

HOW

WE

SEE

THINGS

Hi-Light 2004













Mater Dei  
Yearbook  
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# How We See Things

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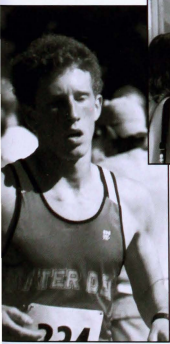
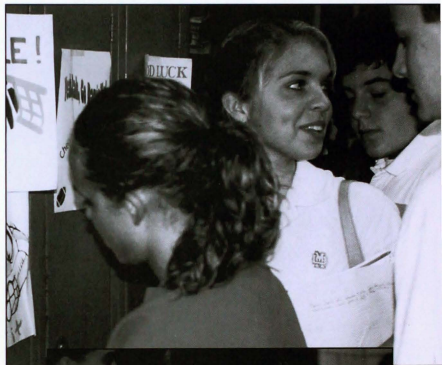
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## Mater Dei High School

1300 Harmony Way

Evansville, IN 47720

(812) 426-2258

[www.materdeiwildcats.com](http://www.materdeiwildcats.com)

Population 658

Volume 56

Fr. Ken Steckler, Mater Dei Chaplain, says a blessing over the student body at the first Mass of the year. Photo by: Jessica Knight



The staff of the Hi-Lights yearbook started on a journey that began before school even started. They decided that it was their responsibility to capture the year in pictures and words. Those elements would then be presented in a way that made the student body look back and remember this school year.

Now they are done. The pictures have been taken, the stories have been written and the pages have been submitted. Their efforts have been printed, made permanent with ink and paper.

This is not an easy task. Trying to capture everything in a busy school like Mater Dei is a task that few would envy. Sometimes, there is just too much activity.

So too are there sometimes too many different viewpoints and interests to cover, but that is a good thing. One of the strengths of this school is that we have such a variety that everyone has something they can identify with.

There is no way to produce a book that adequately gives equal attention to all groups, teams, personalities, classes, or cliques. But we did make every effort that this small staff could.

The driving force behind this book has been Katie Scheller. The countless hours she has poured into the yearbook were not just in the physical production of the pages; many of those hours were in planning and researching what makes a yearbook a keepsake.

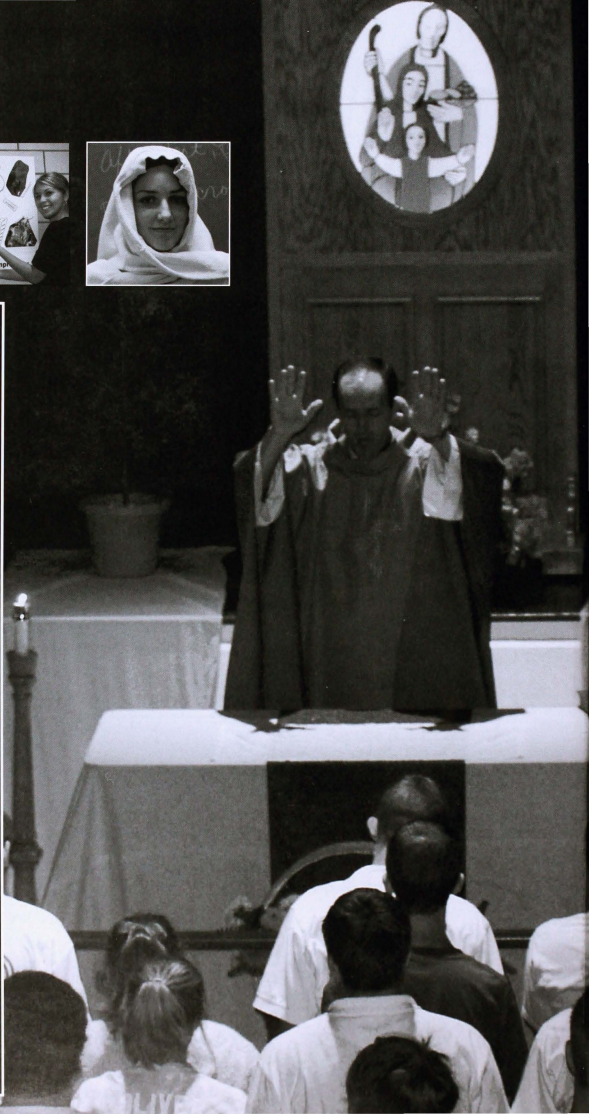
And Ashley Alles has made it her mission in life to read and proofread and reread every word before it was printed.

I am pleased with theirs and the entire staff's efforts put forth here. It was a learning experience, the main goal of this endeavor, and I believe that you will enjoy the book as it is.

It is how we see things and we hope that it is how you see things too.

