

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 our 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 full 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 thank you!

October is a busy month, as our fall sports seasons 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 that will remain long after they leave Mater Dei.

More importantly, I take immense pride in our students' remarkable commitment to service. In addition to donating to our class missions and special causes (\$11,278 during the 2023-2024 school year), our students serve as Youth Faith Formation teachers; cantors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, and servers in their parishes; and members of Teens for Life and St. Vincent De Paul Society. Moreover, our extracurricular organizations also sponsor service projects.

Our Mater Dei community truly demonstrates our main calling as Catholics: Be the Hands of Christ. 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 of all members of the Mater Dei community. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive Catholic adults. **THANK YOU for being members of the Mater Dei family!**

PARENT—TEACHER CONFERENCES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
4:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

We invite parents to attend our Parent-Teacher Conferences in order to discuss with individual teachers the academic progress of their child(ren).

Report cards, as well as a "directory" of the location of teachers, will be available in the office.

Please note that the format of our conferences is "first come, first served."

Of course, if you are unable to attend the conferences, please feel free to contact teachers via phone or email.

Remember to mark your calendar, as we hope to see you October 24!

THREE MEMBERS OF CLASS OF 2025 EARN COLLEGE BOARD RECOGNITION

We are pleased to announce that seniors Robert Klostermann, Kayleigh Lampe, and Chris Millikin earned recognition from the College Board's National Rural and Small Town Recognition Program!

Honorees receive this recognition as a result of earning a Preliminary SAT (PSAT) score in the top 10% of Illinois students in the same recognition program category and maintaining a minimum GPA of B+ (3.3/4.0). This year, College Board is recognizing over 90,000 total students nationwide through their five recognition programs.

Please join us in congratulating Robert, Kayleigh, and Chris on their academic success!

OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 7 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 8 2025 Calendar Drive Begins
- 11 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)
- 14 No School: Columbus Day
Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 16 College Fair (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 18 End of First Quarter
- 21 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 23 Senior Retreat Day (females)
- 24 Senior Retreat Day (males)
Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- 25 No School: Institute Day
- 28 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

HOMEcomings 2024: A KNIGHT IN EMERALD CITY

The Mater Dei family will celebrate Homecoming 2024: A Knight in Emerald City the week of October 7-12! The schedule is as follows:

- 7 Pajama Day
- 8 Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 9 Over-Under Day
Parade, Coronation, and Bonfire (6:00 p.m.)
- 10 Twin Day
- 11 Homecoming Shirt Day, Talent Show, and Pep Rally
- 12 Homecoming Dance (8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.)

GRANDPARENTS MASS ♦ November 1

We are honored to invite our students' grandparents to join us for Mass on November 1 at 9:40 a.m.

FALL PLAY ♦ November 1, 2, and 3

Enjoy a performance of the timeless *A Christmas Carol* on November 1 or 2 at 7:00 p.m. or November 3 at 2:00 p.m.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

In support of 40 Days for Life, members of our Teens for Life will pray at Hope Clinic in Granite City on Monday, October 14, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Community members are welcome to volunteer as well!
For information, contact our Teens for Life moderator Mrs. Celia Kannall (618-526-7216 or ckannall@materdeiknights.org).

We commend our students for serving as the hands of Christ!

WE CARE FOR AND SUPPORT OUR KNIGHTS

Each of us possesses an inner strength and resilience that can help us find our way, even during the most challenging times. However, during challenging times, it can become difficult to remember this strength, and we can become anxious, depressed, overwhelmed, and hopeless.

Mrs. Carroll and Ms. McDermott are available to provide our students with the support they need in order to achieve academic, personal, social, mental, and spiritual well-being. When working with students in "crisis," we strive to help them regain their sense of balance, focus on their strengths, create positive support networks, and rekindle their spirit of hope. Please email, call, or visit for assistance throughout the year!

Mrs. Tammy Carroll, Counselor (and Coco, our therapy dog)

phone: extension 107

email: tcarroll@materdeiknights.org

Ms. Colleen McDermott, Campus Minister

phone: extension 102

email: cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org

NOTE All students may also message Mrs. Carroll or Ms. McDermott via the "chat" in Microsoft Teams in order to schedule an appointment.



MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

academic excellence in a faith-filled environment

OPEN HOUSE Sunday, November 3, 2024
FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
WITH STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8

*Discover the unique opportunities of joining the Mater Dei family!
Guests will enjoy a guided tour and receive information regarding
our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs;
scholarships and grants; and free transportation.*

Free transportation offered east to Posey-Hoffman-Centralia-Sandoval-Carlyle;
north to Highland; west to O'Fallon (I-64/Air Mobility Drive)-Lebanon-New Baden-Trenton.



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Breese IL 62230
618-526-7216
www.materdeiknights.org

Email: knights@materdeiknights.org
Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
Instagram: [breesematerdei](https://www.instagram.com/breesematerdei)
Twitter: [@breesematerdei](https://twitter.com/breesematerdei)

SHADOW A KNIGHT grades 7 and 8

Join us for a day of school
in order to experience
the Mater Dei spirit!

Our guests attend classes,
enjoy lunch, tour campus,
receive a Mater Dei shirt,
and gain valuable insight
into life at Mater Dei.

For information:
contact Maria Zurliene
mzurliene@materdeiknights.org

or
visit our website
"Prospective Families" menu,
"Visit Us" page

SHARE OUR INVITATION

To help us spread our unique
story to prospective families,
please share the invitation
to our Open House.

