

## 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

Warm greetings from Mater Dei! As we enter the month of February, a strong sense of spirit fills the halls as a result of both the return of our seniors and our Catholic Schools Week celebration. Knowing they have enriched the lives of others through giving of themselves, the seniors have returned with a renewed sense of energy, faith, and purpose.

Energy, faith, and purpose also drive our faculty as they continue to challenge your children to strive for their best in the classroom. I am confident our students will continue to rise to those challenges just as they did first semester, when 20 seniors were recognized as Illinois State Scholars and over half of the student body earned recognition on the second quarter honor roll (67%) and the first semester honor roll (66%). The success of our students is no accident, but rather a direct result of both their commitment and the commitment of our parents and faculty!

Let us also continue to commit ourselves to answering the call to serve others by sharing the gifts Christ has given to each of us. Many of our students answer this call by serving as a tutor; a leader at confirmation retreats; or a cantor, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, lector, server, or usher at Mater Dei and in their parish. Please encourage your child to share his/her gifts at school and in church.

Finally, as parents and teachers, we play a vital role in passing our Catholic traditions to our students. Thus, we must remember that together, we can make a difference in the life of your child. As always, may God continue to bless you and your family!

### STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER

We are pleased to announce our "Students of the Quarter" for the second quarter of this school year:

seniors Maya VanDorn & Max Morton

juniors Madison Eversgerd & Jacob Hustedde

sophomores Bella Triplett & Garrett Arentsen

freshmen Ella Detmer & Robert Klostermann

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 for this accomplishment!**



Love is *patient*, love is *kind*.  
It always *protects*, always *trusts*,  
always *hopes*, always *perseveres*.  
*Love never fails.*

**Happy Valentine's Day!**



### PRO-LIFE KNIGHTS

At two events in January, under the guidance of moderator Mrs. Celia Kannall, members of our Teens for Life demonstrated their dedication to protecting life.

Attending the March for Life in Chicago on January 8 were Gavynn Baer, Nadia Baer, Lynzie Huelsmann, Chloe Logan, and Zach Tebbe, as well as alumnus Spencer Gramann '21 and faculty members Mrs. Christine Gramann and Mr. Thomas Schniers.

Attending the prayer vigil at the Clinton County Courthouse on January 21 were Alayna Benhoff, Lily Goebel, Alyssa Koerkenmeier, Andrea Onate-Angel, and Cohen Wiegars.

Please join us in thanking these students and faculty members, Teens for Life moderator Mrs. Celia Kannall, and all of our Teens for Life members for their continued dedication to protecting life!

## FEBRUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 1 Catholic Schools Week Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 5 Junior High Scholar Bowl Tournament
- 7 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 9 Academic Challenge Team Regional (Kaskaskia College)
- 10 Band Grade School Tours
- 11 Band Grade School Tours
- 14 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 18 No School: Tri-County Institute  
Hall of Honor Nominations Due
- 19 Knight at the Races (doors open 6:00 p.m., races begin 7:00 p.m.)
- 21 No School: Presidents' Day  
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 26 Class of 2026 Registration (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
- 28 Last Day to Collect Calendar Drive Prize Money  
Fathers & Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)



## Knight at the Races

Saturday, February 19

For the benefit of our music programs, Band Parents will host Knight at the Races on Saturday, February 19, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. doors open at 6 p.m., races begin at 7 p.m.

Tickets (\$40 each) include appetizers, open bar, funny money for wagering, and chances for prizes. Additional raffles and fun events will also be held.

Register now to join us at "the track!" reservation form available on Mater Dei website tickets will also be sold at the door

For questions, please contact Kim Miller via email: [jnkmiller19@gmail.com](mailto:jnkmiller19@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU FOR SERVING AS THE HANDS OF CHRIST

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CHARITY

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week Part II February 7-11 (due to the snow days), we will continue to collect donations for the Onate-Angel family, whose youngest child, fourteen-month-old Jose, is undergoing treatment for leukemia.



### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK COLLECTION

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week Part II February 7-11 (due to the snow days), we will continue to collect individually packaged "sack lunch" food items for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Belleville Night Drop-In Center.

## ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

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

**WHERE TO APPLY** Visit [www.empowerillinois.org](http://www.empowerillinois.org) for information and to complete the online application. 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 is currently open. Families should apply as soon as possible.

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

Qualifications for the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship are separate from the qualifications for Mater Dei memorial grants (tuition assistance). Thus, a family who is not eligible for the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship may still apply for a Mater Dei memorial grant.

## ... WANTED ... KNIGHTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2026

In your community, please share the information below, as well as the unique benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei. Your story truly makes a difference!

