

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

As we enter the month of November, we realize that the first quarter has quickly slipped by us. It did not slip by quietly, however, for our students were busy achieving success both in and out of the classroom! Inside the classroom, for the first quarter, 69% of our students earned recognition on either high honor roll (4.0 to 3.8 GPA) or honor roll. Outside the classroom, our fall athletic teams and Marching Knights have experienced tremendous success, and members of our activities sponsored and participated in a variety of events. Please know that I recognize that this level of success is no accident, but rather a direct result of the attitudes and commitment of our students, parents, faculty, and staff. Thus, it is truly with a high level of pride that I serve the Mater Dei community!

One key aspect of my service is to promote our commitment to providing our students with the skills required to serve as leaders in the Catholic church, for as the number of clergy and religious decline, we are called to participate in the sacramental life of the church. In addition, at a time when our society is marred by deepening divisions between the rich and the poor, our tradition instructs us to place the needs of the poor and the vulnerable first, for how those in need in our society are faring serves as a basic moral test. Thus, throughout the month of November, our students, faculty, and staff will focus on fulfilling their responsibility, through service and ministry, to protect and to aid the poor and the vulnerable, which is a basic social teaching of our church. I truly believe that by making our students aware of their obligations to others, we can make a difference!

In closing, as we look forward to the holiday season, we are called to thank our Lord and Savior for his many gifts to us and to pray for those who have not yet experienced his graces. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive Catholic adults. As always, may God continue to bless you and your family!



SHARE WARMTH AND JOY

From November 15-30, our St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold their annual winter clothing and toy drive. The donations, which will be collected in theology classes, will be donated to BCMW to benefit families in need.

Please prayerfully consider donating any of the following items:

- new winter hats, gloves, scarves, and socks
- gently-worn winter coats
- new toys (for Christmas)

We thank our St. Vincent de Paul Society members and moderator Mrs. KK Schneider for hosting this event! We also thank you, our Mater Dei family, for your generous support!

STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER

We are pleased to announce our
“Students of the Quarter” for the first quarter:

seniors Maggie Mensing and Quin Rackers
juniors Madelyn Vogelbacher and Jacob Pollmann
sophomores Avery Pingsterhaus and Simon Toennies
freshmen Alyssa Koerkenmeier and Jon Marble

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!**

NOVEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 1 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
All Saints Day and Grandparents Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 5 Fall Play: *Our Miss Brooks* (7:00 p.m.)
- 6 Fall Play: *Our Miss Brooks* (7:00 p.m.)
- 7 Open House (12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.)
Fall Play: *Our Miss Brooks* (2:00 p.m.)
- 8 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 No School: Veterans Day
- 12 No School
- 15 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
Memorial Mass (7:00 p.m.)
- 21 Knight Club Appreciation Luncheon
- 24 Thanksgiving Mass (9:40 a.m.)
XX-Schedule (1:00 dismissal)
- 25 No School: Thanksgiving
- 26 No School
- 29 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BAND PARENTS CHICKEN DINNER: NOVEMBER 14

Enjoy a delicious meal on November 14 in support of our music programs! The carry-out only dinner will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Breese. The meal (\$12) includes fried chicken, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and slaw.

THANKSGIVING MASS: NOVEMBER 24

On November 24, we will welcome Bishop McGovern to Mater Dei for our Thanksgiving Mass.

Due to limited space, as we adhere to social-distancing guidelines, this Mass will not be open to the public.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON: DECEMBER 12

Enjoy the sounds of the season as performed by our concert band, jazz band, wind ensemble, and chorus at our Christmas concert on December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium.



Let us always remember to give **THANKS** and be **GIVING**

WHO CARES when our students struggle?



Anxiety
Grief
Depression
Spirituality
Self-Esteem
Belonging
Relationships
Coping Strategies
Self-Image
Mental Well-Being

WE DO! Please contact us for help.

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: Students may also message Mrs. Carroll, Ms. McDermott, and Mr. Schniers via the "chat" in Microsoft Teams in order to schedule and appointment.

DID YOU KNOW ...



PLUSPORTALS MOBILE APPS

In addition to viewing PlusPortals on a web browser, a ParentPlus app and a StudentPlus app for IOS and Android are available from App Store and Google Play.

