

## 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

Happy New Year wishes from Mater Dei! I trust that each of you enjoyed a peaceful and holy Christmas season and are now filled with a renewed spirit for 2024!

As we begin the new year at Mater Dei, our senior students are serving as the hands of Christ through the Senior Service Project. It is our belief that this experience allows our seniors to develop self-confidence, to become aware of the needs of others, and to recognize the many ways they can serve others. When asked what the face of Jesus looks like, Mother Teresa responded by saying that Jesus is in every person who seeks help from others. Please join us in praying that our seniors experience the face and the hand of Jesus throughout their service work.

Let us also pray for a successful, spirit-filled second semester! We encourage you to utilize PlusPortals in order to review your child's schedule and to remain updated on his/her academic, attendance, and discipline reports. We are confident that with your continued involvement and encouragement, your child will achieve his/her best!

Finally, as we look forward to the joys of 2024, let us continue to pray for families who faced serious challenges or experienced the loss of a loved one in 2023.

As always, we at Mater Dei are here to serve and to support your family. Therefore, please contact us should you need assistance. May the Lord bless your family throughout 2024!



Bless this year with **LOVE** and **LIGHT**.  
Bless this year with **FAITH** and **SIGHT**.  
Bless this year with **GRACE** and **EASE**.  
Bless this year with **JOY** and **PEACE**.

### SR. MIRIAM COOVERT SCHOLARSHIP

**scholarship for current students for 2023-2024 school year**

**Parents are encouraged to apply for the  
Sr. Miriam Coover, SSND, Memorial Scholarship,  
which is available to current students for the current school year.**

**Ten scholarships will be awarded.**

**Applications are available in the office and on PlusPortals.**

**(PlusPortals: On the home page, the application is located in the "School Links and Files" section.)**

**For questions, contact Mr. Dennis Litteken (dlitteken@materdeiknights.org).**

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 26.**

## JANUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 No School: Faculty Retreat  
Senior Service Project Begins
- 4 Classes Resume
- 8 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)  
Mothers & Friends Executive Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 12 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)
- 15 No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 18 Class of 2028 Information Night (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)
- 26 Sr. Miriam Coovert, SSND, Scholarship Applications Due
- 29 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 31 Catholic Schools Week Mass  
2024 Calendar Drive Incentives Conclude



## Knight at the Races

Saturday, February 17

6 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. races begin

In support of our music programs, join us at "the track" for a fun-filled Knight at the Races on Saturday, February 17, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Tickets (\$50 each) include appetizers, open bar, funny money for wagering, and chances to win prizes. The evening also includes additional raffles and fun events.

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

For additional details, the reservation form, and the sponsorship form, visit the "Announcement" section on our website ([www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org)).

NOTE: While reservations are preferred, tickets will be sold at the door.

WE CARE when our students struggle! CONTACT US for assistance.



Anxiety  
Grief  
Depression  
Spirituality  
Self-Esteem  
Belonging  
Relationships  
Coping Strategies  
Self-Image  
Mental Well-Being

Mrs. Tammy Carroll, Psychologist and Counselor  
(and Coco, our therapy dog)  
phone: extension 107, email: [tcarroll@materdeiknights.org](mailto:tcarroll@materdeiknights.org)

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

## ... WANTED ... Knights for the Class of 2028

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!*

### INFORMATION NIGHT

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

### PLACEMENT TEST

January 20, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
for students who did not complete the test (PSAT 8/9)  
at Mater Dei (in December) or at their school

### REGISTRATION

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

**NOTE** To request an informational folder to share with a prospective family, please contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene ([mzurliene@materdeiknights.org](mailto:mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)).

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024 January 28 — February 3

Joining Catholic schools across the nation, the Mater Dei community will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 28 through February 3. The theme for this year is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." As in the past, we are planning a spirit-filled week!

During Catholic Schools Week, please join us in celebrating all members of our Mater Dei Catholic High School community who remain dedicated to ensuring that our Mater Dei family remains united in faith and community!



**NOTE** When finalized, the Catholic Schools Week schedule will be emailed to parents and students.

**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

We are proud to announce that the Mater Dei family, for the benefit of others, raised a total of **\$2,612.53** during the second quarter!

Specifically, the Mater Dei family donated \$1,028.53 to our weekly collections in support of our class missions: orphanages in Haiti and Venezuela (Class of 2027), Santa Clara Scholarship Fund for students in Guatemala (Class of 2026), St. Anne Mission Hospital in Kenya, Africa (Class of 2025), and Daystar Community Program in Cairo (Class of 2024). Additionally, our Spanish Club raised \$734 for Jennifer Miller to support her family as she continues to battle cancer; and our Teens for Life sold pro-life shirts and sponsored a “dress down” day that raised \$850 to support pregnancy-care organizations.

**Moreover, combined with the first quarter total of \$1,416.12, a grand total of \$4,028.65 was raised during the first semester!**

Finally, during their annual toy and winter clothing drive for the benefit of BCMW, our St. Vincent de Paul Society collected 168 toys, 67 coats, 26 pairs of gloves, 23 hats, and 13 pairs of socks.

Please join us in thanking the members of our Mater Dei family for living the Gospel through their continued commitment to helping those in need! Their generosity is truly exceptional!



