

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

Just as the beautiful fall season is beginning to settle in, so too are our students as we approach the end of the first quarter. It has been wonderful to watch them learn, grow, and strengthen their connection to our Mater Dei community! Our faculty and staff continue to challenge them each day, and I am proud of our students' effort and determination. I also thank you, our parents/guardians, for the support and encouragement you provide at home. Your partnership truly makes a difference in our students' success, and we are grateful for all you do!

October is always a busy and exciting month at Mater Dei! As our fall sports seasons and band competitions come to a close, our drama students are preparing for the upcoming fall play. Everywhere I look, I see students committed to giving their time, talents, and energy to the many opportunities available to them. Through these experiences, they are developing leadership and teamwork skills, as well as responsibility and perseverance, which will serve them well long after they leave Mater Dei.

I am especially proud of the many ways our students live their faith through service. Whether teaching theology in our local parishes' PSR/YFF programs; serving as active members of their parishes; participating in Mater Dei's Blooming in Faith, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Sisters in Christ, or Teens for Life; or contributing to service projects sponsored by our extracurricular organizations, they are putting their faith into action. They are truly living our Mater Dei community's call: *Be the Hands of Christ*.

As a community, we will continue to encourage our students to follow the example of Mother Theresa by choosing to see the face of Christ in those around them. That spirit of faith, service, and caring is what makes Mater Dei such a special place. **THANK YOU for being such an important part of our Mater Dei family!** I am grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside our students and families as we continue this journey together!

PARENT—TEACHER CONFERENCES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
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 commons.

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 22!



Pink Out Day for Sadie Raises \$7,100!

We sincerely thank all who donated to our Pink Out Day for Sadie, which was held on September 3!

An extraordinary **total of \$7,100** was donated for the benefit of Sadie Holthaus '28 and her family to assist with expenses as Sadie continues to recover from a car accident.

The generosity of our Mater Dei family (\$4,032), the All Saints Academy family (\$2,568), and Love You More Foundation (\$500) is truly inspiring, as is Sadie's determination during her challenging journey of healing!

We also sincerely thank all who have kept and continue to keep Sadie, her family, and her medical team in their prayers!

A Prayer for Autumn



O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life. May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and the bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 1 Retreat: Seniors — Males
- 5 School Advisory Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 6 PSAT Testing Begins (registered sophomores and juniors)
- 9 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)
- 12 No School: Columbus Day
- Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 14 College Fair (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 16 End of First Quarter
- 19 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 22 Calendar Drive Kickoff
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 26 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 30 No School: Institute Day

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GRANDPARENTS MASS ♦ November 5

We are honored to invite our students' grandparents to join us for our annual Grandparents Mass on Thursday, November 5, at 9:40 a.m., in the main gym.

Please share this information with your family, as we will not mail invitation letters to grandparents.

FALL PLAY ♦ November 6, 7, and 8

Enjoy a performance of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, America's first great ghost story, on November 6 or 7 at 7:00 p.m. or November 8 at 2:00 p.m.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE ♦ October 13

In support of 40 Days for Life, members of our Teens for Life will pray at Hope Clinic in Granite City on Tuesday, October 13, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Community members are welcome to volunteer as well! For information, contact our Teens for Life moderator Mr. Mason Schrage (618-526-7216 or mschrage@materdeiknights.org).

We commend our students for serving as the hands of Christ!

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. Wobbe 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. Amy Wobbe, Counselor (and Bravo, our therapy dog)

phone: extension 107

email: awobbe@materdeiknights.org

Ms. Colleen McDermott, Campus Minister

phone: extension 102

email: cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org

NOTE All students may also message Mrs. Wobbe or Ms. McDermott via the "chat" in Microsoft Teams 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 1, 2026
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 Posey-Hoffman-Centralia-Sandoval-Carlyle;
north to Highland; west to O'Fallon (I-64/Air Mobility Drive)-Lebanon-New Baden-Trenton.



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Breese IL 62230
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.

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 2027 MATER DEI CALENDAR

We are excited to announce that the 2027 Calendar Drive begins October 22! Entering its 42nd 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 2027 Calendar Drive is essential!**

Director of Advancement Fr. Chuck Tuttle will discuss 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 March 12, as well as a jeans day each Friday through January 29.
- 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 2027 Calendar Drive a record-breaking success!



Calendars may be purchased online!
Visit our website, www.materdeiknights.org,
and select the "Buy a 2027 Calendar" button.
(Buyers can name the student who will receive credit.)



MAKE TIME FOR MASS

As we promote 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 acknowledge our sins and 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, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, servers, or ushers.

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.

May God continue to bless your family!



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 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 band room.

ACT, SAT, AND PSAT TEST PREP OPTIONS

For a more rigorous and in-person test prep:

- College Preparation Station in Maryville, www.cpsprep.com
- Sylvan in O'Fallon and Edwardsville, www.sylvanlearning.com/locations

For free online test prep:

- ACT Test Prep For free online ACT test prep resources, visit the ACT website: www.act.org. Select the "Students & Parents" menu.
- SAT Test Prep For free online SAT test prep resources, visit the College Board website: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice>.
- PSAT Test Prep For free online PSAT test prep resources, visit the College Board website: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt>.

KEY STEPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGES

Admission Application Deadlines Students must carefully review admission application deadlines, as meeting admission application deadlines may be a requirement for merit scholarships.

Scholarship Application Deadlines Students must carefully review scholarship application deadlines, as most schools utilize a November 1 deadline.

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. (Teacher recommenders are also added in this section.)

Students must order transcripts via Parchment (www.parchment.com) by selecting "The Common Application (First Year Applicants)" as the delivery destination.

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

Transcripts Students must order transcripts via Parchment (www.parchment.com). 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)

2027-2028 FAFSA FORM NOW OPEN

Per the Federal Student Aid website, the 2027-2028 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is now open.

To learn how to prepare for and stay informed of the FAFSA opening, visit the Federal Student Aid website: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

PSAT TEST: OCTOBER

It's not too late to register!

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 as soon as possible in the College Placement Office. The late registration fee is \$20 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.

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.