

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 PRINCIPAL BORRIES

As we begin the month of September, I want to take a moment to share how grateful I am to begin this journey as the new principal of Mater Dei Catholic High School. The first weeks of school have been filled with energy, excitement, and countless opportunities to see what makes this community so special. From the smiles and enthusiasm of our students to the dedication of our faculty and staff, it has quickly become clear that Mater Dei is much more than a school – it is a community grounded in faith, relationships, and a commitment to helping young people become the best version of themselves.

One of my priorities is to be present and visible in our school community. I want to know our students, listen to our families, support our faculty and staff, and celebrate the many accomplishments of our Mater Dei community. I am excited to work alongside our teachers, staff, families, parish communities, and students to continue building a culture where faith is lived each day through our words, our actions, and the way we care for one another. Each of us has an important role in creating an environment where every student feels known, valued, supported, and challenged to reach his/her God-given potential.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to the Mater Dei family! I am honored to serve as your principal and look forward to all this school year will bring. May God bless our students, families, faculty, and staff throughout this school year, and may He continue to guide us as we grow together in faith, knowledge, and service. **Cheer loudly and proudly: We are MD!**



... Join us ...

WEEKLY MASS
THURSDAYS
10:23 A.M.

In keeping with our Mission, we host an all-school Mass every Thursday* (10:23 a.m.). These Masses provide additional opportunities for our students both to share and to further develop their faith!

* Please refer to the 2026-2027 events calendar for Mass dates and times, as there are exceptions to the "every Thursday" schedule.

welcome

Join us in welcoming our new students, faculty, and staff, as well as their families!

Students

Class of 2030

five transfer students
(three juniors and two sophomores)

five international students (one returning and four new)
(one senior, three juniors, and one sophomores)

Faculty

Ms. Hayley Heimann '14, Business Education Department
Mr. Mason Schrage '21, Theology Department

Staff

John ("Jack") Ratermann '90, maintenance

together everyone
TEAM
achieves more

Join our active parent organizations
both to develop relationships
and to share your time and talents
for the benefit of our students!

Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Mothers & Friends

second Monday, 7:00 p.m., Lampe Commons
* September meeting at Knotty Pine, Breese

Band Parents

third Monday, 7:00 p.m., Lampe Commons

Fathers and Friends

last Monday, 7:00 p.m., Lampe Commons

SEPTEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 4 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)
Yearbook Sales Drive Concludes
- 7 No School: Labor Day
- 8 School Advisory Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 14 Mothers & Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m., Knotty Pine)
- 21 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
Major Gift Donors Mass (7:00 p.m.)
- 23 Freshman Mass (9:30 a.m., Cathedral of St. Peter)
- 28 Fathers & Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 30 Retreat: Senior - Females

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HOMEcoming 2026: THEN AND NOW

The Mater Dei family will celebrate Homecoming 2026: Then and Now the week of September 21 - 26. Currently, the schedule includes the following events:

- 23 Parade, Coronation, and Bonfire (6:00 p.m.)
- 24 Mass (10:23 a.m.)
- 25 Pep Rally
- 26 Dance (8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.)

NOTE: Additional themed dress days will be announced at a later date.

YEARBOOK SALES

Through September 11, students may order a 2026-2027 *Knight* yearbook for \$60. (Forms were distributed in homeroom.) After September 11, the price increases to \$65.

QUESTIONS: For questions regarding the yearbook, contact Mrs. Melissa Kunkle or Mrs. Pam Zurliene.

NOTE TO KNIGHT CLUB MEMBERS: Although Knight Club memberships include a yearbook, it is not assumed that all members choose to accept this benefit. Therefore, Knight Club members must still submit an order form.

KNIGHT CLUB

The benefits of a Knight Club membership have only just begun. Thus, it's not too late to join!

To review the six levels of memberships that are available to both individuals and businesses, please contact the office or visit our website ("Athletics" menu, "Knight Club" page).

As always, we thank our Knight Club members for their support!

JUNIOR KNIGHTS

We invite children (maximum age grade 4) to join Junior Knights! Registration — printable and online — is available via our website: www.materdeiknights.org/junior-knights.

While children may join at any time, registrations must be received by September 11 to guarantee a shirt by the homecoming parade (September 23).



WE CARE AND WE HELP

We care that our students may struggle with a variety of issues including, but not limited to, anxiety, depression, grief, spirituality, self-esteem and self-image, relationships and belonging, and mental well-being and coping strategies.

Therefore, we encourage students and parents to contact us for help! In addition to our counseling services, the Bella Brefeld '24 Memorial Fund for Mental Health Services supports external services. We continue to extend our gratitude to the Brefeld family, the Love You More Foundation, and members of our Mater Dei community for continuing to support the mental health of our students in memory of Bella!

Mrs. Amy Wobbe, Counselor
(and Bravo, our therapy dog in training)
phone: extension 107
email: awobbe@materdeiknights.org

Ms. Colleen McDermott, Campus Minister
phone: extension 102



VERSES FOR A FAITH-FILLED SCHOOL YEAR

FOR CONFIDENCE: *Philippians 4:13*

FOR COURAGE: *Joshua 1:9*

FOR ENDURANCE: *Galatians 6:9*

TO FORGIVE OTHERS: *Colossians 3:12-14*

TO BE OBEDIENT: *Proverbs 19:20-21*

DID YOU KNOW ...



