

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.

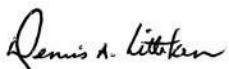
You . . . Our exceptional commitment to serving our students and our parents results in our students' ability to achieve their fullest potential.

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.

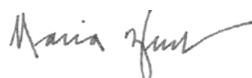
Finally, to 7th and 8th grade students, we extend an invitation to shadow a knight in order to truly experience the Mater Dei spirit. We know you will be impressed with the Mater Dei family!

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!

Sincerely,



Dennis A. Litteken
Principal



Maria B. Zurliene
Director of Enrollment



Contact Us

**900 North Mater Dei Drive
Breeze IL 62230
618-526-7216
[knights@materdeiknights.org](mailto:knightsmaterdeiknights.org)**

Follow Us

**Website: www.materdeiknights.org
Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
Instagram: breesematerdei
Twitter: @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 10% of our student body).

LOVING OUR FAITH For masses, students serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, 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 2020-2021 school year, our students, administration, faculty, and staff donated \$15,888 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 each day and a reconciliation service is held during Lent.

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 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



ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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

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 in Science and Engineering (ACES) 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, Peer Tutors, Pep Club, Sacred Brothers Sacred Sisters, Scholar Bowl, Science Club, Spanish Club, Spring Musical, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Student Ambassadors, Student Council, Teens for Life, Yearbook

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 A STUDENT . . .

"As a three-sport athlete, my free time after school is limited. For this reason, I am grateful for the daily school-wide study hall in Mater Dei's schedule! The study hall provides time for me to complete assignments, to meet with teachers, and to attend meetings for other activities. Because of my involvement in athletics and activities, as well as the small class sizes, I also have a wide variety of friends and have become more confident. As a side note, I love all the choices we have at lunch!"

Julia Korte, Class of 2023, St. Damian Catholic Church (Damiansville)

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, computer science, and industrial education; as well as a sewing course; an introduction to engineering course; a culinary arts course; and an introduction to agriculture course.

CLASS SIZE With an average class size of 18, 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 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 to 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 nearly 1,600 hours of college credit, which equates to a savings of at least \$712,000 (based on an average tuition cost of \$445 per credit hour). *Residential Electricity is offered off-campus and includes an additional fee.

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Accounting Principles
Advanced Computer Applications
CEO (Creating Entrepreneur Opportunities)
Chemistry II
Early Child Development
English Composition 101
English Composition 102
General Psychology
Introduction to Music in America
Life Span Growth and Development
Residential Electricity
Spanish 101
Spanish 102
Speech 103
Weightlifting and Conditioning

AP COURSES

American History
Calculus **
Spanish IV **

** While not official Advanced Placement (AP) courses, the level of coursework fully prepares students for the AP test.

TECHNOLOGY

Bring Your Own Device

For academic purposes, students may utilize the school-wide Wi-Fi and the electronic device of their choice.

Electronic Learning Days

Via Microsoft Teams, teachers and students are able to interact while the teachers live stream classes. Therefore, days of learning are not lost to "snow days" or quarantining.

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 a Mater Dei email address and a license to utilize Microsoft Office 365 products on five devices.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Theology 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 theology, transfer students are only required to earn credit for each semester they are enrolled at Mater Dei.

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 OUR STUDENTS . . .

"While at Mater Dei, my faith has grown exponentially! In theology classes, I enjoy learning how to apply my faith in my daily life. Even more so, through service hours and Teens for Life, I enjoy opportunities to live my faith by making a difference for others. The service aspect makes my understanding of the classroom aspect "click." I am looking forward to my Senior Service Project!"
Gavynn Baer, Class of 2022, St. Rose Catholic Church (St. Rose)

"Our teachers and coaches spend time developing relationships with their students. As a result, while they hold you to high standards and provide challenging coursework, you know they care about your success both in and out of the classroom. I have also enjoyed meeting and developing friendships with students from different towns, as well as with our international students. Mater Dei feels like a family!"

Jacob Patton, Class of 2022, St. Cecilia Catholic Church (Bartelso)

TUITION AND FEES

TUITION Families choose from the following payment schedules: twelve-month, ten-month, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual. The 2021-2022 tuition rates are as follows:

Catholic Students first student \$5,856, second student \$4,986

Non-Catholic and Out-of-District Students first student \$6,356, second student \$5,956

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

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 Covert Memorial Scholarship
Tillie Hustedde Memorial Scholarship

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.

MATER DEI MEMORIAL GRANTS

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

James and Joanne Lampe Family Scholarship

CARLYLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Carlyle-Area Mater Dei Alumni Scholarship

STUDENTS OF HISPANIC DESCENT

Juan Diego Helping Hands Scholarship

INVEST IN KIDS SCHOLARSHIP

Parents with a qualifying income may apply for a scholarship through the Illinois tax credit scholarship program. (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

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 a freshmen lock-in led by the faculty and seniors. Throughout the year, the freshmen meet 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.

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 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 2021

ACT SCORES

We are pleased to share highlights of the ACT composite scores earned by members of our Class of 2021.

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS The average of the ACT composite scores for the Class of 2021's fourteen Illinois State Scholars is 28.4.

VALEDICTORIANS The average of the ACT composite scores for the Class of 2021's nine valedictorians is 27.

ACT COMPOSITE SCORES OF 31 OR HIGHER The top 10% (7) ACT composite scores for the Class of 2021 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 for the Class of 2021 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 for the Class of 2021 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 for the Class of 2021 are all 23 or higher and have an average of 26.1.

CLASS OF 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

KNOWLEDGE

Scholars The Class of 2021 included fourteen Illinois State Scholars (15% of the eligible members of the class).

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

College Credit Hours Through enrollment in our dual credit courses during their four years at Mater Dei, the Class of 2021 earned a total of 1,510 hours of college credit, an average of fifteen credit hours per student. These hours equate to a 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.

INSTITUTIONS AT WHICH MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2021 ARE CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION

Blackburn College
Bradley University
Carroll University
Conservatory of Recording Arts & Sciences
Creighton University
Eastern Illinois University
Greenville University
Iowa State University
Illinois College
Kaskaskia College
Lewis & Clark Community College
Logan University
Maryville University

Maastricht University (Netherlands)
McKendree University
Millikin University
Missouri State University
Missouri University of Science & Technology
Murray State University
Oklahoma State University
Ranken Technical College
Rend Lake College
St. Louis University
Southeast Missouri State University
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Southwestern Illinois College

Tennessee Tech University
University of Illinois
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Louvain (Belgium)
University of Missouri
University of Paul Valéry (France)
University of Southern Indiana
University of South Florida
University of Texas at Austin
University of Wisconsin – Stout
Webster University
West Virginia 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 special events for freshmen in the spring and 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 7, 2021
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

JOIN OUR CLASS OF 2026

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

December 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACEMENT TEST

December 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

REGISTRATION

February 26, 2022, 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).

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

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.

Contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene today to schedule a visit! We are confident your child will enjoy the Mater Dei family!

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