
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 (21% of eligible seniors) and over half of the student body earned recognition on the second quarter honor roll (61%) 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, greeter, 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 Samantha Muscarello & Anderson Wilke

juniors Ava Millard & Reid Innes

sophomores Sylvia Heiligenstein & Beckett Wade

freshmen Mia Thompson & Rhys Wheelan

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!



WE ARE THE HANDS OF CHRIST

We sincerely thank all who donated to our Catholic Schools Week Charity Challenge!

In only five days, **a total of \$2,865** was donated for the benefit of Rachel (Robben) Rehkemper '12 and her husband, Clayton '13, to assist with expenses as Rachel battles cancer.

The generosity of our Mater Dei family is truly inspiring!

Happy
Valentine's Day!



Love is *patient*, love is *kind*.
It always *protects*, always *trusts*,
always *hopes*, always *perseveres*.
Love never fails.

FEBRUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 Junior High Scholar Bowl Tournament
- 5 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 12 Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 14 Ash Wednesday Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 16 No School: Tri-County Institute
Hall of Honor Nominations Due
- 17 Knight at the Races (doors open 6:00 p.m., races begin 7:00 p.m.)
- 19 No School: Presidents' Day
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 24 Class of 2028 Registration (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)
- 26 Fathers & Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 29 Last Day to Collect Calendar Drive Prize Money

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS: FEBRUARY 14

Our Mater Dei community will gather for Ash Wednesday Mass on February 14 at 9:40 a.m. Community members are welcome!

WINTER CONCERT: MARCH 3

Enjoy performances by our concert band, jazz band, chorus, percussion ensemble, chamber ensembles, and soloists at our winter concert on March 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the main gym.

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

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.



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.

For additional details and the reservation form, visit the "Announcement" section on our website:
www.materdeiknights.org.

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

... 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 information below and the unique environment and benefits of Mater Dei.

One simple outreach truly can make a difference!

REGISTRATION Registration begins Saturday, February 24, 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 2028 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 2024 Calendar Drive! We are pleased to announce that as of January 31, our Mater Dei family has sold 4,003 calendars!

We are also pleased to announce the students who served as the top salesperson for their class: freshman Evan Kreke; sophomore Wyatt Jung; junior Lynn Shirley, who also served as the school's top salesperson with 86 sales; and senior Grace Huelsmann.

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 12 (8 sales).** (Students are no longer eligible to earn cash prizes.)

Prize money will be available in the Advancement Office through February 29.

Again, THANK YOU for your dedication!
Together, we have made a difference!

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

MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION

Planning continues 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'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 AS A COMMITTEE CHAIR OR MEMBER

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

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 mdauction@materdeiknights.org.

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!

2023 IHSA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

State Champions: Girls Basketball and Volleyball

State Finals: Boys Track *, Cheerleading, Girls Cross Country, Girls Track *

Elite Eight: Football

Sectional Qualifier: Boys Bowling *, Boys Cross Country, Boys Golf, Girls Bowling *, Girls Golf, Scholar Bowl

** Indicates advancement by one or more individuals*

2023 IHSA TEAM ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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

NOTE: Data reflects the 2022-2023 winter season and spring season and the 2023-2024 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 16), contact Mr. Dennis Litteken via email: dlitteken@materdeiknights.org OR visit www.materdeiknights.org ("Announcements")

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 Miss Colleen McDermott via email: cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org OR visit www.materdeiknights.org/faith/service.



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

2024-2025 FAFSA NOW AVAILABLE

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

For questions, please contact Mrs. Donna Goetz (dgoetz@materdeiknights.org).

FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT: FEBRUARY 8

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).

ACT TEST AT MATER DEI APRIL 13

Despite a registration deadline of March 8, Mrs. Goetz encourages students to register early for the April 13 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 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).

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.

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 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 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.