

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 December and the season of Advent, let us remember the purpose of this special season by making time in our busy schedules to reflect on the truly significant gifts in our lives. The gifts of good health, loving families, and meaningful fellowship are gifts we often do, but cannot, take for granted. Thus, as your family prepares to celebrate the birth of Christ, I encourage you to attend Sunday Mass together and to break bread together more often. As you cherish the time spent with loved ones, please also pray for the many families who will be separated from one another this Christmas season.

Throughout the Advent season, our students will be challenged not only to give thanks for the many blessings in their lives, but also to be mindful of those who are in need and to recognize the ways they can help.

Of course, December also brings the end of the first semester! Our students will take their semester exams on Tuesday, December 19; Wednesday, December 20; and Thursday, December 21. We will then dismiss for Christmas break on Thursday at 11:00 a.m.

On behalf of the entire Mater Dei community, I offer my warmest wishes for a very blessed Christmas season. Please join me in praying that all of our students will understand the reason for this special season. As always, may God bless you and your family!



THEN THERE WAS ONE: OUR VOLLEYBALL LADY KNIGHTS!

Congratulations to our Volleyball Lady Knights, head coach Chad Rakers, and assistant coaches Cortney Walker, Madi Haake, and Ali Kampwerth for earning the title of IHSA Class 2A State Champions!

The title is Mater Dei Volleyball's eighth — two under the guidance of Chad Rakers and six under the guidance of the late Fred Rakers.

Team members are seniors Emma Johnson, Reese Kalmer, Elyse Strader, Madison Winkeler; juniors Ella Diercks, Avery Wuebbels, Bree Jasper, Alyssa Koerkenmeier, Addie Lampe, Lauren Lynch; sophomores Lauren Jamruk, Addison Nenninger; and freshmen Ava Lampe, Avery Patton, and Brielle Kehrner. Managers are sophomore Lindsey Boehning and freshmen Marlie Haag and Avery Von Bokel.

Cheer loudly and proudly: We are MD!

CLASS OF 2024 BOASTS 17 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

We are proud to announce that the following seniors have been honored as Illinois State Scholars: Garrett Arentsen, Alayna Benhoff, Cameron Foster, Kristen Gerdes, Daniel Goring, Wil Harris, Katy Huels, Grace Huelsmann, Eli Kohrmann, Ava McSparin, Brianna Noud, Avery Pingsterhaus, Gabe Schlimme, Elyse Strader, Simon Toennies, Anderson Wilke, and Olivia Wolden.

Moreover, these seniors represent 21% of the eligible members of the class! (Approximately 10% of Illinois graduates are honored as Illinois State Scholars.)

Selection is based on a combination of a student's ACT and/or SAT test score(s), GPA, and unweighted class rank at the end of his/her junior year, unless he/she scores at or above the 95th percentile in Illinois on the ACT and/or SAT test(s). While students do not receive a monetary award, they are able to list this honor on both college applications and scholarship applications.

Please join us in congratulating our Illinois State Scholars, for their dedication to achieving academic success has most certainly paid off!

DECEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 4 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 8 Immaculate Conception Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 9 ACT Test at Mater Dei (8:00 a.m.)
Class of 2028 Placement Test (9:00 a.m.)
- 11 Mothers and Friends Christmas Party (6:30 p.m.)
- 17 Christmas Concert (6:00 p.m.)
- 18 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 19 Semester Exams: periods 6 and 8
- 20 Semester Exams: periods 1, 2, and 7
- 21 Semester Exams: periods 3 and 4/5
Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.
- 27-30 Christmas Tournament

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS

Our Mater Dei community will gather for our Immaculate Conception Mass on December 8 at 9:40 a.m. As always, community members are welcome to join us!

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Enjoy the sounds of the season as performed by our symphonic band, jazz combo, and chorus at our Christmas concert on December 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the main gym.

CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT

Enjoy four days of boys basketball at our 62nd Christmas Tournament scheduled for December 27, 28, 29, and 30. When finalized, the schedule will be posted on our website.



MATER DEI CALENDARS

A Gift That Gives Back

Looking for the perfect gift? Give your family and friends a 2024 Mater Dei calendar, which provides them with 392 chances to win a share of \$21,150 in cash prizes and supports our calendar sales drive!

In addition, students have the opportunity to earn the following incentives:

- 8 sales = Friday “dress down” days and no school April 12
- 10 sales = \$5, then \$10 for each additional five sales, as well as special dress days

- for the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, a \$500 tuition credit for each top seller and a \$200 tuition credit for each second-place seller
- for the senior class, a \$500 tuition credit for the top seller, a \$250 tuition credit for the second-place seller, and a \$150 tuition credit for the third-place seller. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be awarded in cash.)

We sincerely thank you for supporting this vital fundraiser, which makes a difference in the lives of our students!

Buy

Calendars may be purchased online via the “Buy a 2024 Calendar” button on the homepage of our website (www.materdeiknights.org). The buyer may name the student to receive credit for the calendar sale.

DATES TO SAVE

KNIGHT AT THE RACES

On Saturday, February 17, we'll be off to the races for the benefit of our music programs!

We invite you to join us at “the track” for an evening of exciting horse races and chances to win prizes or to donate to the event by sponsoring a horse.

When available, the reservation and sponsorship forms will be shared with families and posted on our website.

A GLITZ & GLAM KNIGHT

Mothers & Friends will host their dinner auction, A Glitz & Glam Knight, on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

We invite you to enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and fun; to donate to the event; or to share your time and talent by volunteering on a committee.

