

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - STUDENTS

- **FRIENDS - How will I meet people? Will I make friends?**

Meeting new people and making new friends, initially two concerns expressed by incoming freshmen, quickly become two of their favorite aspects of attending Mater Dei. In fact, when members of the Class of 2017 were freshmen, 72% of the class listed meeting new people and making new friends as their favorite at Mater Dei! \*

Recognizing that high school is filled with new experiences, we focus on assisting our freshmen with their transition by continually observing and communicating with them throughout the year. To begin the year, our freshmen experience a unique, freshmen-only orientation day, during which they attend classes; meet and complete a scavenger hunt with the members of their mentor group; and participate in activities which help develop strategies for creating and maintaining respectful student-to-student relationships. (During the scavenger hunt, freshmen become familiar with the building and meet all members of the administration, faculty, and staff with whom they will interact daily.) The mentor groups, whose members live in a variety of towns, then continue to meet throughout the year. We also host a tailgate party during football season for only the freshman class.

- **ACADEMICS - Will I maintain good grades? Will I have a lot of homework?**

The members of our faculty take pride in working with all students to assist them in achieving success. As a result, our teachers help students before school, during the daily school-wide study hall, and after school. In fact, as freshmen, members of the Class of 2017 ranked the teachers as their second “favorite” at Mater Dei. \*

Moreover, our daily school-wide study hall provides students with the opportunity to complete homework and to obtain assistance from their teachers and peers.

- **EXTRACURRICULARS - Will the activities and athletics interest me? How will I join?**

We believe that extracurriculars play an important role in the lives of our students, for they provide an opportunity for students to explore, to share, and to develop their gifts and talents. Thus, we are proud to offer an extensive variety of activities and athletics! In fact, as freshmen, members of the Class of 2017 ranked extracurriculars as their third “favorite” at Mater Dei. \*

Aside from athletics, numerous activities hold meetings during the daily school-wide study hall, thereby minimizing, and at times eliminating, the need for meetings after school hours. Moreover, our students are then able to participate in multiple activities.

At the recommendation of past students, we provide our incoming freshmen with our *Extracurriculars Guide*, which lists the moderator(s) of and descriptions of our activities and athletics. We also host an activities fair during the second week of school, during which students may sign-up for activities and receive information from current members.

---

---

### **THE CLASS OF 2017 IN THEIR OWN WORDS \***

*“Mater Dei feels like one big family because the environment is filled with respect. I love it!”*

*“The teachers are very caring and always willing to help when I have questions.”*

*“The student center is perfect for relaxing, socializing, and studying after school.”*

*“I have enjoyed the activities! I learned that I have talents I didn’t know about in grade school.”*

\* *Comments were provided by the Class of 2017 on the “Survey of Freshmen 2013-2014” (conducted in January, 2014).*