

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

Happy New Year wishes from Mater Dei! I trust that each of you enjoyed a peaceful and holy Christmas season and are now filled with spirit for 2012!

As we begin the new year at Mater Dei, our senior students are sharing their spirit with others through their service projects. It is our belief that this experience allows our young people to develop self-confidence, to become aware of the needs of others, and to recognize the many ways they can serve others. When asked what the face of Jesus looks like, Mother Teresa responded by saying that Jesus is in every person who seeks help from his/her fellow man. Please join us in praying that our seniors experience the face and the hand of Jesus throughout their service work.

Let us also pray for a successful, spirit-filled second semester! We encourage you to utilize Edline in order to review your child's schedule and to remain updated on his/her academic, attendance, and discipline reports. We are confident that with your continued involvement and encouragement, your child will achieve his/her best!

Finally, as we look forward to the joys of 2012, let us also continue to pray for families in our Mater Dei community who faced serious challenges or experienced the loss of a loved one in 2011.

As always, we at Mater Dei are here to serve and to support your family. Thus, please contact us should you need assistance. May the Lord bless your family throughout 2012!



OPERATION TEEN SAFE DRIVING

DEDICATED TO SAVING LIVES

We are pleased to announce that Mater Dei has been awarded an Operation Teen Safe Driving (OTSD) grant to educate our students on numerous aspects of safe driving.

The mission of OTSD "... is to provide the initiative and resources required to challenge the creativity of Illinois teens to develop and implement community-based programs to reduce fatalities and injuries due to traffic crashes among their peers" (www.teensafedrivingillinois.org).

On January 26, our students will experience Stay Alive from Education's "Street Smart" program. Through this program, sponsored by Donnewald Distributing, students will learn to embrace "... the power that comes from making the right choices, [and] ... to understand the consequences [of] their actions and the importance and value of their own lives" (www.safeprogram.com).

On February 9, our students will attend a presentation during which Mike Link from the Illinois State Police will use a golf cart and "drunk" vision goggles to demonstrate the dangers of driving under the influence.

Please join us in thanking coordinator Mrs. Jackie Chiarolanza and our OTSD team, juniors Clare Chiarolanza, Emily Deeba, Luke Foppe, Nathan Huelsmann, Haley Johnson, Anna Lampe, Maddy Mensing, Shannon Mensing, Zack Peek, and Evan Ratermann for dedicating their time to educating our students!



WELCOME NEW KNIGHTS

We are pleased to introduce our new students:

Class of 2015 — Noah Karch and Alex Nezamis

Class of 2014 — Eric Nezamis

Class of 2013 — Summer Karch

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

NEED HELP WITH EDLINE?

Forgot your screen name or password?
Not receiving important emails from school?

Please contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene or Mr. Dennis Litteken for assistance with your Edline account.

ATTENTION PARENTS: MDHS Scholarship for Current Students

Parents are encouraged to apply for the Sr. Miriam Covert, SSND, Memorial Scholarship, which is still available to **current students**.

Contact Mr. Dennis Litteken for information.
APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 10, 2012.

Serving to Learn Learning to Serve

The service experience has begun! Since January 3, our seniors have been responding to the needs of others in a variety of environments, including day care centers, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, civil agencies, and social agencies, in a variety of locations, including Clinton County, the metro-east area, St. Louis, and Joplin, MO. Thus, the benefits of their service are wide spread!

Please join us in thanking coordinator Mr. Jim Darr, who will visit each site in order to speak with both our students and the site supervisors, and those faculty members who have volunteered to mentor seniors during their service experience. The Mater Dei community will enjoy a video collage of photos from the all sites during the Catholic Schools Week mass.

Finally, please pray that this experience is an opportunity for our seniors to both serve to learn and learn to serve.



SCHOLAR KNIGHTS: The Brains of Clinton County

Please join us in congratulating the Scholar Knights for their first place finish in the Clinton County Scholastic Tournament and their fourth place finish in the South Central Scholastic Conference

Tournament! Please also join us in congratulating senior Scholar Knight Alex Toennies, who was named to the South Central Conference All-Tournament Team!

We wish the Scholar Knights luck as they compete in the Catholic Schools Tournament, Masonic Tournament, Comet Open Tournament and Metro-East Quad League later this semester.

Finally, please join us in thanking moderators Mr. Scott Timmermann and Mr. Dan Wescovich for their dedication to our students!



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Faith. Academics. Service.



Joining Catholic schools across the nation, the Mater Dei community will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 29 through February 4. The theme for this year's celebration is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service."

On "Community Day" (Monday), students will demonstrate community pride by wearing shirts with their grade school's logo. They will then enjoy a special meal on "Student Appreciation Day" (Tuesday), for which the cafeteria will be decorated with tablecloths and balloons to create a festive environment. The Mater Dei community, joined by students from All Saints Academy and St. Paul Catholic Grade School, will celebrate "Vocation Appreciation Day" (Wednesday) with an all-school mass, which provides an opportunity to celebrate our Catholic identity. Red, white, and blue will fill the halls on "Faith and Our Nation Day" (Thursday) to recognize the importance of faith in our nation's history. The celebration will conclude with "Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day" (Friday), when our faculty and staff will be spoiled with breakfast from Student Council and lunch from Mothers and Friends.

During this special week, please join us in celebrating all members of our Mater Dei Catholic High School community who remain dedicated to assisting us in providing an environment of faith, academics, and service!

Please "kick-off" Catholic Schools Week by attending Mass with your family January 28 or 29.



HELPING HANDS

Please join us in sincerely thanking our students and faculty for donating a total of \$2,637.25 to our weekly mission collections during the first semester!

As in the past, students and faculty donate money to the missions each Wednesday during 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.

