



## STRATEGIC PLAN FINDINGS RESULT IN CURRICULUM ADDITIONS

Mater Dei has added course offerings that were identified in last year's strategic plan to be areas of study in which students had growing interest: Agriculture and Nursing.

At the start of the 2022-2023 academic year, in our continued dedication to expanding both the academic and the extracurricular opportunities for our students, we proudly added four agriculture courses to our curriculum and established an FFA chapter.

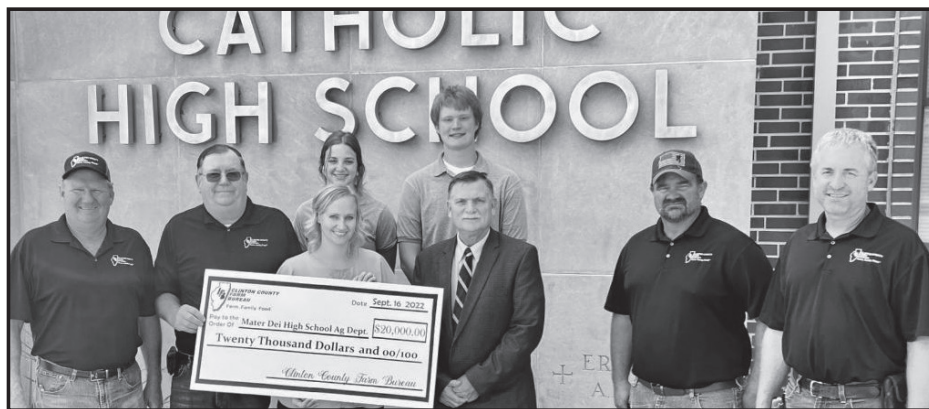
In our science department, Mrs. Erika Knolhoff teaches Agricultural Science, a year-long course, as well as Animal Science and Soil Science, both semester courses. For the fourth course, recognizing the expansive nature of the agriculture field, we added Agricultural Business, a semester course co-taught by Mrs. Knolhoff and Mr. Cory Arentsen, a member of our business department.

Mrs. Erika Knolhoff also serves as the advisor for the newly established Mater Dei FFA Chapter #IL0556, which boasts 30 members in this inaugural year. (FFA membership requires that a student enroll in an agriculture course for at least one semester per academic year.)

Regarding these expansions to Mater Dei's agriculture program, Mrs. Knolhoff stated, "I am very excited to be the advisor for the first official FFA chapter established at Mater Dei! National FFA Organization is a wonderful organization to assist in developing the character, professionalism, and intellect of our students. Participation in FFA will allow many students to showcase their depth of knowledge and skills that often go unnoticed in other classroom settings." In reference to the curriculum, she continued, "Students now have a wider variety of agriculture-based curriculum to choose from while still getting to dive into specific subject matter, such as agricultural business or animal science. Our improved agriculture curriculum also aligns with many events and activities provided by FFA." Mrs. Knolhoff also commended the Clinton County Farm Bureau (CCFB) for generously donating \$20,000 in support of Mater Dei's new agriculture courses and FFA chapter.



*Mater Dei FFA's newly elected officers are (front, from left) Treasurer Jack Shelton, Vice President Jacob Pollmann, Sentinel Parker Kampwerth, Chaplain Bradley Huelsmann; (back, from left) Secretary Alexis Kampwerth, President Carissa Litteken, and Reporter Addison Kampwerth.*



*The Clinton County Farm Bureau (CCFB) generously donated \$20,000 in support of Mater Dei's new agriculture courses and Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter! Pictured are (front, from left) CCFB board members Cliff Schuette and Ray Krausz, agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor Erika Knolhoff, principal Dennis Litteken, CCFB board members Tim Wesselmann and Mark Litteken; (back, from left) and agricultural science students and FFA members Carissa Litteken and Jacob Pollmann.*

## AG STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FIELD STUDIES



During the Clinton County Farm Bureau (CCFB) annual crop yield survey, Soil Science student Bradley Huelsmann (right), under the guidance of CCFB board member Cliff Schuette, organized corn samples in preparation for data collection.



During the Clinton County Farm Bureau (CCFB) annual crop yield survey, Soil Science student Logan Becker (left), under the guidance of CCFB board member Tim Wesselmann, collected data from a corn sample.



On September 6, under the guidance of agricultural science teacher Mrs. Erika Knolhoff (far right), the following students assisted the Clinton County Farm Bureau with data collection for their annual crop yield survey: (from left) Logan Becker, Cole Manley, Bradley Huelsmann, Jacob Pollmann, Carissa Litteken, and Madeline Roth. This hands-on experience was offered as part of our Soil Science course.



