

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 17 seniors were recognized as Illinois State Scholars (20% of eligible seniors) and over half of the student body earned recognition on the second quarter honor roll (63%) and the first semester honor roll (61%). 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 Carissa Litteken & Brendan Stricker
 juniors Coryn Toennies & Daniel Goring
 sophomores Reagan Porter & Logan Driemeyer
 freshmen Amelia Beer & Owen Musenbrock

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

On January 20, under the guidance of moderator Mrs. Celia Kannall, the following Teens for Life members demonstrated their dedication to protecting life by attending a prayer vigil at the Clinton County Courthouse: Nadia Baer, Sophie Beer, Ella Detmer, Jack Henss, Charlie Hentz, Alyssa Koerkenmeier, Lynn Shirley, Kennedy Toennies, and Kylie Voss.

In March, members of Teens for Life, joined by faculty members, students from All Saints Academy, and community members, will attend the March for Life in Springfield.

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

FEBRUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 1 Catholic Schools Week Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 4 Junior High Scholar Bowl Tournament
- 6 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 8 Retreat: Junior Class
- 9 Retreat: Sophomore Class
- 10 Retreat: Freshman Class
- 11 Hall of Fame Induction (following varsity boys basketball game)
- 13 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 17 No School: Tri-County Institute
Hall of Honor Nominations Due
- 18 Knight at the Races (doors open 6:00 p.m., races begin 7:00 p.m.)
- 20 No School: Presidents' Day
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 22 Ash Wednesday Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 24 Marching Mini Camp (3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
- 25 Class of 2027 Registration (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
Marching Mini Camp (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
Winter Concert (6:00 p.m.)
- 27 Fathers & Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 28 Last Day to Collect Calendar Drive Prize Money

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

KNIGHT AT THE RACES

In support of our music programs, join us at "the track" on February 18 for Knight at the Races (6 p.m. to 11 p.m.)!

Unable to attend? Event sponsorships and horse naming rights are also available for purchase.

For details, the reservation form, and the sponsorship form, visit the "Announcement" section on our website:

www.materdeiknights.org.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Our Mater Dei community will gather for Ash Wednesday Mass on February 22 at 9:40 a.m. Community members are welcome!

WINTER CONCERT

Enjoy performances by our symphonic band (concert band and wind ensemble), jazz combo, chorus, and multiple chamber ensembles at our winter concert on February 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the main gym. We are honored to welcome guest conductor Dr. Jim Daughters, Director of Bands at Southeast Missouri State University.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CHARITY AND COLLECTION EXTENDED

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CHARITY

Due to the snow days, we will continue to collect donations through February 10 for the benefit of alums Mike and Emily Scott to assist with expenses related to the medical care required for their son, Wade, due to his premature birth and recent hospitalization.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK COLLECTION

Due to the snow days, we will continue to collect donations for 1st Step Early Head Start, which supports families in Clinton County and Washington County. For a list of requested items, visit the "Announcement" section on our website: www.materdeiknights.org.

ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship (ITCS) program serves as an additional source of scholarships for Mater Dei families.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE Current families and families of 8th-grade students who plan to apply for a Mater Dei Memorial Grant (income based) for the 2023-2024 school year must also complete the ITCS application.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The ITCS is awarded by Empower Illinois. Therefore, a denial of funds by Empower Illinois does **NOT** impact a family's Mater Dei Memorial Grant application, as the ITCS and Mater Dei Memorial Grant are independent of each other.

WHERE TO APPLY The online application and detailed information, including a "Helpful Resources" section, is available at www.empowerillinois.org/apply.

WHEN TO APPLY The two-step application process is open. Families should apply as soon as possible.

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS For questions, contact Mr. Dennis Litteken (dlitteken@materdeiknights.org).

... WANTED ... KNIGHTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2027

To assist us in growing our Class of 2027, please share with members of your community both the information below and the unique environment and benefits of Mater Dei.

One simple outreach truly can make a difference!

REGISTRATION Registration begins Saturday, February 25 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 2027 Information Night are invited to schedule a personal family tour.

CONTACT To request an informational folder to share with a prospective family or to share contact information for a prospective family, contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene (618-526-7216 or mzurliene@materdeiknights.org).

KNIGHTS SURPASS CALENDAR DRIVE QUOTA

Thank you for your dedication to the success of the 2023 Calendar Drive! We are pleased to announce that as of February 3, our Mater Dei family has sold 4,085 calendars!

We are also pleased to announce the students who served as the top salesperson for their class: freshman Wyatt Jung; sophomore Kennedy Nicklin, who also served as the school's top salesperson with 81 sales; junior Emily Ess; and senior Julia Korte.

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 21 (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 dedication!
Together, we have made a difference!



April 22, 2023

MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION

Planning continues for "A Knight in Germany," the Mothers & Friends dinner auction scheduled for Saturday, April 22. 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 20 AND 21

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 22 AND 23

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

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** ("Parents" menu, "Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction" page).

CONTACT INFORMATION

To volunteer or to receive additional information, contact chairpersons Melissa Becker (618-401-3420) or Tracy Mensing (618-830-4816) or email mdauction2023@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS VITAL FUNDRAISER!

DID YOU KNOW ...



During Catholic Schools Week, we showcased both our academic and extracurricular success. Thus, we proudly share our IHSA accomplishments, which were not previously provided in our parent newsletters. We are MD proud!

2022 IHSA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

State Finals: Boys Bowling *, Cheerleading, Girls Cross Country, Girls Track & Field *, Scholar Bowl

Super-Sectional Qualifier: Volleyball

Sectional Qualifier: Baseball, Boys Cross Country, Boys Golf, Boys Soccer, Girls Golf *, Girls Basketball, Girls Soccer, and Softball

** Indicates advancement by one or more individuals*

2022 IHSA TEAM ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Sixteen of our seventeen varsity athletic teams ** and the varsity Scholar Bowl team maintained an average GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale) during their respective season.

*** Girls Track & Field met the academic requirement, but did not meet the required minimum number of team members (by one member).*

NOTE: Data reflects the 2021-2022 winter season and spring season and the 2022-2023 fall season.

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 17), contact Mr. Dennis Litteken via email: 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 31), contact Ms. Colleen McDermott via email: cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org or visit www.materdeiknights.org/faith/service.



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

ACT TEST AT MATER DEI APRIL 15

Despite a registration deadline of March 10, Mrs. Goetz encourages students to register early for the April 15 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).

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.

ACT BOOT CAMP IN MARCH

Later this month, students will have the opportunity to register for the ACT Boot Camp (prep course) taught by our faculty over multiple Saturdays in March. Mrs. Goetz will provide details when they are finalized.

FREE ACT PREP DURING PERIOD 8 STUDY HALLS

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz is hosting free ACT test preps in room 505 every period 8 study hall (after silent reading). Students may attend the sessions of their choice, as registration is not required.

FREE ACT PREP ONLINE

For a variety of free ACT prep tools, including a practice test, students are encouraged to visit the ACT website: www.act.org/academy (in the "For Students" section, select "Access Student Learning Resources").

NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE? FILE THE FAFSA NOW

Parents of seniors who have not yet filed the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) are encouraged to do so as soon as possible via the Federal Student Aid website: www.studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa. For assistance, contact Mrs. Goetz (dgoetz@materdeiknights.org).

ELIGIBILITY FOR NCAA ATHLETICS

Students who are considering playing athletics at an NCAA Division I or Division II college or university should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center via their website: www.eligibilitycenter.org.

ACT TEST DATES

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

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.