- John Wells  
Advisor, Hi-Lights

Trying to see is like you do





# Seeing Things

It depends on where we stand



Above:  
Freshman Michael Rhodes carefully watches as his teacher lectures the class on important issues.

Photo by: Paul Mindrup



Left:  
Sophomores Sarah Paciorowski and Jessica Grabert trying to understand the notes given in Chemistry class.

Photo by: Hannah Wannemuehler



Left:  
Senior Tony Reckelhoff raises his hand to offer his blessing over the new Eucharistic Ministers.

Photo by: Allison Probert

Every school year begins with the end of summer. We go from comparing tan lines and sharing sandals to comparing notes and sharing pens. We say good-bye to late nights with friends and hello to long nights full of homework and studying. Early mornings create long days and sometimes sleepless nights.

Some students see the start of school as coming back for another great year, while others can't wait to go back home and crawl into bed. Nevertheless, the seats are brushed off, the floors waxed, and the quiet halls are filled with the noise from people ready for another year of sports, music, academics, and life.

Each activity requires its own work and preparations, all equally difficult and worthwhile. At Mater Dei, the passion we have for each individual endeavor makes the difference and makes us who we are. We are Mater Dei, and it is the unique views and different perspectives we have that give us our edge.

The minute we walk into the building and hear the chime of the bell, everyone is filled with his or her own perspectives and views. Opinions are made and set, and it is up to the school year to see if they will stay the same. As the year advances, events are held and memories are made, but our experiences impact each person in a different way.

This year, the opening Mass set the tone for the entire year. Father Ken Steckler played his role in "pumping us up" and helping us start the school year off right. The feeling of Mater Dei pride was continued with a great and inspiring speech from graduate Joe Dulin, one of the few African-American students to graduate from Mater Dei. He showed us how his Mater Dei education contributed to his success in life and made us see that there is a purpose for the seemingly everlasting homework and tests.

The way we see things changes from person to person. No one ever has the same perspective, but we all leave here with the same opportunity of having a great education. However, it is up to us to see how we will put our knowledge to use.

From classes to games, we all have our favorites and our not so favorites. It is up to us to make it fun and learn what we can. The way we see things is what makes us unique. Everyone has his or her own views and we try hard to let them be heard at Mater Dei. Often times students see one thing and teachers see another, but this is The Way We See Things.

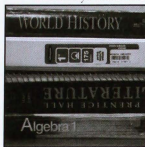
It is the way we see things that breaks up the monotony of day-to-day classes. The ability to get something out of things most people would pass on by is what makes us unique. It is the different views of the student body that makes things so interesting and always keeps us guessing. Everyone has their own choices and does their own thing, from classes they take, sports they play, to the dresses they choose for the Christmas Dance.

The Way We See Things is who we are as individuals, but also who we are as a student body. We are who we are because of our distinctive perspectives, and with this book, we bring these unique perspectives to the spotlight.

Katie Scheller '04, Hi-Lights Editor



Principal Williams poses by the Mary statue at the front entrance of the school. Although she has been at Mater Dei for only one year, her impact has already been great.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller



As Ms. Marie Williams stepped into her new job as Mater Dei's principal, she faced many challenges, but also so many good things that she could work with.

"This is a very rich community," Williams said. "We are blessed with so many gifted people that are hard working."

Williams hopes to tap into that pool of talent and dedication as she makes plans to move the school forward.

"There is a long history here of stewardship, of people giving to the young people around here," Williams said.

To get to her goal, Williams wants to improve the communication between these groups to make them more effective.

"I think that most people would agree that they want students to grow and improve," Williams said. "By facilitating communication between groups and individuals, we can get there."

Williams is already improving communications, starting with the students. She is constantly seen in the halls, dropping into classes and wandering around in the cafeteria, all the while talking to students.

"They give me strength and energize me," Williams admitted.

She has needed that energy as she has worked to adjust to a new schedule and pace that her previous job at the Catholic Center did not have.

That energy will translate into some good things, building on the good that she sees already here.

"I see a lot of strength in academics," Williams said. "The students have the ability to be self-directed. They will be more apt to become lifelong learners."

But the greatest strength she sees here is the spirituality of the students.

"I think the students have an authentic spirituality. There is a depth of sincerity beyond the expression of their faith."

Williams has a vision for the future and she can see the cornerstone upon which to build that vision.

"I see so much goodness in the students"





# New Insight

## Thanks for your vision



For every student, from seniors to freshmen, all eyes were on this year to see what new changes would come as yet another principal took the reigns of power. It is safe to say that the change in leadership was a positive occurrence.

The fears were not unfounded as students returned. The senior class has had four different principals over the years, and with each principal came a new set of rules, priorities, and personalities. But now we possess a principal who has ideas and perspectives on the way things should be.

