

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 the month of November, we realize that the first quarter has quickly slipped by us. It did not slip by quietly, however, for our students were busy achieving success both in and out of the classroom! Inside the classroom, 55% of our students earned either high honor roll recognition (4.0 to 3.8 GPA) or honor roll recognition (3.79 to 3.5 GPA) for the first quarter! Outside the classroom, our fall athletic teams and Marching Knights experienced numerous victories, and the members of our activities participated in and sponsored a variety of events. Please know that I recognize that this level of success is no accident, but rather a direct result of the attitudes and commitment of our students, parents, faculty, and staff. Thus, it is truly with a high level of pride that I serve the Mater Dei community.

One key aspect of my service is to promote our commitment to providing our students with the skills required to serve as leaders in the Catholic church, for as the number of clergy and religious decline, we, as Catholics, are called to participate in the sacramental life of the church. In addition, at a time when our society is marred by deepening divisions between the rich and the poor, our tradition instructs us to place the needs of the poor and the vulnerable first, for how those in need in our society are faring serves as a basic moral test. Thus, throughout the month of November, our students, faculty, and staff will focus on fulfilling their responsibility, through service and ministry, to protect and to aid the poor and the vulnerable, a basic social teaching of our church. I truly believe that by making our students aware of their obligations to others, we can make a difference in this world!

In closing, as we look forward to the holiday season, we are called to thank our Lord and Savior for his many gifts to us and to pray for those who have not yet experienced his graces. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive, Catholic adults. As always, may God continue to bless you and your family!



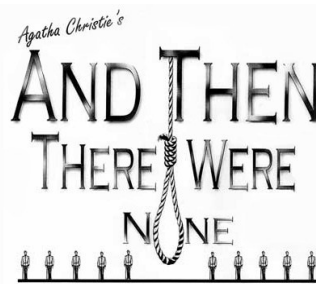
THANKSGIVING CANNED FOOD COMPETITION November 7 - 18

Since 2005, the four classes at Mater Dei have enjoyed a friendly competition for a good cause - collecting canned goods for our local food pantries.

Like last year, when our students donated 1,394 canned goods, the winning class will earn a jeans day during exams, while the winning homeroom will earn a donut and Ski "breakfast."

Please join us in thanking Mrs. Deb Foote, Mrs. KK Schneider, our class officers, and our National Honor Society officers and members for organizing this event, which has resulted in the donation of a total of 9,004 canned goods in the past six years! **MAY THE MOST GENEROUS CLASS WIN!**

ENJOY OUR FALL PLAY



Friday, November 4
7:00 pm

Saturday, November 5
7:00 pm

Sunday, November 6
2:00 pm



HELPING HANDS AROUND THE WORLD

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is pleased to announce that the Mater Dei students and faculty donated a total of **\$1,230.27** during the first quarter to our weekly missions collections!

As in the past, students and faculty donate money to the missions each Wednesday during the homeroom period. Currently, the freshmen support the Diocese of Belleville CYO's mission in Guatemala; the sophomores support the Sacred Brothers, Sacred Sisters' orphanage in Venezuela; the juniors support a Catholic school in San Estevan, Belize; and the seniors support the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ's school in Mexico.

In addition, our St. Vincent de Paul Society is pleased to announce that their recent bake sale raised \$254.68! This money will be donated to pay for the education of four high school students in Guatemala.

We commend and thank our students and faculty for living the Gospel through their commitment to helping those in need!

MATER DEI CALENDAR DRIVE UNDERWAY!

The 27th annual Calendar Drive has officially begun! As in the past, each student is asked to sell a minimum of seven (7) calendars, which will earn him/her a jeans day each Friday during the drive and a day off school on March 23, 2012!

In addition, students can earn **CASH** prizes for selling ten or more calendars! (A complete description of the incentive program is provided to the right.)

During its history, the Calendar Drive, our only school wide fundraiser, has saved each family \$165 - \$185 in tuition each year.

Therefore, please accept our "THANK YOU!" in advance - the support you provide is essential to the Calendar Drive's success and is greatly appreciated!

Let's make the 2012 Calendar Drive a record-breaking success!



