

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

Happy New Year wishes from Mater Dei! I trust that each of you enjoyed a peaceful and holy Christmas season and are now filled with a renewed spirit for 2022!

As we begin the new year at Mater Dei, our senior students are sharing their spirit with others through their service projects. It is our belief that this experience allows our seniors to develop self-confidence, to become aware of the needs of others, and to recognize the many ways they can serve others. When asked what the face of Jesus looks like, Mother Teresa responded by saying that Jesus is in every person who seeks help from others. Please join us in praying that our seniors experience the face and the hand of Jesus throughout their service work.

Let us also pray for a successful, spirit-filled second semester! We encourage you to utilize PlusPortals in order to review your child's schedule and to remain updated on his/her academic, attendance, and discipline reports. We are confident that with your continued involvement and encouragement, your child will achieve his/her best!

Finally, as we look forward to the joys of 2022, let us continue to pray for families who faced serious challenges or experienced the loss of a loved one in 2021.

As always, we at Mater Dei are here to serve and to support your family. Thus, please contact us should you need assistance. May the Lord bless your family throughout 2022!

ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLYING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP

The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program, which was established in education reform bill SB 1947 and signed August 31, 2017, provides scholarships to eligible Mater Dei students.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE Students, including current 8th grade students, from a household with an income below 300% of the federal poverty level. (example: \$79,500 for a family of four for the 2021 tax year)

WHERE TO APPLY Information is available at 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 The two-step application process opens January 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. **APPLY EARLY.**

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dennis Litteken with questions.

DONATING TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By donating to the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program, a donor simultaneously receives a tax credit **and** provides funds for scholarships for Mater Dei students.

TAX CREDIT On his/her Illinois state taxes, a donor will receive a tax credit equal to 75% of the donation.

DONATION MATCH Thanks to the generosity of a member of the Diocese of Belleville, a dollar-for-dollar match will be offered. (The dates for the match will be announced when finalized.)

EXAMPLE \$200 donation (\$150 tax credit) + \$200 match = \$400 total to Mater Dei for a net cost of \$50 to the donor.

DONATION PROCESS While the donation process may initially appear complicated, the steps are actually quite simple! For links to the Empower Illinois website, which includes a step-by-step-guide, visit the Mater Dei website: "Advancement" menu, "How to Support Mater Dei" page, "Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program" tab (www.materdeiknights.org/give).

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS Please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Chuck Tuttle, Director of Advancement, with questions.

JANUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 4 School Resumes
- 10 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
Mothers & Friends Executive Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 12 Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Application Opens
- 14 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)
- 17 No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 28 Sr. Miriam Covert, SSND, Scholarship Applications Due
- 31 2022 Calendar Drive Incentives Conclude
Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)



Knight at the Races

rescheduled for
Saturday, February 19

As a precautionary measure,
we'll now be off to the races on Saturday, February 19,
for the benefit of our music programs!

Mark your calendar to join us at "the track"
for an evening of fellowship, exciting horse races,
and chances to win prizes.

When revised, the reservation form
will be provided to families via email and
posted on the home page of our website.

**SCHOLARSHIP
AVAILABLE FOR
CURRENT STUDENTS**

**Parents are encouraged to apply for the
Sr. Miriam Covert, SSND, Memorial Scholarship,
which is available to current students for the current school year.**

Ten scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded.

**To receive an application or further information,
contact Mr. Dennis Litteken (dlitteken@materdeiknights.org).**

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 28.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2022 January 30 — February 5

Joining Catholic schools across the nation, the Mater Dei community will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 30 through February 5. The theme for this year is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." As in the past, we are planning a spirit-filled week!

During Catholic Schools Week, please join us in celebrating all members of our Mater Dei Catholic High School community who remain dedicated to ensuring that we continue to serve as a community in which students may grow in their faith, achieve excellence, and offer service!



Catholic Schools
Faith. Excellence. Service.

NOTE When finalized, the schedule will be emailed to parents and students.

