

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

Warm greetings from Mater Dei! As we enter the month of February, a strong sense of spirit fills the halls as a result of both the return of our seniors and our Catholic Schools Week celebration. Knowing they have enriched the lives of others through giving of themselves, the seniors have returned with a renewed sense of energy, faith and purpose.

Energy, faith, and purpose also drive our faculty as they continue to challenge your children to strive for their best in the classroom. I am confident our students will continue to rise to those challenges just as they did first semester, when 24 seniors were named as Illinois State Scholars and 52% of the student body earned recognition on the semester honor roll. The success of our students is no accident, but rather a direct result of the commitment our students, our parents, and our faculty make to one another!

Let us also commit ourselves to answering the call to serve others by sharing the gifts Christ has given to each of us. Many of our students continue to answer this call by serving as a Big Brother or Big Sister, volunteering at Murray Center, teaching in the Operation Safe Kids program, leading Confirmation retreats, tutoring their peers, and serving as lectors and Eucharistic ministers. Please encourage your child to share his/her gifts in church and at school.

Finally, as parents and teachers, we play a vital role in passing our Catholic traditions to our students. Thus, we must remember that together, we can make a difference in the life of your child. As always, may God continue to bless you and your family!

IT'S REGISTRATION TIME!

Believe it or not, it is time to prepare for the 2012 - 2013 school year! Starting February 27, class advisors will meet with students during their Religion classes to discuss the registration process and distribute registration forms. We encourage parents and students to plan course selections together and to utilize the academic counseling offered by the class advisors.

Please note that the 2012–2013 *Curriculum Guide*, which provides both descriptions of and prerequisites for all courses, will be available on Edline under "News" by February 27. (To conserve paper, copies will not be provided to students.)

Please also note that the registration form includes the following three types of course offerings:

- required courses = premarked with an 'X'
- recommended courses = highlighted
- elective courses = neither marked nor highlighted

Students must return the registration form, with a parent signature and the \$50 registration fee, to their class advisor by March 19. Please note that the registration fee will be applied to your child's 2012–2013 bill for textbook rentals and fees.

Our teachers and class advisors look forward to assisting you and your child select classes in which he/she will achieve success — please do not hesitate to call!

HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Our 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.

To submit your 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!

Knights Surpass 2012 Calendar Drive Quota!

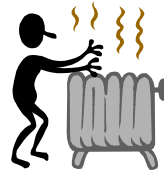
THANK YOU to the Mater Dei community for your dedication to the success of the 2012 calendar drive! We are pleased to announce that 4,553 calendars have been sold as of February 3!

Moreover, Mr. Litteken would like to remind you that as a result of your efforts, nearly \$165 per student was raised, helping Mater Dei to continue providing your child with a high quality Catholic education. **WAY TO GO KNIGHTS!**

We are also pleased to announce the students who served as the top salesperson for their class: freshman Eric Deering, with 80 sales; sophomore Sam Schmitz, with 65 sales; junior Kari Wiegmann, who also earned the honor of serving as the school's top salesperson, with 90 sales; and senior Rudy Litteken, with 82 sales!

Finally, please note that although the drive has officially ended, calendars are still available for purchase, as we still hope to reach our goal of 4,800 sales. In addition, **students may still sell calendars to reach the quota required for the day off school on March 23**, but they are no longer eligible for prizes. Please note that prize money will be available beginning February 7 and must be collected by February 29.

Again, **THANK YOU** for your commitment to Mater Dei! Together, we have made a difference!



WARM HEARTS

Walking past second wing, students will soon begin seeing hearts! During the month of February, students, faculty and staff who donate \$1 to the "Warm Hearts" campaign will receive a heart for the bulletin board, symbolizing their commitment to helping those in need this winter season.

The money will then be donated to pay the heating bills of families in our community.

Please join us in thanking our Religion Department and St. Vincent de Paul Society for reminding us that in times of need, God calls us to serve as "our brother's keeper."



Nominations Sought for Christian Discipleship & 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 Edline (www.edline.net—"News") or our website (www.materdeiknights.org—"Faith" -> "Service Award Nomination Forms") 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!

Have Any Spare Change?



Please join us in thanking our Student Council and their moderators, Mrs. Christine Gramann and Mrs. Jackie Chiarolanza, for sponsoring a Penny War to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

In their attempt to win the Penny War, which will be held February 6 through February 16, each class must donate pennies to their own bottle to earn points, while donating silver coins and paper money to the "rival" classes, who will then lose points.

May the most strategic class win!

Knights Attend March for Life

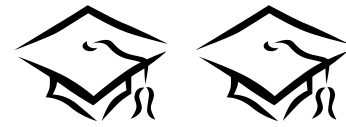


Please join us in thanking Emily Abbott, Adam Cowgill, Caroline Cowgill, and Molly Cowgill for their dedication to protecting life, which was demonstrated through their participation in the 39th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 23.

We also thank all of our Teens for Life members, as well as their moderator Mrs. KK Schneider, for their continued dedication to protecting life!



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE



FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHTS FEBRUARY 8 AND 16, 6:00 PM–8:30 PM

Mrs. Donna Goetz, our College Placement Director, will host two FAFSA Completion Nights in February 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 Wednesday, February 8; and Thursday, February 16. Parents and their senior students should both attend. (Families may arrive anytime between 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm, as families will work at their own pace.) Please note that prior to attending the session, parents and students must create a FAFSA PIN (www.pin.ed.gov).

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

24TH ANNUAL METRO-EAST BACCALAUREATE COLLEGE FAIR FEBRUARY 26, 1:00 PM–3:30 PM

Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) will host the 24th annual Metro East Baccalaureate College Fair on Sunday, February 26, from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm at their Belleville Campus (varsity gym). Over 100 colleges and universities will be present.

ACT PREP COURSE REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 15

We are pleased to again offer our students an ACT preparation course taught by Mater Dei faculty. For only \$40, students will receive fifteen hours of instruction and Peterson's *The Real ACT Prep Guide, 3d edition*). Please join us in thanking Mrs. Donna Goetz, our College Placement Director, for organizing the course and providing English instruction; Mr. Dwight Thomas for providing mathematics instruction, and Mrs. Michelle Thomas for providing science instruction.

NOTE: For students who previously purchased *The Real ACT Prep Guide, 3d edition*, the cost for the course is \$18.

ACT TEST ON APRIL 14 REGISTER BY MARCH 9 (MARCH 10–23 WITH LATE FEE)

Students planning to take the ACT test at Mater Dei on Saturday, April 14, are reminded to register online (www.actstudent.org) by Friday, March 9. Information is available in the College Placement Office.

NOTE: All Mater Dei students are expected to take the ACT test.

NOTE: The Mater Dei school code (code for where you attend school) is 140-395.

The Mater Dei test center code (code for where you take the test) is 173-590.

ATTENTION SENIORS:

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The family of the late Kenneth Horstmann, Class of 1968, is awarding a \$1,500 scholarship to a Mater Dei graduate planning to attend one of twelve state colleges in Illinois. Please visit www.horstmannscholarship.com for eligibility requirements and an application. The application deadline is April 30.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT OFFICE ON EDLINE

Please remember to check the College Placement Office page on Edline (link under "Contents") for an extensive array of Valuable information, including scholarship opportunities, a schedule of college fairs, a schedule of visits from college and university representatives, and website links.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



BAND CHICKEN DINNER

Sunday, February 12, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
Knights of Columbus Hall, Breese

F & F BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 17 & Sunday, March 18

F & F BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 1

BAND TRIVIA KNIGHT

Saturday, April 14

BAND BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Saturday, April 21