For additional information, visit our website:

[“Mothers & Friends Dinner Auction” page](#)

DATES TO SHARE

To assist us in growing our Class of 2028, please share with members of your community both the dates of our upcoming events and the many unique benefits of Mater Dei.

One simple outreach can truly make a difference!

PLACEMENT TEST

December 9, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

registration available on our website:

www.materdeiknights.org/signup

INFORMATION NIGHT

January 18, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
for parents and students

REGISTRATION

February 24, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

NOTE: Families who are unable to attend an event may contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene (mzurliene@materdeiknights.org).



'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

SHARE WARMTH AND JOY

Through December 8, our St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) is holding their annual winter clothing and toy drive for the benefit of BCMW and local families in need.

Please prayerfully consider donating new winter hats, gloves, scarves, and socks; gently-worn youth-size winter coats; and new toys (for Christmas).

We thank our SVDP members and moderator Mrs. KK Schneider for hosting this worthwhile event!

ENJOY GOOD FOOD FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Need desserts for Christmas? Need frozen pizzas for busy nights or a late-night snack? If so, our Spanish Club is selling Butter Braid pastries and rolls, Wooden Spoon cookie dough, and Show Me Dough frozen pizzas through December 11.

All proceeds will benefit Jennifer Miller and her family - husband Marcus and children Tessa '23 and Tate '25 - as Jennifer continues to battle cancer.

We thank our Spanish Club members and moderator Mrs. Amparo Wolden for hosting this worthwhile fundraiser!

(Refer to the December 2 email for detailed information.)

THE MAGIC OF *Christmas*
IS NOT IN THE PRESENTS,
BUT IN *Christ's* PRESENCE.

OUR ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

Advent is our opportunity for renewal! Therefore, amid the decorating, shopping, and gathering during this holiday season, let us take time to experience a new beginning — nothing is more healing, energizing, promising, or filled with hope!

Prepare for this special season by reflecting on the gifts God has granted and experiencing your parish's celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

OUR CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Christmas is the season to celebrate the love of God who chose to become so present to us that He took our own form.

As we take time to gather and to celebrate, let us recall the true reason for the season and turn with grateful hearts to our God. Let us then continue to carry out the Christmas celebration throughout 2024!

EXAMS

19 TUE
20 WED
21 THU

Tuesday, December 19

pd 1	8:10 - 8:58
homeroom	9:02 - 9:07
pd 2	9:11 - 9:59
pd 3	10:03 - 10:51
pd 4/5 (lunch)	10:55 - 12:15
	10:55 - 11:19
	11:23 - 11:47
	11:51 - 12:15
pd 6	12:19 - 12:35
pd 6 exam	12:35 - 1:35
pd 8	1:39 - 1:50
pd 8 exam	1:50 - 2:50

Wednesday, December 20

pd 1	8:10 - 8:30
pd 1 exam	8:30 - 9:30
homeroom	9:34 - 9:39
pd 2	9:43 - 10:05
pd 2 exam	10:05 - 11:05
pd 4/5 (lunch)	11:09 - 12:35
	11:09 - 11:35
	11:39 - 12:05
	12:09 - 12:35
pd 3	12:39 - 1:15
pd 7	1:19 - 1:50
pd 7 exam	1:50 - 2:50

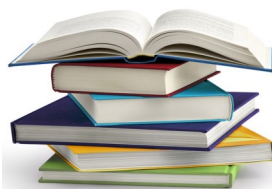
Thursday, December 21

pd 3	8:10 - 8:30
pd 3 exam	8:30 - 9:30
homeroom	9:34 - 9:40
pd 4/5	9:44 - 10:00
pd 4/5 exam	10:00 - 11:00

WHERE HAS THE FIRST SEMESTER GONE?

As the end of the first semester quickly approaches, our teachers are challenging our students to continue to achieve academic success by putting forth extra effort to remain focused in class, to complete all assignments, and to prepare for semester exams.

Please remind your child that the final weeks impact not only second quarter grades, but also semester exam grades and final first semester grades. In addition, please note that a student's final first semester grades, which are provided on his/her high school transcript, are used to calculate his/her grade point average (GPA). Thus, we encourage you to continue to play an active role in your child's academic success by helping him/her achieve his/her highest potential. Remember to use PlusPortals and to contact your child's teachers for assistance.



HELP YOUR CHILD STUDY strategies to encourage with students

Use index cards or an app such as [Quizlet](#) to organize key concepts. Referring to a set of cards is more efficient than referring to a textbook.

Rework (not simply reread) problems from previous homework assignments, review sheets, quizzes, and tests.

Study for short periods of time on a continual basis instead of studying for one extended period of time.

Study with a parent or friend who can "quiz" you.

Request help from teachers for topics you previously found difficult.



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

COLLEGE VISITS LIMITED IN JANUARY

Senior students are reminded that they should not schedule college visits on weekdays during the Senior Service Project, which is scheduled for January 3 through January 19.

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 by December 31.

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>. Under the "FAFSA Announcements" heading, select the link in the "Launch of the 2024-25 FAFSA Form" section.

FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT: JANUARY 8

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>

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. Under the "For Students" heading, select the "Access Student Learning Resources" link.

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>.

KEY STEPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGE

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. (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.

ACT TEST DATES

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

February 10, 2024

late registration deadline January 19, 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

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 ENCOURAGED FOR ALL JUNIORS

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

Although some schools do not require the ACT test for admission, such as test-optional colleges, community colleges, and technical or trade schools, 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 numerous scholarship applications, as well as Illinois State Scholar eligibility (by June of junior year).