

**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**

Just as the fall season is settling in, so too are the students as we approach the end of the first quarter. Please be assured that the faculty members are challenging our students each day and are excited to observe them putting forth the effort required to meet those challenges. Also know that we, the administration and faculty, greatly appreciate your active involvement in helping our students achieve their highest potential. The support you provide at home, which is essential to your child's success, is second to none! Thus, on behalf of our faculty, I say "Thank you!"

October is a busy month, as our fall sports and band competitions come to an end and our drama students prepare for the upcoming fall play. As I observe the students participating in our many activities, I continually recognize their amazing commitment and I am pleased to know that our students are developing values which will remain long after they leave Mater Dei.

More importantly, I take immense pride in our students' remarkable commitment to meeting the needs of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. In addition to donating to our class missions and special causes (\$14,099.72 in the 2011 – 2012 school year), our students serve others as Faith Formation teachers, Eucharistic Ministers, Murray Center volunteers, Big Brothers Big Sisters, pro-life members, and St. Vincent De Paul Society members. Moreover, our extracurricular organizations sponsor service projects – last month, our cheerleaders and football team sponsored a special collection for Dillon Albers, a student at Central Community High School who suffered a traumatic brain injury this summer, to which our students and faculty donated \$837.88.

Our Mater Dei community truly demonstrates our main calling as Catholics: *to love our neighbors as we love ourselves*. With this calling in mind, we will continue to challenge our students, faculty, and staff to follow the model of Mother Theresa, who once reflected that she saw the face of Christ in every man, woman, and child she met.

As you can see, Mater Dei truly is an exceptional school as a direct result of the commitment shown not only by our students, but also by our faculty and our parents. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation that our students need to become productive, Catholic adults.

**THANK YOU for being members of the Mater Dei family!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR  
PARENT - TEACHER CONFERENCES**



**October 24, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**October 25, 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm**

The administration and faculty invite all parents to our fall Parent-Teacher Conferences, which provide an opportunity to discuss their children's academic progress with individual teachers. As you know, this parent-teacher communication plays a key role in the success of our students.

Please note that report cards will be available in the main office, as well as a "map" to assist parents in locating teachers. Please also note that the format of our conferences is "first come—first served." Finally, if you are unable to attend the conferences, please feel free to contact teachers via phone or via email.

**Remember to mark your calendar —  
we hope to see you October 24 and 25!**



**NATIONAL MERIT  
COMMENDED STUDENTS  
JENNIFER LUEBBERS &  
MACKENZIE MCCRAY**



Please join us in congratulating seniors Jennifer Luebbers and MacKenzie McCray, who were recognized as National Merit Scholarship commended students!

Jennifer, the daughter of Jeff and Vivian Luebbers, and MacKenzie, the daughter of Jeff and Susan McCray, are among only 34,000 students in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition!

Each year, nearly 1.5 million students in the nation are entered into the National Merit Scholarship Program as a result of taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) as sophomores or juniors. Of those 1.5 million students, only 50,000 total students in the nation are recognized as a finalist, a semi-finalist or a commended student.

**Congratulations to Jennifer, MacKenzie, and their families for their exemplary dedication to academics!**

## CALENDAR DRIVE KICK - OFF

We are pleased to announce that our 2013 Calendar Drive will kick-off on October 9! Now entering its 28<sup>th</sup> year, the Calendar Drive serves as the cornerstone of our fund raising. This year our goal is to sell 4,800 calendars.

Beginning October 9, Fr. Tuttle, our Director of Advancement, will meet with our students to discuss their vital role in the drive and the many incentive awards they may earn by participating in the drive.

As in the past, each student is asked to sell a minimum of seven calendars, for which he/she will earn a day off school on March 15. Moreover, after selling seven calendars, students earn a jeans day each Friday during the drive.

Please know that the support you provide is essential to the success of this fund raiser and is greatly appreciated!

**Together, we can make the calendar drive a record-breaking success!**



## MAKE TIME FOR MASS

As we enhance our Catholic identity at Mater Dei, the administration and faculty continually focus on our Mission, which is to educate, to foster faith, and to develop gospel values. Participation in Mass plays an essential role in fulfilling this Mission. Thus, please take to heart your vital role in supporting our Mission, for as parents, you serve as role models for our students.

While prayer at home is an important aspect of our faith, it cannot replace the celebration of Mass, which offers each of us the following opportunities:

- to experience community, especially through the Peace of Christ and the prayers.
- to receive inspiration from God's Word, through the readings, the homily, and the prayers, in order to strengthen our commitment to modeling the teachings of Jesus in our lives.
- to first acknowledge our sins and then seek and receive forgiveness for those sins.
- to experience the miracle of the Eucharist.
- to share our talents with others by serving as cantors, lectors, servers, ushers, or Eucharistic ministers.

