



# MATER DEI



*A Tradition of Excellence in a Quality, Catholic, Caring Environment*

VOL. 20 No. 1

## ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

The Mater Dei Administration and College Placement Office has received notice that TWENTY EIGHT members of the Mater Dei Class of 2016 have been named Illinois State Scholars. This number represents 25% of the class (the state average is 10% of a class).

Selection for this honor is based on a combination of a student's ACT and/or SAT test score(s), GPA, and class rank at the end of his/her junior year, unless he/she scores at or above the 95th percentile in Illinois on the ACT and/or SAT test(s). While students do not receive a monetary award, they are able to list this prestigious honor on both college applications and scholarship applications.



*Mater Dei Class of 2016 Illinois State Scholars (Sitting) Emily Krebs, Tressa Rudolph, Abby Haag, Erin Huene, Kelly Voss, Taylor Padak, (middle row) Quintin Potthast, Grant Huelsmann, Ashley Vonder Haar, Alexis Renschen, Anna Goestenkers, Sophia Fields, Amy Krebs, Macey Endres, Lindsay McCray, Trent Geragosian, Trent McPherson (back row) Jackson Matthews, Jacob Deien, Raymond Moylan, Austin Winter, Sam Krebs, Garrett Boeckmann, Nick Pollmann, Camden Abert, Alex Koopmann, and Saad Rashid. Absent from the photo is Alex Hinz.*

## ATTENTION: ALL ALUMNI

Please register for the Mater Dei Alumni Channel website at [www.materdeialumni.org](http://www.materdeialumni.org) so you can receive important information from Mater Dei, see class reunion information, view special invitations, connect with old and new friends, and hold online chats with other alumni.

If you weren't registered you would have missed information about the 2015 football playoff home games and start times, fall sports achievements, the Golden Knights gathering, your class reunion specifics, new school year information, Mothers and Friends Auction information, and much more. This website has been created for the alumni and friends of Mater Dei so we encourage its use!



## MATER DEI CONTINUES ITS DUAL CREDIT COURSES

When registration begins for the 2016-2017 school year, Mater Dei students will again have the opportunity to enroll in a number of Kaskaskia College dual credit courses. Many students have taken advantage of this opportunity over the years. Last year students earned 1,967 hours of college credit and more than 230 students participated in the program this year. Because of the dual credit classes, students have been able to double major in college, lighten a heavy course load, or even graduate in less than four years, saving significant money in college tuition and fees. Dual credit classes being offered again next year are Accounting Principles, Advanced Computer Applications, Building Trades II, English Composition 101, English Composition 102, Chemistry II, CISCO Networking Basics, CISCO Routing and Switching, Marketing (with Small Business Management), Physics Honors, Psychology, Sociology, Speech 103, and Weightlifting & Conditioning.

A new mandate by Mater Dei's dual credit partner, Kaskaskia College, to have faculty teaching dual credit courses required to have a Master's degree in the subject matter or a Master's plus 18 graduate hours in the subject, will be instituted for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Litteken reports that, after being audited by Kaskaskia College concerning its dual credit courses, Mater Dei is compliant for its English, Physics, Chemistry, Psychology, Sociology, Marketing, Accounting, Computer Applications, CISCO Networking, and CISCO Routing and Switching dual credit classes and is in the process of becoming compliant for its Speech course. Compliance for the Weightlifting & Conditioning and Building Trades II classes are being discussed.

