

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.

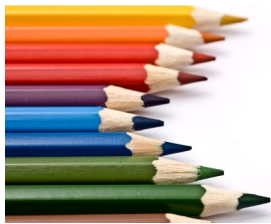
THOUGHTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Let me begin by saying “Welcome!” to our new parents and “Welcome back!” to our veteran parents. It is with great respect for you that I am writing today, for I recognize that the support you provide to the students, administration, faculty, and staff is the key to our continued success! To that end, I offer my sincere gratitude for an excellent start under imperfect conditions! As I begin my 39th year in education, I am in awe of the commitment our faculty, staff, parents, and students have shown for the Mission of Mater Dei Catholic High School!

As we move forward, know that a commitment to open lines of communication is also key. Therefore, in addition to reading the monthly *Knight Life* parent newsletters, please check PlusPortals to track your child’s progress and contact his/her teachers for assistance. Please also contact us should you need additional support for your child’s mental, emotional, or social well-being. It is our belief that by working together, we can provide a positive environment in which our students will achieve their full potential.

Also, please consider participating in our upcoming strategic planning process by volunteering to serve on one of seven committees. This vital process will give us, the Mater Dei community, direction for the future! (Refer to page two for additional information.)

In closing, allow me to say “Thank you!” in advance for your continued support during this school year. Be assured that we recognize the responsibility you have placed on us, and we are committed to making a difference in the life of each of our students!



VERSES FOR A FAITH-FILLED SCHOOL YEAR

- FOR CONFIDENCE: *Philippians 4:13*
- FOR COURAGE: *Joshua 1:9*
- FOR ENDURANCE: *Galatians 6:9*
- TO FORGIVE OTHERS: *Colossians 3:12-14*
- TO BE OBEDIENT: *Proverbs 19:20-21*

welcome

Join us in welcoming our new students, faculty, and staff, as well as their families!

Students

- Class of 2025, which includes 103 freshmen
- 15 transfer students, which includes three seniors, eight juniors, and four sophomores
- 11 international students, which includes nine seniors, one junior, and one sophomore

Faculty

- Mr. Cory Arentsen, Business Education Department
- Mrs. Erika Knolhoff, Science Department
- Mr. Mike Scheibel, Social Studies Department
- Mr. Colten Strotheide, Physical Education Department
- Mr. Brandon Wade, Business Education Department

Staff

- Mr. Stephen Budnicki, custodial staff
- Mrs. Deb Jourdan, custodial staff
- Mr. Brad Kampwerth, head boys golf coach
- Mr. Tom Kannall, custodial staff
- Mrs. Shelly Ritzheimer, secretary
- Mrs. Geri VonHatten, cafeteria staff
- Mr. Craig Zurliene, head girls basketball coach

DID YOU KNOW ...



MATER DEI CALENDAR SYNCING

The calendar provided on our website will continually sync to a variety of devices. For step-by-step instructions, visit our website: www.materdeiknights.org/calendar-sync

MATER DEI SOCIAL MEDIA

Please enjoy and share the posts published on our social media sites.

- Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
- Instagram: breesematerdei
- Twitter: breesematerdei

MATER DEI DIRECTORY

Directory information for staff (email, phone number), parents (phone numbers, email, city), and students (name, picture) is available on PlusPortals. On the home page, in the menu bar, select “Directory.”

SEPTEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)
- 6 No School: Labor Day
- 7 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 8 Fall Athletic Pictures
- 10 School Picture Retakes
- 13 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 20 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
Major Gift Donors Mass (7:00 p.m.)
- 27 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Homecoming

- 27 Tacky Tourist Day
- 28 Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 29 Homecoming Shirt Day
Parade, Coronation, and Bonfire (6:00 p.m.)
- 30 Costume Day
- 1 Spirit Day, Talent Show, and Pep Rally
- 2 Homecoming Dance (8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.)

FOR SALE

YEARBOOK \$50 – NEWSPAPER \$8

Through September 10, students may place orders in homeroom for a 2021-2022 *Knight*, our school yearbook, and a subscription to *The Lance*, our school newspaper.

After September 10, the prices increase to \$55 for the yearbook and \$10 for the newspaper subscription.

