

## 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

Let me begin by saying "Welcome!" to our new parents and "Welcome back!" to our veteran parents. It is with great respect for each of you that I am writing, for I recognize that the support you provide to the students, administration, faculty, and staff is the key to our continued success at Mater Dei Catholic High School.

As we begin our 57<sup>th</sup> academic year, let us be drawn to the Mission of our school. Just as the administration, faculty, and staff are guided by the Mission as they work with our students, we expect our students to develop and to demonstrate attitudes and habits which reflect the Mission as well. It is our belief that by working together, we can provide a positive environment in which our students will achieve their full potential. Thus, please join me in praying that our students will experience a safe, enjoyable, and successful year.

Please also know that all the members of the administration and faculty are committed to maintaining open lines of communication with your family. Thus, in addition to reading the monthly "Knight Life" parent newsletters, we encourage you to utilize Edline and to contact a member of the administration or faculty should you or your child need assistance.

In closing, please allow me to say "THANK YOU!" in advance for your support throughout this upcoming school year. Know that we recognize the responsibility you have placed on our administration, faculty, and staff and we are committed to making a difference in the life of each of our students.

#### **ATTENTION ALL PARENTS:**

##### **Paperless *Knight Life* Starts In October**

We are pleased to announce that starting in October, we will return to paperless monthly *Knight Life* parent newsletters! Since January 2008, this use of technology as benefited our parents, our school and our environment!

Specifically, the newsletter will be posted on Edline and our website and no longer mailed home, unless requested. For your convenience, we will send an email to inform you when the newsletter is posted.

Should you need assistance using your Edline account, please contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene.

NOTE: To continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter by mail, please contact the main office.

NOTE: On Edline, the current newsletter is located on the home page under "News." (For archived newsletters, select "Knight Life Parent Newsletters" under "Contents.") On our website, for the current newsletter and archived newsletters, select "Future Knights" — "For Parents — "Knight Life Parent Newsletters."



**WELCOME  
NEW  
KNIGHTS!**

We are pleased to introduce the Class of 2015—a superb group of freshmen!

We are also pleased to introduce our new students: Mainur Rahman Barsan, Rebecca Krebs and Austin Rakey, who join the Class of 2014; Brooke Buehne, who joins the Class of 2013; and Kari Cranford, who joins the class of 2012.

Please join us in welcoming our new students and their families to the Mater Dei family!

## DID YOU FORGET?

If you have not returned the following forms, please do so as soon as possible:

### Mailed with student's schedule

- "School Reach" form
- "Data Collection" form (freshman only)
- "Home Language Survey"

### Received at Book Pickup

- "Verification of Insurance" form
- "Student Handbook Acknowledgement and Agreement 2011–2012" form (page 127 in your child's planner)

Should you need new forms, please contact the main office.



## NEW FACES JOIN FACULTY & STAFF

Please join us in extending a warm "Welcome!" to the new members of our Mater Dei faculty and staff:

- Mr. Travis Gebke, who will serve as a member of our social studies department and as an assistant coach for football, basketball and baseball.
- Mr. Chris Kaatz, who will serve as the director of bands and chorus in our fine arts department.
- Mr. Jim Sprehe, who will serve as a member of our custodial staff.



**www.Edline.net**  
**links school and home**



The Mater Dei administration and faculty are pleased to offer Edline to our students and parents, which provides the opportunity to obtain weekly academic, attendance, and discipline reports, as well as information related to school events and extracurricular activities.

To view academic, attendance or discipline reports, select "My Content," select "Private Reports," select the applicable student for "Private Reports for . . .," select "View" for the applicable report.

Moreover, on their individual class pages, teachers may list homework assignments, quiz or test dates, and other important class information, as well as their email addresses.

Finally, for your convenience, a link to our school web site is provided on the Edline homepage under "Links."

Please contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene for assistance with Edline.

**Log on to Edline today . . . you'll like what you find!**

## CLASS ADVISORS FOR 2011–2012

Freshmen: Mr. Jim Darr

Sophomores: Mr. Marvin Eversgerd

Juniors: Mr. Fred Rakers

Seniors: Mrs. Deb Foote

Please feel free to contact your child's advisor for assistance.

## NEED TO KNOW WHEN?

- The 2011–2012 events calendar, which was distributed at book pick-up, is available on the Edline homepage, under "News."
- The events held during our daily study halls are available on the Edline homepage, under "Calendar."
- Athletic schedules are available on our website, [www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org), under "Athletics."

## SEE YOU ON MONDAYS!

Please join our parent organizations, which provide essential support.

### Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Mothers & Friends

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria

Band Parents

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7:30 pm in the band room

Fathers and Friends

last Monday at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria

## THE REDESIGNED MATER DEI WEBSITE

[www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org)

Please join us in thanking alumni Mr. Doug Litteken and Mr. Gavin Rehkemper, our Assistant Principal Mrs. Maria Zurliene, and the members of the Planning and Enrollment Committee of the School Board (Mrs. Phyllis Beer, Mrs. Stephanie Hamilton, Mr. Steve Kelso, Mrs. Carla Litteken, Mr. Jim Stiebel, Mrs. Jill Timmermann, and Mrs. Mary Webb) for dedicating their time and talent to redesigning the Mater Dei website.

We are confident you will find the site to be both stylish and informative!



# HOMEcoming 2011: Fright Knight



Members of our Student Council are busy planning the events for this year's Homecoming celebration, for which they have selected the theme "Fright Knight."