Please also join us in sincerely thanking our students and faculty who, through their extracurricular activities, sponsored and supported a variety of service projects.

Again, we commend our students and faculty for living the Gospel through their commitment to addressing the needs of others—their generosity is truly exceptional!

JANUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 9 School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
- Mothers and Friends Executive Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 13 X-Schedule (11:15 am dismissal)
- 14 Incoming Freshman Placement Test (8:00 am to 12:00 pm)
- Wrestling Club Trivia Night (6:30 pm, KC Hall, Breese)
- 16 No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Band Parents Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 23 Welcome Back Seniors!
- FAFSA Completion Night (6:00 pm to 8:30 pm)
- 30 Catholic Schools Week: Community Day
- Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 31 Catholic Schools Week: Student Appreciation Day
- FAFSA Completion Night (6:00 pm to 8:30 pm)



Please share the dates below and promote Mater Dei to families in your community by sharing the benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei - we know they will be impressed!

- Incoming Freshman Placement Test
January 14, 2012, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
* students completing the EXPLORE test (the placement test) at their grade school are not required to take the test at Mater Dei. Their scores will be provided to Mater Dei.
- Incoming Freshman Registration
February 25, 2012, from 8:30 am to 11:00 am



A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HELP

Believe it or not, plans are well underway for "A Knight in the Orient," the Mothers and Friends annual dinner auction, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 24! One of our largest fundraisers, the dinner auction has raised over \$1,000,000 since its inception twenty-one years ago. To achieve such success, however, we need nearly seventy volunteers.

Therefore, we are asking for your help!

VOLUNTEER TO SET UP March 22 and 23

Volunteers are needed on Thursday to set up tables, to construct booths, and to begin decorating. On Friday, volunteers are then needed to finish decorating, to set the tables, to catalog the auction items, and to fill the booths and the gym with the auction items.

VOLUNTEER AT THE AUCTION March 24

Volunteers are needed during the auction to assist with both the silent and blackboard auctions, the serving of the dinner, and the finances.

VOLUNTEER TO CLEAN UP March 25

What goes up must come down! Thus, volunteers are needed on Sunday to clean up from the festivities.

DONATE AN ITEM OR CUSTOM SERVICE FOR AUCTIONING

Contribute to the auction's success by donating items or custom services for auctioning. You can donate individually or coordinate with friends to donate a larger item, such as the always popular tailgating parties, card parties, and dinners. Feel free to also create your own party theme – new and creative ideas are always welcome!

Again, please consider volunteering a little of your time to help make "A Knight in the Orient" the best dinner auction yet! You will both help our school and create some lasting friendships!

To volunteer or receive further information, please contact chairpersons Jon and Stephanie Logullo (via phone: 588-4546 or via email: materdei.aknightintheorient@gmail.com).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Saturday, March 24, 2012

Mothers and Friends
Dinner Auction



Nominations Sought for Christian Discipleship and Christian Service Awards

Campus Ministry invites you to submit nominations for the Christian Discipleship Award, which is presented to one senior; and the Christian Service Awards, which are presented to one freshman, one sophomore, and one junior. Since their creation in 1997 by the Mission Effectiveness Committee of the Mater Dei School Board, these awards recognize students for their unselfish service to school, church, and community.

The senior award recipient will receive his/her award at graduation, while the underclass recipients will receive their awards at the Underclass Awards Night. To obtain nomination forms, please visit our website (www.materdeiknights.org – "Faith" → "Service Awards") or contact Mr. Jim Darr in Campus Ministry (526-7216). Nominations will be accepted until Friday, February 24, 2012.

Thank you for helping us recognize students who dedicate themselves to serving others!

HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Please know that you are invited to submit nominations for the Mater Dei Catholic High School Hall of Honor.

The Hall of Honor serves to recognize members of the Mater Dei community whose lifetime achievements or service to Mater Dei exemplify the Mater Dei Mission.

Nominees must have graduated from Mater Dei, St. Mary's, or St. Dominic's at least twenty years prior to their nomination **OR** have provided significant service to Mater Dei on a continuous basis for at least twenty years prior to their nomination

Please contact Mr. Dennis Litteken (dlitteken@materdeiknights.org) by February 10 to submit your nomination.

Thank you for helping us recognize those who truly exemplify our Mission!



CALENDAR DRIVE NEARING GOAL!

THANK YOU to everyone who has dedicated time and effort to the 2012 Calendar Drive!

With 4,272 calendars sold as of January 6, we are nearing our goal of selling 4,800 calendars.

The drive will continue through February 3, as will the student incentive program and selling competition, so please continue to sell, sell, sell!

Please remember that students must sell seven calendars to earn their day off school on Friday, March 23.

Good luck selling and THANK YOU for supporting this important fundraiser!



ATTENTION PARENTS OF SENIORS Attend a FAFSA Completion Night at Mater Dei



Mrs. Donna Goetz, our College Placement Director, is pleased to announce that she will offer four FAFSA Completion Nights to assist our parents in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

The sessions will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm on Monday, January 23; Tuesday, January 31; Wednesday, February 8; and Thursday, February 16. Parents and their senior students should both attend. (Please note that families may arrive anytime between 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm, as families will work at their own pace.)

Prior to attending the session, parents must visit the FAFSA website (www.fafsa.ed.gov) to create an account and PIN number. (Please note that to avoid delays, the student's social security number and name must be entered exactly as they are listed on the student's social security card.) In addition, families must bring financial records, including tax returns, for both the parents and the student. (Please note that families may use 2010 tax returns and then file a change when their 2011 tax returns are complete.)

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Donna Goetz for additional information (via phone: 526-7216, via email: dgoetz@materdeiknights.org).