

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

Just as the fall season is settling in, so too are the students as we approach the end of the first quarter. Please be assured that our faculty members are challenging our students each day and are excited to observe them putting forth the effort required to meet those challenges. Also, know that we, the administration and faculty, greatly appreciate your active involvement in helping our students achieve their full potential. The support you provide at home, which is essential to your child's success, is second to none! Thus, on behalf of our faculty, I thank you!

October is a busy month, as our fall sports seasons and band competitions come to an end, and our drama students prepare for the upcoming fall play. As I observe the students participating in our many activities, I continually recognize their amazing commitment, and I am pleased to know that our students are developing values that will remain long after they leave Mater Dei.

More importantly, I take immense pride in our students' remarkable commitment to service. In addition to donating to our class missions and special causes (\$12,323 during the 2022-2023 school year), our students serve as Youth Faith Formation teachers; cantors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, and servers in their parishes; and members of Teens for Life and St. Vincent De Paul Society. Moreover, our extracurricular organizations also sponsor service projects.

Our Mater Dei community truly demonstrates our main calling as Catholics: Be the Hands of Christ. With this calling in mind, we will continue to challenge our students, faculty, and staff to follow the model of Mother Theresa, who once reflected that she saw the face of Christ in every man, woman, and child she met.

As you can see, Mater Dei truly is an exceptional school as a direct result of the commitment of all members of the Mater Dei community. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive Catholic adults. **THANK YOU for being members of the Mater Dei family!**

PARENT—TEACHER CONFERENCES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25
4:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

We invite parents to attend our Parent-Teacher Conferences in order to discuss with individual teachers the academic progress of their child(ren).

Report cards, as well as a "directory" of the location of teachers, will be available in the office.

Please note that the format of our conferences is "first come, first served."

Of course, if you are unable to attend the conferences, please feel free to contact teachers via phone or email.

Remember to mark your calendar,
as we hope to see you October 25!

SIMON TOENNIES HONORED AS A NMSP COMMENDED STUDENT

We are pleased to announce that senior Simon Toennies, son of Roger and Gwen Toennies, earned recognition as a 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP) Commended Student!

Simon is among approximately 34,000 students in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition as a result of placing in the top 3% of the more than 1.3 million students who entered the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test as a junior. In total, only approximately 50,000 students in the nation are recognized as a commended student (34,000), semifinalist (9,000), or finalist (7,000).

**Please join us in congratulating Simon
for his exemplary academic success!**

OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 2 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 9 No School: Columbus Day
Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 10 2024 Calendar Drive Begins
- 11 College Fair (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 13 No School: Liturgical Convention
- 16 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 18 Senior Retreat Day (females)
- 19 Senior Retreat Day (males)
- 20 End of the First Quarter
- 23 Student Council Blood Drive
- 25 Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 27 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)
- 30 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GRANDPARENTS MASS ♦ November 1

We are honored to invite our students' grandparents to join us for Mass on November 1 at 9:40 a.m.

FALL PLAY ♦ November 3, 4, and 5

Enjoy our fall play event - An Evening with Sherlock Holmes - November 3 or 4 at 7:00 p.m. or November 5 at 2:00 p.m.

The unique performance will include three brief one-act plays directed by students for Act 1 and the one-hour play *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose* directed by Mrs. Goetz for Act 2.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE



In support of 40 Days for Life, the Mater Dei community will pray at Hope Clinic in Granite City on Monday, October 30, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Members of our Teens for Life will pray from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Thus, volunteers are needed from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
(The time frame is divided into one-hour shifts.)

To volunteer for the number of one-hour shifts of your choice, contact our Teens for Life moderator Mrs. Celia Kannall (618-526-7216 or ckannall@materdeiknights.org).

Thank you, in advance, for your support!

WE CARE FOR AND SUPPORT OUR KNIGHTS

Each of us possesses an inner strength and resilience that can help us find our way, even during the most challenging times. However, during challenging times, it can become difficult to remember this strength, and we can become anxious, depressed, overwhelmed, and hopeless.

Mrs. Carroll and Ms. McDermott are available to provide our students with the support they need in order to achieve academic, personal, social, mental, and spiritual well-being. When working with students in "crisis," we strive to help them regain their sense of balance, focus on their strengths, create positive support networks, and rekindle their spirit of hope. Please email, call, or visit for assistance throughout the year!



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 All students may also message Mrs. Carroll or Ms. McDermott via the "chat" in Microsoft Teams in order to schedule an appointment.

MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

academic excellence in a faith-filled environment

OPEN HOUSE

FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES
WITH STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8

Sunday, November 5, 2023
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Discover the unique opportunities of joining the Mater Dei family!
Guests will enjoy a guided tour and receive information regarding
our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs;
scholarships and grants; and free transportation.*

Free transportation offered east to Centralia (Posey-Hoffman-Centralia-Sandoval-Carlyle),
north to Highland, west to I-64/Air Mobility Drive (O'Fallon-Lebanon-New Baden-Trenton).