Please remember that we are all called to live our faith. We make time to answer many other calls - please make time to answer God's call to celebrate Mass with your family every week. God bless you!

## KNIGHT CLUB APPRECIATION DINNER

Sunday, November 18, 4:00 pm

As an expression of our sincere gratitude for our 278 Knight Club members, we will host our annual Knight Club Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, November 18. The event, held at Hidden Lake Winery, will begin at 4:00 pm with a social hour, followed by dinner.

Please note that this event is available only to our Knight Club members. Thus, if you are interested in becoming a Knight Club member, please contact the office.

**PLEASE PASS ON  
THE INVITATION**



Please help us spread the good news about Mater Dei by offering the invitation provided at the right to prospective families and sharing stories of the many benefits your child has received as a student at Mater Dei.

**We know they will be impressed!**



**VISIT THE HOME OF KNIGHTS!**

**Mater Dei Catholic High School Open House**

**Sunday, November 4, 2012**

**12:00 pm to 2:00 pm**



The Mater Dei Catholic High School community cordially invites prospective students and their families to explore the unique opportunities we offer our students.

In addition to receiving a wealth of information regarding our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs, guests will enjoy a guided tour of our campus and a demonstration of Edline, our online link between school and home.

Should you have questions, please contact us at 618 - 526 - 7216.

**We look forward to seeing you on November 4!**

Please also visit us at [www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org)

# OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 1 Senior Retreat (females)  
School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 2 Senior Retreat (males)
- 5 X-Schedule (11:15 am dismissal)
- 8 No School - Columbus Day  
Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 9 2013 Mater Dei Calendar Drive Kick-Off
- 10 Mater Dei College Night (7:00 pm—8:30 pm)
- 12 Sophomore Retreat (Albers—Kitowski)  
PLAN Test (sophomores Koerkenmeier—Wuebbels)
- 13 Murray Center Visit (8:00 am—12:00 pm)
- 14 Fall Concert (7:00 pm)
- 15 Band Parents Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 16 Sophomore Retreat (Koerkenmeier—Wuebbels)  
PLAN Test (sophomores Albers—Kitowski)
- 17 Freshman Retreat (Abert—Koopmann)  
PSAT Test (registered sophomores and juniors)
- 18 Freshman Retreat (Krebs—Wise)
- 19 End of the First Quarter
- 24 Parent—Teacher Conferences (5:30 pm—8:00 pm)
- 25 Parent—Teacher Conferences (3:00 pm—5:30 pm)
- 29 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 31 Happy Halloween!



## IS YOUR SON INTERESTED IN THE WRESTLING TEAM?

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 22 AT 6:00 PM IN CAFETERIA**

Students interested in wrestling, as well as their parents, are invited to attend an informational meeting on Monday, October 22, at 6:00 pm, in the cafeteria. All students, regardless of prior experience, are welcome!

The season, which begins the day after the football season ends, will culminate in February at the IHSA State Tournament. (Mater Dei will sponsor the team only at the IHSA State Tournament.)

If you are unable to attend the informational meeting or possess questions, please contact Mr. Litteken.



# HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

## ◆◆ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ◆◆

### BOWL FOR THE KNIGHTS ◆ October 13

Gather your friends, lace up your bowling shoes, and enjoy an evening of bowling in support of our music programs!

This 9-pin bowling tournament, held at V & H Recreation located in Breese, includes a silent auction and a bake sale.

Teams may bowl at 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm, or 9:00 pm.

The cost is \$125 per team of five bowlers.

To enter a team or receive additional information, please contact Janice Albers at 618-977-5524.

### SOUNDS OF THE KNIGHTS ◆ October 14

Enjoy the sounds of our bands and chorus at the fall music concert, held in the main gymnasium at 7:00 pm.

### ALL SAINTS MASS ◆ November 1

Join us for our All Saints Mass at 9:40 am during which we will also welcome the grandparents of our students.

### HARVEY ◆ November 2, 3 and 4

Join us for a performance of our fall play, *Harvey*, the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Mary Chase, presented at 7:00 pm on November 2 and 3, and at 2:00 pm on November 4.

### MAGICAL KNIGHT CRUISE ◆ March 9

Save the date for a "Magical Knight Cruise," the Mothers & Friends dinner auction.