Ms. Marie Williams has taken a role many people would be scared, if not terrified, to face. Knowing the situation very well and understanding that the principal's position here has been in flux for years, she gladly accepted the challenge. We have never needed a strong and able leader as much as we do now. With the past several years of changing authorities and views, many things were out of whack. Many of the rules and regulations of a school were not being met.

Williams has not only tackled the challenge of being a principal, but she has also set her sights on correcting things that have been overlooked for years. However, her biggest strength is her determination; moving forward without altering her vision of what Mater Dei can become. Sure, she has had to face some opposition, but she has not shied away from it and is willing to work to compromise on a decision.

Her first concern was the budget and financial security of the school. Over time it has been neglected and problems ignored; Williams refuses to continue that trend.

Another major concern of Williams' was the academic standards of the school. By examining the schedule and number of instructional minutes, she found that we were lacking and that something had to be done. As painful as it was to some students and as disruptive as it was to homework, senior out-to-lunch and actively meetings, a new schedule was developed and implemented.

But no matter what plans she has pursued, she has kept the most important group involved: the students. She has made every attempt to communicate the reasons behind her moves to the students. She has been available and accessible for the students and she is often seen wandering the halls, stopping to talk with students as she meets them. When students have questions, she is open and ready to answer those concerns.

Williams wants to get Mater Dei back on track. She wants the school to regain its tradition of excellence that has been sliding in the eyes of the public for the past few years. By involving the teachers, parents and, most importantly, the students, she will get there.

So for her vision and commitment to Mater Dei, we dedicate this book to her. The way she sees things is exactly what we are looking for.

Katie Scheller '04, Hi-Lights Editor



Above:  
Principal Marie Williams takes time out to pose with the Mullets, a group of guys who dressed up to support the cross country teams.

Photo provided by: Michelle Krack

Left:  
As part of her introduction to Mater Dei, Father Kenny Steckler welcomes Mrs.

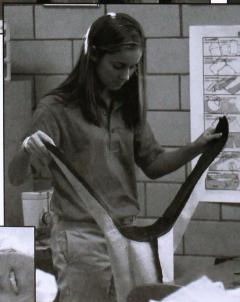
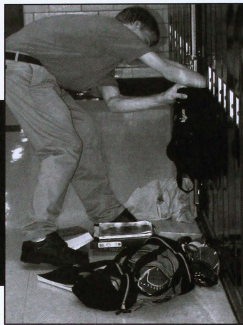
Williams to the students during the opening day prayer service.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

Left:  
Ms. Williams shows that she's not afraid to get her hands dirty by helping to clean on Campus Clean-Up Day.

Photo by: Katie Scheller









JUST US

**How do we see things?**

**It really depends on who you are.**

Mater Dei is made up of almost 600 different faces, likes, talents, wishes and fears. And those show all the time, whether we are in class or just hanging out at Golfmore. We just can't help it; we can't hide it.

**But should we hide who we are?**

**Certainly not.**

We have so much to give to the world and we plan on doing it. We will soon be the leaders, doctors and teachers, but we will not copy those that have come before us. You will see.

So get ready world and watch out; here we come.

**We are MD**



People

# It Ain't Write

From the skilled faculty to the unique assignments, students have come to love the many English classes offered, from freshman English to senior Advanced Placement.

Fifteen-year faculty member and sophomore English teacher Mrs. Shea Reneer has always loved English.

"It was my favorite class in high school," Reneer says.

Teaching English was a match for Reneer, whose father was also a teacher, but she hadn't always planned an teaching English.

"I switched majors in college when one of my teachers asked me to consider becoming a teacher," Reneer says.

It is a good thing she did. From writing essays to creating Greek gods projects, Reneer's ability to work with the students shines through.

"I like working with kids and getting to know them. That's why I like English," says Reneer.

For freshman English teacher Mr.

Chris Drew, having an effect on students is the best part of teaching.

"My favorite part is when the students actually see how something that a teacher tells them is interesting and important; when I can see their wheels turning," Drew says.

Teachers are not alone in their love of English, however. Many Mater Dei students find English pleasing.

Junior Natalie Schmitt, a student of Mr. Dan Becker, is one student who shares in the teachers' love of English.

"I really love to read. I like to use good grammar because I can't stand it when people don't use good grammar," Schmitt says.