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618-526-7216
www.materdeiknights.org

Email: knights@materdeiknights.org
Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
Instagram: [breesematerdei](https://www.instagram.com/breesematerdei)
Twitter: [@breesematerdei](https://twitter.com/breesematerdei)

SHADOW A KNIGHT

grades 7 and 8

Join us for a day of school
in order to experience
the Mater Dei spirit!

Our guests attend classes,
enjoy lunch, tour campus,
receive a Mater Dei shirt,
and gain valuable insight
into life at Mater Dei.

For information:
contact Maria Zurliene
mzurliene@materdeiknights.org

or
visit our website
"Prospective Families" menu,
"Visit Us" page

SHARE OUR INVITATION

To help us spread our unique
story to prospective families,
please share the invitation to
our Open House (left).

Please also share the many
benefits your child has
received as a result of
attending Mater Dei.

Your story is the
most important story!

SELL, SELL, SELL OUR 2024 MATER DEI CALENDAR

We are excited to announce that the 2024 Calendar Drive
begins October 10! Entering its 39th year, the Calendar Drive
serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising. Thus, it is the
only fundraiser for which we request participation from all
students.

Did you know that tuition is less than the actual cost to
educate a student? As a result, Mater Dei must also rely on
sources other than tuition, one of which is fundraising.
**Therefore, the participation of all families in the 2024
Calendar Drive is essential!**

Director of Advancement Fr. Chuck Tuttle discussed with our
students their vital role in the drive and the many incentives
they may earn.

- Each student is asked to sell a minimum of eight calendars,
for which he/she will earn a day off school on April 12, as
well as a jeans day each Friday thru January 26.
- Students who sell ten or more calendars earn cash prizes, as
well as special dress days.
- Top sellers in each class earn tuition credit ranging from
\$150 to \$500.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of this vital
fundraiser! For the benefit of our students, let's make the
2024 Calendar Drive a record-breaking success!



MAKE TIME FOR MASS

As we enhance our Catholic identity at
Mater Dei, we continually focus on our
Mission to educate, to foster faith, and
to develop gospel values. Participation in
Mass plays an essential role in fulfilling
this Mission.

As parents, you serve as role models for our students.
Therefore, please take to heart your vital role in
supporting our Mission.

While prayer at home is an important aspect of our
faith, it cannot replace the celebration of Mass, which
offers the following opportunities:

- to experience community, especially through the
Peace of Christ and the prayers;
- to receive inspiration from God's Word, through the
readings, homily, and prayers, in order to strengthen
our commitment to modeling the teachings of Jesus;
- to first acknowledge our sins and then to seek and to
receive forgiveness for those sins;
- to experience the miracle of the Eucharist;
- to share our talents with others by serving as cantors,
lectors, servers, ushers, or extraordinary ministers of
Holy Communion.

Please remember that we are all called to live our faith.
We make time to answer many other calls; please make
time to answer God's call to celebrate Mass with your
family every week. God bless you!

Buy

Calendars may be purchased online!
Visit our website, www.materdeiknights.org,
and select the "Buy a 2024 Calendar" button.
(Buyers can name the student who will receive credit.)



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT: OCT 11

Mater Dei families are invited to our annual College Night on Wednesday, October 11, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A variety of schools (four-year, two-year, trade), as well as military branches, will be represented.

In addition, families may attend a financial aid presentation at 6:30 p.m. or 7:15 p.m. in the Lampe Commons.

FREE ONLINE ACT, SAT, AND PSAT TEST PREP

ACT Test Prep For free online ACT test prep resources, visit the ACT website: 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>.

MATH ACT REVIEW IN DECEMBER

Prior to the December ACT, Ms. Sackett will offer a math ACT review on a Saturday (date to be determined). The cost will be \$10 per student. Additional information will be provided soon.

KEY STEPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGES

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) 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)

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. (Recommendors 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.

2024-2025 FAFSA FORM TO LAUNCH IN DECEMBER

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.

PSAT TEST: OCTOBER

All juniors and high achieving sophomores are encouraged to register for the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test that will be offered at Mater Dei (during the school day) **on multiple dates throughout October.** (Mrs. Goetz will inform students of their assigned test date.)

The PSAT assesses critical-thinking, math, and writing skills, and also prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam. Juniors who earn high scores on the PSAT are then eligible for prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program recognition.

Students must register at the College Placement Office by October 15. The test fee is \$18 and must be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei).

ACT TEST DATES

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

October 28, 2023
late registration with late fee October 6, 2023

December 9, 2023 (at Mater Dei)
deadline November 3, 2023

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, 2023
deadline June 7, 2024

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.