
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 the month of November, we realize that the first quarter has quickly slipped by us. It did not slip by quietly, however, for our students were busy achieving success both inside and outside the classroom! Inside the classroom, for the first quarter, 65% of our students earned recognition on either high honor roll (4.0 to 3.8 GPA) or honor roll (3.79 to 3.5 GPA). Outside the classroom, our fall athletic teams and Marching Knights experienced much success, and members of our activities hosted and/or participated in a variety of events. Please know that I recognize that this level of success is no accident, but rather a direct result of the attitudes and commitment of our students, parents, faculty, and staff. Therefore, it is truly with a high level of pride that I serve the Mater Dei community!

One key aspect of my service is to promote our commitment to providing our students with the skills required to serve as leaders in the Catholic church, for as the number of clergy and religious decline, we are called to participate in the sacramental life of the church. In addition, at a time when our society is marred by deepening divisions between the rich and the poor, our tradition instructs us to place the needs of the poor and the vulnerable first, for how those in need are faring serves as a basic moral test. Thus, throughout the year, our students, faculty, and staff will focus on fulfilling their responsibility, through service and ministry, to protect and to aid the poor and the vulnerable, which is a basic social teaching of our church. I truly believe that by making our students aware of their obligations to others, we can make a difference!

In closing, as we look forward to the holiday season, we are called to thank our Lord and Savior for his many gifts to us and to pray for those who have not yet experienced his graces. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive Catholic adults. As always, may God continue to bless you and your family!



SHARE WARMTH AND JOY

From December 2 through December 17, our St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold their annual winter clothing and toy drive. The donations, which will be collected in theology classes, will be donated to BCMW to benefit families in need.

Please prayerfully consider donating any of the following items:

- new winter hats, gloves, scarves, and socks
- gently-worn winter coats
- new toys (for Christmas)

We thank our St. Vincent de Paul Society members and moderator Mr. Dennis Litteken for hosting this event! We also thank you, our Mater Dei family, for your generous support!

STUDENTS OF THE QUARTER

We are pleased to announce our “Students of the Quarter” for the first quarter:

seniors Ellie Miller and Christopher Millikin
juniors Ella Marron and Landon Schroeder
sophomores Angeleen Wesselmann and Jack Reynolds
freshmen Abby Kuhl and Maddox Rakers

The “Students of the Quarter” are selected by the faculty from the list of students who have earned high honor roll or honor roll recognition.

**Join us in congratulating
these students and their families!**

NOVEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 1 Grandparents and All Saints Day Mass (9:40 a.m.)
Fall Play: *A Christmas Carol* (7:00 p.m.)
- 2 Fall Play: *A Christmas Carol* (7:00 p.m.)
- 3 Open House (12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
Fall Play: *A Christmas Carol* (2:00 p.m.)
- 4 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 11 No School: Veterans Day
Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 18 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
Memorial Mass (7:00 p.m.)
- 24 Knight Club Appreciation Luncheon
- 25 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 27 Thanksgiving Mass (9:40 a.m.)
Early Dismissal (11:30 a.m. dismissal)
- 28 No School: Thanksgiving
- 29 No School

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FALL PLAY: NOVEMBER 1, 2, AND 3

Enjoy our fall play, the timeless classic *A Christmas Carol*, on November 1 and 2 at 7:00 p.m. and November 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets (adults \$6, students \$4) may be purchased in advance in the office or at the door. (Our students and Knight Club members receive free admission.)

THANKSGIVING MASS: NOVEMBER 27

On November 27, we will welcome Bishop McGovern to Mater Dei for our Thanksgiving Mass at 9:40 a.m. As always, you are welcome to join us!

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON: DECEMBER 15

Enjoy the sounds of the season as performed by our concert band, jazz band, percussion ensemble, and chorus at our Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the gymnasium.

Let us always remember to give **THANKS** and be **GIVING**.



WHO CARES when our students struggle?



Anxiety
Grief
Depression
Spirituality
Self-Esteem
Belonging
Relationships
Coping Strategies
Self-Image
Mental Well-Being

WE DO! Please contact us for help.

Mrs. Tammy Carroll, Counselor
(and Coco, our therapy dog)
phone: extension 107
email: tcarroll@materdeiknights.org

Miss Colleen McDermott, Campus Minister
phone: extension 102
email: cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org

NOTE: Students may also message Mrs. Carroll and Miss McDermott via the "chat" in Microsoft Teams in order to schedule an appointment.

DID YOU KNOW ...



PLUSPORTALS MOBILE APPS

In addition to viewing PlusPortals on a web browser, a ParentPlus app and a StudentPlus app for IOS and Android are available from App Store and Google Play.

