
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 the month of November, we realize that the first quarter has quickly slipped by us. It did not slip by quietly, however, for our students were busy achieving success both inside and outside the classroom! Inside the classroom, for the first quarter, 66% of our students earned recognition on either high honor roll (4.0 to 3.8 GPA) or honor roll (3.79 to 3.5 GPA). Outside the classroom, our fall athletic teams and Marching Knights experienced much success, and members of our activities hosted and/or participated in a variety of events. Please know that I recognize that this level of success is no accident, but rather a direct result of the attitudes and commitment of our students, parents, faculty, and staff. Thus, it is truly with a high level of pride that I serve the Mater Dei community!

One key aspect of my service is to promote our commitment to providing our students with the skills required to serve as leaders in the Catholic church, for as the number of clergy and religious decline, we are called to participate in the sacramental life of the church. In addition, at a time when our society is marred by deepening divisions between the rich and the poor, our tradition instructs us to place the needs of the poor and the vulnerable first, for how those in need are faring serves as a basic moral test. Thus, throughout the year, our students, faculty, and staff will focus on fulfilling their responsibility, through service and ministry, to protect and to aid the poor and the vulnerable, which is a basic social teaching of our church. I truly believe that by making our students aware of their obligations to others, we can make a difference!

In closing, as we look forward to the holiday season, we are called to thank our Lord and Savior for his many gifts to us and to pray for those who have not yet experienced his graces. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive Catholic adults. As always, may God continue to bless you and your family!



SHARE WARMTH AND JOY

Later this month, our St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold their annual winter clothing and toy drive. The donations, which will be collected in theology classes, will be donated to BCMW to benefit families in need.

Please prayerfully consider donating any of the following items:

- new winter hats, gloves, scarves, and socks
- gently-worn winter coats
- new toys (for Christmas)

We thank our St. Vincent de Paul Society members and moderator Mrs. KK Schneider for hosting this event! We also thank you, our Mater Dei family, for your generous support!

STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER

We are pleased to announce our “Students of the Quarter” for the first quarter:

seniors Madison Bonner and Nolan Ritzheimer
juniors Kristen Gerdes and Gabe Schlimme
sophomores Maris Zurliene and Will Rockwell
freshmen Marley Kock and Keegan Kohlbrecher

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!**

NOVEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 1 Grandparents and All Saints Day Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 4 Fall Play: *Murder on the Orient Express* (7:00 p.m.)
- 5 Fall Play: *Murder on the Orient Express* (7:00 p.m.)
- 6 Open House (12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.)
Fall Play: *Murder on the Orient Express* (2:00 p.m.)
- 7 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 No School: Veterans Day
- 14 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 20 Knight Club Recognition Social
- 21 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 23 Thanksgiving Mass (9:40 a.m.)
XX-Schedule (1:00 dismissal)
- 24 No School: Thanksgiving
- 25 No School
- 28 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 29 Memorial Mass (7:00 p.m.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FALL PLAY: NOVEMBER 4, 5, AND 6

Enjoy a performance of the mystery *Murder on the Orient Express* November 4 and 5 at 7:00 p.m. and November 6 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets (adults \$6, students \$4) may be purchased in advance (main office) or at the door. (Our students and Knight Club members receive free admission.)

BAND PARENTS CHICKEN DINNER: NOVEMBER 13

Enjoy a delicious meal on November 13 in support of our music programs! The carry-out only dinner will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Breese. The meal (\$13) includes fried chicken, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and slaw.

THANKSGIVING MASS: NOVEMBER 23

On November 23, we will welcome Bishop McGovern to Mater Dei for our Thanksgiving Mass at 9:40 a.m.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON: DECEMBER 18

Enjoy the sounds of the season as performed by our concert band, jazz band, wind ensemble, and chorus at our Christmas concert on December 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Let us always remember to give **THANKS** and be **GIVING**



WHO CARES when our students struggle?



Anxiety
Grief
Depression
Spirituality
Self-Esteem
Belonging
Relationships
Coping Strategies
Self-Image
Mental Well-Being

WE DO! Please contact us for help.

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: Students may also message Mrs. Carroll and Ms. McDermott via the "chat" in Microsoft Teams in order to schedule an appointment.

