

## 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 December and the season of Advent, let us remember the purpose of this special season by making time in our busy schedules to reflect on the truly significant gifts in our lives. The gifts of good health, loving families, and meaningful fellowship are gifts we often do, but cannot, take for granted. Thus, as your family prepares to celebrate the birth of Christ, I encourage you to attend Sunday Mass together and to break bread together more often. As you cherish the time spent with loved ones, please also pray for the many families who will be separated from one another this Christmas season.

Throughout the Advent season, our students will be challenged not only to give thanks for the many blessings in their lives, but also to be mindful of those who are in need and to recognize the ways they can help.

Of course, December also brings the end of the first semester! Our students will take their semester exams on Friday, December 17; Monday, December 20; and Tuesday, December 21. We will then dismiss for Christmas break on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

On behalf of the entire Mater Dei community, I offer my warmest wishes for a very blessed Christmas season. Please join me in praying that all of our students will understand the reason for this special season. As always, may God bless you and your family!

### ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2022–2023 SCHOOL YEAR

The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program was established in education reform bill SB 1947, which was signed August 31, 2017.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Students, including current 8<sup>th</sup> graders, from a household with an income below 300% of the federal poverty level.

(example: \$78,600 for a family of four, 2020 tax year)  
(example: \$79,500 for a family of four, 2021 tax year)

#### WHERE TO APPLY

Information is available at [www.empowerillinois.org](http://www.empowerillinois.org).

The “Apply” drop-down menu includes the following pages: “Do I Qualify,” “How Do I Apply,” “How Does It Work.”

#### WHEN TO APPLY

Per the website, the application process opens Wednesday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m.

**APPLYING EARLY IS IMPORTANT.**

#### CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

For questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dennis Litteken.  
([dlitteken@materdeiknights.org](mailto:dlitteken@materdeiknights.org))

### CLASS OF 2022 BOASTS 20 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

We are pleased to announce that the following seniors have been honored as Illinois State Scholars: Caleigh Arentsen, Callie Caylor, Joseph Goring, Abigail Holtgrave, Kiersten Kennedy, Sean Kuhl, Maggie Mensing, Julia Millikin, Tori Mohesky, Max Morton, Jacob Patton, Quin Rackers, Annalyse Richter, Rachel Rivera, Evan Schlueter, Kaitlyn Toennies, Henry Triplett, Maya VanDorn, John Venhaus, and Ashlyn Vonder Haar.

Moreover, these seniors represent 22% of the eligible members of the Class of 2022. (Approximately 10% of Illinois graduates are honored as Illinois State Scholars.)

Selection for this honor is based on a combination of a student’s ACT and/or SAT test score(s), GPA, and unweighted class rank at the end of junior year, unless he/she scores at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in Illinois on the ACT and/or SAT test(s). While students do not receive a monetary award, they are able to list this prestigious honor on both college applications and scholarship applications.

Please join us in congratulating our Illinois State Scholars, for their dedication to achieving academic success has most certainly paid off!

## DECEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 6 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 8 Immaculate Conception Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 9 Class of 2026 Information Night (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 ACT Test at Mater Dei (8:00 a.m.)  
Class of 2026 Placement Test (9:00 a.m.)
- 12 Christmas Concert (7:00 p.m.)
- 13 Mothers and Friends Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 17 Semester Exams: periods 6 and 7
- 20 Semester Exams: periods 1, 2, and 8  
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)  
Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 21 Semester Exams: periods 3 and 4/5  
Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.
- 27-30 Christmas Tournament

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS

Due to limited space, as we adhere to social-distancing guidelines, our Immaculate Conception Mass on December 8 will not be open to the public.

A recording will be posted on our website: In the "Faith" menu, select the "Liturgical Schedule" page.

### SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

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 main gymnasium.

### CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT

Enjoy four days of boys basketball at our 60<sup>th</sup> Christmas Tournament. When finalized, the schedule will be posted on our website.



## MATER DEI CALENDARS

### A Gift That Gives Back

Looking for the perfect gift? Give your family and friends a 2022 Mater Dei Calendar, which not only provides them with a chance to win a share of \$21,150 in cash prizes, but also supports a vital Mater Dei fundraiser!

In addition, students have the opportunity to earn the following incentives:

- for the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, a \$500 tuition credit for each top seller and a \$200 tuition credit for each second-place seller
  - for the senior class, a \$500 tuition credit for the top seller, a \$250 tuition credit for the second-place seller, and a \$150 tuition credit for the third-place seller. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be awarded in cash.)
- 8 sales = Friday "dress down" days and no school April 22
  - 10 sales = \$5, then \$10 for each additional five sales, as well as special dress days

**We sincerely thank you for supporting this vital fundraiser, which makes a difference in the lives of our Knights!**

**Buy**

Please know that calendars may be purchased online by selecting the "Buy a 2022 Calendar" button on the homepage of our website. You may name the student to receive credit for the calendar sale.

## DATES TO SAVE

### KNIGHT AT THE RACES

We'll be off to the races on Saturday, January 22, for the benefit of our music programs!

We invite you to join us at "the track" for an evening of exciting horse races and chances to win prizes or to donate to the event by sponsoring a horse.

The reservation form and sponsorship form will be posted on our website in the near future.

### A KNIGHT AT MARDI GRAS

Our Mothers & Friends will host their dinner auction, A Knight at Mardi Gras, on Saturday, April 23.

We invite you to enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and fun; to donate to the event; or to share your time and talents by volunteering on a committee.

## DATES TO SHARE

Our events for families of incoming freshmen are scheduled for the following dates:

### INFORMATION NIGHT

December 9, 2021, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
*for parents and students*

### PLACEMENT TEST

December 11, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
*registration required and available on our website*

### REGISTRATION

February 26, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

In your community, please share these dates, as well as the unique benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei.



## BE THE HANDS OF CHRIST

Join us in commending and thanking members of our Mater Dei family for living the Gospel through their commitment to supporting those in need!

### JUNIOR KNIGHTS THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT

We thank the families of nearly fifty members of Junior Knights who donated to our annual Junior Knights Thanksgiving Service Project! Nearly 100 food items were collected for the benefit of House of Manna. We also thank Director of Enrollment Mrs. Maria Zurliene and Student Ambassadors members for hosting the event.

### SPANISH CLUB DONATES TO MANDI HARDY

For the benefit of Mandi Hardy, a kindergarten teacher at St. Mary Catholic School in Centralia who is currently battling cancer for the second time, our Spanish Club hosted a dessert and pizza fundraiser. We thank all who supported the fundraiser, which raised a total of \$1,008! We also thank Spanish Club members and moderator Mrs. Amparo Wolden for hosting the event.

### SVDP WINTER CLOTHING AND CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

We thank the members of our Mater Dei family who donated to our St. Vincent de Paul Society's (SVDP) winter clothing and Christmas toy drive! 195 toys, 63 pairs of socks, 49 pairs of gloves, 26 coats, and six scarves were donated for the benefit of BCMW. We also thank SVDP members and moderator Mrs. KK Schnieder for hosting the event.

THE MAGIC OF *Christmas*  
IS NOT IN THE PRESENTS,  
BUT IN *Christ's* PRESENCE.

### OUR ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

Advent is our opportunity for renewal! Therefore, amid the decorating, shopping, and gathering during this holiday season, let us take time to experience a new beginning, for nothing is more healing, energizing, promising, or filled with hope!

Prepare for this special season by reflecting on the gifts God has granted and experiencing your parish's celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

### OUR CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Christmas is the season to celebrate the love of God, who chose to become so present to us that He took our own form.

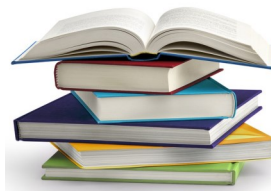
As we take time to gather and to celebrate, let us recall the true reason for the season and turn with grateful hearts to our God. Let us then continue to carry out the Christmas celebration throughout 2022!

EXAMS	<u>Friday, December 17</u>		<u>Monday, December 20</u>		<u>Tuesday, December 21</u>	
	17 FRI	pd 1	8:10 - 8:58	pd 1	8:10 - 8:30	pd 3
20 MON	homeroom	9:02 - 9:07	pd 1 exam	8:30 - 9:30	pd 3 exam	8:30 - 9:30
21 TUE	pd 2	9:11 - 9:59	homeroom	9:34 - 9:39	homeroom	9:34 - 9:40
	pd 3	10:03 - 10:51	pd 2	9:43 - 10:05	pd 4/5	9:44 - 10:00
	pd 4/5 (lunch)	10:55 - 12:15	pd 2 exam	10:05 - 11:05	pd 4/5 exam	10:00 - 11:00
		10:55 - 11:19	pd 4/5 (lunch)	11:09 - 12:35		
		11:23 - 11:47		11:09 - 11:35		
		11:51 - 12:15		11:39 - 12:05		
	pd 6 exam	12:19 - 1:19		12:09 - 12:35		
	pd 7	1:23 - 1:50	pd 8	1:19 - 1:50		
	pd 7 exam	1:50 - 2:50	pd 8 exam	1:50 - 2:50		

## WHERE HAS THE FIRST SEMESTER GONE?

As the end of the first semester quickly approaches, our teachers are challenging our students to continue to achieve academic success by putting forth extra effort to remain focused in class, to complete all assignments, and to prepare for semester exams.

Please remind your child that the final weeks impact not only second quarter grades, but also first semester exam grades and final first semester grades. In addition, please note that a student's final first semester grades, which are provided on his/her high school transcript, are used to calculate grade point average (GPA). Thus, we encourage you to continue to play an active role in your child's academic success by helping him/her achieve his/her highest potential. Remember to use PlusPortals and to contact your child's teachers for assistance.



## HELP YOUR CHILD STUDY strategies to encourage with students

Use index cards or an app such as Quizlet to organize key concepts. Referring to a set of cards is more efficient than referring to a textbook.

Rework (not simply reread) problems from previous homework assignments, review sheets, quizzes, and tests.

Review on a continual basis instead of studying for one extended period of time.

Study with a parent or friend who can "quiz" you.

Request help from teachers for topics you previously found difficult.



# PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

## FREE ACT PREP IN DECEMBER

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz will host an ACT prep session in room 505 on December 7 during period 6 study hall.

All sessions throughout the year 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 continue to announce dates and to 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.

## PSAT TEST RESULTS NOW AVAILABLE

Results are now available for the PSAT test administered at Mater Dei in October (to sophomores and juniors who chose to complete the test). Students who provided an email on the test form will receive access instructions via email. Students who did not provide an email on the test form may contact Mrs. Goetz for access instructions (dgoetz@materdeiknights.org).

## COLLEGE VISITS LIMITED IN JANUARY FOR SENIORS

Senior students are reminded they should not schedule college visits on weekdays during the Senior Service Project (January 3 through January 21).

## 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](http://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.

## FREE ACT ACADEMY ONLINE

Students are encouraged to visit the ACT Academy website to register for free personalized ACT practice ([academy.act.org](http://academy.act.org)). Free video instruction is also available.

## COLLEGE PLACEMENT OFFICE ON PLUSPORTALS

Mrs. Goetz reminds parents that they are enrolled in the College Placement group on PlusPortals. (To access the group, on the homepage, 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](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org).

## ACT TEST DATES

For registration information, visit the College Placement Office or ACT website: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

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.