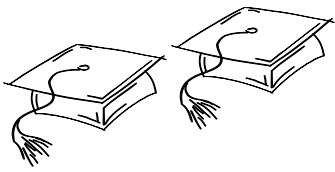


## OPERATION SAFE HOMES

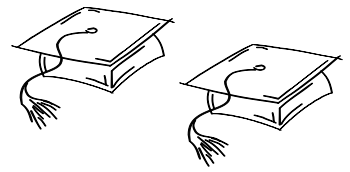
If you have not yet returned a Safe Homes pledge card, it's not too late to participate!

The list of participating families and the Safe Homes pledge card are available on Edline. (The "Safe Homes" folder is located under "Contents.")

**THANK YOU** to our Safe Home families for making the commitment to provide a safe home, free of alcohol and drugs, for the students in our community!



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



## ACT TEST DATES

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

October 27, 2012  
(late fee deadline October 5, 2012)

December 8, 2012  
(deadline November 2, 2012)

February 9, 2013  
(deadline January 11, 2013)

April 13, 2013 – at Mater Dei  
(deadline March 8, 2013)

June 8, 2013  
(deadline May 3, 2013)

### NOTE

In order for Mater Dei to receive your child's ACT scores, the registration must include the CEEB code (where a student attends school). Our CEEB code: 140-395.

## COLLEGE PLACEMENT ON EDLINE

Mrs. Goetz invites students and parents to explore the College Placement Office page on Edline, which is located under "Contents."

The page includes information such as:

- schedule of college fairs –
- schedule of college visits to MD –
- schedule of ACT test dates –
- scholarship opportunities –

In addition, Mrs. Goetz provides numerous links to websites which provide information related to the college placement process, including preparing for the ACT and SAT, searching for colleges, applying to colleges, applying for financial aid, and NCAA eligibility.

<b>MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT</b>	
<b>October 10, 2012</b>	
<b>7:00 pm - 8:30 pm</b>	
<b>financial aid presentations</b>	
<b>7:00 pm and 7:45 pm</b>	
Presenter – Mr. Luke Cairney, St. Louis University's New Student & Outreach Coordinator	

## PLAN TEST

for all sophomores

**October 12 and 16**

Students take the test on the day which is not their retreat day.

The PLAN test, which assesses the students' skills in English, math, reading, and science reasoning, will be administered on October 12 and 16 to all sophomores (students take the test on the date which is not their retreat day).

This test also prepares students for the ACT college entrance exam, which is required of all juniors, and provides students with a valuable occupational interest inventory.

Please know that there is no fee for this test, which is administered during school.

## PSAT TEST

PSAT = Preliminary SAT

sophomores and juniors  
Registration required

**October 17**

The PSAT test, which assesses the students' skills in critical reading, math, and writing, will be administered to registered sophomores and juniors on October 17. This test, which prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam, Additionally, students who earn high scores on the PSAT test and the SAT college entrance exam are then eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Program. We encourage high achieving sophomores and all juniors to register for the test—due to a limited number of tests, early registration is recommended. Please note there is a \$14 fee, which is payable to Mater Dei by check (no cash).

## 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 17 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 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 contact Mrs. Goetz should you need additional information.

# MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

900 North Mater Dei Drive ♦ Breese IL 62230 ♦ (618) 526—7216

October, 2012

Dear Parents:

Greetings from Mater Dei! I am pleased to share with you specific information regarding the strategies the faculty has developed and is currently implementing in order to achieve our school improvement goals, which were adopted in the spring of 2007. Specifically, our goals are for all students “. . . to improve reading comprehension by implementing reading activities . . .” and “. . . to improve writing skills . . . through increased writing activities and expectations . . . .”

In regard to our reading strategies, we provide a ten-minute silent reading period at the beginning of our daily study hall. This period is designed to provide students with time to simply enjoy reading! Thus, we recommend that students possess a library book each day, for we request that they do not read textbooks or assignments. Starting in January, 2009, we expanded our reading program to include a timed reading, which includes an assessment of the passage. This activity, which develops both reading and comprehension skills, occurs during each period 4/5 study hall.

In regard to our writing strategies, we adopted a “Word of the Week,” which is featured by each teacher throughout the week and displayed on the “Word of the Week” board in the cafeteria. Our Faculty Council also adopted both a writing rubric and a standardized writing style sheet that our faculty and students are expected to use for writing assignments. Finally, our teachers have been asked to include an essay question on every test in order to provide our students with opportunities, across the curriculum, to practice their writing skills.

In closing, please know that in order for us, as a learning community, to improve and to achieve our school improvement goals, we need your help and your commitment to our mission at Mater Dei Catholic High School. Therefore, please promote these strategies and discuss with your child his/her individual experiences.

As always, if you have any questions regarding our goals or strategies, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis A. Litteken  
Principal