

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

Just as the fall season is settling in, so too are the students as we approach the end of the first quarter. Please be assured that our faculty members are challenging our students each day and are excited to observe them putting forth the effort required to meet those challenges. Also, know that we, the administration and faculty, greatly appreciate your active involvement in helping our students achieve their full potential. The support you provide at home, which is essential to your child's success, is second to none! Thus, on behalf of our faculty, I thank you!

October is a busy month, as our fall sports seasons and band competitions come to an end, and our drama students prepare for the upcoming fall play. As I observe the students participating in our many activities, I continually recognize their amazing commitment, and I am pleased to know that our students are developing values that will remain long after they leave Mater Dei.

More importantly, I take immense pride in our students' remarkable commitment to service. In addition to donating to our class missions and special causes (\$14,294 during the 2021-2022 school year), our students serve as Youth Faith Formation teachers; cantors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, and servers in their parishes; and members of Teens for Life and St. Vincent De Paul Society. Moreover, our extracurricular organizations also sponsor service projects.

Our Mater Dei community truly demonstrates our main calling as Catholics: Be the Hands of Christ. With this calling in mind, we will continue to challenge our students, faculty, and staff to follow the model of Mother Theresa, who once reflected that she saw the face of Christ in every man, woman, and child she met.

As you can see, Mater Dei truly is an exceptional school as a direct result of the commitment of all members of the Mater Dei community. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive Catholic adults. **THANK YOU for being members of the Mater Dei family!**

PARENT—TEACHER CONFERENCES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
4:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

We invite parents to attend our Parent-Teacher Conferences in order to discuss with individual teachers the academic progress of their child(ren).

Report cards, as well as a "directory" of the location of teachers, will be available in the office.

Please note that the format of our conferences is "first come, first served."

Of course, if you are unable to attend the conferences, please feel free to contact teachers via phone or email.

Remember to mark your calendar, as we hope to see you October 20!

COHEN WIEGERS HONORED AS A NMSP COMMENDED STUDENT

We are pleased to announce that senior Cohen Wieggers, son of Dinah Sudholt and Mark Wieggers, earned recognition as a 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP) Commended Student!

Cohen is among approximately 34,000 students in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition as a result of placing in the top 3% of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) Test as a junior. In total, only 50,000 students in the nation are recognized as a commended student, semifinalist, or finalist.

Please join us in congratulating Cohen for his exemplary academic success!

OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 7 No School: Liturgical Convention
- 10 No School: Columbus Day
Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 2023 Calendar Drive Begins
- 12 College Fair (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
PSAT Test (registered sophomores and juniors)
- 14 End of the First Quarter
- 17 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 18 Senior Retreat Day (females)
- 19 Senior Retreat Day (males)
- 20 Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 31 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

NOTE: The Homecoming schedule is listed at the right.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HOMEcoming 2022: A KNIGHT IN VEGAS

The Mater Dei family will celebrate Homecoming 2022: A Knight in Vegas October 3-8! The schedule is as follows:

- 3 Country VS Country Club
- 4 Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 5 Homecoming Shirt Day
Parade, Coronation, and Bonfire (6:00 p.m.)
- 6 Spirit Day, Talent Show, and Pep Rally
- 8 Homecoming Dance (8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.)

GRANDPARENTS MASS ♦ November 1

We are honored to invite our students' grandparents to join us for Mass on November 1 at 9:40 a.m.

FALL PLAY ♦ November 4, 5, and 6

Enjoy a performance of the mystery *Murder on the Orient Express* November 4 or 5 at 7:00 p.m. or November 6 at 2:00 p.m.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

In support of 40 Days for Life, the Mater Dei community will pray at Hope Clinic in Granite City on Wednesday, November 2, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Members of our Teens for Life will pray from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Thus, volunteers are needed from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To volunteer for the number of one-hour slots of your choice, please contact our Teens for Life moderator Mrs. Celia Kannall (618-526-7216 [or ckannall@materdeiknights.org](mailto:ckannall@materdeiknights.org)).

Thank you, in advance, for your support!



WE CARE FOR AND SUPPORT OUR KNIGHTS

Each of us possesses an inner strength and resilience that can help us find our way, even during the most challenging times. However, during challenging times, it can become difficult to remember this strength, and we can become anxious, depressed, overwhelmed, and hopeless.

Mrs. Carroll and Ms. McDermott are available to provide our students with the support they need in order to achieve academic, personal, social, mental, and spiritual well-being. When working with students in "crisis," we strive to help them regain their sense of balance, focus on their strengths, create positive support networks, and rekindle their spirit of hope. Please email, call, or visit for assistance throughout the year!

Mrs. Tammy Carroll, Counselor (and Coco, our therapy dog)

phone: extension 107

email: tcarroll@materdeiknights.org

Ms. Colleen McDermott, Campus Minister

phone: extension 102

email: cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org

NOTE All students may also message Mrs. Carroll or Ms. McDermott via the "chat" in Microsoft Teams in order to schedule an appointment.



MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

academic excellence in a faith-filled environment

OPEN HOUSE Sunday, November 6, 2022
FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
WITH STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8

*Discover the unique opportunities of joining the Mater Dei family!
Guests will enjoy a guided tour and receive information regarding
our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs;
scholarships and tuition assistance; and free transportation.*

*Free transportation south to Mt. Vernon-Salem-Odin-Sandoval-Carlyle; north to
Highland; and west to O'Fallon (I-64/Air Mobility Drive)-Lebanon-New Baden-Trenton*



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618-526-7216
www.materdeiknights.org

Email: knights@materdeiknights.org
Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
Instagram: [breesematerdei](https://www.instagram.com/breesematerdei)
Twitter: [@breesematerdei](https://twitter.com/breesematerdei)

SHADOW A KNIGHT grades 7 and 8

Join us for a day of school
in order to experience
the Mater Dei spirit!

Our guests attend classes,
enjoy lunch, tour campus,
receive a Mater Dei shirt,
and gain valuable insight
into life at Mater Dei.

For information:
contact Maria Zurliene
mzurliene@materdeiknights.org

or
visit our website
"Prospective Families" menu,
"Visit Us" page

SHARE OUR INVITATION

To help us spread our unique
story to prospective families,
please share the invitation to
our Open House (left).

Please also share the many
benefits your child has
received as a result of
attending Mater Dei.

Your story is the
most important story!

SELL, SELL, SELL OUR 2023 MATER DEI CALENDAR

We are excited to announce that the 2023 Calendar Drive begins October 11! Entering its 38th year, the Calendar Drive serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising. Thus, it is the only fundraiser for which we request participation from all students.

Did you know that the cost to educate each student is \$9,801? As a result, approximately \$3,870 per student must be funded from two sources other than tuition: parishes (\$1,642 per student) and fundraising (\$2,228 per student). **Thus, the participation of all families in the 2023 Calendar Drive is essential!**

Director of Advancement Fr. Chuck Tuttle will discuss with our students their vital role in the drive and the many incentives they may earn. Each student is asked to sell a minimum of eight calendars, for which he/she will earn a day off school on April 21, as well as a jeans day each Friday thru January 27. Last year, 72% of our students met this quota.

Additionally, students who sell ten or more calendars earn cash prizes, as well as special dress up days. Last year, 49% of our students sold ten or more calendars.

Finally, top sellers in each class earn tuition credit ranging from \$150 to \$500.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of this vital fundraiser! For the benefit of our students, let's make the 2023 Calendar Drive a record-breaking success!

Calendars may be purchased online!

Visit our website, www.materdeiknights.org,
and select the "Buy a 2023 Calendar" button.

(Buyers can name the student who will receive credit.)



MAKE TIME FOR MASS

As we enhance our Catholic identity at Mater Dei, we continually focus on our Mission to educate, to foster faith, and to develop gospel values. Participation in Mass plays an essential role in fulfilling this Mission.

Thus, please take to heart your vital role in supporting our Mission, for as parents, you serve as role models for our students.

While prayer at home is an important aspect of our faith, it cannot replace the celebration of Mass, which offers the following opportunities:

- to experience community, especially through the Peace of Christ and the prayers;
- to receive inspiration from God's Word, through the readings, homily, and prayers, in order to strengthen our commitment to modeling the teachings of Jesus;
- to first acknowledge our sins and then to seek and to receive forgiveness for those sins;
- to experience the miracle of the Eucharist;
- to share our talents with others by serving as cantors, lectors, servers, ushers, or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

Please remember that we are all called to live our faith. We make time to answer many other calls; please make time to answer God's call to celebrate Mass with your family every week. God bless you!

Buy



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT: OCT 12

Mater Dei families are invited to our annual College Night Wednesday, October 12, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In addition to gaining information from a variety of institutions, families may attend a financial aid presentation at 6:30 p.m. or 7:15 p.m. in the Lampe Commons.

FREE ACT PREP – PERIOD 8 STUDY HALLS

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz will host ACT test preps in room 505 **every period 8 study hall** (after silent reading) **beginning October 26**.

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 and the Class of 2023 and Class of 2024 groups in Microsoft Teams.

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

MATH ACT REVIEW IN DECEMBER

Prior to the December ACT, Ms. Sackett will offer a math ACT review on a Saturday (date to be determined). The cost will be \$10 per student. Additional information will be provided soon.

FREE ACT ACADEMY ONLINE

For free personalized ACT practice online, students are encouraged to visit the ACT Academy website: www.act.org/academy.

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. For assistance, contact Mrs. Goetz.

NOTE: Parents will utilize the 2021 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. (Note the drop-down menu in the “Links and Files” window.)

PSAT TEST: OCT 12

All juniors and high achieving sophomores are encouraged to register for the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test offered at Mater Dei on October 12 (during the school day).

The PSAT assesses critical-thinking, math, and writing skills, and also prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam. Juniors who earn high scores on the PSAT are then eligible for prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program recognition.

Students must register at the College Placement Office. The test fee is \$20 and must be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei). Early registration is recommended, as we possess a limited number of tests.

ACT TEST DATES

For registration information, visit our College Placement Office or the ACT website: www.actstudent.org.

December 10, 2022 (at Mater Dei)
deadline November 4, 2022

February 11, 2023
deadline January 6, 2023

April 15, 2023 (at Mater Dei)
deadline March 10, 2023

June 10, 2023
deadline May 5, 2023

July 15, 2023
deadline June 16, 2023

NOTES

In order for Mater Dei to receive ACT scores, the registration must include our CEEB code (where a student attends school). **The Mater Dei CEEB code is 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.