## MATER DEI GRADUATES ATTEND COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

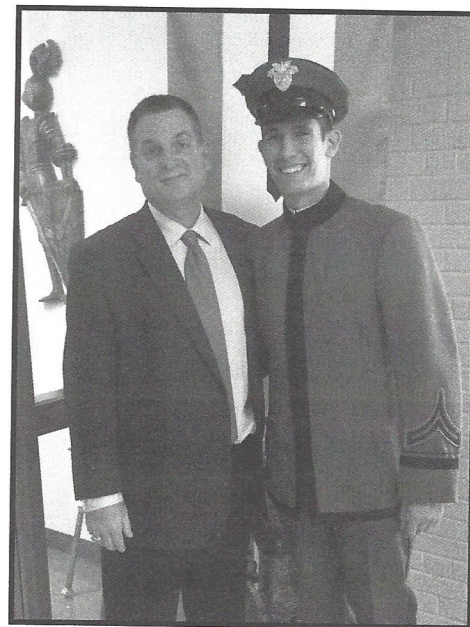
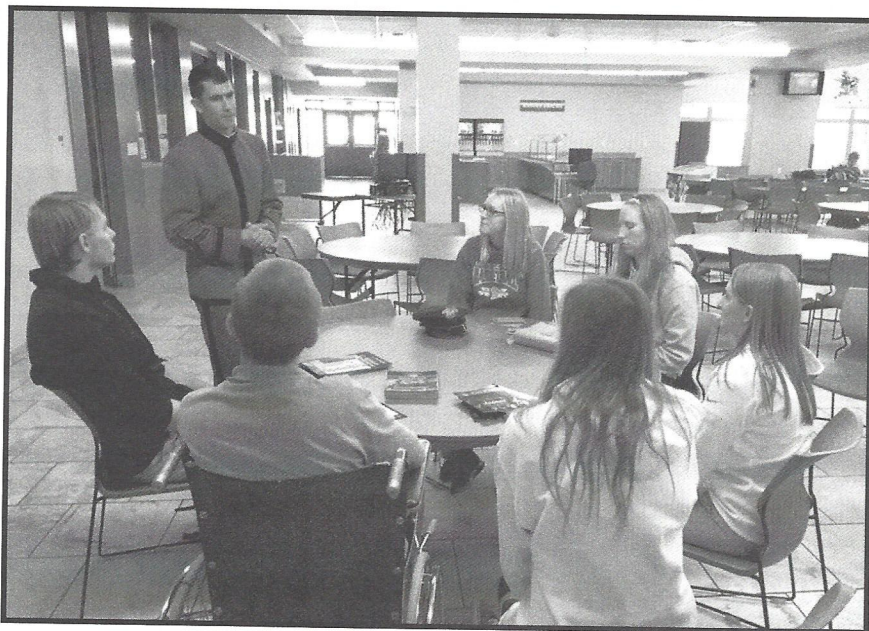
Each fall our seniors are busy applying to colleges and universities. About 70% of our seniors will go to a four year school; 28% go to a two year institution. The College Placement Office processes applications to local schools such as SIUE, SIUC, Maryville University, University of Illinois, Millikin University, and Saint Louis University. Some students are willing to venture out further and they will apply to Bradley University, Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Murray State University, University of Evansville in Indiana, University of Kentucky, University of Alabama, and University of Iowa. Our top students have applied to top tier schools such as the Air Force Academy, the US Military Academy, the Naval Academy, Yale University, Washington University, University of Illinois-Chicago, Harvard, Notre Dame, Purdue, Duke, Tulane, Vanderbilt, Princeton, Stanford, M.I.T., and Cornell. Still others have applied to Kaskaskia College.

The College Placement Office works closely with those students who apply to Kaskaskia College and other two year institutions to ensure that they depart Mater Dei with a clear goal for their future and know to which four year school they will transfer. Students who plan to pursue a technical field, such as welding, automotive tech, radiology, nursing, and construction trades, at a two year school, are given the same attention as those students who apply to Ivy League schools. In short, Mater Dei strives to work with all students to prepare them to achieve their career goals.

Mrs. Donna Goetz serves as the College Placement Director at Mater Dei. She is assisted by her secretary Carol Fritch.



## MD GRADUATES ATTENDING SERVICE ACADEMIES DO MATER DEI PROUD



On Wednesday, November 23, Grant Camillo, United States Military Academy cadet and 2014 MD graduate, visited his alma mater to talk about academy life to interested students and to reconnect with Mr. Litteken, faculty, and staff.

Also attending service academies are 2013 graduate Luke Foppe at the Naval Academy and 2014 graduate Grace Chiarolanza at the Air Force Academy.



