know 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 2020 ACT SCORES

We are pleased to share highlights of the ACT composite scores earned by members of our Class of 2020.

AVERAGE ACT SCORE The average of the ACT composite scores for the Class of 2020 is 23.5.

VALEDICTORIANS The average of the ACT composite scores for the Class of 2020's thirteen valedictorians is 30.3.

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS The average of the ACT composite scores for the Class of 2020's seventeen Illinois State Scholars is 30.

ACT COMPOSITE SCORES OF 30 OR HIGHER The top eleven ACT composite scores (12%) for the Class of 2020 are all 30 or higher and have an average of 32.3

ACT COMPOSITE SCORES OF 27 OR HIGHER The top twenty-five ACT composite scores (27%) for the Class of 2020 are all 27 or higher and have an average of 30.

ACT COMPOSITE SCORES OF 24 OR HIGHER The top forty-two ACT composite scores (47%) for the Class of 2020 are all 24 or higher and have an average of 27.9

CLASS OF 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

FAITH The Class of 2020 included thirty-two extraordinary ministers and fifteen catechists who served Youth Faith Formation programs.

SERVICE The Class of 2020 provided nearly 13,000 hours of service and donated to St. Anne Mission Hospital in Africa as their class mission.

KNOWLEDGE

Scholars The Class of 2020 included two National Merit Scholarship Finalists and seventeen Illinois State Scholars (17% of the eligible members of the class).

Scholarships Seventy-three percent of the Class of 2020 received scholarship offers, which totaled \$9.8 million.

College Credit Hours Through enrollment in our dual credit courses during their four years at Mater Dei, the Class of 2020 earned a total of 2,022 hours of college credit, an average of nineteen credit hours per student. These hours equate to a savings of at least \$700,000 (based on an average of \$350 per credit hour).

National Honor Society (NHS) Forty-eight percent of the Class of 2020 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 2020 ARE CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION

Arizona State University
Benedictine College
Black Hills State University
Carnegie Mellon University
Drake University
Eastern Illinois University
Florida State University
Greenville University
Griffith College
Illinois College
John A. Logan College
Kaskaskia College
Lewis and Clark Community College
Lindenwood University
Loyola University Chicago

Marian University
Marquette University
Maryville University
McKendree University
Millikin University
Missouri State University
Mount Mercy University
Murray State University
NYU Abu Dhabi
Purdue University
Quincy College
Quincy University
Ranken Technical College
Rend Lake College
St. Louis University

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Southwestern Illinois College
University of Alabama
University of Evansville
University of Illinois
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Kansas
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Southern Indiana
Utah State University
Washington University
Webster University

IN THE WORDS OF AN ALUMNA . . .

"As a student commuting from a town 30 miles from Mater Dei, starting high school was a very daunting experience for me. However, because the Mater Dei community is welcoming, I was relieved of 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 hosts a Freshman Welcome in the spring and a first day for only freshmen at the start of the year. These events bring the freshman class together and make the transition to high school easier. My experience at Mater Dei was certainly worth traveling the distance!"

Faith Rackers, Class of 2020, St. Clare Catholic Church (O'Fallon)
currently attending University of Missouri



OPEN HOUSE

November 1, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Prospective families with students in 5th through 8th grade are invited to discover the many unique

opportunities offered at Mater Dei.

Guests will enjoy a guided tour and receive information regarding our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs; College Placement Office; and parent organizations.

NOTE: Advance registration is required and limited. Please visit our website for online registration.

JOIN OUR CLASS OF 2025

The following events are held for current 8th grade students and their families.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

December 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACEMENT TEST

December 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION

February 20, 2021, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

FRESHMAN WELCOME

information provided in the spring

Families who are unable to attend an event are invited to contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene (618-526-7216 or mzurliene@materdeiknights.org).

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, Ellen Nuxoll, and Madelyn Vogelbacher;
Class of 2023; St. Paul Catholic Church (Highland)**

SHADOW A KNIGHT

We invite 7th grade and 8th 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.

We know your child will enjoy the Mater Dei family! Schedule today by contacting Mrs. Maria Zurliene (618-526-7216 or mzurliene@materdeiknights.org).

NOTE: For additional information on planning a shadow day, visit our website: "Prospective Families" menu, "Visit Us" page.