MATER DEI SOCIAL MEDIA

Please enjoy and share the stories of Mater Dei that are posted on our social media sites:

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

AMAZON SMILE DONATES TO MATER DEI

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases when you shop at smile.amazon.com or on the Amazon app with the AmazonSmile setting on. Simply search for and select Mater Dei Catholic High School or Mater Dei Foundation Inc.

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



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



FREE ACT PREP: PD 7 AND PD 8 STUDY HALLS

To assist our students in

preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz will host November ACT test preps in room 505 during period 7 study hall and period 8 study hall: November 9, 16, 19, and 30.

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.

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

NACAC VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIR NOVEMBER 14

The NACAC Virtual

College Fair will be held Sunday, November 14, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. 372 colleges will be represented! Register at <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/conventions>

MATH ACT REVIEW DECEMBER 4

Ms. Sackett will offer an ACT math review on Saturday,

December 4, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$10 per student. Students must register in the College Placement Office.

NOTE: A minimum of eight students must register in order for the review to be held.

FREE ACT ACADEMY ONLINE

Students are encouraged to visit the ACT Academy website to register for

free personalized ACT practice (academy.act.org). Free video instruction is also available.

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.

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 the College Placement Office or ACT website: www.actstudent.org.

December 11, 2021 (at Mater Dei)
late registration deadline November 19, 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.

ACT TEST ANSWERS

Students who complete the ACT test at a national test center on a national test date in December, April, or June may order the ACT Test Information Release (TIR) for \$30 per test date.

The TIR may be ordered at the time of registration or during the six-month period after the student's test date.

The TIR provides a digital copy of the test questions, a student's answers, and the answer key. For the writing test, a student will receive a copy of the writing prompt, the scoring rubric, and the scores assigned to the student's essay.

CLASS OF 2021

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased to share ACT composite score statistics, as well as additional academic accomplishments for our Class of 2021.

ACT PERFORMANCE

Illinois State Scholars The average of the ACT composite scores for the fourteen Illinois State Scholars is 28.4.

Valedictorians The average of the ACT composite scores for the nine valedictorians is 27.

ACT Composite Scores of 31 or Higher The top 10% (7) ACT composite scores are all 31 or higher and have an average of 32.3.

ACT Composite Scores of 27 or Higher The top 15% (12) ACT composite scores are all 27 or higher and have an average of 30.3.

ACT Composite Scores of 25 or Higher The top 20% (16) ACT composite scores are all 25 or higher and have an average of 28.9.

ACT Composite Scores of 23 or Higher The top 41% (33) ACT composite scores are all 23 or higher and have an average of 26.1.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Scholars The Class of 2021 included fourteen Illinois State Scholars, which is 15% of the eligible members of the class. (The state average is 10% of a class.)

Scholarships Sixty-three percent of the members of the Class of 2021 received scholarship offers, which totaled over \$8 million.

College Credit Hours During their four years at Mater Dei, the members of the Class of 2021 earned a total of 1,510 hours of college credit through enrollment in our dual credit courses, which is an average of 15 credit hours per student. These total hours equate to a total savings of at least \$670,000 (based on an average of \$445 per credit hour).

National Honor Society (NHS) Fifty percent of the Class of 2021 were members of NHS, having earned a GPA of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

PARENTING BLOGS



As many of us know from experience, parents can feel overwhelmed with their role and unsure of their skills as a parent. Often times, the advice of others provides the perspective, understanding, and strategies needed not only to regain confidence as a parent, but also to guide young adults in a positive and productive manner. The blogs listed below provide numerous and varied articles from which both mothers and fathers can benefit. We hope you find them helpful!

Mark Merrill—Helping Families Love Well (www.markmerrill.com)

Hands Free Mama (www.handsfreemama.com)

Grown & Flown (www.grownandflown.com)

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING WEEKLY

As we gather with our families to share both food and friendship in celebration of Thanksgiving, let us truly thank God for all we have been given. Despite the struggles we face, let us recognize that our nation has been blessed, for our lives are much more comfortable than the lives of many others in the world.

Let us not forget, however, that as Catholics, we also have an opportunity every Sunday to gather with our church family to share Eucharist and friendship. Why do we sometimes fail to gather for this weekly Thanksgiving?

Please remember that we have a responsibility to model for our children the importance of praising and thanking our God for his many gifts.