DID YOU KNOW ...



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

Enjoy and share the posts we publish on our social media sites:

- Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
- Instagram: breesematerdei
- Twitter: @breesematerdei

AMAZON SMILE DONATES TO MATER DEI

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your 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.

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



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

FREE ACT PREP DURING PERIOD 8 STUDY HALLS

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

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 DECEMBER 3

On Saturday, December 3, Ms. Sackett will offer a math ACT review from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The fee is \$10 per student. Students must register in the College Placement Office.

NOTE: A minimum of eight students must register in order for the review to be held.

FREE ACT PREP ONLINE

For a variety of free ACT prep tools, students are encouraged to visit the ACT 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/fafsa. 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.

NACAC VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIRS

Visit the NACAC Virtual College Fair website to check for upcoming virtual college fairs: <https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/attend-virtual-college-fairs/>

COLLEGE PLACEMENT OFFICE ON PLUSPORTALS

Mrs. Goetz offers a friendly reminder 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.)

ACT TEST DATES

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

December 10, 2022 (at Mater Dei)
late registration deadline November 11, 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.

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 \$32 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.

CLASS OF 2022 ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased to share ACT composite score statistics, as well as additional accomplishments, for our Class of 2022.

NOTE: Statistics do not include ACT scores of our "single-year" international students.

ACT PERFORMANCE

Illinois State Scholars The average of the ACT composite scores for the twenty Illinois State Scholars is 28.3.

Valedictorians The average of the ACT composite scores for the fourteen valedictorians is 28.4.

ACT Composite Scores of 30 or Higher The top 15% of ACT composite scores (11) are all 30 or higher and have an average of 31.2.

ACT Composite Scores of 28 or Higher The top 20% of ACT composite scores (15) are all 28 or higher and have an average of 30.4.

ACT Composite Scores of 26 or Higher The top 35% of ACT composite scores (26) are all 26 or higher and have an average of 28.8.

ACT Composite Scores of 24 or Higher The top 51% of ACT composite scores (38) are all 24 or higher and have an average of 27.4.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Scholars The Class of 2022 included twenty Illinois State Scholars, which is 22% of the eligible members of the class. (The state average is 10% of a class.)

Scholarships Seventy-six members (75%) of the Class of 2022 received scholarship offers, which totaled \$11.3 million.

National Honor Society (NHS) Fifty-nine members (58%) of the Class of 2022 were members of NHS, having earned a GPA of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student The Class of 2022 included one student who earned recognition as a National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student. (One of approximately 34,000 students in the nation.)

Faith The Class of 2022 included eight catechists for Youth Faith Formation (YFF) and Parish School of Religion (PSR) programs and thirteen extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

Service The Class of 2022 provided nearly 13,500 hours of service and donated to a scholarship fund for Guatemalan students as their mission.

PARENTING BLOGS



As many of us know from experience, at times, parents can feel overwhelmed with their role and unsure of their skills as a parent. Often times, the advice of others provides the perspective, understanding, and strategies needed not only to regain confidence as a parent, but also to guide young adults in a positive and productive manner. The blogs listed below provide numerous and varied articles from which both mothers and fathers can benefit. We hope you find them helpful!

Mark Merrill—Helping Families Love Well: www.markmerrill.com

Hands Free Mama (blog): www.handsfreemama.com

Grown & Flown: www.grownandflown.com

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING WEEKLY

As we gather with our families to share both food and friendship in celebration of Thanksgiving, let us truly thank God for all we have been given. Despite the struggles we face, let us recognize that our nation has been blessed, for our lives are much more comfortable than the lives of many others in the world.

Let us not forget, however, that as Catholics, we also have an opportunity every Sunday to gather with our church family to share Eucharist and friendship. Why do we sometimes fail to gather for this weekly Thanksgiving?

Please remember that we have a responsibility to model for our children the importance of praising and thanking our God for his many gifts.

grateful
THANKFUL
blessed

For each new morning with its light,
for rest and shelter of the night,
for health and food,
for love and friends,
for everything Thy goodness sends.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



BETHE HANDS OF CHRIST

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is pleased to announce that during the first quarter, the Mater Dei family donated a total of **\$1,924.09** through our weekly collections for class missions and special causes!

