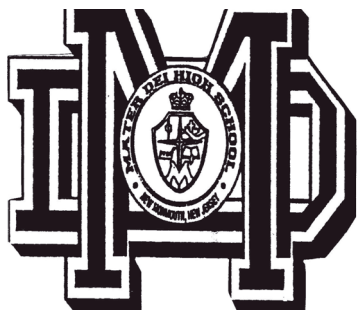


Winter 2008



Mater Dei High School

Dear Friends,

The Mission of the Catholic School is keyed on its witness to Jesus Christ in our world and it is only as good as that as each and every member of the community that is part of it. The challenge here for each of us is to be willing to work at our relationship with the Lord in our lives on a constant basis and support the efforts of each other to do the same. This will help the whole then to be a great sign to all around us and so we fulfill our mission. The way Jesus wants all of us to live holds us to a high standard of effort. We grow in our relationship with God when we put this effort in. This growth makes us to be able to experience the Presence of God in a new way every day and so hope grows in our hearts, life has more meaning and we become happy people.

In your individual local parishes God has placed you to experience nurturing in faith and grow into mature followers of His Son Jesus. This Discipleship of Jesus is not lived waiting for someone else to invite you into action in the name of Jesus. It is lived in a proactive way stepping up and being a leader in the local Church. We spend too much time waiting for another to be the first to step forward and in the meantime so much opportunity goes by. Pray that the Lord opens your heart more and more so that you will be willing to be in the front line of leadership among His people.

Mater Dei is dependent on all pieces of the community in order to be able to have the best impact possible and so alumni, their families, former staff persons, continue to be banner holders for Mater Dei. I am most grateful to all who wave that banner. I meet people every day who are committed to that effort. Please keep looking for ways to share yourself and so show the greatness that is in the large and growing community of people around Mater Dei.

God bless all of you, and May Our Blessed Mother protect all of us as we honor her as Mother of God.

Fr Mike

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A Letter From Our Principal

Dear Mater Dei Parents

“Welcome Back.” I hope you enjoyed a wonderful and restful summer and I hope, too, that our students are off to a successful school year.

I’d like to share with you an update on new personnel and new education programs.

A warm welcome to the following new staff members:

Mr. Steven Sciarappa – Associate Principal. **Mr. Sciarappa** joins us from Monsignor Donovan High School, where in addition to being a Science teacher, he served as Supervisor, Middle States Action Plan Committee. In addition, while at Monsignor Donovan, **Mr. Sciarappa** served as Associate Head Football Coach/Defensive Coordinator for Central Regional High School. **Mr. Sciarappa** holds a B.A. in Biology from Richard Stockton College and a M.A. in Educational Leadership Management and Policy from Seton Hall University.

Mr. Jeff Platenyk – Director of Technology. **Mr. Platenyk**, who started here in May, comes to us from the private sector and has already made a significant contribution to our technology endeavors.

Ms. Alison Dooley – History Teacher. After graduating from high school, **Ms. Dooley** first spent three years in the U. S. Army and then received her B.A. in Education and History from Monmouth University.

Miss Charlene Leskauskas – French/British Literature Teacher. **Miss Leskauskas** received her B. A. in French and Theology from Franciscan University. She has studied in France and has tutored French. She has coordinated March-for-Life trips to Washington, D.C. and has conducted Pro-Life educational seminars and prayer vigils.

Mr. William Dickinson – In-Class Support Aide. **Mr. Dickinson** joins us on a full-time basis from the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission. He will be working with the full-time regular classroom teachers to help the students who are experiencing academic difficulty.

Mr. Dickinson is also one of our Assistant Football Coaches.

New Programs

We are offering the following new courses and programs for the coming school year:

- a. **“Personal Finance”**
- b. **“Musical Ensemble”**
- c. **“Analytical and Creative Writing for College”**
- d. We have rewritten a **new curriculum for American Literature B, Grades 9 and 10.**
- e. **Freshman Parent and Student Orientation** programs were held in August rather than the third week in September. The purpose of this program was to allow students and parents to walk through their daily schedule in advance of opening day and to receive their HP laptop computer. This turned out to be a very successful program.
- f. **Parent Connect** – This program allows parents to view their child’s grades electronically by means of a designated password.
- g. **Brookdale Community College “Fast Start” Program** – This is a more formal program established between Mater Dei High School and Brookdale Community College which allows Junior and Seniors to take college-level courses on their own time, receive credit and be reimbursed if the final grade is a “B” or better. Please call Student Services or visit our website at www.materdeihhs.org for more details.

Open House – Our Open House will be held on **Sunday, October 19, 2008** from **12:30 to 3:30 PM**. As you can see, we have extended the day to give incoming families more time for this visit.

As you can see, we’ve had a busy summer making improvements which will help your son/daughter have a successful school year. Throughout the year, I’ll be posting updates on the website.

I certainly hope you and your children have a safe, happy and successful school year. If you have any questions on anything regarding Mater Dei High School, please do not hesitate to call the school at **732-671-9100**.

Very truly yours,

Roger J. Harding
Principal
Mater Dei High School



Technology



Fiber Optic Internet Access -

Mater Dei High School recently completed the migration of computer Internet Access from a T1 cable to fiber optics (Verizon FiOS).