QUESTIONS RE: YEARBOOK: For questions regarding the yearbook, contact Mrs. Melissa Kunkle or Mrs. Pam Zurliene.

QUESTIONS RE: NEWSPAPER: For questions regarding the newspaper, contact Mrs. Emily Timmermann.

NOTE TO KNIGHT CLUB MEMBERS: Knight Club memberships include both a yearbook and a newspaper subscription. Still, order forms must be submitted.

**HELP
NEEDED**

PARENT PARTICIPATION NEEDED FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Mr. Litteken is pleased to announce that plans are underway for the development of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. The strategic planning process allows the Mater Dei community to evaluate, to plan for, and to commit to the various aspects of our Mission for the next five years.

As the chairman, Mr. Litteken will guide seven committees: Advancement, Catholic Identity, Curriculum, Enrollment and Student Activities, Facilities, Finance, and Governance and Staffing. Following their initial work, the committees will then convene for the strategic planning retreat.

Parents are invited to serve as committee members, who gather information through surveys, research, and group discussions. Committee members will attend three to five meetings, as well as the strategic planning retreat on December 11. Parents who are unable to serve on a committee are invited to participate by completing the surveys they may receive in the near future.

Please contact Mr. Litteken by September 13 to volunteer as a committee member for the strategic planning process, which plays a vital role in the future of Mater Dei. As always, we appreciate your active involvement!

SAFE HOMES NETWORK

FORMS DUE SEPTEMBER 15
members must re-enroll each year

To begin the 2021-2022 Safe Homes Network, Campus Minister Ms. Colleen McDermott emailed an informational letter, which included an enrollment form, to all families.

Members of this program pledge to provide a safe home, free of alcohol and drug use, for the students in our community. Following the membership drive, a member directory will be provided to families.

For the safety of our children, we encourage you to join the Safe Homes Network and to demonstrate your commitment to preventing alcohol and drug abuse.



**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

HOMECOMING

A KNIGHT IN HOLLYWOOD

Members of our Student Council are busy planning for this year's homecoming, "A Knight in Hollywood," which is currently scheduled for September 27 through October 2. We encourage all students to participate in this important week, as it builds spirit and unity within our Mater Dei family!

The celebration will begin Monday with Tacky Tourist Day. On Tuesday, as a school community, we will celebrate our Homecoming Mass (9:40 a.m.). Class pride will be evident on Wednesday, when students wear their Homecoming shirts, which vary in color by class. The festivities will continue that evening with the parade (6:00 p.m.), coronation, and bonfire. On Thursday, students will show their creative side for Costume Day. During Spirit Day on Friday, music from the popular talent show, as well as cheers from the pep rally, will fill the gym. Homecoming week will then culminate Saturday with the dance from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Please join us in thanking our Student Council members, as well as moderators Mrs. Christine Gramann and Mrs. Pam Zurliene, for their dedication to this spirit-filled week!

2021-2022 CLASS ADVISORS

Freshmen: Ms. Colleen McDermott
Sophomores: Mrs. Emily Timmermann
Juniors: Mrs. Donna Goetz
Seniors: Mrs. Deb Foote

Please feel free to contact your child's advisor for assistance.

DID YOU FORGET?

If you have not yet returned the following forms, please do so as soon as possible:

- "Phone Information" form
- "School Insurance Exemption" form
- "Student Handbook Acknowledgement and Agreement 2021-2022" form
- "Parental Certification of Student Wellness" form
- "Data Collection" form (freshmen)

Should you need new forms, please contact the office.

WHERE TO FIND INFO

- The events calendar is available on the PlusPortals home page in the "School Links and Files" window (select "School Folder" in the drop-down menu) and on our website in the "Parents" menu.
- The lunch menu and daily announcements are available on the PlusPortals home page in the "School Announcements" window.
- School news is posted on our website and on our Facebook page (Mater Dei Catholic High School) and our Instagram page (breesematerdei).
- Athletic schedules are available on our website in the "Athletics" menu and on our 8to18 page (www.il.8to18.com/materdei).

NOTE: For all school events, view the "Upcoming Events" section on our website.

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**

KNIGHT LIFE GOES GREEN

In October, we will return to paperless *Knight Life* parent newsletters. Since January 2008, this use of technology has benefited our parents, our school, and our environment!