True, most English classes are required, but the teachers make them some of the more pleasant and educational classes offered at Mater Dei. With its unique assignments and involved faculty, group projects and poetry, Mater Dei students find English class exciting.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05

Ms. Rose Rogge overviews freshman Ryan Musgrave's assignment in freshman English. Not only does Rogge teach the basics of English but the basics of being a Mater Dei student.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller



Junior Greg Ambrose receives the weekly vocabulary word list from Mr. Dan Becker. However, the weekly quiz comprises only a small part of the class, which also focuses on the basics of grammar, poetry, and American literature.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller



Adler, Jenna  
Bartek, Jordan  
Bigge, Alexandria  
Bitner, Zachary  
Boots, Hannah



Born, Jennifer  
Brandenstein, Cody  
Bush, Jesse  
Buskavitz, Rachel  
Butts, Adam



Cardin, Gregory  
Carr, Cory  
Cervone, Michael  
Collignon, Ian  
Dewig, Nicholas



Dewitt, Christopher  
Dickinson, Taylor  
Douglas, Kyle  
Echele, Alexander  
Eickhoff, Mitchell







Elpers, Jonathan  
Elsner, Shaun  
Emmert, Christopher  
Fabiano, Frank  
Farry, Jacob



Feldhaus, Alysso  
Fleming, Benjamin  
Folz, Matthew  
Funke, Mitchell  
Gaffney, Mary Ann



Gallo, Derek  
Goebel, Mallory  
Goebel, Neil  
Goebel, Zachary  
Goldman, Jeremy



Alex Bigge is taking a hard hit during her game against Reitz. Bigge plays on the North team with other students from Mater Dei such as Sophomore Riley Moore. Brothers Tim and Brandon Miller play on Reitz's team. Photo by: Shanna Bush



Alex Bigge serves her time in the penalty box during her game against Reitz. Bigge was penalized for tripping an opponent. In the high school league at Swonders minor checking and hitting is allowed. Photo by: Brittini Herron

## Skating on the Edge

Skates, shin guards, hockey socks, elbow pads, shoulder pads, gloves, a helmet, and a face mask shelter a four foot eleven and ninety-six pound body... a female body. Mater Dei freshman Alex Bigge broke the common gender boundaries when she took up the male sport ice hockey.

"As a young girl, Bigge didn't always dream of playing ice hockey. She only recently took up the somewhat dangerous sport within the past few years.

"This is my third year playing ice hockey," Bigge says.

Athletes take up sports for different reasons, some because of family tradition or the instinctive love of the

game. Bigge had a different inspiration to play ice hockey, however.

"One day my little brother came home and couldn't shut up about his new sport. So I got into it because I wanted to show him up," Bigge says.

Nevertheless, Bigge's gratification in showing up her brother did ultimately turn into a love of the game.

"I loved ice hockey so much that I just kept playing," says Bigge.

Bigge, who plays on an all male ice hockey team, found it fairly simple to join the team.

"There really isn't any trying out for HS and JV teams. You are evaluated and then placed on a team with other people," Bigge explains.

The hockey team, unfortunately, only practices at Swonders Ice rink once a week.

"We usually practice for an hour," Bigge says. But they make the most of their time together.

To any spectator, it is obvious that playing ice hockey can be dangerous. It is easy to see how players can be injured.

"Mostly I've just had bumps and some pretty nasty bruises. I've had my skate toe shattered before and my knee pad broken," says Bigge.

Though the actual injuries themselves may be painful, Bigge finds the exposure to injury is what makes ice hockey so exhilarating.

"The best part of the sport is the potential risk of injury. It's exciting to know that at any moment, you might get crushed by a guy twice your size," Bigge says.

Bigge usually gets the same reaction from most people when they learn of her ice hockey skills.

"People are surprised. They find it hard to believe a 4'11" 90 pound girl would play with the guys," Bigge says.

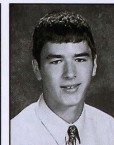
Ice hockey is definitely a match for Alex Bigge. Although she may be much smaller than the rest of her team, her love of the sport drives her to play with just as much passion as the male players.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05

Gries, Ryan  
Gwaltney, Emily  
Hall, Laura  
Hall, Sarah  
Herron, Sean



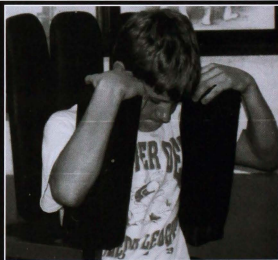
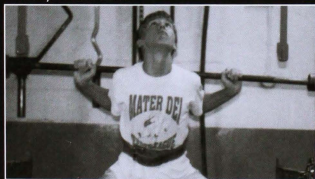
Hertel, Kyle  
Hill, Jeremy  
Hinton, Kyle  
Hoefling, Lauren  
Horstman, Daniel



Huff, Emily  
Hunt, Tyler  
Hurm, Samantha  
Jarvis, Melissa  
Johnson, Matthew



Sean Herron works his abs at the Pit with a machine that helps strengthen and build up the abdominal muscles. Herron works out at the Pit under Mr. Dick Connors' supervision twice a week.  
Photo by: Brittini Herron



Freshman Sean Herron squats 135 pounds as a warm-up before he lifts his maximum weight, 180 pounds. