

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 season of Advent, 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. 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 they can help. In addition, the students will celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe with Mass on Wednesday, December 12, 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 Tuesday, December 18; Wednesday, December 19; and Thursday, December 20. We will then dismiss for Christmas break at 11:45 am on Thursday.

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

Tuesday, December 18

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

Wednesday, December 19

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

Thursday, December 20

pd 4/5	exam	8:10 - 9:10
pd 6	exam	9:14 - 10:14
homeroom		10:18 - 10:23
pd 7		10:27 - 10:45
pd 7	exam	10:45 - 11:45

CLASS OF 2013 BOASTS 20 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS



We are pleased to announce that the following seniors have been honored as Illinois State Scholars: Jade Beckmann, Clare Chiarolanza, Emily Deebe, Lucas Foppe, Nathan Huelsmann, Joey Hummert, Anna Lampe, Alison Lampen, Jennifer Luebbers, Mackenzie McCray, Caitlan McIntyre, Madelyn Mensing, Shannon Mensing, Ryan Patton, Zach Peek, Adam Richter, Alex Rogers, Michele Thole, Shelby Toennies and Kari Wiegmann.

Moreover, these seniors represent 16% of the Class of 2013! (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 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.

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

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 donated a total of 1,436 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.

As the winner of the class competition, the sophomore class earned a jeans day during semester exams (December 19). As the winner of the homeroom competition, the students in Mrs. Jackie Chiarolanza'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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

We thank our St. Vincent de Paul Society members, as well as moderator Mrs. K.K. Schneider, for sponsoring events which resulted in the following donations:

- \$200 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
- \$500 to the education fund for four high school students in Guatemala
- over 300 new toys to BCMW in Breese

BLOOD DRIVE

On November 30, a total of 101 members of our junior class, senior class, and faculty presented to donate blood, resulting in the collection of 87 successful units!

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.



MATER DEI CALENDARS The Gift that Gives Back

Looking for the perfect gift? Give your family and friends a 2013 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 15
- 10 sales = \$5, then 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

THANK YOU for supporting this vital fundraiser - together, we can make a difference!

ADVENT: Our Opportunity for Renewal

Have you ever experienced the need for a new beginning? As Catholics, 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.

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.

DECEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 Retreat Day (junior girls)
School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 4 Retreat Day (junior boys)
- 10 Mothers and Friends Christmas Party (6:30 pm)
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass (9:40 am)
- 14 Last Day for Second Semester Schedule Changes
- 15 Murray Center Visit (8:00 am)
- 16 Christmas Concert (7:00 pm)
- 17 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:30 pm)
- 18 Semester Exam—period 8
- 19 Semester Exams—periods 1, 2, and 3
- 20 Semester Exams—periods 4/5, 6, and 7
Dismissal at 11:45 am
- 25 Merry Christmas!
- 26-29 Mater Dei Christmas Tournament

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: 2012–2013," which will be mailed December 7.

Please return your completed survey to the office, via your child or via mail, by December 20.

ATTENTION: **ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

The deadline to request changes to second semester schedules is Friday, December 14. Students must schedule an appointment with Mrs. Deb Foote.

THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON!



Join us
for our
Christmas
Concert

Sunday,
December 16,
at 7:00 pm

LOVE MATER DEI BASKETBALL?



Join us
for our
52nd Christmas
Tournament

December
26, 27, 28, 29

SEE YOU ON MONDAYS!

Please join our parent organizations,
which provide essential support.

Schedule of Monthly Meetings

Mothers & Friends
2nd Monday at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria

Band Parents
3rd Monday at 7:30 pm in the band room

Fathers and Friends
last Monday at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday,
March 9, 2012

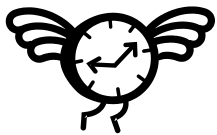
Mothers & Friends
Dinner Auction

SHARE THE DATES

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

- Parent Information Night
January 3, 2013, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- Placement Test
January 12, 2013, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Registration
February 23, 2013, 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!



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.



DO YOU NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

Remember to submit the FAFSA
(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
any time after January 1, 2013

NOTE: On the FAFSA website (www.fafsa.ed.gov),
utilize the *FAFSA4caster* to obtain an estimate
of your expected family contribution (EFC).

NOTE: We will also host "hands-on" FAFSA workshops
during the second semester—watch for specific
information in January!

IS YOUR CHILD ENROLLED IN A DUAL CREDIT COURSE?

On Tuesday, December 11, during period 1 study hall,
students enrolled in the following year long or second semester
dual credit courses will register with Kaskaskia College:
Accounting, Advanced Computer Applications, Building
Trades II, Chemistry II, Small Business Networking, English
Composition 102, Marketing (if Small Business Management was
completed), Physics Honors, Sociology, Speech, and
Weightlifting and Conditioning.

Please note that students must possess their driver's
license number and social security number.

Should you have questions, please contact Mrs. Deb Foote.

HAVE A JUNIOR PREPARING FOR COLLEGE?

ACT PREP COURSE

In January, students will have the opportunity
to register for the ACT preparation course taught by
our faculty. For only \$40, students will receive
fifteen hours of instruction (beginning March 5) and
Peterson's *The Real ACT Prep Guide, 3d edition*.

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

ACT TEST DATES

Registration information is available from
our College Placement Office or
the ACT website (www.actstudent.org)

February 9, 2013
(deadline January 11, 2013)

April 13, 2013
held 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,
which are listed on his/her transcript, the registration must include
our CEEB code (where a student attends school): 140-395.