Specifically, the *Knight Life* will be emailed and posted on PlusPortals and our website, but not mailed home, unless requested.

NOTE: To request receipt of the newsletters by mail, please contact the office.

PLUSPORTALS: In the "School Links and Files" window, select the "Knight Life Parent Newsletters" folder in the drop-down menu.

WEBSITE: In the "Parents" menu, select "Knight Life Parent Newsletters."

together everyone
TEAM
achieves more

For the benefit of our students, join our active parent organizations and share your time and talents.

Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Mothers & Friends
second Monday, 7:00 p.m., Lampe Commons

Band Parents
third Monday, 7:00 p.m., band room

Fathers and Friends
last Monday, 7:00 p.m., Lampe Commons

PlusPortals www.plusportals.com/materdeihs

We are pleased to provide our students and parents with PlusPortals, an online link between school and home! Specifically, PlusPortals provides families with academic, attendance, and discipline information; general school information; and directories for staff, parents, and students. Should you need assistance utilizing PlusPortals, contact Mr. Dennis Litteken.

ACTIVATION (new accounts only)

For all new accounts, activation information was emailed. If you did not receive this email, please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken. (Please note that for individual accounts, different email addresses are required.)

VIEWING GRADES

current quarter grades listed in the "Progress" window on the home page individual grades in the "Progress" window on the home page, select the applicable class; on the class page, select "Performance" from the menu bar. (Additional courses may be selected from the "Class" drop-down menu.)

PARENTPLUS AND STUDENTPLUS MOBILE APPS

Free ParentPlus and StudentPlus mobile apps are available from App Store and Google Play Store.

PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT: OCT 6

Mater Dei families are invited to our annual College Night Wednesday, October 6, 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.

PSAT TEST: OCT 13 registration required

All juniors and high achieving sophomores are encouraged to register for the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test, which will be administered October 13 (during the school day). The PSAT assesses critical thinking, math, and writing skills, and prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam. Additionally, students who earn high scores on both the PSAT and the SAT are then eligible for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program.

Students must register at the College Placement Office. The test fee is \$18 and must be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei). Early registration is recommended, as we possess a limited number of tests.

SAT TEST: OCT 28 registration required

The SAT test will be administered October 28 (during the school day). Due to our limited number of tests, priority will be given to seniors who are applying to colleges that require the SAT or who are National Merit Scholarship finalists. Other registrants will be placed on a waiting list.

Students must register at the College Placement Office by September 15. The test fee is \$55 and must be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei).

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. (Note the drop-down menu in the "Links and Files" window.)

KEY STEPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGES

Application Deadlines Students must carefully review application deadlines, as meeting application deadlines may be a requirement for merit scholarships.

Transcripts Students must utilize Parchment (www.parchment.com) to order transcripts. Mrs. Goetz will then review the order prior to processing the request.

The Common Application Mrs. Goetz will electronically submit transcripts and the "Counselor's Report." Students must verify that the colleges to which they applied successfully accessed their completed application and supporting materials.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) The new 2022-2023 FAFSA will be available October 1. To begin your application, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov and utilize your 2020 income tax information.

ELIGIBILITY FOR NCAA ATHLETICS

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are considering playing athletics at an NCAA Division I or Division II college or university should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

ACT TEST DATES

For registration information, visit our College Placement Office or the ACT website (www.actstudent.org).

October 23, 2021
deadline September 17, 2021

December 11, 2021 (at Mater Dei)
deadline November 5, 2021

February 12, 2022
deadline January 7, 2022

April 2, 2022 (at Mater Dei)
deadline February 25, 2022

June 4, 2022
deadline May 6, 2022

July 16, 2022
deadline June 17, 2022

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 they would like their ACT scores to be sent.

COLLEGE VISITS

Recognizing the importance of college visits for our seniors, we have established the following college visitation policy:

Seniors are provided two school days from August 17 through April 29 for visits. These two visits will not impact perfect attendance.

Seniors must request permission for a visit from the College Placement Office one week in advance. A note with a parent signature must be presented at the time of the request.

Seniors must obtain the signature of a college official on the visitation form provided by the College Placement Office. This form must be presented to the main office when students return to school.