*Midshipman Luke Foppe*

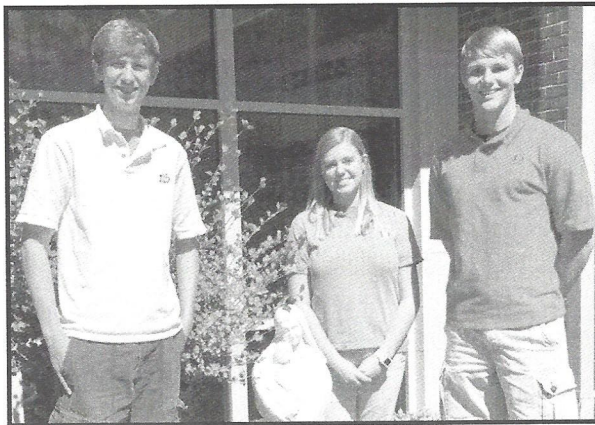


*Cadet Grace Chiarolanza*

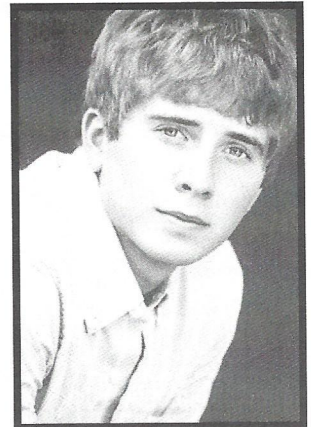




*The FBLA officers presented a check for \$1,270 to Dr. Renato Rivera for his annual medical mission to the Philippines. Dr. Rivera (back, middle) is flanked by his two grandsons, Andrew Rivera and Alex Rivera, who attend Mater Dei.*



*Senior Lindsay McCray is a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist and seniors Raymond Moylan and Sam Krebs earned National Merit Scholarship Commended Students status.*



*Senior Quintin Potthast scored a perfect 36 on his ACT test!*



*The Mater Dei chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society raised over \$1,500 for the Walk for the Poor.*



*Mater Dei football players and cheerleaders volunteered to help set up Christmas decorations at the Breese Northside Park.*



*The Mater Dei boys soccer team held a new/used soccer equipment drive for those who can't afford to buy soccer equipment.*



# KNIGHTS EARN TOP-NOTCH ACT SCORES

*We are pleased to announce that our Class of 2015 earned exceptional ACT scores!*

**Composite: 23.9      English: 24.1      Math: 23.5      Reading: 23.9      Science: 23.4**

For members of our Class of 2015 who enrolled in a college preparatory curriculum  
(four years of English; three or more years of math, science, and social studies)

**Composite: 24.7      English: 25.1      Math: 24.2      Reading: 24.6      Science: 24.2**

## *ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*

We are also pleased to announce that the percentage of students from our Class of 2015 who achieved the college readiness benchmarks established by ACT surpassed the percentages of the state, as well as the percentages of Carlyle, Central, Centralia, Greenville, Highland, Lebanon, Mt. Vernon, O'Fallon, Salem, Triad, and Wesclin.

Through research with postsecondary institutions nationwide, ACT has determined that a minimum composite score of 21 classifies students as "Ready for College Coursework." In addition, ACT determined the following ACT College Readiness benchmarks in order to more precisely measure college readiness in each subject area: English—minimum score of 18, Math—minimum score of 22, Reading—minimum score of 22, Science—minimum score of 23.

## *Percentage of Students from the Class of 2015 who met ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*

	Composite minimum 21	English minimum 18	Math minimum 22	Reading minimum 22	Science minimum 23
<b>Mater Dei</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>60</b>
Carlyle	33	54	38	28	20
Central	50	68	44	41	40
Centralia	34	50	33	21	25
Greenville	48	68	41	42	33
Highland	57	66	50	48	46
Lebanon	43	66	34	39	30
Mt. Vernon	34	53	27	29	23
O'Fallon	68	79	60	60	53
Salem	45	63	38	40	32
Triad	54	68	50	47	41
Wesclin	51	60	47	43	40

NOTE: Data was obtained from the "2014-2015 Illinois Report Card" for each school ([www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com)).

