

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

Happy New Year wishes from Mater Dei! I trust that each of you enjoyed a peaceful and holy Christmas season and are now filled with a renewed spirit for 2025!

As we begin the new year at Mater Dei, our senior students are serving as the hands of Christ through the Senior Service Project. It is our belief that this experience allows our seniors to develop self-confidence, to become aware of the needs of others, and to recognize the many ways they can serve others. When asked what the face of Jesus looks like, Mother Teresa responded by saying that Jesus is in every person who seeks help from others. Please join us in praying that our seniors experience the face and the hand of Jesus throughout their service work.

Let us also pray for a successful, spirit-filled second semester! We encourage you to utilize PlusPortals in order to review your child's schedule and to remain updated on his/her academic, attendance, and discipline reports. We are confident that with your continued involvement and encouragement, your child will achieve his/her best!

Finally, as we look forward to the joys of 2025, let us continue to pray for families who faced serious challenges or experienced the loss of a loved one in 2025.

As always, we at Mater Dei are here to serve and to support your family. Therefore, please contact us should you need assistance. May the Lord bless your family throughout 2025!



Bless this year with **LOVE** and **LIGHT**.
 Bless this year with **FAITH** and **SIGHT**.
 Bless this year with **GRACE** and **EASE**.
 Bless this year with **JOY** and **PEACE**.

SR. MIRIAM COOVERT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**scholarship for current students
for the 2024-2025 school year**

Parents are encouraged to apply for the Sr. Miriam Coover Memorial Scholarship, which is available to current students for the current school year.

Ten scholarships will be awarded.

**Applications are available
in the office and on PlusPortals.**

(On the PlusPortals home page, the application is located in the "School Links and Files" section.)

**For questions, contact Mr. Dennis Litteken
(dlitteken@materdeiknights.org).**

APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 31.

CLASS OF 2025 NOW BOASTS 18 ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

We are proud to announce three additional seniors who have been honored as Illinois State Scholars! Shaelyn Borowiak, Ella Detmer, and Ella Diercks join the fifteen seniors we announced in our December *Knight Life*: 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.

Our Class of 2025 now includes 18 Illinois State Scholars who represent 19% of the eligible members of the class!

(Approximately 10% of Illinois graduates are honored as Illinois State Scholars.)

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

JANUARY KNIGHT LIFE

- 3 No School: Faculty Retreat
- 6 Classes Resume
Senior Service Project Begins
School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 13 Mothers & Friends Executive Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 16 Class of 2029 Information Night (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)
- 17 X-Schedule (11:15 a.m. dismissal)
- 20 No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Band Parents Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 27 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 29 Catholic Schools Week Mass (9:40 a.m.)
- 31 Sr. Miriam Covert Memorial Scholarship Applications Due
2025 Calendar Drive Incentives Conclude



Knight at the Races

Saturday, February 15

6 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. races begin

In support of our music programs, join us at "the track" for a fun-filled Knight at the Races on Saturday, February 15, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Tickets (\$50 each) include appetizers, open bar, funny money for wagering, and chances to win prizes. The evening also includes additional raffles and fun events.

Unable to attend? Event sponsorships and horse-naming rights are also available for purchase.

For additional details, the reservation form, and the sponsorship forms, visit the "Announcement" section on our website (www.materdeiknights.org).

NOTE: While reservations are preferred, tickets are sold at the door.

WE CARE when our students struggle! CONTACT US for assistance.



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

Mrs. Tammy Carroll, Psychologist and 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.

... WANTED ... Knights for the Class of 2029

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!

INFORMATION NIGHT

January 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
for parents and students

REGISTRATION

February 22, 2025, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Families who are unable to attend will have the opportunity to register on an alternate date.

NOTE

To request an informational folder to share with a prospective family, please contact Mrs. Maria Zurliene (mzurliene@materdeiknights.org).

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2025 January 26 — February 1

Joining Catholic schools across the nation, the Mater Dei community will celebrate Catholic Schools Week January 26 through February 1. The theme for this year's celebration is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." As in the past, we are planning a spirit-filled week!

During Catholic Schools Week, please join us in celebrating all members of our Mater Dei Catholic High School community who remain dedicated to ensuring that our Mater Dei family remains united in faith and community!



NOTE When finalized, the Catholic Schools Week schedule will be emailed to parents and students.

Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

We are proud to announce that the Mater Dei family, for the benefit of others, raised a total of **\$4,432.24** during the second quarter!

Specifically, the Mater Dei family donated \$1,189.24 to our weekly collections in support of our class missions: Heifer International (Class of 2028), orphanages in Haiti and Venezuela (Class of 2027), Santa Clara Scholarship Fund for students in Guatemala (Class of 2026), and St. Anne Mission Hospital in Kenya, Africa (Class of 2025).

Additionally, our Spanish Club raised \$888 for families in need in Peru and Louisiana; our Teens for Life sold pro-life shirts and sponsored a “dress down” day that raised \$815 to support pregnancy-care organizations; and our St. Vincent de Paul Society collected \$1,540, as well as toys, coats, gloves, hats, and socks for the Diocese of Belleville’s St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Therefore, combined with the first quarter total of \$976.76, a grand total of \$5,409 was raised during the first semester!

Please join us in thanking the members of our Mater Dei family for living the Gospel through their continued commitment to helping those in need! Their generosity is truly exceptional!