## TWO NEW MEDICAL CLASSES AT MATER DEI

Mater Dei added two classes for the 2022-23 school year – Medical Terminology and Nursing Assistant. These classes will prepare students for healthcare careers. Many colleges now require that applicants are Certified Nursing Assistants in order to be accepted into nursing programs. These classes also allow students to experience healthcare in order to help them decide if this is a career for which they are interested. Both classes are dual credit classes offered in conjunction with Kaskaskia College. The students receive a total of eight college credit hours for successfully completing both classes.



*In support of the establishment of our CNA program, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese recently donated an array of supplies and medical equipment. Pictured with a portion of the items are (from left) Carl Kuhl, St. Joseph's supply chain director; Helen Essenpreis, CNA teacher; Amanda Ennen, St. Joseph's chief nursing officer; Sue Darr, CNA teacher; Aaron Puchbauer, St. Joseph's president and CEO; and Dennis Litteken, principal.*

These courses include classroom and clinical experiences. Units of instruction include Introduction to Catholic Healthcare, Basic Anatomy and Physiology, and Medical Terminology. In addition to classroom theory the students gain experience in vital signs, bathing patients and residents, feeding patients, special procedures, reporting and recording, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and care at the end of life. The clinical experiences are gained at local hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and assisted living facilities.

The classes are taught for one full school year. In May, once the students have successfully completed the classes, they are eligible to take the Nursing Assistant Certification Exam to become Certified Nursing Assistants and be registered with the State of Illinois. The exam will be administered through Mater Dei.

The CNA classes are being taught by Sue Darr, RN, '73, and Helen Essenpreis, RNC, MSN, '73.



*Mrs. Sue Darr, RN (top right) is pictured providing instruction to students enrolled in our Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) program.*

## SCHOLARSHIPS: A COMMITMENT TO OUR FAMILIES

The Mater Dei administration is committed to awarding some type of financial assistance to every registered student who applies for it. In order to keep up with the demand, scholarships, tuition assistance, and other resources must be retained and expanded.

One way to add to the student tuition assistance funds is through the annual fund drive. When you return a remittance envelope or go online to donate, one of the options to direct your donation is Student Tuition Assistance. The funds are dispersed every year in the form of Memorial Grants. For the 2021-2022 school year, \$91,305 was awarded to families through this program.

Another way Mater Dei is able to help families is through endowed scholarships. This type of scholarship is set up by a donor or group of donors who fund the specific scholarship every year, and then it is awarded based on criteria designated by the donor or the scholarship committee. Long-standing scholarships of this type are the James and Joanne Lampe Family Scholarship, the Sr. Miriam Coovert Scholarship, created by Aloys and Carol Litteken, both from the Class of 1959, and the Fred J. and Gertrude Rakers Scholarship, which was created by the family of Fred and Gertrude Rakers. These scholarships lead the way in helping families with their tuition commitment. In the past year, the William J. Timmermann Scholarship and the Bernie Johnson Trust Scholarship were created through the generosity of these two benefactors. It is our hope that others will follow their example and the endowed scholarship program will continue to grow.

Two years ago, Mater Dei announced two new scholarships: The Juan Diego Scholarship and the Carlyle Area Alumni Scholarship. Both scholarships were created by benefactors who initiated the funding with the intention of having the generosity of the Mater Dei community grow the value of the scholarships to benefit more families. The Juan Diego Helping Hands Scholarship is offered to area Hispanic students and their families who wish to send their children to Mater Dei. In the 2021-2022 school year, \$21,000 was awarded to families through the Juan Diego Scholarship. The Carlyle Area Alumni Scholarship was created with the expectation that a number of full-tuition scholarships per year would be awarded to students who graduate from Carlyle Junior High School and who choose to attend Mater Dei. In the 2021-2022 school year, the Carlyle Area Alumni Scholarship awarded \$51,634 to Carlyle families.

Donors who have used the Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program, also know as Empower Illinois, have taken the advantage of an Illinois tax credit to build the funds made available to Mater Dei to award full-tuition scholarships. For the 2021-2022 academic year, eight scholarships were awarded to current MD students through this program. The ITC program is a win-win for donors and for Mater Dei and so the administration hopes that more donors take the time to register for the program (see page 6) and in turn MD will receive more funds for scholarships.

