

## 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! Following our Catholic Schools Week (CSW) celebration, which included both our CSW charity and our CSW collection, a strong sense of spirit fills the halls. I pray our students possess a renewed sense of energy, faith, and purpose knowing they have enriched the lives of others through giving of themselves.

Energy, faith, and purpose also drive our faculty as they continue to challenge both our in-person learners and our remote learners to strive for their best. I am confident our students will continue to rise to those challenges just as they did first semester, when 68% earned recognition on the second quarter honor roll, and 72% earned recognition on the first semester honor roll. The success of our students is no accident, but rather a direct result of their commitment, as well as the commitment of our parents and faculty!

Let us also continue to commit ourselves to answering the call to serve others by sharing the gifts Christ has given to each of us. Many of our students answer this call by serving as a tutor; a leader at confirmation retreats; or a cantor, extraordinary minister, lector, server, or usher 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 Morgan Oertel & Spencer Gramann
- juniors Kiersten Kennedy & John Venhaus
- sophomores Carley Emig & Jack Heimann
- freshmen Alayna Benhoff & Eli Kohrmann

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 29, the following students attended a pro-life prayer vigil at the Clinton County Courthouse: Alayna Benhoff, Ella Klostermann, Eli Kohrmann, Paulina Kosierkiewicz, Barrett Lampe, Katie McElhose, Ava McSparin, Jordyn Muscarello, and Samantha Muscarello.

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 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 2 Academic Challenge Team Regional (online testing)
- 8 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 12 No School: Tri-County Institute
- 15 No School: Presidents' Day  
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 17 Ash Wednesday Mass
- 20 Incoming Freshman Registration (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)  
Hall of Honor Nominations Due
- 22 Fathers & Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 26 Last Day to Collect Calendar Drive Prize Money  
X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)



## ASH WEDNESDAY MASS Wednesday, February 17

Due to precautions related to COVID-19, our Ash Wednesday Mass will not be open to the public.

We will post a recording of the Mass on our website.

(On the home page, in the "Announcements" section, view the "Virtual Masses and Devotions" post.)

## CONSIDER SERVING AS A HOST FAMILY FOR THE 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 school year, and contact Mr. Dennis Litteken for additional information.

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CSW CHARITIES

During Catholic Schools Week, the Mater Dei community donated an exceptional total of \$4,412 to Mr. Andy Buller '02 and his family. Mr. Buller is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments following his diagnosis of Hodgkin's Lymphoma.



During Catholic Schools Week, the Mater Dei community donated 2,103 individually-packaged food items for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Belleville's Night Drop-In Center. The items will be used for sack lunches that are distributed to those in need.

## ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE** Students, including current 8th graders, from a household with an income below 300% of the federal poverty level. (example: \$78,600 for a family of four)

**WHERE TO APPLY** Visit [www.empowerillinois.org](http://www.empowerillinois.org) for information and to complete the online application. The "Apply" drop-down menu includes the following pages: "Do I Qualify," "How Do I Apply," "How Does It Work."

**WHEN TO APPLY** The two-step application process is currently open. Families should apply as soon as possible.

**CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS** Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dennis Litteken with questions.

## ... WANTED ... KNIGHTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2025

### REGISTRATION

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

### SHADOW A KNIGHT

8th grade students are invited to enjoy a day in the life of Mater Dei students by shadowing a knight on the date of their choice. (families may contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene to schedule a date)

In your community, please share this information and promote Mater Dei by informing parents of the unique benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei. We know they'll be impressed!

# Knights Surpass 2021 Calendar Drive Quota!

**THANK YOU** for your dedication to the success of the 2021 calendar drive! We are pleased to announce that the Mater Dei community has sold 4,172 calendars as of February 2.

We are also pleased to announce the students who served as the top salesperson for their class: freshman Emily Ess; sophomore Julia Korte; junior Emma Huelskamp; and senior Jessie Timmermann, who also served as the school's top salesperson with 130 calendar sales.

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 16 (8 sales) and to join the 10+ Club (10 sales), whose members will enjoy themed dress days throughout the remainder of the year.** (Students are no longer eligible to earn cash prizes.) Prize money will be available in the Advancement Office February 5 through February 26.

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



## WARM HEARTS CAMPAIGN

Starting February 16, we will begin filling 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 within 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 or six 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

### FREE ACT PREP SESSIONS IN FEBRUARY

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz will host ACT test preps in the College Placement Office at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in February (2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, and 25).

All interested students 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.

Mrs. Goetz will also post the dates on the College Placement group calendar on PlusPortals and the Class of 2021 and Class of 2022 groups in Microsoft Teams.

### ACT TEST AT MATER DEI APRIL 17

Despite a registration deadline of March 12, Mrs. Goetz encourages students to register early for the April 17 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 Mrs. Goetz, as she can add additional seats.

**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, St. Dominic, or St. Paul High School 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 30), please contact Ms. Colleen McDermott ([cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org](mailto:cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org)).