MATER DEI SOCIAL MEDIA

Enjoy and share the posts we publish on our social media sites:

- Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School
- Instagram: breesematerdei
- Twitter: @breesematerdei

MATER DEI CALENDAR SYNCING

The calendar of all events that is provided on our website's home page will continually sync to a variety of devices. For subscription options, visit www.materdeiknights.org/events and select "Subscribe to calendar" (bottom right).

PRINTABLE EVENTS CALENDAR

A PDF file of the calendar of non-athletic events is available on [PlusPortals](http://www.materdeiknights.org) ("School Links and Files" window) and our website (www.materdeiknights.org, "Parents" menu).

ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

Athletic schedules are available on our website: www.materdeiknights.org/athletics-page



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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) through Thursday, December 5.

NOTE: A minimum number of eight students is required.

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>.

FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT: DECEMBER 11

Mrs. Donna Goetz will host a FAFSA Completion Night on December 11 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Lampe Commons. With the “walk-in” format, no appointments are required. Parents must bring their own device, but will have access to our wi-fi.

Prior to attendance, each parent and the student will need their Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

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.

ACT TEST DATES

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

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.

ACT TEST ENCOURAGED FOR ALL JUNIORS

Mrs. Goetz encourages all juniors to complete the ACT test.

Although some schools do not require the ACT test for admission, such as technical or trade schools and community colleges, the ACT sub-scores are often utilized for placement in English and math courses. When ACT scores are unavailable, students must then complete a placement test.

In addition, juniors who plan to enroll in our dual credit English 101 and English 102 courses as seniors must first attain a minimum score of 18 on the English section of the ACT test (or complete a placement test at Kaskaskia College).

Finally, ACT scores are required to for Illinois State Scholar eligibility (by June of junior year) and numerous scholarships.

CLASS OF 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

ACT PERFORMANCE

Illinois State Scholars The average of the ACT composite scores for the nineteen Illinois State Scholars is 26.7.

Valedictorians The average of the ACT composite scores for the sixteen valedictorians is 26.4.

ACT Composite Scores

- **30 or higher:** The top 11% of scores (7) are all 30 or higher and have an average of 31.9.
- **28 or higher:** The top 21% of scores (13) are all 28 or higher and have an average of 30.1.
- **25 or higher:** The top 34% of scores (21) are all 25 or higher and have an average of 28.4.
- **23 or higher:** The top 44% of scores (27) are all 23 or higher and have an average of 27.3.

NOTE: Statistics include scores for the 61 of 82 Class of 2024 members who reported ACT composite scores. Scores for our "single-year" international students are not included in the statistics.

We are pleased to share ACT composite score statistics, as well as additional accomplishments, for our Class of 2024, as they reflect our tradition of academic excellence in a faith-filled environment!

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Scholars The Class of 2024 included nineteen Illinois State Scholars (23% of eligible class members) **and** one National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student. (*Approximately 50,000 students in the nation earn NMSRP recognition.*)

Academic Honors Thirty-seven members (45%) of the Class of 2024 earned academic honors: twenty-six summa cum laude (3.9 to 4.0 GPA), six magna cum laude (3.8 to 3.89 GPA), five cum laude (3.7 to 3.79 GPA).

Scholarships Fifty-three members (63%) of the Class of 2024 received scholarship offers, which totaled over \$7 million.

National Honor Society (NHS) Forty-three members (52%) of the Class of 2024 were members of NHS, having earned a GPA of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

College Credit Hours Through enrollment in our dual credit courses, our Class of 2024 earned nearly 1,600 credit hours, which is an average of 19 credit hours per student.

Faith The Class of 2024 included six catechists for Youth Faith Formation (YFF) and Parish School of Religion (PSR) programs **and** fifteen extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

Service For four years, the Class of 2024 provided service related to the Works of Mercy **and** donated to Daystar Community Program in Cairo, Illinois, as their class mission. They also helped fund a \$1,200 Pay It Forward Scholarship for the Class of 2028.

PARENTING SUPPORT



As we know from experience, at times, parents can feel overwhelmed with their role and unsure of their parenting skills. Often times, the advice of others provides the perspective, understanding, and strategies needed not only to regain confidence as a parent, but also to guide young adults in a positive and productive manner. The following sites provide numerous articles from which all parents can benefit. We hope you find them helpful!

