

## 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 who 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.

Of course, December also brings the end of the first semester! Our students will take their semester exams on Wednesday, December 18; Thursday, December 19; and Friday, December 20. We will then dismiss for Christmas break on Friday at 11:00 a.m.

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!



### THEN THERE WAS ONE: OUR VOLLEYBALL LADY KNIGHTS!

Congratulations to our Volleyball Lady Knights, head coach Cortney Walker, and assistant coaches Madi Haake, Ali Kampwerth, Taylor Pavich, and Chad Rakers for earning the title of IHSA Class 2A State Champions for the second-consecutive year!

In their journey to capturing Mater Dei Volleyball's ninth state title, the Lady Knights won the program's 20th state final tournament trophy, 28th sectional title, and 35th regional title!

Team members are seniors Ella Diercks, Alyssa Koerkenmeier, Addison Lampe, and Avery Wuebbels; juniors Lindsey Boehning, Lauren Jamruk, and Addison Nenninger; sophomores Marlie Haag, Brielle Kehrer, Ava Lampe, and Avery Patton; and freshmen Kylee Eversgerd, Hailey Klostermann, Abby Kuhl, and Adrienne Rakers. Managers are senior Maris Zurliene, sophomore Olive Kaskela, and freshman Adelyn Wuebbels.

Cheer loudly and proudly: We are MD!

### CLASS OF 2025 BOASTS 15 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

We are proud to announce that the following seniors have been honored as Illinois State Scholars: Ava Becker, Sophie Beer, Rebecca Cowgill, Nolan Goebel, Isabella Hacker, Luke Hilmes, Robert Klostermann, Reid Koch, Alyssa Koerkenmeier, Nathan Kuhl, Kayleigh Lampe, Ava Millard, Ayden Rakers, Kylie Voss, and Maris Zurliene.

Moreover, these seniors represent **16%** of the eligible members of the class! (Approximately 10% of Illinois graduates are honored as Illinois State Scholars.)

Selection is based on a combination of a student's ACT and/or SAT test score(s), GPA, and unweighted class rank at the end of his/her junior year, unless he/she scores at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> 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 honor on both college applications and scholarship applications.

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

## DECEMBER KNIGHT LIFE

- 2 School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 9 Immaculate Conception Mass (9:40 a.m.)  
Mothers and Friends Christmas Party (6:30 p.m.)
- 14 ACT Test at Mater Dei (8:00 a.m.)  
Class of 2029 Placement Test (9:00 a.m.)
- 15 Christmas Concert (6:00 p.m.)
- 16 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 18 Semester Exams: periods 6 and 8
- 19 Semester Exams: periods 1, 2, and 7
- 20 Semester Exams: periods 3 and 4/5  
Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.
- 23 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 26, 27, Christmas Tournament
- 28, 30

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS

Our Mater Dei community will gather for our Immaculate Conception Mass on December 9 at 9:40 a.m. As always, community members are welcome to join us!

### SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

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

### CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT

Enjoy four days of boys basketball at our 63rd Christmas Tournament scheduled for December 26, 27, 28, and 30. When finalized, the schedule will be posted on our website.



## MATER DEI CALENDARS

### A Gift That Gives Back

Looking for the perfect gift? Give your family and friends a 2025 Mater Dei calendar, which provides them with 391 chances to win a share of \$21,150 in cash prizes and supports our calendar sales drive!

In addition, students have the opportunity to earn the following incentives:

- 8 sales = Friday “dress down” days and no school April 11
- 10 sales = \$5, then \$10 for each additional five sales, as well as special dress days

- for the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes, a \$500 tuition credit for each top seller and a \$200 tuition credit for each second-place seller
- for the senior class, a \$500 tuition credit for the top seller, a \$250 tuition credit for the second-place seller, and a \$150 tuition credit for the third-place seller. (Credit surpassing a tuition balance will be awarded in cash.)

We sincerely thank you for supporting this vital fundraiser, which makes a difference in the lives of our students!

**Buy**

Caleendars may be purchased online via the “Buy a 2025 Calendar” button on the homepage of our website ([www.materdeiknights.org](http://www.materdeiknights.org)). The buyer may name the student to receive credit for the calendar sale.

## DATES TO SAVE

### KNIGHT AT THE RACES

On Saturday, February 15, we'll be off to the races for the benefit of our music programs!

We invite you to join us at “the track” for an evening of exciting horse races and chances to win prizes or to donate to the event by sponsoring a horse.

When available, the reservation and sponsorship forms will be shared with families and posted on our website.

### HAVANA KNIGHTS

Mothers & Friends will host their dinner auction, Havana Knights, on Saturday, April 12.

We invite you to enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and fun; to donate to the event; or to share your time and talent by volunteering on a committee.

For additional information, visit our website: [“Mothers & Friends Dinner Auction” page](#)

## DATES TO SHARE

To assist us in growing our Class of 2029, please share with members of your community both the dates of our upcoming events and the many unique benefits of Mater Dei.

