

## 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 December and the Advent season, let us remember the purpose of this special season by making time in our busy schedules to reflect on the truly significant gifts in our lives. The gifts of good health, loving families, and meaningful fellowship are gifts we often do, but cannot, take for granted. Thus, as your family prepares to celebrate the birth of Christ, I encourage you to attend Sunday Mass together and to break bread together more often than you do normally. As you cherish the time spent with loved ones, please also pray for the many families that will be separated from one another this Christmas season.

Throughout the Advent season, our students will be challenged not only to give thanks for the many blessings in their lives, but also to be mindful of those who are in need and to recognize the ways in which we can help them. In addition, the students will celebrate Immaculate Conception with Mass on Thursday, December 8, at 9:40 am. As always, all members of the Mater Dei community are welcome to join them!

Of course, December also brings the end of the first semester! Our students will take their semester exams on Monday, December 19; Tuesday, December 20; and Wednesday, December 21. We will then dismiss for Christmas break at 11:30 am on Wednesday.

On behalf of the entire Mater Dei community, I offer my warmest wishes for a very blessed Christmas season. Please join me in praying that all of our students will understand the reason for this special season. As always, may God bless you and your family!

### EXAM SCHEDULE

#### Monday, December 19

|          |         |               |
|----------|---------|---------------|
| pd 1     |         | 8:10 - 8:58   |
| homeroom |         | 9:02 - 9:07   |
| pd 2     |         | 9:11 - 9:59   |
| pd 3     |         | 10:03 - 10:51 |
| pd 4/5   | (lunch) | 10:55 - 12:15 |
| pd 6     |         | 12:19 - 1:00  |
| pd 7     |         | 1:04 - 1:46   |
| pd 8     | exam    | 1:50 - 2:50   |

#### Tuesday, December 20

|          |         |               |
|----------|---------|---------------|
| pd 1     | exam    | 8:10 - 9:10   |
| homeroom |         | 9:14 - 9:19   |
| pd 2     |         | 9:23 - 9:51   |
| pd 2     | exam    | 9:51 - 10:51  |
| pd 4/5   | (lunch) | 10:55 - 12:15 |
| pd 6     |         | 12:19 - 1:10  |
| pd 7     |         | 1:14 - 1:46   |
| pd 3     | exam    | 1:50 - 2:50   |

#### Wednesday, December 21

|          |      |               |
|----------|------|---------------|
| pd 4/5   | exam | 8:10 - 9:10   |
| pd 6     | exam | 9:14 - 10:14  |
| homeroom |      | 10:18 - 10:23 |
| pd 7     | exam | 10:27 - 11:30 |



## *OUR CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE*

*It is the season to celebrate the love of God who chose to become so present to us that he took our own form. As we take time to gather and to celebrate, let us recall the reason for the season and turn with grateful hearts to our God.*

### THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON!

Join us for our  
Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 18  
3:00 pm (not 2:00 pm)



### LOVE MATER DEI BASKETBALL?

Join us for our 51<sup>st</sup>  
Christmas Tournament  
December 27, 28, 29, 30



# HELPING HANDS: KNIGHTS ANSWER THE CALL TO HELP OTHERS

Please join us in commending and thanking our students and faculty for living the Gospel through their commitment to supporting those in need. Their generosity is truly amazing!



## THANKSGIVING CANNED FOOD DRIVE

We are proud to announce that our students and faculty donating a total of 882 cans of food to our annual Thanksgiving canned food competition! The food was donated to BCMW in Breese and the St. Vincent De Paul Society Food Pantry in Germantown.

For the fourth year, the Class of 2012 won the class competition, earning a jeans day during semester exams. Also for the fourth year, in the homeroom competition, Mrs. Christine Gramann's homeroom earned a donut and Ski "breakfast."

We thank the class officers, National Honor Society officers and members, National Honor Society moderator Mrs. Deb Foote and St. Vincent de Paul Society moderator Mrs. KK Schneider, for sponsoring this worthy event.

## SPECIAL MISSION COLLECTION AND BAKE SALE

We are proud to announce that our students and faculty donated a total of \$566.19 to a special mission collection on November 30. The funds will be donated to H.I.S. Kids, an organization based in Highland that provides an ongoing support system for families affected by childhood cancer and related illnesses, and to the education fund for four high school students in Guatemala whose education is sponsored by our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

We are also proud to announce that our St. Vincent de Paul Society will host a bake sale on December 13 and December 14 to raise funds for Sr. Theo Bowman Catholic School in East St. Louis.

We thank our St. Vincent de Paul Society members, as well as moderator Mrs. K.K. Schneider, for sponsoring these events.



## BLOOD DRIVE

We are proud to announce that members of our junior class, senior class, and faculty donated a total of 88 units of blood during the Student Council blood drive on Friday, December 2. A total of 101 students and faculty members presented to donate blood.

We thank our Student Council members, as well as moderators Mrs. Christine Gramann and Mrs. Jackie Chiarolanza, for sponsoring this life-saving event in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

## MD CALENDARS The Gift that Gives Back



Looking for the perfect gift? Give your family and friends a 2012 Mater Dei Calendar and a chance to win a share of \$21,150 in cash prizes! In addition, your child has the opportunity to win the following prizes:

- 7 sales = Friday jeans days & no school March 23
- 10 sales = \$5; each additional 5 sales = \$10
- for the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, each top seller wins a \$500 tuition credit and each second place seller wins a \$200 tuition credit
- for the senior class, the top seller wins a \$500 tuition credit, the second place seller wins a \$250 tuition credit, and the third place seller wins a \$150 tuition credit

AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU  
for supporting this essential fundraiser -  
together, we can make a difference!