For each new morning with its light,
for rest and shelter of the night,
for health and food,
for love and friends,
for everything Thy goodness sends.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



BETHE HANDS OF CHRIST

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is pleased to announce that during the first quarter, the Mater Dei family donated a total of **\$3,166.87** through our weekly collections for class missions and special causes!

Specifically, a total of \$1242.51 was donated to class missions: the Class of 2025 supports St. Anne Mission Hospital in Kenya, Africa, the Class of 2024 supports Daystar Community Program in Cairo, the Class of 2023 supports orphanages in Haiti and Venezuela, and the Class of 2022 supports Santa Clara Scholarship Fund for students in Guatemala.

In addition, the Mater Dei family donated \$520.59 to Catholic Relief Services for hurricane relief and \$1,403.77 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in memory of the late Eli Lobb, grandson of driver education teacher Mr. Andy Lobb.

We commend and thank our students, administration, faculty, and staff for living the Gospel through their commitment to helping those in need!

SAVE THE DATE



A Knight at Mardi Gras April 23, 2022

MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION

2022 CALENDAR DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

The 2022 Calendar Drive is off to an excellent start with 2,431 calendars sold as of November 1! Now in its 37th year, the Calendar Drive, which is the only fundraiser for which we request participation from all students, serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising. **Thus, the participation of all families in the 2022 Calendar Drive is essential!**

The “sales pitch” is simple: for only \$25, a buyer will have 392 chances to win cash (\$30 daily, \$100 and \$500 monthly, and \$1,000 and \$2,000 on December 31). Moreover, students have the opportunity to earn multiple incentives, including cash. (The complete incentive program is provided at the right.)

Please accept our “THANK YOU!” in advance, for the support you provide is essential to the Calendar Drive’s success and is greatly appreciated!

CALENDARS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE!

Buy

Visit our website, www.materdeiknights.org, and select the “Buy a 2022 Calendar” button.

(You can name the student to receive credit.)

IT’S TIME TO PREPARE FOR COLDER WEATHER



To assist you in ensuring that your child adheres to the dress code, we are providing a detailed explanation of “winter” clothing. Please know that your assistance is appreciated!

SWEATSHIRTS: Sweatshirts with a Mater Dei logo, as well as sweatshirts purchased at an IHSA or ICCA event, may be worn over another shirt. Hoods must remain down during the school day.

SWEATERS: Sweaters that are solid black, solid navy, or solid white, may be worn over a dress code shirt.

note: The term “sweater” includes the traditional meaning of “sweater” and a fleece pull-over with a zipper at the neck (not a “full” zipper down the entire front, which is defined as a jacket). Thus, a jacket does not meet the definition of a sweater, even if it is solid black, solid navy, or solid white. Additionally, the term “solid” is defined as not having a logo, with the exception of a Mater Dei logo, which is an acceptable option.

JACKETS AND COATS: Jackets and coats with a Mater Dei logo may be worn during the school day.

Finally, to answer the most common question regarding jackets, coats, and solid color sweatshirts — without a Mater Dei logo it is not acceptable, but with a Mater Dei logo it is acceptable.

CALENDAR DRIVE INCENTIVES

- 1) A student who meets his/her quota of eight (8) or more calendar sales will receive a day off school April 22, 2022.
- 2) After a student sells eight (8) calendars (\$200), he/she may wear jeans or sweatpants and a Mater Dei spirit shirt or sweatshirt on all Fridays during the Calendar Drive (through and including January 28, 2022).
- 3) Each homeroom that meets its quota will receive a snack. When all students in a homeroom meet their quota, they will receive a free beverage coupon.
- 4) When a student sells ten (10) or more calendars, he/she will earn special dress days and receive prize money as follows: \$5 for the first ten (10) calendars sold and \$10 for each additional five (5) calendars sold.
- 5) When a student is the seller of a daily calendar drawing winner, he/she will receive a “front of the lunch line” pass.
- 6) For the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, the top salesperson in each class will receive a \$500 tuition credit, and the second place salesperson in each class will receive a \$200 tuition credit. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be applied to next year’s tuition.)
- 7) For the senior class, the top salesperson will receive a \$500 tuition credit, the second place salesperson will receive a \$250 tuition credit, and the third place salesperson will receive a \$150 tuition credit. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be awarded in cash.)
- 8) The last day to earn prizes is January 31, 2022. Prize money will be available February 3, 2022, through February 26, 2022.

Please contact Fr. Chuck Tuttle with questions regarding the incentives.