To learn more about scholarships or to create a scholarship, please contact Dennis Litteken.

### FATHERS & FRIENDS YEARLY RAFFLE SUBSCRIPTION


is now available on the Mater Dei website. Go to [www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org) and click the “Donate to MD” button. Scroll down to the “Fathers & Friends Cash Raffle (Monthly)” tab and click. Finally, open the link “Purchasing Fathers & Friends Cash Raffle Yearly Subscriptions Online.”



## SCHOLARSHIPS


James and Joanne Lampe Family Scholarship  
 Sr. Miriam Coovert Scholarship  
 Fred J. and Gertrude Rakers Scholarship  
 Fr. Jerome Feldmann Scholarship  
 Clara Werth Scholarship  
 Phyllis Hudspeth Memorial Scholarship  
 Ray and Adele Jansen Memorial Scholarship  
 Abbey Quitmeyer Memorial Scholarship  
 Alice Daiber Memorial Scholarship  
 Ralph Netemeyer Memorial Scholarship  
 Randy Toennies Memorial Scholarship  
 Brent Meyer Memorial Scholarship  
 Jim and Carol Henrichs Scholarship  
 Matthew Heinzmann Leadership Award  
 Gregory and Louise Haselhorst Endowed Scholarship  
 Kathleen and James McDermott Scholarship  
 Connie Wade Memorial Scholarship  
 Jerome A. Timmermann Family Scholarship  
 Adam Conrad Memorial Scholarship  
 Rick Richter Memorial Scholarship  
 Dave Mulvin Foundation Scholarship  
 Ed and Olive Becker Memorial Scholarship  
 Bob Innes Memorial Scholarship  
 Ralph Jansen Scholarship  
 Dorothy and Paul Schurmann Family Scholarship  
 Highland Knights of Columbus Auxiliary Scholarship  
 St. Mary Trenton Holy Name, Ladies Sodality,  
 and Trenton Knights of Columbus  
 Council #2932 Scholarship  
 Pay It Forward Scholarship  
 Fr. Feldmann/St. Anthony Scholarship  
 St. Augustine Holy Name Scholarship

Knights of Columbus Council #9768-  
 Albers Scholarship  
 Knights of Columbus Council #4745-  
 Bartelso Scholarship  
 Matilda Hustedde/St. Anthony Scholarship  
 Mother of Perpetual Help/St. Cecelia Altar  
 Sodality Scholarship  
 St. Augustine Altar Sodality Scholarship  
 St. Bernard Scholarship  
 Sr. Barbara Bruns Scholarship  
 St. Mary Altar Sodality (St. Boniface) Scholarship  
 August E. Becker Scholarship  
 Bishop Zuroweste Scholarship  
 Robert J. Klostermann Scholarship  
 Tillie Hustedde Scholarship  
 St. Francis of Assisi/Ratermann Scholarships  
 Helping Hands Scholarships  
 Class of 1963 Scholarship  
 Floyd Family Memorial Scholarship  
 Juan Diego Helping Hands Scholarship  
 Carlyle Area Alumni Scholarship  
**William J. Timmermann Scholarship-NEW**  
**Bernie Johnson Trust Scholarship-NEW**



**HOMEWORK**  
~~Black Friday~~  
~~Cyber Monday~~  
**Giving Tuesday — due Nov. 29**  
 Following Black Friday and Cyber Monday,  
 Giving Tuesday provides alumni, friends, and parents  
 the opportunity to show their love for Mater Dei.

Please ♡ Make a ♡ Donation to ♡ Help our ♡ Students



**MATER DEI**  
 CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

phone: 618.526.7216  
 email: [knights@materdeiknights.org](mailto:knights@materdeiknights.org)  
 website: [www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org)

## THE GIFT OF THE CLASSES

Every year, Mater Dei alumni gather to celebrate anniversaries. They celebrate the memories, the traditions, and the Mater Dei mission. In the last year, several classes have worked with the Mater Dei Foundation to organize a class donation. The greatest part about this type of donation is that it works with the Foundation to keep current tuition down while investing in the future: The past working to sustain the present and the future.

