

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

Just as the fall season is settling in, so too are the students as we approach the end of the first quarter. Please be assured that our faculty members are challenging our students each day and are excited to observe them putting forth the effort required to meet those challenges. Also, know that we, the administration and faculty, greatly appreciate your active involvement in helping our students achieve their full potential. The support you provide at home, which is essential to your child's success, is second to none! Thus, on behalf of our faculty, I thank you!

October is a busy month, as our fall sports seasons and band competitions come to an end, and our drama students prepare for the upcoming fall play. As I observe the students participating in our many activities, I continually recognize their amazing commitment, and I am pleased to know that our students are developing values that will remain long after they leave Mater Dei.

More importantly, I take immense pride in our students' remarkable commitment to service. In addition to donating to our class missions and special causes (\$15,888 during the 2019-2020 school year), our students serve as Youth Faith Formation teachers; cantors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, and servers in their parishes; and members of Teens for Life and St. Vincent De Paul Society. Moreover, our extracurricular organizations also sponsor service projects.

Our Mater Dei community truly demonstrates our main calling as Catholics: to love your neighbors as you love yourself. With this calling in mind, we will continue to challenge our students, faculty, and staff to follow the model of Mother Theresa, who once reflected that she saw the face of Christ in every man, woman, and child she met.

As you can see, Mater Dei truly is an exceptional school as a direct result of the commitment of all members of the Mater Dei community. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive Catholic adults. **THANK YOU for being members of the Mater Dei family!**

PARENT—TEACHER CONFERENCES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21
4:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

We invite parents to attend our Parent-Teacher Conferences in order to discuss with individual teachers the academic progress of their child(ren).

Report cards, as well as a "directory" of the location of teachers, will be available in the office.

Please note that the format of our conferences is "first come, first served."

Of course, if you are unable to attend the conferences, please feel free to contact teachers via phone or email.

Remember to mark your calendar, as we hope to see you October 21!

CALEIGH ARENTSEN HONORED AS A NMSP COMMENDED STUDENT

We are pleased to announce that senior Caleigh Arentsen, daughter of Ron and Leigh Ann Arentsen, earned recognition as a 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP) Commended Student!

Caleigh is among approximately 34,000 students in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition a result of placing in the top 3% of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) Test as sophomores or juniors. In total, only 50,000 students are recognized as a commended student, semifinalist, or finalist.

**Please join us in congratulating Caleigh
for her exemplary academic success!**

OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 4 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 6 College Fair (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 8 No School: Liturgical Convention
- 10 Fall Concert (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 No School: Columbus Day
Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 12 2022 Calendar Drive Begins
- 13 PSAT Test (registered sophomores and juniors)
- 15 End of the First Quarter
- 18 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 21 Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 25 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 26 Senior Retreat Day (females)
- 27 Senior Retreat Day (males)
- 28 SAT Test at Mater Dei
- 29 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SOUNDS OF THE KNIGHTS ♦ October 10

Enjoy the sounds of our concert band, jazz band, wind ensemble, and chorus at the fall concert on October 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the main gymnasium.

Guests are reminded to wear a mask and to maintain social distancing while in the building.

VIRTUAL GRANDPARENTS MASS ♦ November 1

This year, we are unable to host an in-person Grandparents Mass. Still, Fr. Chuck Tuttle will celebrate Mass in honor of grandparents, and the video will be posted on our website.

FALL PLAY ♦ November 5, 6, and 7

Enjoy a performance of the comic play *Our Miss Brooks* at 7:00 p.m. November 5 or 6 or at 2:00 p.m. November 7.

Guests are reminded to wear a mask and to maintain social distancing while in the building.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

In support of 40 Days for Life, the Mater Dei community will pray at Hope Clinic in Granite City on Wednesday, October 20, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To volunteer for one or more one-hour slots, please register at the following Signup Genius: [40 Days for Life Volunteer Signup Form](#) (The link is also provided on the homepage of our website.)

For questions, please contact Teens for Life moderator Mrs. Celia Kannall (618-526-7216 or ckannall@materdeiknights.org).

Thank you, in advance, for your support!



WE CARE FOR AND SUPPORT OUR KNIGHTS

Each of us possesses an inner strength and resilience that can help us find our way, even during the most challenging times. However, during challenging times, it can become difficult to remember this strength, and we can become anxious, depressed, overwhelmed, and hopeless.

Mrs. Carroll, Ms. McDermott, and Mr. Schniers are available to provide our students with the support they need in order to achieve academic, personal, social, mental, and spiritual well-being. When working with students in "crisis," we strive to help them regain their sense of balance, focus on their strengths, create positive support networks, and rekindle their spirit of hope. Please email, call, or visit for assistance throughout the year!



Mrs. Tammy Carroll, Counselor (and Coco, our therapy dog)
email: tcarroll@materdeiknights.org

Ms. Colleen McDermott, Campus Minister
phone: extension 102
email: cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org

Mr. Thomas Schniers
phone: extension 206
email: tschniers@materdeiknights.org

NOTE All students may also message Mrs. Carroll, Ms. McDermott, or Mr. Thomas Schniers via the "chat" in Microsoft Teams in order to schedule an appointment.

MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

academic excellence in a faith-filled environment

OPEN HOUSE Sunday, November 7, 2021
FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
WITH STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8

*Discover the unique opportunities of joining the Mater Dei family!
Guests will enjoy a guided tour and receive information regarding
our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs;
scholarships and tuition assistance; and free transportation.*

*Free transportation is offered east to Salem, north to Highland,
south to Mt. Vernon, and west to I-64/Air Mobility Drive.*



900 North Mater Dei Dr
Breese IL 62230
618-526-7216
www.materdeiknights.org

Email: knights@materdeiknights.org
Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
Instagram: [breesematerdei](https://www.instagram.com/breesematerdei)
Twitter: [@breesematerdei](https://twitter.com/breesematerdei)

EVENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2026

Parent Information Night
December 9, 2021

Placement Test
December 11, 2021

Registration
February 26, 2022

SHADOW A KNIGHT students in grades 7 and 8

Join us for a day of
school to experience
the Mater Dei spirit!

Contact Maria Zurliene
for additional information.

SHARE OUR INVITATION

To help us spread our unique story to prospective families, please share the invitation to our Open House (left).

Please also share the many benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei.

Your story is the most important story!

SELL, SELL, SELL OUR 2022 MATER DEI CALENDAR

We are excited to announce that the 2022 Calendar Drive begins October 12! Entering its 37th year, the Calendar Drive serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising. Thus, it is the only fundraiser for which we request participation from all students.

Did you know that the cost to educate each student is \$9,430? As a result, approximately \$3,574 per student must be funded from two sources other than tuition: parishes (\$1,579 per student) and fundraising (\$1,995 per student). **Thus, the participation of all families in the 2022 Calendar Drive is essential!**

Director of Advancement Fr. Chuck Tuttle will discuss with our students their vital role in the drive and the many incentives they may earn. Each student is asked to sell a minimum of **eight** calendars, for which he/she will earn a day off school on April 22, as well as a jeans day each Friday thru January 28. Last year, 80% of our students met this quota.

Additionally, students who sell ten or more calendars earn cash prizes, as well as special dress up days. Last year, 51% of our students sold ten or more calendars.

Finally, top sellers in each class earn tuition credit ranging from \$150 to \$500.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of this vital fundraiser! For the benefit of our students, let's make the 2022 Calendar Drive a record-breaking success!



MAKE TIME FOR MASS

As we enhance our Catholic identity at Mater Dei, we continually focus on our Mission to educate, to foster faith, and to develop gospel values. Participation in Mass plays an essential role in fulfilling this Mission. Thus, please take to heart your vital role in supporting our Mission, for as parents, you serve as role models for our students.

While prayer at home is an important aspect of our faith, it cannot replace the celebration of Mass, which offers the following opportunities:

- to experience community, especially through the Peace of Christ and the prayers;
- to receive inspiration from God's Word, through the readings, homily, and prayers, in order to strengthen our commitment to modeling the teachings of Jesus;
- to first acknowledge our sins and then to seek and to receive forgiveness for those sins;
- to experience the miracle of the Eucharist;
- to share our talents with others by serving as cantors, lectors, servers, ushers, or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

Please remember that we are all called to live our faith. We make time to answer many other calls; please make time to answer God's call to

Buy

Calendars may now be purchased online!
Visit our website, www.materdeiknights.org,
and select the "Buy a 2022 Calendar" button.

(You can name the student to receive credit.)



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION



MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT: OCTOBER 6

Mater Dei families are invited to our annual College Night on **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.

FREE ACT PREP – PERIOD 8 STUDY HALLS

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz will host ACT test preps in room 505 **every period 8 study hall** (after silent reading) **beginning October 18**.

These sessions are provided free to all interested students, who 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 announce dates and post dates on the College Placement group calendar on PlusPortals and the Class of 2022 and Class of 2023 groups in Microsoft Teams.

NOTE: An additional extensive ACT test prep will be offered later in the school year.

MATH ACT REVIEW IN DECEMBER

Prior to the December ACT, Ms. Sackett will offer a math ACT review on a Saturday (date to be determined). The cost will be \$10 per student. Additional information will be provided soon.

FREE ACT ACADEMY ONLINE

Students are encouraged to visit the ACT Academy website (academy.act.org) to register for free personalized ACT practice.

NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE? FILE THE FAFSA NOW

Parents may file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at this time at www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa. For assistance, contact Mrs. Goetz.

NOTE: Parents will utilize the 2020 income tax information that is on file with the IRS. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool simplifies this process.

NOTE: Parents must create an FSA ID for both the student and one parent prior to beginning the process (“Apply for Aid” menu, “Filling Out the FAFSA Form” sub-menu, “Creating an FSA ID” page). The information must match the information on each person’s social security card.

NOTE: Remember to submit the FAFSA to all colleges to which your student plans to apply.

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.

COLLEGE FAIRS

In the next College Placement newsletter, Mrs. Goetz will provide information regarding upcoming in-person and virtual college fairs.

PSAT TEST

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. In addition, students who earn high scores on the PSAT 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).

Registration is required, as we possess a limited number of tests.

ACT TEST DATES

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

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.