DIGITAL CALENDAR SYNCING

The “digital” 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, 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 (“Parents” menu).

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

Athletic schedules are available on our website, www.materdeiknights.org/athletics-page, and our Snap! site (formerly 8to18), <https://schools.snap.app/MaterDei>

LUNCH MENU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The lunch menu and daily announcements are available on PlusPortals (website: “School Announcements” section; app: “Feed” section).

MATER DEI DIRECTORY

Directory information for staff, parents, and students is available on PlusPortals (website: “Directory” in menu bar; app: “More” in bottom menu bar, then “Directories”).

PLUSPORTAL APP

The PlusPortals mobile app for parents and students is available free from App Store and Google Play Store.

MATER DEI SOCIAL MEDIA

Enjoy and share the posts published on our social media sites.

- Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
- Instagram: breesematerdei
- Twitter: breesematerdei

2026-2027 CLASS ADVISORS

Class advisors welcome the opportunity to assist your child with his/her academic progress.

Class of 2030	Mrs. Jodi Venhaus jvenhaus@materdeiknights.org
Class of 2029	Mrs. Emily Timmermann etimmermann@materdeiknights.org
Class of 2028	Mrs. Christine Gramann cgramann@materdeiknights.org
Class of 2026	Mrs. Donna Goetz dgoetz@materdeiknights.org



Knight Life Provided Digitally

printed newsletters available by request

Each month, we will provide a digital version the *Knight Life* parent newsletter. Since January 2008, this use of technology has benefited our parents, our school, and our environment!

Specifically, the *Knight Life* parent newsletter will be emailed and posted on PlusPortals and our website, but not mailed home, unless requested.

NOTE: To request receipt of the newsletters by mail, please contact Mrs. Shelly Ritzheimer in the office.

PLUSPORTALS: In the “School Links and Files” window, select the “Knight Life Parent Newsletters” folder in the drop-down menu.

WEBSITE: In the “Parents” menu, select “Knight Life Parent Newsletters.”

REQUIRED FORMS TO RETURN

If you have not yet returned the forms listed below, please do so as soon as possible.



- “Contact Information Verification”
- “Student Insurance Verification”
- “Student Health Conditions”
- “Student Handbook Acknowledgement”

Should you need new forms, please contact the office.

PlusPortals www.plusportals.com/materdeihhs

For the benefit of both students and parents, we utilize PlusPortals as our online link between school and home. Specifically, PlusPortals provides academic, attendance, and discipline information; general school information; and directories for staff, parents, and students. Should you need assistance utilizing PlusPortals, please contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene.

ACTIVATION (new accounts only)

For all new accounts, activation information was emailed. If you did not receive this email, please contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene. (For individual accounts, different email addresses are required.)

VIEWING GRADES

current quarter grades listed in the “Progress” window on the home page

individual grades in the “Progress” window on the home page, select the applicable class; on the class page, select “Performance” from the menu bar. (Additional courses may be selected from the “Class” drop-down menu.)



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT: OCTOBER 14

Mater Dei families are invited to our annual College Night on Wednesday, October 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A variety of institutions (four-year, two-year, trades), as well as the military, will be represented.

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

PSAT TEST IN 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 in the College Placement Office by register September 18. The test fee is \$18 and must be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei).

COLLEGE PLACEMENT OFFICE ON PLUSPORTALS

Mrs. Goetz is pleased to announce that all parents are enrolled in the College Placement group on PlusPortals. (To access the group, on the homepage, above the main menu, select "Groups.")

This group will include information related to college fairs, college visits to Mater Dei, ACT test prep and test dates, and scholarship opportunities; as well as websites related to the college placement process, including preparing for the ACT and SAT, searching for colleges, applying to colleges, applying for financial aid, and NCAA eligibility. (View the "Links and Files" window and the "Announcements and Alerts" window.)

Mrs. Goetz will also post information to the Class of 2027 College Planning on Teams (to which the seniors will have access).

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. (Recommenders are also added in this section.)

Mrs. Goetz will electronically submit transcripts and the "Counselor's Report" to Common App through Parchment.

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

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) The 2027-2028 FAFSA will be available October 1, 2026.

ACT TEST DATES

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

October 17, 2026
deadline September 11, 2026

December 12, 2026 (at Mater Dei)
deadline November 6, 2026

February 27, 2027
deadline January 22, 2027

April 10, 2027 (at Mater Dei)
deadline March 5, 2027

June 12, 2027
deadline May 7, 2027

July 10, 2027
deadline June 4, 2027

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.

COLLEGE VISITS

Recognizing the importance of college visits for our seniors, we have established the following college visitation policy:

Seniors are provided two school days from August 14 through April 30 for visits. These two visits will not impact perfect attendance.

Seniors must request permission for a visit from the College Placement Office one week in advance. A note with a parent signature must be presented at the time of the request.

Seniors must obtain the signature of a college official on the visitation form provided by the College Placement Office. This form must be presented to the main office when students return to school.