FiOS Internet Service is a broadband service provided by Verizon Corporation. The service includes access to a fiber optic network which is designed to deliver maximum connection speeds to the internet. Estimated speeds are as follows: up to 50 Mbps or 20 Mbps downstream and 20 Mbps or 5 Mbps upstream.

This change in service will allow Mater Dei to realize a significant monthly and recurring cost savings.

Laptop Program Updates –

Mater Dei is now conducting the annual re-imaging process for all student laptops. This process allows each leased laptop to be “refreshed” to its original or “out-of-the-carton” start-up displays. New software updates are also introduced at this time and will contribute to annual and recurring cost savings.

New Computer Labs –

25 new Dell computers and flat screen monitors were rolled-out for the beginning of the school year. 12 PCs are located in Lab 315 and support Programming instruction. 13 PCs are located in Lab 316 and support Arts, Graphics and Yearbook. These machines are connected to the MDHS Network and in-classroom color and black & white printers.

Additional Software Deployment –

- 1.** MS One-Note has been introduced to our freshman through junior laptops. This tablet and stylus/pen.
- 2.** In-class music instruction has been enhanced to include 6 piano keyboards and Finale-Allegro and Music Lessons 1 which supports music writing, editing, instrument assignment, playback, etc.
- 3.** Adobe Premiere Elements 4 and Adobe Creative Suite 3 Design Standard has been introduced to the 13 PCs located in Lab 316 (Arts, Graphics and Yearbook). Symantec Back-up Exec for Windows Servers was introduced to our MDHS File Server which ensures and enhances “Save/Back-up” processes.
- 4.** Laptop antivirus software was migrated to Vexira which will allow Mater Dei to realize an annual recurring cost savings.

STATE CHAMPIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME!!!

It has been a wild ride for the varsity softball team and me since starting the season in March. There were many firsts that occurred this year starting with Spring Training at Disney at the end of March and culminating with a State Championship in June. From losing to RBC 1-0 in the finals of the Monmouth County Tournament in 9 innings to beating St. Joe's of Hammonton (#1 team in the State) 1-0 in the Parochial B South Sectional Final in 10 innings. Along the way, we beat SJV 12-1 and Wall (#3 team in the State) 1-0 in the Monmouth County Tournament. The team finished ranked #6 in the State and #3 in the Shore Conference.

There were many individual honors bestowed upon the girls and me. Senior **Sara Cline** was named **1st Team All Shore** (Asbury Park Press), **1st Team All Monmouth** (Star Ledger), **1st Team All Shore** (Digitalsports.com), **1st Team All Non-Public State** (Star Ledger), and **2nd Team All State**. She also was named **Monmouth County Player of the Year** in the Star Ledger and **Softball Player of the Year** for The Sporting News. Senior **Lauren Florio** was named **2nd Team All Shore** (Asbury Park Press), **1st Team All Monmouth** (Star Ledger), **2nd Team All Shore** (Digitalsports.com), and **1st Team All Non-Public State** (Star Ledger). Senior **Tess Gagliano** was named **All Division** (Asbury Park Press), **1st Team All Monmouth** (Star Ledger), and **1st Team All Non-Public State** (Star Ledger). Senior **Erin Carroll** was named **All Division** (Asbury Park Press), **3rd Team All Monmouth** (Star Ledger), and **3rd Team All Non-Public State** (Star Ledger). Junior **Danielle Murphy** was named **2nd Team All Shore** (Asbury Park Press), **2nd Team All Monmouth** (Star Ledger), **2nd Team All Shore** (Digitalsports.com), and **2nd All Non-Public State** (Star Ledger). I received many honors this year thanks to my girls and my assistants: **Shore Softball Coach of the Year** (Asbury Park Press and Digitalsports.com), **State Softball Coach of the Year** (Star Ledger), **Female Coach of the Year** (The Sporting News), and **National Federation of High School Coaches Softball Coach of the Year for New Jersey**. I will be running against other coaches in the Northeast Section of the States as well as Nationally for Coach of the Year honors. The announcements will be made in March of next year. I have also been selected to be inducted into the **Mater Dei High School Hall of Fame** this September.

It has been a mind-numbing experience – one I can only hope every coach has the opportunity in their career to experience it. I don't think I've come down off my cloud yet and I'm thinking of keeping my hair "blonde." I want to thank everyone who supported us in our unforgettable trip through your presence and your prayers. I hope the girls take me on the ride again someday (before the next 28 years)!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Dickinson

MATH SEMINAR

Here's a follow-up on the 2007-2008 Seminar Group (I couldn't be prouder!):

The group of 15 Seniors (**Jillian Donadio, Lauren Florio, Tess Gagliano, John Glynn, Will Grenger, Ryan Killeen, Pat McGee, Willie Nelson, Aimee Patterson, Ben Popovich, Alexandria Price, Joanna Sblendorio, Courtney Scott, Katie Snyder, and Ashley White**) prepared diligently for D-Day (May 7th – A.P. Exam). The day came and went and now the waiting began. The scores were released in July and lo and behold **EVERYONE** earned college credits!! The exam is scored on a scale of 0 to 5 (5 being the highest). Most colleges require a minimum of a 3 in order to earn college credits. The group scored the highest in my tenure as A.P. Calculus teacher - 4 earned 5's, 6 earned 4's, and 5 earned 3's. Congratulations to all my **Mathletes** for a job well done!!