## VOLLEYBALL LADY KNIGHTS WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Please join us in congratulating the members of our volleyball team, as well as coach Mr. Chad Rakers, on their 2011 state championship!

We are proud of you Lady Knights!



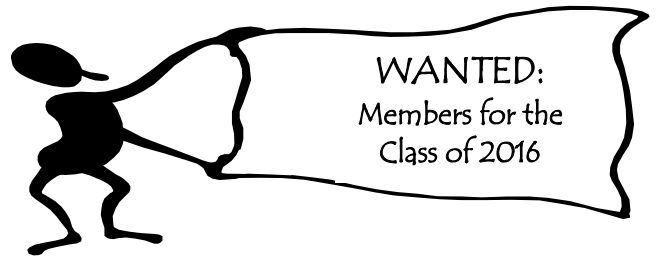
## SAVE THE DATE

March 24, 2012

Mothers & Friends  
Dinner Auction

# DECEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- ★ 2 Student Council Blood Drive (juniors and seniors)
- ★ 4 Marching Knights Quarter Auction (3:00 pm)
- ★ 5 School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
- ★ 8 Immaculate Conception — Mass (9:40 am)
- ★ 12 Mothers and Friends Christmas Party (6:30 pm)
- ★ 13 St. Vincent de Paul Bake Sale (lunch)
- ★ 14 St. Vincent de Paul Bake Sale (lunch)
- ★ 16 Last Day for Second Semester Schedule Changes
- ★ 17 Murray Center Visit (8:00 am)
- ★ 18 Christmas Concert (3:00 pm)
- ★ 19 Semester Exam—period 8  
Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
- ★ 20 Semester Exams—periods 1, 2, and 3
- ★ 21 Semester Exams—periods 4/5, 6, and 7  
Dismissal at 11:30 am
- ★ 25 Merry Christmas!
- ★ 27-30 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament



The dates of our traditional events for incoming freshmen are as follows:

- Parent Information Night  
January 5, 2012, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- Placement Test  
January 14, 2012, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Registration  
February 25, 2012, from 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!



## ADVENT:

### An Opportunity for Renewal

Have you ever experienced the need for a new beginning? As Catholics, we know that

Advent is our opportunity to fulfill that need.

Therefore, amid all the decorating, shopping, and gathering during this holiday season, let us take time for renewal—nothing is more healing, energizing, promising, or filled with hope than the opportunity to begin anew!

Prepare for this special season by reflecting on the gifts God has granted and experiencing your parish's celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Then, enjoy a blessed Christmas with your family!



We are pleased to announce that the following seniors have been honored as Illinois State Scholars: Jonathan Ang, Dominic Antonacci, Kevin Garber, Mackenzie Gerling, Jaime Haake, Emily Hellmann, Alyssa Hitpas, Kayla Hitpas, Corinne Holtmann, Trent Isaak, Joseph Kasson, Tad Logullo, Ellen Maue, Larisa Maue, Mallory Mensing, Cody Ratermann, Nicole Ripperda, Laura Schlueter, Taylor Schumacher, Alex Toennies, Ellen Toennies, Kane Weinberg, Maddy Wilson and Lindsay Winkeler.

Moreover, these seniors represent 20% of the Class of 2012! (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) and class rank at the end of his/her junior year, unless he/she scores at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please join us in congratulating our Illinois State Scholars - your dedication to achieving academic success has most certainly paid off!

## ATTENTION PARENTS OF FRESHMEN



In order to obtain valuable information regarding events for freshman students and their parents, we have created a "Survey for Parents of Freshmen: 2011 – 2012," which will be mailed December 5.

**Please return your completed survey to the office, via your child or via mail, by December 21.**

**Thank you for your assistance – your input is valuable!**



## Where Has First Semester Gone?

As the end of the first semester quickly approaches, our teachers are challenging our students to continue to achieve academic success by putting forth an extra effort to remain focused in class, to complete all assignments, and to prepare for semester exams.

Please remind your child that these final weeks impact not only his/her second quarter grades, but also his/her semester exam grades and final first semester grades!

In addition, please note that a student's final first semester grades, which are stated on his/her high school transcript, are used to calculate his/her grade point average (GPA). Thus, we encourage you to continue to play an active role in your child's academic success by helping him/her achieve his/her highest potential. Remember to use Edline and to feel free to contact your child's teachers for assistance.

Achieving academic success this first semester will be a wonderful Christmas present all of our students can give to their parents and to their teachers, but most importantly, to themselves!



## REVIEW - REVIEW - REVIEW TIPS FOR EXAM PREPARATION

- Use 3 x 5 index cards to organize key concepts. Referring to a small stack of cards is easier than referring to a large textbook!
- Rework (not simply reread) problems from previous homework assignments, review sheets, quizzes, and tests.
- Review on a continual basis instead of studying for one extended period of time.
- Study with a friend and quiz each other.
- Request help from your teacher on topics with which you previously struggled.



## THE DEADLINE FOR SECOND SEMESTER SCHEDULE CHANGES IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

**Students must see Mrs. Foote  
to schedule an appointment.**

## HAVE A JUNIOR PREPARING FOR COLLEGE?

### ACT PREP COURSE

In January, our juniors will have the opportunity to register for the ACT prep course offered by our teachers. Specific information will be provided in January.



## DO YOU NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

Remember to submit the FAFSA  
(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)  
online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
any time after January 1, 2012

The "FAFSA on the Web Worksheet" is available online. This worksheet allows you to read and complete the questions before entering the information online.

We will also host "hands-on" FAFSA workshops during the second semester—watch for the dates!

### ACT TEST DATES

Registration information is available from our College Placement Office or the ACT website ([www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org))

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.