MARCHING KNIGHTS QUARTER AUCTION



Sunday, December 4, 2011
American Legion, Aviston

doors open at 2:00 pm
games begin at 3:00 pm

To reserve a table or obtain information, please contact Sue Quitmeyer (224-7857)



SAFE HOMES

Please remember that the list of families who have chosen to participate in our Safe Homes program, as well as the Safe Homes pledge card, are available on Edline (select the "Safe Homes" folder under "Contents").

Please feel free to contact Mr. Jim Darr to add your name - it's never too late to pledge to provide a safe home, free of alcohol and drug use, for our students!

CALENDAR DRIVE INCENTIVES

- 1) A student who meets his/her quota of seven or more calendar sales will receive a day off school on March 23, 2012.
- 2) After a student sells seven (7) calendars (\$175), he/she may wear jeans and any Mater Dei t-shirt or sweatshirt on all Fridays during the Calendar Drive (through February 3, 2012).
- 3) Each homeroom that reaches its quota will receive donuts.
- 4) When a student sells 10 or more calendars, he/she will receive prize money as follows: \$5 for the first 10 calendars sold; \$10 for each additional five (5) calendars sold.
- 5) When a student is the seller of a daily calendar drawing winner, he/she will receive a "front of the lunch line" pass.
- 6) For the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, the top salesperson in each class will receive a \$500 tuition credit; the second place salesperson in each class will receive a \$200 tuition credit. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be applied to next year's tuition.)
- 7) For the senior class, the top salesperson will receive a \$500 tuition credit, the second place salesperson will receive a \$250 tuition credit, and the third place salesperson will receive a \$150 tuition credit. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be awarded in cash.)
- 8) The last day to earn prizes will be February 3, 2012. The prize money will be available beginning February 13, 2012. The last day to claim prize money will be February 29, 2012.

Please contact Fr. Chuck Tuttle with questions regarding the incentives.

NOVEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 1 All Saints Day and Grandparents Mass (9:40 am)
- 2 Financial Aid Night (7:00 pm to 8:30 pm)
- 4 Fall Play—*And Then There Were None* (7:00 pm)
- 5 Fall Play—*And Then There Were None* (7:00 pm)
- 6 Open House (for prospective families) (12:00 pm— 2:00 pm)
- Fall Play—*And Then There Were None* (2:00 pm)
- 7 Thanksgiving Canned Food Competition Begins
- School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 11 No School—Veteran's Day
- 13 Knight Club Appreciation Dinner (4:00 pm)
- 14 Wrestling Club Informational Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 18 Thanksgiving Canned Food Competition Ends
- 19 Murray Center Visit (8:00 am—12:00 pm)
- 21 Band Parents Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 23 Thanksgiving Mass (9:40 am)
- XX-Schedule (1:00 pm dismissal)
- 24 No School - Happy Thanksgiving!
- 25 No School
- 28 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)



SAVE THE DATE

March 24, 2012

Mothers & Friends
Dinner Auction



INTERESTED IN WRESTLING?

**REGISTRATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 14—6:00 PM—CAFETERIA**

Students interested in wrestling, as well as their parents, are invited to attend a second registration meeting with Mr. Kyle Graham and Mr. Shane O'Brien, who will serve as coaches for an independent wrestling club.

The season, which begins November 15, will culminate in February at the IHSA State Tournament. (Mater Dei will sponsor the team only at the IHSA State Tournament.)

All students, regardless of prior experience, are welcome to join! The \$125 fee includes a team singlet, headgear, and USA wrestling card.

If you are unable to attend the registration or possess questions, please contact Mrs. Dineen Czar (314-614-2265).