Specifically, a total of \$864.56 was donated to class missions: the Class of 2026 supports Santa Clara Scholarship Fund for students in Guatemala, the Class of 2025 supports St. Anne Mission Hospital in Kenya, Africa, the Class of 2024 supports Daystar Community Program in Cairo, and the Class of 2023 supports orphanages in Haiti and Venezuela.

In addition, the Mater Dei family donated \$281.29 to Operation Food Search and \$778.24 to St. Jude Children's Hospital in memory of the late Eli Lobb, grandson of driver education teacher Mr. Andy Lobb.

We commend and thank our students, administration, faculty, and staff for living the Gospel through their commitment to helping those in need!

SAVE THE DATE



A KNIGHT IN GERMANY

Mothers & Friends Dinner Auction
Saturday, April 22, 2023

2023 CALENDAR DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

The 2023 Calendar Drive is off to an excellent start with 2,253 calendars sold as of October 31! Now in its 38th year, the Calendar Drive, which is the only fundraiser for which we request participation from all students, serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising. **Thus, the participation of all families in the 2023 Calendar Drive is essential!**

The “sales pitch” is simple: for only \$25, a buyer will have 392 chances to win cash (\$30 daily, \$100 and \$500 monthly, and \$1,000 and \$2,000 on December 31). Moreover, students have the opportunity to earn multiple incentives, including cash. (The complete incentive program is provided at the right.)

Please accept our “THANK YOU!” in advance, for the support you provide is essential to the Calendar Drive’s success and is greatly appreciated!

CALENDARS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE!

Buy

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

(You can name the student to receive credit.)

IT’S TIME TO PREPARE FOR COLDER WEATHER



To assist you in ensuring that your child adheres to the dress code, we are providing a detailed explanation of “winter” clothing. Please know that your assistance is appreciated!

SWEATSHIRTS: Sweatshirts with a Mater Dei logo, as well as sweatshirts purchased at an IHSA or ICCA event, may be worn with a dress code polo. Hoods must remain down during the school day.

SWEATERS: Sweaters that are solid black, solid navy, or solid white, may be worn over a dress code shirt.

note: The term “sweater” includes the traditional meaning of “sweater” and a fleece pull-over with a zipper at the neck (not a “full” zipper down the entire front, which is defined as a jacket). Thus, a jacket does not meet the definition of a sweater, even if it is solid black, solid navy, or solid white. Additionally, the term “solid” is defined as not having a logo, with the exception of a Mater Dei logo, which is an acceptable option.

JACKETS AND COATS: Jackets and coats with a Mater Dei logo may be worn during the school day.

Finally, to answer the most common question regarding jackets, coats, and solid color sweatshirts — without a Mater Dei logo it is not acceptable, but with a Mater Dei logo it is acceptable.

CALENDAR DRIVE INCENTIVES

- 1) A student who meets his/her quota of eight (8) or more calendar sales will receive a day off school April 21, 2023.
- 2) After a student sells eight (8) calendars (\$200), he/she may wear jeans or sweatpants and a Mater Dei spirit shirt or sweatshirt on all Fridays during the Calendar Drive (through and including January 27, 2023).
- 3) Each homeroom that meets its quota will receive a snack. When all students in a homeroom meet their quota, they will receive a free beverage coupon.
- 4) When a student sells ten (10) or more calendars, he/she will earn special dress days and receive prize money as follows: \$5 for the first ten (10) calendars sold and \$10 for each additional five (5) calendars sold.
- 5) When a student is the seller of a daily calendar drawing winner, he/she will receive a “front of the lunch line” pass.
- 6) For the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, the top salesperson in each class will receive a \$500 tuition credit, and the second place salesperson in each class will receive a \$200 tuition credit. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be applied to next year’s tuition.)
- 7) For the senior class, the top salesperson will receive a \$500 tuition credit, the second place salesperson will receive a \$250 tuition credit, and the third place salesperson will receive a \$150 tuition credit. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be awarded in cash.)
- 8) The last day to earn prizes is January 31, 2023. Prize money will be available February 6, 2023, through February 28, 2023.

Please contact Fr. Chuck Tuttle with questions regarding the incentives.