... WANTED ... Knights for the Class of 2026

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

Shadow A Knight
Students in grades 7 and 8 are invited to enjoy a day in the life of Mater Dei students by shadowing a knight on the date of their choice. (families may contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene to schedule a date)

In your community, please share this information and promote Mater Dei by informing parents of the unique benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei. We know they'll be impressed!

If you would like an informational folder to share with a prospective family, please contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene. (mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) is pleased to announce that the Mater Dei family, for the benefit of others, raised a total of \$3,797.49 during the second quarter!

Specifically, the Mater Dei family donated \$2,003.19 to our weekly collections for class missions and special causes: \$774.36 to assist Kentucky families affected by the tornado and \$1,228.83 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 the Santa Clara Scholarship Fund for students in Guatemala).

Additionally, our SVDP hosted both a Walk for the Poor that raised \$251 for the Belleville St. Vincent de Paul Society and a bake sale that raised \$195.30 for Heifer International; our Spanish Club hosted a pizza and dessert fundraiser that raised \$1,008 to assist St. Mary School teacher Mandi Hardy and her family as she battles cancer; and our Teens for Life members sponsored a “dress down” day that raised \$340 to support pro-life organizations.

Thus, combined with the first quarter total of \$3,166.87, a grand total of \$6,964.36 was raised during the first semester!

Finally, during their toy and winter clothing drive, our SVDP collected 195 toys, 63 pairs of socks, 49 pairs of gloves, 26 coats, 30 hats, and six scarves for the benefit of BCMW.

Please join us in thanking the members of our Mater Dei family for living the Gospel through their continued commitment to helping those in need! Their generosity is truly exceptional!



BE THE HANDS OF CHRIST



On Monday, January 3, our seniors began responding to the needs of others in a variety of environments, including day care centers, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, civil agencies, and social agencies, in a variety of locations throughout Clinton County, southern Illinois, the metro-east area. Thus, the benefits of their service are wide spread!

We thank coordinator Campus Minister Ms. Colleen McDermott, who will visit each site in order to speak with both our students and the site supervisors, and those faculty members who have volunteered to mentor seniors during their service experience.

Finally, please join us in praying that this experience is an opportunity for our seniors to both serve to learn and learn to serve.

CALENDAR DRIVE GOAL IN REACH

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE
2022 CALENDAR DRIVE!

With 3,920 calendars sold as of January 4, we are still in reach of our goal of selling 4,500 calendars!

The student incentive program and selling competition will continue through January 31, so please continue to sell! Students must sell only eight calendars to earn their day off school April 22.

Good luck selling, and thank you, again, for supporting this important fundraiser!

HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Mr. Dennis Litteken invites you to submit nominations for the Mater Dei Catholic High School Hall of Honor, which serves to recognize members of the Mater Dei community whose lifetime achievements or service to Mater Dei exemplify the Mission of Mater Dei.

Nominees must have graduated from Mater Dei, St. Mary, St. Dominic, or St. Paul High School at least twenty years prior to their nomination **OR** have provided significant service to Mater Dei on a continuous basis for at least twenty years prior to their nomination.

To obtain a nomination form, please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken (dlitteken@materdeiknights.org). Nominations will be accepted until February 18.

Thank you for helping us recognize members of our Mater Dei community who exemplify our Mission!

SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Miss Colleen McDermott invites you to submit nominations for the Christian Discipleship Award, which is presented to one senior; and the Christian Service Awards, which are presented to one freshman, one sophomore, and one junior.

Created by the Mission Effectiveness Committee of the Mater Dei School Board, these awards recognize students for service to school, church, and community.

To obtain a nomination form, please contact Miss Colleen McDermott (cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org), **OR** visit our website (www.materdeiknights.org, “Faith” menu, “Service” page, “Service Awards” tab). Nominations will be accepted until March 30.

Thank you for helping us recognize students who dedicate themselves to serving others!

ELECTRONIC REPORT CARDS

We are pleased to return to electronic report cards via PlusPortals (www.plusportals.com/materdeihhs). **Thus, we will not mail report cards. An email will be sent when the report cards are posted.** The report card will list a student's quarter, exam, and semester grades, as well as his/her cumulative grade point average and credits.