Please also share the many
benefits your child has
received as a result of
attending Mater Dei.

Your story is the
most important story!

SELL, SELL, SELL OUR 2025 MATER DEI CALENDAR

We are excited to announce that the 2025 Calendar Drive begins October 8! Entering its 40th year, the Calendar Drive serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising. Thus, it is the only fundraiser for which we request participation from all students.

Did you know that tuition is less than the actual cost to educate a student? As a result, Mater Dei must also rely on sources other than tuition, one of which is fundraising. **Therefore, the participation of all families in the 2025 Calendar Drive is essential!**

Director of Advancement Fr. Chuck Tuttle will discuss with our students their vital role in the drive and the many incentives they may earn.

- Each student is asked to sell a minimum of **eight** calendars, for which he/she will earn a day off school on April 11, as well as a jeans day each Friday thru January 31.
- Students who sell ten or more calendars earn cash prizes, as well as special dress days.
- Top sellers in each class earn tuition credit ranging from \$150 to \$500.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of this vital fundraiser! For the benefit of our students, let's make the 2025 Calendar Drive a record-breaking success!



MAKE TIME FOR MASS

As we enhance our Catholic identity at Mater Dei, we continually focus on our Mission to educate, to foster faith, and to develop gospel values. Participation in Mass plays an essential role in fulfilling this Mission.

As parents, you serve as role models for our students. Therefore, please take to heart your vital role in supporting our Mission.

While prayer at home is an important aspect of our faith, it cannot replace the celebration of Mass, which offers 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, homily, and prayers, in order to strengthen our commitment to modeling the teachings of Jesus;
- to first acknowledge our sins and then to seek and to 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 extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

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.

May God continue to bless your family!

Buy

Calendars may be purchased online!
Visit our website, www.materdeiknights.org,
and select the "Buy a 2025 Calendar" button.
(Buyers can name the student who will receive credit.)



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT: OCTOBER 16

Mater Dei families are invited to our annual College Night on Wednesday, October 16, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A variety of schools (four-year, two-year, trade), as well as military branches, will be represented.

In addition, families may attend a financial aid presentation at 6:30 p.m. or 7:15 p.m. in the band room.

ACT MATH TEST PREP AT MATER DEI: DECEMBER 7

Miss Sackett will offer an ACT math test prep session on Saturday, December 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The fee is only \$10. Mrs. Goetz will accept registrations and payments (cash).

NOTE: A minimum number of eight students is required.

ACT, SAT, AND PSAT TEST PREP OPTIONS

For a more rigorous and in-person test prep:

- College Preparation Station in Maryville, www.cpsprep.com
- Sylvan in O'Fallon and Edwardsville, www.sylvanlearning.com/locations

For free online test prep:

- **ACT Test Prep** For free online ACT test prep resources, visit the ACT website: www.act.org/academy. Select the "Access Student Learning Resources" link under the "For Students" heading.
- **SAT Test Prep** For free online SAT test prep resources, visit the College Board website: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/practice-preparation>.
- **PSAT Test Prep** For free online PSAT test prep resources, visit the College Board website: <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/preparing>.

KEY STEPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGES

Application Deadlines Students must carefully review application deadlines, as meeting application deadlines may be a requirement for merit scholarships.

Transcripts Students must order transcripts via Parchment (www.parchment.com). Mrs. Goetz will then review the order prior to processing the request.

NOTE: If counselor information is requested, students must list Donna Goetz (dgoetz@materdeiknights.org)

Common App In the "Recommenders and FERPA" section for the colleges to which a student is applying ("My Colleges" tab), students must add Mrs. Goetz as the counselor. (Teacher recommenders are also added in this section.)

Students must order transcripts via Parchment (www.parchment.com) by selecting "The Common Application (First Year Applicants) as the delivery destination.

Students must verify that the colleges to which they applied successfully accessed their completed application and supporting materials.

2025-2026 FAFSA FORM TO OPEN DECEMBER 1

Per the Federal Student Aid website, the 2025-2026 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will open December 1.

To learn how to prepare for and stay informed of the FAFSA opening, visit the Federal Student Aid website: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

PSAT TEST: OCTOBER

All juniors and high-achieving sophomores are encouraged to register for the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test that will be offered at Mater Dei (during the school day) **on multiple dates throughout October**. (Mrs. Goetz will inform students of their assigned test date.)

The PSAT assesses critical-thinking, math, and writing skills, and also prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam. Juniors who earn high scores on the PSAT are then eligible for prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program recognition.

Students must register as soon as possible in the College Placement Office. The test fee is \$18 and must be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei).

ACT TEST DATES

For registration information, visit our College Placement Office or the ACT website: www.actstudent.org.

October 26, 2024
late registration deadline October 7, 2024

December 14, 2024 (at Mater Dei)
deadline November 8, 2024

February 8, 2025
deadline January 3, 2025

April 5, 2025 (at Mater Dei)
deadline February 28, 2025

June 14, 2025
deadline May 9, 2025

July 12, 2025
deadline June 6, 2025

NOTES

In order for Mater Dei to receive ACT scores, the registration must include our CEEB code (where a student attends school). **The Mater Dei CEEB code is 140-395.**

Test accommodations must be requested at the time of registration. International and ELL students are eligible for extended time.

To avoid extra fees in the future, at the time of registration, students should list potential college choices to which they would like their ACT scores to be sent.