



# MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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.

## THANK YOU PARISH FAMILIES

During Catholic Schools Week, we especially celebrate and thank our parish families for their continued support! Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of our students, as it assists us in providing them with unique opportunities and experiences, including those shared below. "And may the Lord reward you for your kindness" (Ruth 1:8).

*"Choosing to attend Mater Dei was the best decision I have ever made! Because the Mater Dei community is filled with welcoming administrators, teachers, and staff, I immediately felt right at home. Every teacher is supportive and strives to help students succeed. If at any time I am struggling with a topic, I know there are numerous teachers from whom I can request assistance during our daily school-wide study hall and before or after school. Every day, I am surrounded by a positive environment both in and out of the classroom. For these reasons, I always look forward to attending school!"*

**Marley Jansen, Class of 2023, St. Boniface Catholic Church (Germantown)**

*"Mater Dei provides a very welcoming environment. Students can be themselves and develop close relationships with not only students, but also administrators, teachers, and coaches. At Mater Dei, I have learned both how to be a better student and a better person. Everyone cares about the well-being of students, and they work every day to prepare us to be successful on whichever path we choose for our future."*

**Alexis Kampwerth, Class of 2023, St. Rose Catholic Church (St. Rose)**

*"As a three-sport athlete, my free time after school is limited. For this reason, I am grateful for the daily school-wide study hall in Mater Dei's schedule! The study hall provides time for me to complete assignments, to meet with teachers, and to attend meetings for other activities. Because of my involvement in athletics and activities, as well as the small class sizes, I also have a wide variety of friends and have become more confident. As a side note, I love all the choices we have at lunch!"*

**Julia Korte, Class of 2023, St. Damian Catholic Church (Damiansville)**

## SHADOW A KNIGHT

To truly experience the Mater Dei spirit, students in grades 7 and 8 are invited to join us for a day! On the day of their choice, shadows observe classes, enjoy lunch, tour campus, and gain valuable insight. To schedule a visit, contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene (mzurliene@materdeiknights.org).

*"Before participating in the Shadow a Knight program, we each had mixed emotions about attending Mater Dei. However, we agree that when we shadowed, we were able to experience aspects of Mater Dei that we could never learn by reading a brochure. For example, we saw how teachers taught and how students interacted with each other, received answers to our questions, and enjoyed lunch. Overall, we were able to experience life as a Mater Dei student. The day was enjoyable and made a positive difference. We strongly recommend shadowing!"*

**Carley Emig, Ellen Nuxoll, and Madelyn Vogelbacher  
Class of 2023, St. Paul Catholic Church (Highland)**

## JOIN THE MATER DEI FAMILY

Contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene for additional information.  
(mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)

### Registration

February 25, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Families who are unable to attend on this date may schedule an alternate appointment.

### Freshman Welcome

Information will be provided in the spring.

## TRANSPORTATION

We provide **free** transportation for students living outside the Central Community High School District.

Currently, our three routes are as follows:

Mt. Vernon – Salem – Odin – Sandoval – Carlyle  
O'Fallon – Lebanon – New Baden – Trenton  
Highland

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

We are committed to ensuring that **all** students, have the opportunity to attend Mater Dei.

### Scholarships and Memorial Grants

Scholarships are based on a variety of qualifications – academic, leadership, financial need, and/or parish, school, or community affiliation.

Memorial grants are based on financial need.

Applications are available following a student's registration.

### Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship

The online application process opened January 18, 2023.

Families may apply at [www.empowerillinois.org](http://www.empowerillinois.org).

NOTE: Qualifications for the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship and Mater Dei Memorial Grant are independent of each other.

# KNIGHTS LEARN

**EXTENSIVE CURRICULUM** Our extensive, multi-level curriculum provides all students, including those needing academic accommodations, with the opportunity both to challenge themselves and to achieve success.

The curriculum includes multiple courses in agricultural science, art, business education, computer science, and industrial education; as well as a CNA (Certified Nurse Assistant) program, a culinary arts course, and a sewing course.