## *History of Average ACT Composite Scores*

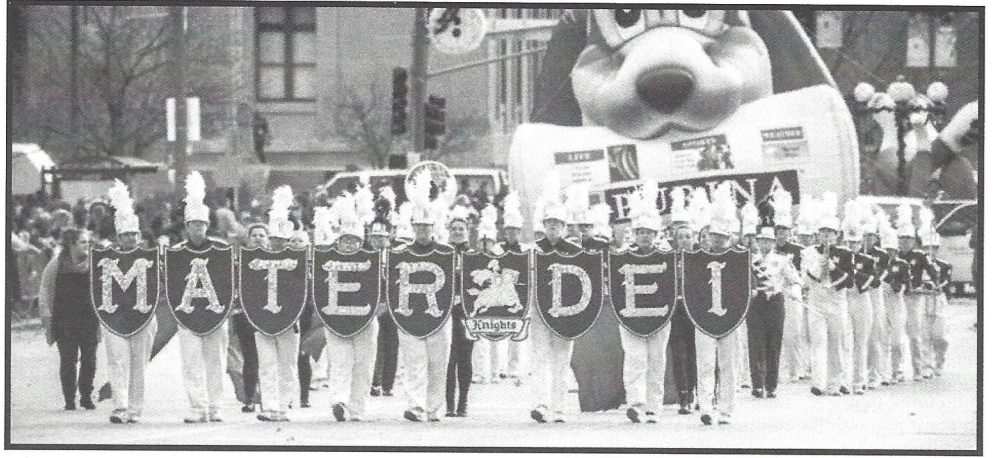
Class	MDHS	State	Class	MDHS	State	Class	MDHS	State
'97	22.2	21.2	'04	22.0	19.6	'11	23.5	20.9
'98	22.3	21.4	'05	22.0	20.1	'12	23.7	20.9
'99	21.9	21.4	'06	22.0	20.3	'13	22.8	20.6
'00	22.2	21.5	'07	22.3	20.3	'14	24.4	20.7
'01	22.4	21.6	'08	22.7	20.7	'15	23.9	20.7
'02	21.7	20.1	'09	23.1	20.8			
'03	21.4	20.0	'10	23.3	20.7			



## MONDAY MORNING TROPHY ARRAY

Anyone visiting Mater Dei on a Monday morning during the fall semester can see the success Mater Dei students have had that past weekend by the number of new trophies displayed on the front counter in the main office. For no group is this more applicable than the Mater Dei Marching Knights.

Trophies and awards are the culmination of months of hard work and commitment by the band students and Mr. Korte and his staff. The Marching Knights begin their competition season in the summer with a three-day freshman training camp followed by a two-week full band camp. It is during this camp, which takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the two weeks, that the group's field show is learned. When the new school year starts in mid-August, Marching Knights members practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. to master their field show, while members of the Drumline and Color Guard have additional practices on Mondays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The competition season begins in September and goes through October, requiring band members to give up their Saturdays to represent Mater Dei. Not only does the band participate in field show competitions throughout the fall, it also takes part in numerous parades, including the St. Louis Thanksgiving Day Parade which calls for an extra two weeks of practice after the field show season ends. Also, the Marching Knights were asked to perform at halftime and during the game for the two playoff home games awarded the Football Knights in their post-season run.



*The Marching Knights in the 2015 St. Louis Thanksgiving Day Parade.*

The Marching Knights often get overlooked during the busy fall semester, but the talented and committed students that make up the Marching Knights should be applauded for their success and trophies. They are another reason the Mater Dei Community is proud to say, "We are MD!"

## THE MATER DEI FOUNDATION APPROVED FOR COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

The Mater Dei Foundation was recently approved for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Gateway Region, Charity List. The CFC is the official workplace giving campaign of the federal government. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal, and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. The Mater Dei Foundation will appear in the online "Universal Giving" list, available to all Federal employees throughout the United States and overseas, and in the catalog used by the Gateway Region for its giving campaign. The CFC code 76460 is used to identify the Mater Dei Foundation in these listings.



## 2015 MARCHING KNIGHTS COMPETITION AWARDS

*September 12 – 1st Place, Best Music, Best Visual, and Best Percussion* at the Metro East Marching Classic in O'Fallon, Illinois.