As always, please do not hesitate to request assistance, as we are here to serve your family!

VIEWING THE REPORT CARD On the home page, select "More..." (right of the student's name). Then, in the menu below the student's name, select "School" and select "Report Card."

VIEWING PERCENTAGE GRADES On the home page, in the "Progress" window, select the desired grade from the drop-down menu: "First Marking Period," "Second Marking Period," "Semester One Exam," or "Semester One Grade."

NOTE If you would like a "traditional" report card mailed to your home, please contact Mrs. Deb Foote.

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

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](https://www.instagram.com/breesematerdei)
- Twitter: [@breesematerdei](https://twitter.com/breesematerdei)

AMAZON SMILE DONATES TO MATER DEI

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of 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.



Bless this year with **LOVE** and **LIGHT**.
Bless this year with **FAITH** and **SIGHT**.
Bless this year with **GRACE** and **EASE**.
Bless this year with **JOY** and **PEACE**.

MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HELP

Plans are well underway for "A Knight at Mardi Gras," the Mothers & Friends dinner auction scheduled for Saturday, April 23. One of our largest fundraisers, the dinner auction has raised over \$1,000,000 since its inception in 1991. This level of success is a direct result of our parents' willingness to share their time and talents! **Thus, we are requesting your help.** Remember, many hands make light work!

VOLUNTEER TO SET UP APRIL 21 AND 22

On Thursday, volunteers are needed to set up tables, construct booths, and begin decorating. On Friday, volunteers are needed to finish decorating, set the tables, catalog the auction items, and fill the booths and the gym with the auction items.

**A Knight at
Mardi Gras
April 23, 2022**

VOLUNTEER TO CLEAN UP APRIL 23 AND 24

What goes up must come down! Volunteers are needed Saturday evening following the dinner auction for a quick start to the cleanup and Sunday morning for the final cleanup.

DONATE AN ITEM OR CUSTOM SERVICE FOR AUCTIONING

Contribute to the auction's success by donating items or custom services for auctioning. You can donate individually or coordinate with friends to donate a larger item, such as the always popular tailgating parties, card parties, and dinners. Feel free to also create your own party theme - new and creative ideas are always welcome! **Donation forms are available in the office and on our website (www.materdeiknights.org, "Parents" menu, "Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction" page).**

CONTACT INFORMATION

To volunteer or to receive further information, email mdauction2022@gmail.com or contact chairperson Kellye Holtgrave (618-219-6661).

Again, please consider volunteering your time and talents to help make this year's dinner auction the most successful one yet! You will not only help our students, but also create lasting friendships!



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

FREE ACT PREP DURING PERIOD 8 STUDY HALLS

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz will host free ACT prep sessions in room 505 during period 8 study halls in January, February, and March.

All interested students 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.

PRE-ACT TEST RESULTS TO BE DISTRIBUTED

This month, Mrs. Goetz will distribute the results of the Pre-ACT test administered at Mater Dei in October to all sophomores.

ACT BOOT CAMP IN MARCH

Later this month, students will have the opportunity to register for the ACT Boot Camp (prep course) taught by our faculty in March. Mrs. Goetz will provide details when they are finalized.

CLASS OF 2022 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Mrs. Goetz reminds parents of seniors to continuously review scholarship information with their child(ren) via the “Class of 2022” group on Microsoft Teams (student account) or the “College Placement” group in PlusPortals (select “Groups” on the PlusPortals homepage).

PSAT TEST RESULTS AVAILABLE

Parents are reminded that results are 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 received access instructions via email. Students who did not provide an email on the test form may contact Mrs. Goetz for assistance (dgoetz@materdeiknights.org).

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.

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.

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 the ACT website: www.actstudent.org.

February 12, 2022
late registration deadline January 21, 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

NOTE REGARDING APRIL 2 TEST

Mrs. Goetz encourages students to register early for the April 2 ACT test at Mater Dei, as she anticipates a large number of students from other schools.

If the registration page shows no available seats, please immediately email or message (via Teams) Mrs. Goetz, as she can add additional seats.

GENERAL 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 his/her essay.