KNIGHTS EARN TOP ACT SCORES

As the information below indicates, in addition to surpassing the state average ACT scores, the Class of 2011 surpassed the average ACT scores of the Classes of 2011 from Carlyle, Central, Centralia, Edwardsville, Greenville, Highland, Lebanon, Mascoutah, Mt. Vernon, Nashville, Okawville, Salem, and Wesclin. **Way to go Knights!**

	Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science
Mater Dei	23.5	22.9	23.7	23.4	23.3
Edwardsville	22.8	22.4	22.8	23.0	22.4
Mascoutah	22.5	22.6	22.2	22.6	22.1
Nashville	21.6	21.7	21.2	21.6	21.4
Highland	21.5	20.9	21.7	21.8	21.4
Illinois (state)	20.9	20.6	20.9	20.8	20.7
Central	20.9	20.3	20.5	20.7	21.3
Greenville	20.8	20.4	21.0	20.5	20.9
Wesclin	20.6	20.1	20.3	20.7	20.7
Lebanon	20.4	20.6	19.8	20.8	20.3
Okawville	20.3	20.6	20.2	20.1	19.8
Salem	20.1	19.5	20.3	20.2	20.0
Carlyle	20.0	18.9	21.0	19.9	19.6
Centralia	19.8	19.4	19.4	20.1	19.8
Mt. Vernon	19.3	19.2	18.9	19.5	19.1

For the members of our Class of 2011 who enrolled in a college preparatory curriculum (four years of English; three years of mathematics, science, and social studies)

24.1 24.1 24.1 24.1 23.5

History of Composite ACT Averages

	MDHS	State
'93	20.3	21.0
'94	21.5	21.1
'95	20.8	21.1
'96	21.1	21.2
'97	22.2	21.2
'98	22.3	21.4
'99	21.9	21.4
'00	22.2	21.5
'01	22.4	21.6
'02	21.7	20.1
'03	21.4	20.0
'04	22.0	19.6
'05	22.0	20.1
'06	22.0	20.3
'07	22.3	20.3
'08	22.7	20.7
'09	23.1	20.8
'10	23.3	20.5
'11	23.5	20.9

Data for the schools listed above was obtained from the "2011 Illinois School Report Card" for each school, which is located on the Illinois State Board of Education website (www.isbe.state.il.us)



CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING

As we gather with our families to share both food and friendship in celebration of Thanksgiving, let us truly thank God for all we have been given. Despite the struggles we face today, let us recognize that our nation has been blest, for our lives are much more comfortable than the lives of many others in the world.

Let us not forget, however, that as Catholics, we also have an opportunity each Sunday to gather with our church family to share Eucharist and friendship. Why do we sometimes fail to gather for this weekly Thanksgiving?

Please remember that we have a responsibility to model for our children the importance of praising and thanking our God for his many gifts.

Let's celebrate Thanksgiving each week!

SENIOR SERVICE PROJECT

Plans for the 2011 – 2012 Senior Service Project are well underway, as seniors have held meetings with their faculty mentors and received verification of their service sites. They must now make appointments for interviews and orientations.

During the three-week project, the seniors are required to complete a journal which allows them to reflect on their daily experiences. These journals will then be submitted to their faculty mentors. They also gather as a class for a prayer service and reflection.

As the start of the Senior Service Project approaches, please join us in praying that the seniors will open both their hearts and their minds while serving others.



PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE KNIGHTS

We are also pleased to announce that we will host our Open House for prospective students and their parents on Sunday, November 6, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. In addition to receiving information regarding our academic, extracurricular, and spiritual programs, guests will enjoy a guided tour of our campus and a demonstration of Edline.

Moreover, during the next two months, we will host visits with area 8th grade students in order to acquaint them with Mater Dei. Led by Student Ambassadors, our guests will tour the Chapel, the library, various classrooms, the science labs, the computer labs, the band room, and the athletic facilities. After the tour, our guests will have an opportunity to ask our students questions as they enjoy refreshments.

Finally, the dates of our traditional events for incoming freshmen are as follows:

- Parent Information Night
Thursday, January 5, 2012, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 - Placement Test (EXPLORE Test)
Saturday, January 14, 2012, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- NOTE: The EXPLORE test will be administered at the following grade schools: on January 10, All Saints Academy; on January 12, St. Paul; and on January 13, Albers, Aviston, Bartelso, Breese, Damiansville, Germantown, and St. Rose.
- Registration
Saturday, February 25, 2012, 8:30 am to 11:00 am

Please share these dates and promote Mater Dei in your community by informing parents of the benefits your child has received by attending Mater Dei - we know they will be impressed with what they hear!