**One simple outreach can truly make a difference!**

### PLACEMENT TEST

December 14, 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
*for students outside the Central Community High School district; contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene to register*

### INFORMATION NIGHT

January 16, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
*for parents and students*

### REGISTRATION

February 22, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

NOTE: Families who are unable to attend an event may contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene for an information folder ([mzurliene@materdeiknights.org](mailto:mzurliene@materdeiknights.org)).



## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

### SHARE WARMTH AND JOY

Through December 17, our St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) is holding their annual winter clothing and toy drive for the benefit of BCMW and local families in need.

Please prayerfully consider donating new winter hats, gloves, scarves, and socks; gently-worn youth-size winter coats; and new toys (for Christmas).

We thank our SVDP members and moderator Mr. Dennis Litteken for hosting this worthwhile event!

### JUNIOR KNIGHTS THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT

In support of the annual Junior Knights Thanksgiving Service Project hosted by our Student Ambassadors under the guidance of moderator Mrs. Maria Zurliene, over fifty Junior Knights donated nearly 100 food items for the benefit of Matthew 25 Ecumenical Food Pantry in Carlyle.

We thank our Junior Knights for their generosity!

### TEENS FOR LIFE HOSTS "DRESS-DOWN" DAY

In support of Teens for Life's beneficiaries, students may purchase a "dress down" day on December 18, the first day of exams.

We thank our Teens for Life members and moderator Mrs. Celia Kannall for hosting this event!

THE MAGIC OF *Christmas*  
IS NOT IN THE PRESENTS,  
BUT IN *Christ's* PRESENCE.

### OUR ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

Advent is our opportunity for renewal! Therefore, amid the decorating, shopping, and gathering during this holiday season, let us take time to experience a new beginning — nothing is more healing, energizing, promising, or filled with hope!

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

Christmas is the season to celebrate the love of God who chose to become so present to us that He took our own form.

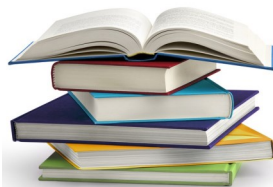
As we take time to gather and to celebrate, let us recall the true reason for the season and turn with grateful hearts to our God. Let us then continue to carry out the Christmas celebration throughout 2024!

|              | <u>Wednesday, December 18</u> | <u>Thursday, December 19</u> | <u>Friday, December 20</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>EXAMS</b> | pd 1                          | 8:10 - 8:58                  | pd 3                       |
|              | homeroom                      | 9:02 - 9:07                  | <b>pd 3 exam</b>           |
|              | pd 2                          | 9:11 - 9:59                  | homeroom                   |
|              | pd 3                          | 10:03 - 10:51                | pd 4/5                     |
|              | pd 4/5 (lunch)                | 10:55 - 12:15                | <b>pd 4/5 exam</b>         |
|              |                               | 10:55 - 11:19                |                            |
|              |                               | 11:23 - 11:47                |                            |
|              |                               | 11:51 - 12:15                |                            |
|              | pd 6                          | 12:19 - 12:35                | pd 3                       |
|              | <b>pd 6 exam</b>              | 12:35 - 1:35                 | pd 7                       |
|              | pd 8                          | 1:39 - 1:50                  | <b>pd 7 exam</b>           |
|              | <b>pd 8 exam</b>              | 1:50 - 2:50                  | 1:50 - 2:50                |

## WHERE HAS THE 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 extra effort to remain focused in class, to complete all assignments, and to prepare for semester exams.

Please remind your child that the final weeks impact not only second quarter grades, but also semester exam grades and final first semester grades. In addition, please note that a student's final first semester grades, which are provided 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 PlusPortals and to contact your child's teachers for assistance.



## HELP YOUR CHILD STUDY strategies to encourage with students

Use index cards or an app such as Quizlet to organize key concepts. Referring to a set of cards is more efficient than referring to a textbook.

Rework (not simply reread) problems from previous homework assignments, review sheets, quizzes, and tests.

Study for short periods of time on a continual basis instead of studying for one extended period of time.

Study with a parent or friend who can "quiz" you.

Request help from teachers for topics you previously found difficult.



# PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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## ACT MATH TEST PREP AT MATER DEI: DECEMBER 7

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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.

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## 2025-2026 FAFSA FORM NOW AVAILABLE

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Per the Federal Student Aid website, the 2025-2026 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is now available.

To start a 2025-2026 FAFSA form, visit the Federal Student Aid website:  
<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

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## FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT: DECEMBER 11

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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>

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## ACT, SAT, AND PSAT TEST PREP OPTIONS

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For a more rigorous and in-person test prep:

- College Preparation Station in Maryville, [www.cpsprep.com](http://www.cpsprep.com)
- Sylvan in O'Fallon and Edwardsville, [www.sylvanlearning.com/locations](http://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](http://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>.

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## KEY STEPS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGES

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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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

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## ACT TEST DATES

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For registration information, visit our College Placement Office or the ACT website: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

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

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### 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.

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## ACT TEST ENCOURAGED FOR ALL JUNIORS

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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.