**CLASS SIZE** With an average class size of 18, students receive individual instruction, guidance, and assistance from knowledgeable and dedicated faculty.

**PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE** Our Director of College Placement provides information and workshops related to the college placement process, including preparing for the ACT and SAT, searching for and applying to colleges, applying for scholarships and financial aid, and NCAA eligibility. In addition, we host a College Fair and offer an ACT prep course taught by our faculty members.

**COLLEGE CREDIT HOURS** For no additional fee, our dual credit courses are offered at Mater Dei in conjunction with Kaskaskia College.\* These courses provide numerous advantages following graduation: valuable credit for college-level coursework, financial savings, and the ability to earn additional minors or majors or to graduate early. \* *Residential Electricity is offered off-campus for an additional fee.*

During the 2021-2022 school year, our students earned nearly 1,600 hours of college credit.

## **NATIONAL RURAL & SMALL TOWN RECOGNITION**

Six students earned recognition from College Board after scoring in the top 10% (by state) on the fall 2021 PSAT test and possessing a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

## **CLASS OF 2022 ACT SCORES AND ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS**

### **ACT Composite Scores of 30 or Higher**

The top 15% of 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 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 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 scores (38) are all 24 or higher and have an average of 27.4.

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

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

**Scholars** The Class of 2022 included twenty Illinois State Scholars (22% of eligible members of the class).

### **National Honor Society (NHS)**

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

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

### **National Merit Commended Student**

In the National Merit Scholarship Program, Caleigh Arentsen earned recognition as a commended student.

*(Approximately 50,000 total students in the nation earn recognition as a commended student, a semifinalist, or a finalist.)*

# KNIGHTS SERVE

## **LEARNING OUR FAITH**

Students enroll in a theology course each semester and participate in a day of retreat, with their class, each year.

We welcome students of other faith traditions, who currently represent 13% of our student body.

## **LOVING OUR FAITH**

For our Masses, students serve as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, candle and cross bearers, greeters, lectors, and musicians.

Seniors have the opportunity to serve as catechists for PSR and YFF programs at local parishes.

## **LIVING OUR FAITH**

### **Missions and Special Collections**

During the 2021-2022 school year, our Mater Dei family raised a total of \$14,294 in support of class missions and special causes.

### **Service**

Students provide service both as a school community and as individuals. Underclass students complete acts of service each semester, and seniors complete a three-week service project.

### **Liturgical Opportunities**

Students participate in Mass and prayer both as a school community (seven Masses, optional daily prayer) and in their theology classes.

During Lent, we offer daily Eucharist services and a reconciliation service.

# KNIGHTS LEAD

## **ACTIVITIES**

Academic Challenge Team,  
Art and Photography Club,  
Bass Fishing, Book Club, Chess Club,  
Chorus, Color Guard, Fall Play, FFA,  
Future Business Leaders of America,  
Liturgical Music Group,  
Liturgical Planning Team,  
Mass Set Up Crew,  
National Honor Society, Newspaper,  
Peer Tutors, Pep Club,  
St. Vincent de Paul Society,  
Scholar Bowl, Spanish Club,  
Spring Musical, Student Ambassadors,  
Student Council, Teens for Life,  
Yearbook

Concert Band, Jazz Band,  
Marching Band, Pep Band,  
Percussion Ensemble, Wind Ensemble

## **ATHLETICS**

### **Fall**

Cheer, Cross Country (boys & girls),  
Football, Golf (boys & girls),  
Soccer (boys), and Volleyball

### **Winter**

Basketball (boys & girls),  
Bowling (boys & girls), and Cheer

### **Spring**

Baseball, Soccer (girls), Softball,  
and Track and Field (boys & girls)

## **IHSA ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

During the 2021-2022 school year, fourteen of our seventeen athletic teams and Scholar Bowl advanced in the IHSA postseason (as a team or with individual team members).

## **STUDY HALL MEETINGS**

Numerous activities meet during a designated school-wide study hall, which allows students to participate in multiple activities.