- Mark Merrill—Helping Families Love Well: www.markmerrill.com
- Parenting Today's Teens: www.parentingtodaysteens.org
- Grown & Flown: www.grownandflown.com

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING WEEKLY

As we gather with our families to share both food and friendship in celebration of Thanksgiving, let us truly thank God for all we have been given. Despite the struggles we face, let us recognize that our nation has been blessed, for our lives are much more comfortable than the lives of many others in the world.

Let us not forget, however, that as Catholics, we also have an opportunity every Sunday to gather with our church family to share Eucharist and friendship. Why do we sometimes fail to gather for this weekly Thanksgiving?

Please remember that we have a responsibility to model for our children the importance of praising and thanking our God for his many gifts.

For each new morning with its light,
for rest and shelter of the night,
for health and food,
for love and friends,
for everything Thy goodness sends.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

grateful
THANKFUL
AND
blessed



BETHE HANDS OF CHRIST

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society is proud to announce that during the first quarter, through our weekly collections for class missions and special causes, the Mater Dei family donated a total of **\$976.76!**

Specifically, the Class of 2028 supports Heifer International, the Class of 2027 supports orphanages in Haiti and Venezuela, the Class of 2026 supports Santa Clara Scholarship Fund for students in Guatemala, and the Class of 2025 supports St. Anne Mission Hospital in Kenya, Africa.

This amount also includes a \$437 donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital in memory of the late Eli Lobb, grandson of driver education teacher Mr. Andy Lobb.

In the first quarter, our Mater Dei family also donated 4,237 pounds of non-perishable food during the Tackle Hunger Challenge in support of Operation Food Search.

We thank our students, administration, faculty, and staff for serving as the hands of Christ for those in need!

SHARE YOUR TIME & TALENT

Plans are well underway for the Mothers & Friends dinner auction, Havana Knights, scheduled for Saturday, April 12!

One of our largest fundraisers, the dinner auction has raised over \$1,000,000 since its inception in 1991. This level of success is a direct result of our parents' continued willingness to share their time and talents!

Thus, we are requesting your help, as many hands make light work!

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP GENIUS

To review the various volunteer opportunities, visit the Havana Knights Signup Genius via the following link:

[Havana Knights SignUp Genius](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information, contact chairpersons Jennifer Budde (618-973-3755) or Jacqueline Pingsterhaus (618-973-5124).

Again, please consider volunteering your time and talents to help make this year's dinner auction the most successful one yet! You will not only help our students, but also create lasting friendships! Thank you, in advance, for your support!



2025 CALENDAR DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

The 2025 Calendar Drive is off to an excellent start with **2,183** calendars sold as of October 30! Now in its 40th year, the Calendar Drive, which is the only fundraiser for which we request participation from all students, serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising. **Therefore, the participation of all families in the 2025 Calendar Drive is essential!**

The "sales pitch" is simple: for only \$25, a buyer will have 391 chances to win cash (\$30 daily, \$100 and \$500 monthly, and \$1,000 and \$2,000 on December 31). Moreover, students have the opportunity to earn multiple incentives, including cash. (The complete incentive program is provided at the right.)

Please accept our "THANK YOU!" in advance, for the support you provide is essential to the Calendar Drive's success and is greatly appreciated!

CALENDARS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE!

Buy

Visit our website, www.materdeiknights.org, and select the "Buy a 2025 Calendar" button.

(You can name the student to receive credit.)

CALENDAR DRIVE INCENTIVES

- 1) A student who meets his/her quota of eight (8) or more calendar sales will receive a day off school April 11, 2025.
- 2) After a student sells eight (8) calendars (\$200), he/she may wear jeans or sweatpants and a Mater Dei spirit shirt or sweatshirt on all Fridays during the Calendar Drive (through and including January 31, 2025).
- 3) Each homeroom that meets its quota will receive a snack. When all students in a homeroom meet their quota, they will receive a free beverage coupon. At the conclusion of the drive, for each grade, the students in the homeroom with the highest percentage over their quota will receive a free beverage coupon.
- 4) When a student sells ten (10) or more calendars, he/she will earn special dress days and receive prize money as follows: \$5 for the first ten (10) calendars sold and \$10 for each additional five (5) calendars sold.
- 5) For the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, the top salesperson in each class will receive a \$500 tuition credit, and the second place salesperson in each class will receive a \$200 tuition credit. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be applied to next year's tuition.)
- 6) For the senior class, the top salesperson will receive a \$500 tuition credit, the second place salesperson will receive a \$250 tuition credit, and the third place salesperson will receive a \$150 tuition credit. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be awarded in cash.)
- 7) The last day to earn prizes is January 31, 2025. Prize money will be available February 4, 2025, through February 28, 2025.

Please contact Fr. Chuck Tuttle with questions regarding the incentives.