**REGISTRATION** Registration begins Saturday, February 26, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in the Lampe Commons.

**SHADOW A KNIGHT** Students in grades 7 and 8 are invited to enjoy a day in the life of our students by shadowing a knight on the date of their choice.

**FAMILY TOUR** Families of prospective students who were unable to attend our Open House or Class of 2026 Information Night are invited to schedule a personal family tour.

**CONTACT** For additional information (including our informational folder) or to schedule a date for shadowing or a family tour, families may contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene (618-526-7216 or [mzurliene@materdeiknights.org](mailto:mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)).

# Knights Surpass 2022 Calendar Drive Quota!

Thank you for your dedication to the success of the 2022 Calendar Drive! We are pleased to announce that as of January 31, our Mater Dei family has sold 4,142 calendars!

We are also pleased to announce the students who served as the top salesperson for their class: freshman Kennedy Nicklin, who also served as the school's top salesperson with 68 sales; sophomore Emily Ess; juniors Julia Korte and Brendan Strieker (tied); and senior Riley Kleber.

Please note that although the drive has officially ended, calendars are still available for purchase. In addition, students may still sell calendars to earn a day off school April 22 (8 sales) and to join the 10+ Club (10 sales), whose members will enjoy themed dress days on specific days through April. (Students are no longer eligible to earn cash prizes.) Prize money will be available in the Advancement Office through February 28.

Again, THANK YOU for your commitment to Mater Dei! Together, we have made a difference!



## WARM HEARTS CAMPAIGN

It's time to fill the cafeteria windows with hearts for our Warm Hearts Campaign! Through February 23, our St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) will collect donations via theology classes to help pay the heating bills of families in our local community.

As a symbol of their commitment to helping those in need, students, faculty, and staff who donate will receive a heart to display in the cafeteria.

Donors will also receive raffle tickets for a chance to win free treats at lunch and a Dairy King gift certificate (one ticket for a \$1 donation and five tickets for a \$5 donation).

Please join us in thanking our SVDP members and moderator Mrs. KK Schneider, as well as members of our Theology Department, for reminding us that in times of need, God calls us to serve as "our brother's keeper."



### A Knight at Mardi Gras

April 23, 2022

## MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION

Planning continues for "A Knight at Mardi Gras," the Mothers & Friends dinner auction scheduled for Saturday, April 23. One of our largest fundraisers, the dinner auction's level of success is a direct result of our parents sharing their time and talents! **Thus, we are requesting your help, for 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.

### 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

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](http://www.materdeiknights.org), "Parents" menu, "Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction" page).**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS VITAL FUNDRAISER!**

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

### HALL OF HONOR

The Hall of Honor recognizes members of the Mater Dei community whose lifetime achievements or service to Mater Dei exemplify our Mission.

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** provided significant service to Mater Dei on a continuous basis for at least twenty years prior to their nomination.

To obtain nomination forms (due February 18), please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken via email: ([dlitteken@materdeiknights.org](mailto:dlitteken@materdeiknights.org)).

### CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARDS

The Christian Discipleship Award, presented to one senior; and the Christian Service Awards, presented to one freshman, one sophomore, and one junior; serve to recognize students for unselfish service to school, church, and community.

To obtain nomination forms (due March 30), please contact Ms. Colleen McDermott via email: [cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org](mailto:cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org).



# PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

## ACT TEST AT MATER DEI APRIL 2

Despite a registration deadline of February 25, 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. Registration information is available in the College Placement Office and on the ACT website ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)).

**NOTE:** If the registration page shows no seats available, please immediately inform Mrs. Goetz via email or Teams chat, as she can add additional seats.

## 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 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.

## ACT BOOT CAMP IN MARCH

When the details of the ACT Boot Camp are finalized, Mrs. Goetz will provide the information in the *College Placement Newsletter*. The ACT Boot Camp is a prep course taught by our faculty on Saturdays in March for a fee.

## CLASS OF 2022 SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

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

Specifically, scholarship information is provided in the *College Placement Newsletter*, which Mrs. Goetz emails to all families and posts on PlusPortals in the “College Placement” group (in the “Links and Files” window, select “College Placement Newsletter” from the folder drop-down menu).

## 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/afsa](http://www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa). 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.

## NACAC COLLEGE FAIRS

NACAC is hosting numerous in-person and virtual college fairs this spring. For additional information, visit the NACAC college fairs website: [www.nacacattend.org/1708505](http://www.nacacattend.org/1708505)

## 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 the ACT website: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

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 inform Mrs. Goetz via email or Teams chat, 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.