### **A recognition to the classes that have participated:**

Class 1976 - \$3,850.00

Class 1982- \$1,400.00

Class 1972- \$2,257.00

Class 1997- is currently taking a reunion collection in memory of departed classmates Charmain Vasquez-Drew, Scott Detmer, and Michelle Langenhorst Varel

Individually every person makes a difference. When a class donates, they make an even bigger difference. When all the class donations combine, the impact is even larger. In the last year the reunion contributions have brought \$7,507.00 to the Mater Dei Foundation. It is a small effort by each member that makes a significant impact! It only takes one class member to agree, and many follow. If you have a class reunion being planned, please contact Amy Wobbe, Mater Dei Foundation Planned Giving Coordinator, via email at [awobbe@materdeiknights.org](mailto:awobbe@materdeiknights.org) or by phone at 618-978-9091 to coordinate a class gift.

## ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program was designed for you to support Catholic Education and at the same time reduce your Illinois tax liability. For example, if you have an estimated Illinois tax due of \$750.00 and you make a \$1,000.00 donation to Mater Dei Catholic High School through the Illinois Tax credit scholarship program, called Empower Illinois, you will receive a \$750.00 Illinois tax credit, literally making your out-of-pocket donation only \$250.00 (since the \$750.00 you already owed the State of Illinois will now be used to benefit Mater Dei Catholic High School). In other words, up to 75% of what you donate will be an Illinois tax credit to you.

A full explanation of how to enroll and make your donation can be found on the Mater Dei website ([materdeiknights.org](http://materdeiknights.org)). On the website, go to the Advancement tab, then click on the dropdown tab entitled How to Support Mater Dei, then click on Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Scroll down to Empower Illinois Website Links for Donors and follow the links that will take you to the Make My TCS Donation homepage where you will find step-by-step instructions for making a donation that will benefit you and Mater Dei.

The Empower Illinois program allowed Mater Dei to award \$31,000 in scholarship money for the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you to those who took advantage of the Illinois tax credit program which in turn led to the scholarships.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

In September 2022, as part of our Alumni Spotlight series, we proudly showcased the Mater Dei story of Alex Tebbe '11. The spotlights are shared on our website ("Alumni" menu, "Alumni Spotlights" page) and our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

Would you like to recommend a Mater Dei graduate for a future spotlight? If so, please email the graduate's name, class, and contact information to Mrs. Maria Zurliene, Director of Alumni Relations (mzurliene@mater-deiknights.org).

### Alex Tebbe, '11, Animal Nutrition

Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences, University of Illinois  
Master of Science in Animal Sciences, The Ohio State University  
PhD in Nutrition, The Ohio State University

We thank Alex Tebbe, '11, for sharing his Mater Dei story! When asked how Mater Dei influenced his life, Alex stated, "Before high school, I was passionate about agriculture and knew it was my career field of choice. What I did not know was 1) the large size and scale of the Ag field and 2) how quickly Ag continues to grow. To keep up with the growth and complexity of Ag businesses, Ag needs more specialized people with advanced training and continued education. For many reasons, my education and experiences at Mater Dei were essential to setting the foundation for furthering my education and my current career as a specialist in the dairy industry.



First, the advanced math, science, English, and communication classes I completed at Mater Dei often provided me with an advantage in my Animal Sciences courses at U of I. In fact, Mater Dei's dual credit classes fulfilled most of the general education courses required for my B.S. degree, which allowed me to enroll in more specialized Animal Science courses at U of I and then Ohio State. On a daily basis, I also still use many of the additional skills I learned at Mater Dei. (I wish I had paid more attention in Spanish!)

My involvement in athletics and clubs also nurtured the development of my integrity, communication skills, understanding of teamwork, and work ethic, all of which are important characteristics in the Ag business.

And last, but not least, the environment at Mater Dei is one that cares about the success of students regardless of their career path. Being a teenager and being forced to make career decisions was not always easy, but having coaches and teachers to mentor and guide me to success is what I remember most.

Without my teachers and coaches at Mater Dei, I would not be where I am today. Thanks to all of you!"

Alex serves as a dairy technical specialist and consultant for Purina Animal Nutrition (at the time of this publication).

Mater Dei Catholic High School  
900 N. Mater Dei Drive  
Breese, IL 62230

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City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Must Have Mailing Address)

Sold By \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_

2023 CALENDAR REGISTRATION CARD

Calendars can be purchased from any Mater Dei student, online from the Mater Dei website, with the mail-in form at left along with your check, or in person from the Main Office at Mater Dei.

DID YOU KNOW...that the net profit from the sale of calendars goes back to the students to reduce the tuition increase for the next year? The profit from the 2022 Calendar Drive allowed 2022-2023 tuition to be \$202 per student less than it would be without this fundraiser.

To find more details about the calendar drive, payouts, and a list of calendar winners, please visit our website under Advancement then the drop down tab "*How to Support Mater Dei.*"