**BE
THE
HANDS
OF
CHRIST**



On Monday, January 6, our seniors will begin responding to the needs of others in a variety of environments, including day care centers, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, civil agencies, and social agencies, in a variety of locations throughout Clinton County, southern Illinois, and the metro-east area. Thus, the benefits of their service are wide spread!

We thank coordinator Campus Minister Ms. Colleen McDermott, who will visit each site to speak with both our students and site supervisors, and those faculty members who have volunteered to mentor seniors during their service experience.

Finally, please join us in praying that this experience is an opportunity for our seniors to both serve to learn

CALENDAR DRIVE GOAL IN REACH

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE
2025 CALENDAR DRIVE!**

With 3,777 calendars sold as of December 20, we are still in reach of our goal of selling 4,300 calendars!

The student incentive program and selling competition will continue through January 31, so please continue to sell! Students must sell only eight calendars to earn their day off school on April 11.

Good luck selling, and thank you, again, for supporting this important fundraiser!

HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Mr. Dennis Litteken invites you to submit nominations for the Mater Dei Catholic High School Hall of Honor, which serves to recognize members of the Mater Dei community whose lifetime achievements or service to Mater Dei exemplify the Mission of Mater Dei.

Nominees must have graduated from Mater Dei, St. Mary, St. Dominic, or St. Paul Catholic High School at least twenty years prior to their nomination **OR** have provided significant service to Mater Dei on a continuous basis for at least twenty years prior to their nomination.

For a nomination form, contact the office or visit www.materdeiknights.org (“Announcements” section). **Nominations will be accepted until February 15.**

Thank you for helping us recognize members of our Mater Dei community who exemplify our Mission!

SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Miss Colleen McDermott invites you to submit nominations for the Christian Discipleship Award, which is presented to one senior; and the Christian Service Awards, which are presented to one freshman, one sophomore, and one junior.

Created by the Mission Effectiveness Committee of the Mater Dei School Board, these awards recognize students for service to school, church, and community.

For a nomination form, please contact Miss Colleen McDermott (cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org), **OR** visit www.materdeiknights.org/faith/service (“Service Awards” tab). **Nominations will be accepted until March 31.**

Thank you for helping us recognize students who dedicate themselves to serving others!

ELECTRONIC REPORT CARDS

We are pleased to return to electronic report cards via PlusPortals (www.plusportals.com/materdeihh). **Therefore, we will not mail report cards, unless requested.** Report cards, which we plan to post to PlusPortals by January 8, will list quarter, exam, and semester grades, as well as the cumulative grade point average and cumulative credits.

As always, please do not hesitate to request assistance, as we are here to serve your family!

VIA THE PLUSPORTALS WEBSITE

Viewing the Report Card: On the home page, select "More ..." (right of the student's name). Then, in the menu below the student's name, select "School," and select "Report Card."

Viewing Percentage Grades: On the home page, in the "Progress" window, select the applicable marking period.

VIA THE PLUSPORTALS APP (ParentPlus or StudentPlus)

Viewing the Report Card: On the dashboard, select the student's picture. Then, in the menu at the bottom, select "More," and select "Report Card." (To view grade columns, swipe left and right.)

Viewing Percentage Grades: On the dashboard, select the student's picture. Then, using the left and right arrows, advance to the applicable marking period.



DON'T FORGET . . .

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 ("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



MOTHERS & FRIENDS DINNER AUCTION SPECIAL REQUEST FOR HELP

Plans are well underway for Havana Knights, the Mothers & Friends dinner auction 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' willingness to share their time and talents! **Therefore, we are requesting your help**, as many hands make light work!

VOLUNTEER AS A COMMITTEE CHAIR OR MEMBER

To review the various volunteer opportunities, visit the Havana Knights Signup Genius via the following link: [Havana Knights Signup Genius](#)

VOLUNTEER TO SET UP APRIL 10 AND 11

On Thursday, volunteers are needed to set up tables, construct booths, and begin decorating. On Friday, volunteers are needed to finish decorating, set the tables, catalog the auction items, and fill the booths and the gym with the auction items.

VOLUNTEER TO CLEAN UP APRIL 12 AND 13

What goes up must come down! Volunteers are needed Saturday evening following the dinner auction for a quick start to the cleanup and Sunday morning for the final cleanup.

DONATE AN ITEM, A CUSTOM SERVICE, OR CASH

Contribute to the auction's success by donating an item, a custom services, or cash. You can donate individually or coordinate with friends to donate a larger item, such as the always popular tailgating parties, card parties, and dinners. Feel free to also create your own party theme - new and creative ideas are always welcome! **Donation forms are available in the office and on our website** www.materdeiknights.org/mothers-and-friends-dinner-auction ("Parents" menu, "Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction" page).

CONTACT INFORMATION

To volunteer or to receive further information, email mdauction@materdeiknights.org or contact chairpersons Jennifer Budde (618-973-3755) or Jacqueline Pingsterhaus (618-973-5124).



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

COLLEGE VISITS LIMITED IN JANUARY

Senior students are reminded that they should not schedule college visits on weekdays during the Senior Service Project, which continues through January 24.

2025-2026 FAFSA FORM NOW AVAILABLE

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>.

ELIGIBILITY FOR NCAA ATHLETICS

Students who are considering playing athletics at an NCAA Division I or Division II college or university should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3>.

In addition, when registering for courses later in March, students should refer to the curriculum guide to determine if a Mater Dei course is an NCAA-approved course.

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.

February 8, 2025
deadline January 3, 2025
late registration deadline January 20, 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.