## BE THE HANDS OF CHRIST



On Wednesday, January 3, our seniors began responding to the needs of others in a variety of environments, including day care centers, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, civil agencies, and social agencies, in a variety of locations throughout Clinton County, southern Illinois, and the metro-east area. Thus, the benefits of their service are wide spread!

We thank coordinator Campus Minister Ms. Colleen McDermott, who will visit each site to speak with both our students and site supervisors, and those faculty members who have volunteered to mentor seniors during their service experience.

Finally, please join us in praying that this experience is an opportunity for our seniors to both serve to learn and learn to serve.

## CALENDAR DRIVE GOAL IN REACH

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE  
2024 CALENDAR DRIVE!

With 3,817 calendars sold as of January 5, we are still in reach of our goal of selling 4,350 calendars!

The student incentive program and selling competition will continue through January 31, so please continue to sell! Students must sell only eight calendars to earn their day off school on April 12.

Good luck selling, and thank you, again, for supporting this important fundraiser!

## HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Mr. Dennis Litteken invites you to submit nominations for the Mater Dei Catholic High School Hall of Honor, which serves to recognize members of the Mater Dei community whose lifetime achievements or service to Mater Dei exemplify the Mission of Mater Dei.

Nominees must have graduated from Mater Dei, St. Mary, St. Dominic, or St. Paul Catholic High School at least twenty years prior to their nomination **OR** have provided significant service to Mater Dei on a continuous basis for at least twenty years prior to their nomination.

For a nomination form, contact the office or visit [www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org) (“Announcements” section). **Nominations will be accepted until February 16.**

Thank you for helping us recognize members of our Mater Dei community who exemplify our Mission!

## SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Miss Colleen McDermott invites you to submit nominations for the Christian Discipleship Award, which is presented to one senior; and the Christian Service Awards, which are presented to one freshman, one sophomore, and one junior.

Created by the Mission Effectiveness Committee of the Mater Dei School Board, these awards recognize students for service to school, church, and community.

For a nomination form, please contact Miss Colleen McDermott ([cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org](mailto:cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org)), **OR** visit [www.materdeiknights.org/faith/service](http://www.materdeiknights.org/faith/service) (“Service Awards” tab). **Nominations will be accepted until March 31.**

Thank you for helping us recognize students who dedicate themselves to serving others!

## ELECTRONIC REPORT CARDS

We are pleased to return to electronic report cards via PlusPortals ([www.plusportals.com/materdeihhs](http://www.plusportals.com/materdeihhs)). **Therefore, we will not mail report cards, unless requested.** Report cards, which were posted to PlusPortals January 5, will list quarter, exam, and semester grades, as well as the cumulative grade point average and cumulative credits.

As always, please do not hesitate to request assistance, as we are here to serve your family!

### VIA THE PLUSPORTALS WEBSITE

**Viewing the Report Card:** On the home page, select "More ..." (right of the student's name). Then, in the menu below the student's name, select "School," and select "Report Card."

**Viewing Percentage Grades:** On the home page, in the "Progress" window, select the applicable grade from the drop-down menu.

### VIA THE PLUSPORTALS APP (ParentPlus or StudentPlus)

**Viewing the Report Card:** On the dashboard, select the student's picture. Then, in the menu at the bottom, select "More," and select "Report Card." (To view grade columns, swipe left and right.)

**Viewing Percentage Grades:** On the dashboard, select the student's picture. Then, using the left and right arrows, advance to the applicable grade.



## DON'T FORGET . . .

### 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)

IT'S A  
*Glitz AND Glam*  
KNIGHT  
Saturday, April 13, 2024

## MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HELP

Plans are well underway for "It's a Glitz and Glam Knight," the Mothers & Friends dinner auction 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' willingness to share their time and talents! **Thus, we are requesting your help,** as many hands make light work!

### VOLUNTEER AS A COMMITTEE CHAIR OR MEMBER

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](#)

### VOLUNTEER TO SET UP APRIL 11 AND 12

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 13 AND 14

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 FOR AUCTIONING

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 will be available in the office and on our website** [www.materdeiknights.org/mothers-and-friends-dinner-auction](http://www.materdeiknights.org/mothers-and-friends-dinner-auction) ("Parents" menu, "Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction" page).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

To volunteer or to receive further information, email [mdauction@materdeiknights.org](mailto:mdauction@materdeiknights.org) or contact chairpersons Melissa Becker (618-401-3420) or Tracy Mensing (618-830-4816).





# PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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## COLLEGE VISITS LIMITED IN JANUARY

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

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## 2024-2025 FAFSA NOW AVAILABLE

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Parents of seniors are encouraged to file the 2024-2025 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which is now available at various times (a "soft rollout") via the Federal Student Aid website: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

For questions, please contact Mrs. Donna Goetz ([dgoetz@materdeiknights.org](mailto:dgoetz@materdeiknights.org)).

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## FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT: FEBRUARY 8

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Mrs. Donna Goetz will host a FAFSA Completion Night on Thursday, February 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>

For questions, please contact Mrs. Donna Goetz ([dgoetz@materdeiknights.org](mailto:dgoetz@materdeiknights.org)).

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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). 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>.

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## KEY STEPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGE

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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).

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

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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 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).