This year's group is strong in number and mighty in ability! There are 8 seniors (**Casey Andress, Katie Buffa, James Ferrick, Cara Heusel, Rob McCawley, John Necef, Travis Paulson, and Ariane Vasilatis**) that have started their trek toward May 6th. The Seminar Group will begin meeting on September 21st and conclude on May 5th. The road is a bumpy one with many twists and turns, but, the reward is great! Good Luck and let the fun begin – again!

Jeanne Dickinson

Notes From the Guidance Office

HONOR ROLL – FOURTH MARKING PERIOD 2007/2008

Grade 9

The following student has earned **Honors with Distinction** for the fourth marking period:

Juliana Grassia, Kara Teehan and Wesley Textores

The following students have made the **Honor Roll** for the fourth marking period:

Caitlin Ault, Kathleen Begley, Sara Buffa, Kathryn Davidson, Michael Eckert, Mary Katherine Jennings, Christine Kelleher, Julia Koch, Courtney Kurkemelis, Kathleen Lane, Heather Marter, Robert Maxfield, Kerrin McCarthy, Amanda Mennen, Brianna Murphy, Christopher Pace, Daniel Tartaglia, Vincent Telesino and Katherine Weir

Grade 10

The following students have earned **Honors with Distinction** for the fourth marking period:
John Caddock, Amanda Caruso, Kerry Donnelly, Stacie Fanelli, Michael Gallo, Christopher Maturo and Paula Pilipovic

The following students have made the **Honor Roll** for the fourth marking period:

Geena Basso, Colleen Begley, Amanda Branick, Casandra Branick, Michelle Budzyna, Matthew Erickson, Nicole Gravish, Shanna Kirgan, Edward Lamar, Alex Mak, Christopher Molicki, Molly Morrow, Janine Necef, Janeen Palmiotto, Nicole Pellicane, Katheryn Popowych, Marissa Selcov, Amanda Theobald, Karissa Trotter, James Tucker and Lauren Yetman

Grade 11

The following students have earned **Honors with Distinction** for the fourth marking period:
John Necef, Cara Ray and Aliya Simnor

The following students have made the **Honor Roll** for the fourth marking period:

Jennie-Lee Albanese, Lauren Anderson, Mary Begley, Katherine Buffa, Jennifer Cudzil, Alexandra DeGirolamo, Thomas Ferrick, Kelly Glezman, Shannon Greene, Jennifer Hazen, Michelle Hemhauser, Cara Heusel, Samantha Lupino, Robert McCawley, Jennifer McKay, Gina Moure, Danielle Murphy, Nicole Murphy, Travis Paulson, Gena Rosko, Catherine Strbo, Brian Walsh, Jonathan Warhol and Rachelle White

Grade 12

The following students have earned **Honors with Distinction** for the fourth marking period:

Nicolena Basso, Sara Cline, Christina DeKovics, Lauren Florio, Benjamin Popovich, Courtney Scott and Ashley White

The following students have made the **Honor Roll** for the fourth marking period:

Erin Carroll, Rory Chirmside, Deanna Dini, Jillian Donadio, William Grenger, Connor Hughes, Ryan Killeen, Patrick McGee, Patricia McKinley, Stephen Medich, Jessica Melillo, William Nelson, Alexandria Price, Joanna Sblendorio, Molly Shea, Matthew Szymanski and Christopher Theobald

A Letter From Our PTA President

On behalf of the PTA I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all of our returning students, parents, and staff. To our new staff members, students and their families, we say "Welcome to our Mater Dei family." We're glad to have you here!

With this first MD PTA Newsletter of the new school year, we are "going green". All issues of the newsletter will now be available online. The new Mater Dei website is functional and informative, and we encourage all of our families to utilize all the school-wide resources now available at our fingertips!

The PTA has an ambitious schedule of events planned for the year. We have our annual Holiday **Super 50/50**, which will be raffled off at the Powder Puff Football game on **November 26** at 1:00 p.m. at Mater Dei. Raffle books will be mailed shortly. Last year's winner won close to \$10,000, so please support this important fundraiser. (Winner need not be present to win.)

On **March 12, 2009**, we will be having our annual **Fashion Show and Gift Auction** at Jacques Reception Center. This is truly a group effort, as our students help plan the event and model fashions. It is always a fun time with lots of great gift items raffled off, so mark your calendars!

We are always looking for volunteers and we welcome any new ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact any of us. (You can leave a note or message at the Main Office.) Together we can ensure our children's years here at Mater Dei will be happy, faith-filled, memorable ones.

Mary Kelleher

PTA President

P.S. Our **Open House** for prospective students will be held on **Sunday, October 19**. Please spread the good word about Mater Dei to family and friends!



Empowering Success

MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL

LEARN • GROW • COMPETE • BELIEVE