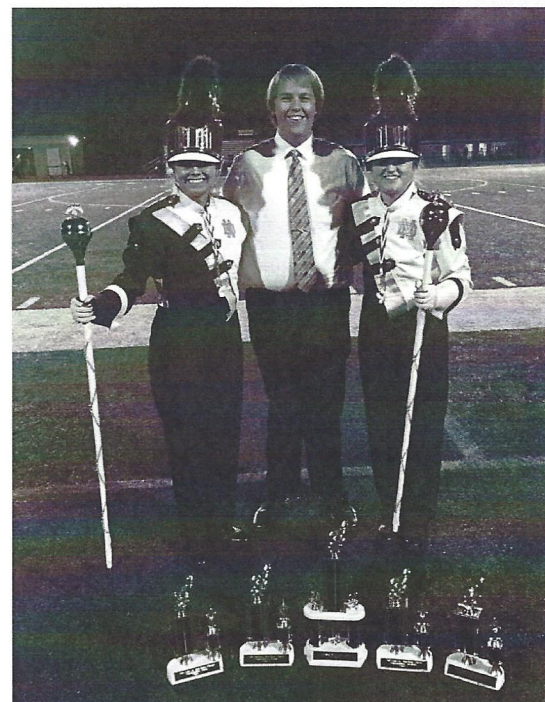
*September 26 – 2nd Place, Best Percussion, and Best Auxilliary* at the McKendree Preview of Champions in Lebanon, Illinois.

*October 10 – 1st Place, Best Music, Best Visual, Best Percussion, and Best Auxilliary* at the Gateway Marching Classic in Collinsville, Illinois.

*October 17 – 2nd Place, Best Percussion, Best Auxilliary* at the Effingham Marching Hearts Invitational in Effingham, Illinois.

*October 24 – 1st Place in the Preliminary Round, Best General Effect, Best Visual Effect, Best Music Effect, 6th Place in the Finals Competition* at the Greater St. Louis Marching Band Championships in St. Charles, Missouri.

*November 26 – 3rd Place out of 15 participating bands* at the St. Louis Thanksgiving Day Parade.



*Leading the Marching Knights this competition season were drum majors Anna Goesten Kors (left), Ashley Vonder Haar (right), and MD Band Director Blake Korte (middle).*

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN RETREAT

Plans are underway for the development of the 2016-2020 School Improvement Plan. This plan, the sixth in the past thirty years, allows the Mater Dei community to evaluate, to plan, and to commit to the various aspects of the Mater Dei mission for the next five years.

As the Steering Committee Chairman, Mr. Dennis Litteken, Principal, will guide the following nine committees: Catholic Identity, Curriculum, Development and Public Relations, Enrollment, Facilities, Finance, Governance, Staffing, and Student Activities. The committees will then convene for the Strategic Planning Retreat on Friday and Saturday, March 11-12, 2016.

The retreat will be facilitated by Sr. Virginia Kampwerth, PHJC, former Mater Dei faculty and administration member, who left Mater Dei when she was voted to the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Provincial Leadership team in 2005.

Mr. Litteken is seeking volunteers from the Mater Dei community to help gather information through surveys, research, and group discussions, and then attend the retreat to help make school improvement recommendations. Please call Mr. Litteken at Mater Dei (618) 526-7216 if you would like to serve on a committee.

**Mater Dei Catholic High School**

900 N. Mater Dei Drive

Breese, IL 62230

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ST. LOUIS, MO  
PERMIT NO. 3252

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## MEMORIALS

### IN MEMORY OF

Ernest Ades, '67	Henrietta Kalmer
Olive Becker	John Kirsch
Linda Haake	Voyit Lanter
Tom Haar, '80	Dorothy Loepker
Carol Hollenkamp, '57	Richard Ratermann
Tom Huelsmann	Herbert Wienstroer

### IN HONOR OF

Alvina Donnewald – On the Occasion of her 90th Birthday  
Don Schomaker, '74 – On the Occasion of his 59th Birthday

Mater Dei lost a good and faithful servant this past year when Dick Crocker, MD Class of 1962, passed away suddenly. Dick was very active in the Fathers and Friends organization, was a huge fan of Mater Dei sports, served as security at the back gate at MD home football games for years, and much more.  
Our condolences to the Crocker Family.