The celebration, scheduled for September 26 through October 1, will begin with "T-Shirt Day," when class pride will be evident as students wear their Homecoming shirts, which will be designed by a Mater Dei student. Unity will be built on Tuesday when we celebrate our annual Homecoming Mass at 9:40 am as a school community. On Wednesday, students will show their creative side for "Costume Day." The festivities will continue that evening with the parade at 6:00 pm, followed by the coronation ceremony and bonfire. Music from the popular lip-sync and talent contest, along with school spirit, will fill the halls on Thursday, "Spirit Day," which ends with our Homecoming pep rally. Homecoming week will then culminate with the dance on Saturday from 8:00 pm until 11:00 pm in our gym.

We encourage all students to participate in this important week, which builds spirit and unity among our students!



## PUBLICATIONS DRIVE

September 19 through September 29

During the Publications Drive, September 19 through September 29, students may place orders (in their homeroom) for the 2011-2012 Knight, our school yearbook, and a subscription to the Lance, our school newspaper. A yearbook costs \$50 and a newspaper subscription costs \$8.

**KNIGHT CLUB:** Knight Club members are reminded to take advantage of their membership, which includes both a yearbook and a newspaper subscription.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THESE PROGRAMS!**



## FOSTERING FAITH . . . . . .DEVELOPING GOSPEL VALUES

Campus Ministry is pleased to announce that during our annual days of retreat in October, the NET team will lead our freshman and sophomore students on their faith journey, while the REAP team will lead our senior students on their faith journey. (Please refer to the enclosed letter for specific information.)

We are also grateful to St. Anthony Church in Beckemeyer for providing their facilities for our retreats.

Please join us in praying that our students will utilize their retreats as an opportunity to reflect on the many gifts God has given each of them.



## OPERATION SAFE HOMES: PLEASE JOIN TODAY

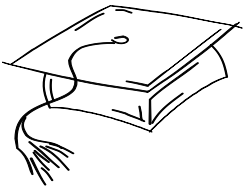
For the safety of our students, we encourage all parents to join our Operation Safe Homes program. Members of this program pledge to provide a safe home, which is free of alcohol and drug use, for the students in our community. (Please refer to the enclosed directory for current members.)

Please show your child that you are in charge and preventing alcohol and drug abuse by returning your signed pledge card or contacting Mr. Jim Darr to enroll in this vital program. (Last year's members are automatically enrolled.)

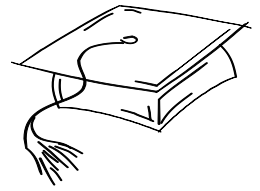
**TOGETHER,  
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

NOTE: Members of this program are indicated in the Buzz Book (our school phone book), which students will have the opportunity to order later this month.

SEPTEMBER KNIGHT LIFE	
5	No School—Labor Day
6	School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
11	Freshman Mass (12:30 pm at the Cathedral)
12	Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
16	X-Schedule (11:15 am dismissal)
19	Publications Drive Begins (ends September 29)
	Band Parents Meeting (7:30 pm)
26	Fathers and Friends Meeting (8:00 pm)
29	Mothers and Friends Bingo (7:30 pm, KC Hall, Breese)
30	No School—Liturgical Convention
<u>Homecoming 2011 — "Fright Knight"</u>	
26	T-Shirt Day
27	Mass (9:40 am)
28	Costume Day
	Parade, Coronation and Bonfire (6:00 pm)
29	Spirit Day—Lip Sync and Talent Contest and Pep Rally
1	Dance (8:00 pm to 11:00 pm)



# IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION



Representatives from numerous universities and technical schools, as well as military recruiters, are eager to meet the students and parents of Mater Dei at our annual College Night, which will be held in our gym on Wednesday, October 12. This evening is a great opportunity for both students and parents to gain information about a variety of institutions.

Please also note that St. Louis University will be hosting the St. Louis National College Fair at their Simon Recreation Center on Sunday, October 16, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm, and SIUE will be hosting the ICE College Fair at their Morris University Center on Tuesday, October 18, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Flyers with additional information will be posted at school.

## Mater Dei College Night

**October 12**  
**7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**

### PLAN TEST

for all sophomores  
October 5 and 6

The PLAN test, which assesses our students' achievement in the areas of English, reading, science reasoning, and math, will be administered to sophomores on October 5 and 6. NOTE: Students take the test on the date which is not their retreat day.

In addition, this test prepares students for the ACT college entrance exam, which all juniors are required to take, and provides students with a valuable occupational interest inventory.

There is no fee for this test, which is administered during the school day.

### College Visitation Policy

Recognizing the importance of college visits for our senior students as they plan for life after graduation, the following college visitation policy has been established:

Senior students are provided with two school days between August 19 and April 30 for college visits.

Students must request permission for a college visit from our College Placement Office one week in advance. A note with a parent signature must be presented at that time.

Students must then obtain the signature of a college official on the visitation form provided by our College Placement Office. This form must be presented to the main office upon the student's return to school.

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Goetz should you need additional information.

### PSAT TEST

registration required  
October 12

The PSAT test will be administered to registered sophomores and juniors on October 12. Similar to the PLAN test, this test prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam that they may take as juniors and seniors.

Additionally, students who earn high scores on the PSAT test and the SAT college entrance exam are then eligible for entrance into the National Merit Scholarship Program.

We encourage all high achieving sophomores and juniors to register for the test, which has a \$14 fee that is payable to Mater Dei by check (no cash). Due to the limited number of tests available, early registration in the College Placement Office is recommended.

## A NOTE FROM MRS. GOETZ

Please know that Mrs. Goetz will speak to each senior regarding his/her post-graduation plans. Thus, the students will understand application procedures and be motivated to begin this critical planning process.

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Goetz at school (526-7216) or at home (588-4382), as she welcomes the opportunity to provide you with assistance.