

## 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, 63% 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

From November 20 through December 8, 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 Elyse Strader and Dominic Hagan  
juniors Ella Paterson-Heier and Luke Hilmes  
sophomores Cynthia Wylie and Isaac Chambers  
freshmen Addison Hilmes and Andrew Sinnock

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.)
- 3 Fall Play: An Evening with Sherlock Holmes (7:00 p.m.)
- 4 Fall Play: An Evening with Sherlock Holmes (7:00 p.m.)
- 5 Open House (12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.)  
Fall Play: An Evening with Sherlock Holmes (2:00 p.m.)
- 6 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 10 No School: Veterans Day
- 13 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 19 Knight Club Appreciation Luncheon (12:30 p.m.)
- 20 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)  
Memorial Mass (7:00 p.m.)
- 22 Thanksgiving Mass (9:40 a.m.)  
Early Dismissal (11:30 a.m. dismissal)
- 23 No School: Thanksgiving
- 24 No School
- 27 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### **FALL PLAY: NOVEMBER 3, 4, AND 5**

Enjoy our fall play event, An Evening with Sherlock Holmes, on November 3 and 4 at 7:00 p.m. and November 5 at 2:00 p.m. The unique performance will include three brief one-act plays directed by students (Act 1) and the one-hour play *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose* directed by Mrs. Goetz (Act 2).

Tickets (adults \$6, students \$4) may be purchased in advance in the office or at the door. (Our students and Knight Club members receive free admission.)

### **THANKSGIVING MASS: NOVEMBER 22**

On November 22, we will welcome Bishop McGovern to Mater Dei for our Thanksgiving Mass at 9:40 a.m. As always, you are welcome to join us!

### **SOUNDS OF THE SEASON: DECEMBER 17**

Enjoy the sounds of the season as performed by our concert band, jazz band, and chorus at our Christmas Concert on December 17 at 6:00 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

Miss Colleen McDermott, Campus Minister  
phone: extension 102  
email: cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org

NOTE: Students may also message Mrs. Carroll and Miss 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

### **MATER DEI CALENDAR SYNCING**

The calendar of all events that is provided on our website's home page will continually sync to a variety of devices. For subscription options, visit [www.materdeiknights.org/events](http://www.materdeiknights.org/events) and select "Subscribe to calendar" (bottom right).

### **PRINTABLE EVENTS CALENDAR**

A PDF file of the calendar of non-athletic events is available on PlusPortals ("School Links and Files" window) and our website ([www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org), "Parents" menu).

### **ATHLETIC SCHEDULES**

Athletic schedules are available on our website:  
[www.materdeiknights.org/athletics-page](http://www.materdeiknights.org/athletics-page)



# PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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## MATH ACT REVIEW: DECEMBER 2

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Miss Sackett will offer a math ACT review on a Saturday, December 2, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mrs. Goetz will accept registrations and payments (\$10 cash).

NOTE: A minimum of eight students is required.

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## 2024-2025 FAFSA FORM TO LAUNCH IN DECEMBER

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Per the Federal Student Aid website, the 2024-2025 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will launch in December.

To learn how to prepare for and stay informed of the FAFSA launch, visit the Federal Student Aid website: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Select the link in the "Launch of the 2024-25 FAFSA Form" section under the "FAFSA Announcements" heading.

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## FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT: JANUARY 8

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Mrs. Donna Goetz will host a FAFSA Completion Night on January 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Lampe Commons. With the "walk-in" format, no appointments are required. Parents must bring their own device, but will have access to our wi-fi.

Prior to attendance, each parent and the student will need their Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

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## FREE ONLINE ACT, SAT, AND PSAT TEST PREP

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ACT Test Prep For free online ACT test prep resources, visit the ACT website: [www.act.org/academy](http://www.act.org/academy). Select the "Access Student Learning Resources" link under the "For Students" heading.

SAT Test Prep For free online SAT test prep resources, visit the College Board website: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/practice-preparation>.

PSAT Test Prep For free online PSAT test prep resources, visit the College Board website: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/preparing>.

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## KEY STEPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGES

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Application Deadlines Students must carefully review application deadlines, as meeting application deadlines may be a requirement for merit scholarships.

Transcripts Students must utilize Parchment ([www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)) to order transcripts. Mrs. Goetz will then review the order prior to processing the request.

NOTE: If counselor information is requested, students must list Donna Goetz ([dgoetz@materdeiknights.org](mailto:dgoetz@materdeiknights.org))

Common App In the "Recommenders and FERPA" section for the colleges to which a student is applying ("My Colleges" tab), students must add Mrs. Goetz as the counselor. (Recommenders are also added in this section.)

Mrs. Goetz will electronically submit transcripts and the "Counselor's Report."

Students must verify that the colleges to which they applied successfully accessed their completed application and supporting materials.