PEER ASSISTANTS AVAILABLE

The mission statement of Mater Dei stresses the importance of a caring environment, respectful of individual differences. The Peer Assistants program seeks to ensure that the atmosphere at Mater Dei is always pleasant and non-threatening for all students, meaning that all students feel comfortable and welcome.

Peer Assistants are trained to reach out to students who may be having difficulty adjusting to the demands of high school or who find it difficult to identify with other students. There is a special awareness of those students who do not have a large number of grade school classmates attending Mater Dei. Peer Assistants are also trained to assist with conflict resolution in case the need arises and to provide support for those dealing with family, relationship, or personal concerns.

Please encourage your child to contact Mr. Darr in order to utilize our Peer Assistants if he/she needs help throughout the year. Together, we can make a difference in the life of your child!

BRRR . . . THE COLDER WEATHER HAS ARRIVED!

As the colder weather arrives, we are providing a detailed explanation of the dress code in order to assist you in ensuring that your child is adhering to the policy. Please know that your assistance is greatly appreciated!

SWEATSHIRTS: sweatshirts with a Mater Dei logo, as well as sweatshirts purchased at an IHSA or ICCA event in which the student participated, may be worn over a dress code shirt.

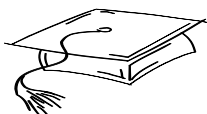
SWEATERS: sweaters that are solid black, solid navy, or solid white, may be worn over a dress code shirt.

note: the term "sweater" includes the traditional meaning of "sweater" and a fleece pull-over which may include a zipper at the neck — not a "full" zipper, down the entire front, which is defined as a jacket. Thus, a jacket does not meet the definition of a sweater, even if it is solid black, solid navy, or solid white.

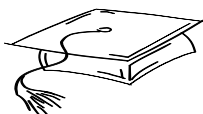
note: the term "solid" is defined as not having a logo, such as a "The North Face" logo. (A Mater Dei logo is acceptable.)

JACKETS AND COATS: Jackets and coats with a Mater Dei logo may be worn during the school day.

Finally, to answer the most common question regarding jackets, coats, and solid color sweatshirts—without a Mater Dei logo it is not acceptable, but with a Mater Dei logo it is acceptable.



APPLYING TO COLLEGE? FOLLOW THESE STEPS



TRADITIONAL APPLICATIONS Seniors must bring the complete application, with a check for the application fee, to the College Placement Office. After reviewing the application, completing the school official's portion, and providing an official high school transcript, Mrs. Goetz will then mail the application.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS Seniors must bring the transcript request form and/or the counselor's recommendation form to the College Placement Office.

THE COMMON APPLICATION At this time, Mrs. Goetz will send transcripts and the "School Report" offline (paper process). Thus, seniors must bring applicable forms to the College Placement Office. (NOTE: Teachers may choose to complete recommendations online or offline.)

APPLICATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS At this time, Mrs. Goetz does not send a transcript. Instead, when applying online, seniors must submit a "Self-Reported Academic Record."

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION Seniors may provide the letters with the application or request that they be sent separately.

**** WATCH OUT **** Mrs. Goetz warns that the most common errors include incomplete or unsigned applications and missing application fees. In addition, seniors should request letters of recommendation early and submit their documents early to ensure that all deadlines are met.

Students and parents are welcome to contact Mrs. Goetz in the College Placement Office for additional assistance.

NOTE

Mater Dei's CEEB code (where a student attends school): 140-395

ACT TEST DATES

Registration information is available from our College Placement Office or the ACT website (www.actstudent.org)

December 10, 2011
(deadline November 4, 2011)

February 11, 2012
(deadline January 13, 2012)

April 14, 2012
held at Mater Dei
(deadline March 9, 2012)

June 9, 2012
(deadline May 4, 2012)

NOTE

In order for Mater Dei to receive your child's ACT scores, which are listed on his/her transcript, the registration must include our CEEB code (where a student attends school): 140-395.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT OFFICE ON EDLINE

Mrs. Goetz invites students and parents to explore the extensive information provided on Edline — select "College Placement Office" under "Contents."

In addition to a schedule of college fairs, a schedule of college representative visits to Mater Dei, and a scholarship bulletin, Mrs. Goetz provides links to a variety of applicable websites, including a link to the NCAA Eligibility Center.