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## ACT TEST DATES

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For registration information, visit our College Placement Office or the ACT website: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

December 9, 2023 (at Mater Dei)  
late registration deadline November 17, 2023  
*\* buy one test, get one free offer*

February 10, 2024  
deadline January 5, 2024

April 13, 2024 (at Mater Dei)  
deadline March 8, 2024

June 8, 2024  
deadline May 3, 2024

July 13, 2024  
deadline June 7, 2024

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## 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.

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## ACT TEST ENCOURAGED FOR ALL JUNIORS

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Mrs. Goetz encourages all juniors to complete the ACT test.

Although some schools do not require the ACT test for admission, such as technical or trade schools and community colleges, the ACT sub-scores are often utilized for placement in English and math courses. When ACT scores are unavailable, students must then complete a placement test.

In addition, juniors who plan to enroll in our dual credit English 101 and English 102 courses as seniors must first attain a minimum score of 18 on the English section of the ACT test (or complete a placement test at Kaskaskia College).

Finally, ACT scores are required to for Illinois State Scholar eligibility (by June of junior year) and numerous scholarships.

# CLASS OF 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased to share ACT composite score statistics, as well as additional accomplishments, for our Class of 2023, as they reflect our tradition of academic excellence in a faith-filled environment!

## ACT PERFORMANCE

**Illinois State Scholars** The average of the ACT composite scores for the seventeen Illinois State Scholars is 27.5.

**Valedictorians** The average of the ACT composite scores for the eleven valedictorians is 26.5.

### ACT Composite Scores

- **29 or higher** The top 12% of scores (8) are all 29 or higher and have an average of 30.3.
- **27 or higher** The top 23% of scores (15) are all 27 or higher and have an average of 28.7.
- **25 or higher** The top 37% of scores (24) are all 25 or higher and have an average of 27.4.
- **23 or higher** The top 60% of scores (39) are all 23 or higher and have an average of 25.9.

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

## ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Scholars** The Class of 2023 included seventeen Illinois State Scholars (20% of eligible class members) **and** one National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student. (Approximately 50,000 students in the nation earn NMSP recognition.)

**Scholarships** Sixty-four members (75%) of the Class of 2023 received scholarship offers, which totaled over \$7 million.

**National Honor Society (NHS)** Fifty-three members (62%) of the Class of 2023 were members of NHS, having earned a GPA of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

**College Credit Hours** Through enrollment in our dual credit courses, our Class of 2023 earned nearly 1,500 credit hours, which is an average of 17 credit hours per student.

**Faith** The Class of 2023 included six catechists for Youth Faith Formation (YFF) and Parish School of Religion (PSR) programs and fourteen extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

**Service** The Class of 2023 provided nearly 12,500 hours of Service, donated to orphanages in Haiti and Venezuela as their class mission, and contributed \$712 for a Pay It Forward Scholarship for the Class of 2027.

## PARENTING SUPPORT



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 sites 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](http://www.markmerrill.com)

Parenting Today's Teens: [www.parentingtodaysteens.org](http://www.parentingtodaysteens.org)

Grown & Flown: [www.grownandflown.com](http://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



## BE THE HANDS OF CHRIST

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is pleased to announce that during the first quarter, through our weekly collections for class missions and special causes, the Mater Dei family donated a total of **\$1,416.12!**

Specifically, the Class of 2027 supports orphanages in Haiti and Venezuela, 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, and the Class of 2024 supports Daystar Community Program in Cairo.

This amount also includes a \$177 donation to St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry in East St. Louis and a \$713.35 donation 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!



## SHARE YOUR TIME & TALENT

Plans are well underway for the Mothers & Friends dinner auction, It's a Glitz and Glam Knight, scheduled for Saturday, April 13!

One of our largest fundraisers, the dinner auction has raised over \$1,000,000 since its inception in 1991. This level of success is a direct result of our parents' continued willingness to share their time and talents!

Thus, we are requesting your help, as many hands make light work!

### **VOLUNTEER SIGNUP GENIUS**

To review the various volunteer opportunities, visit the It's a Glitz & Glam Knight Signup

Genius via the following link: [It's a Glitz & Glam Knight SignUp Genius](#)

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For additional information, contact chairpersons Melissa Becker (618-401-3420) or Tracy Mensing (618-830-4816).

Again, please consider volunteering your time and talents to help make this year's dinner auction the most successful one yet! You will not only help our students, but also create lasting friendships! Thank you, in advance, for your support!



## 2024 CALENDAR DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

The 2024 Calendar Drive is off to an excellent start with **2,490** calendars sold as of November 3! Now in its 39<sup>th</sup> 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 2024 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](http://www.materdeiknights.org), and select the "Buy a 2024 Calendar" button.

(You can name the student to receive credit.)

## 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 12, 2024.
  - 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 26, 2024).
  - 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. At the conclusion of the drive, for each grade, the students in the homeroom with the highest percentage over their quota 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) 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.)
  - 6) 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.)
  - 7) The last day to earn prizes is January 31, 2024. Prize money will be available February 5, 2024, through February 29, 2024.
- Please contact Fr. Chuck Tuttle with questions regarding the incentives.**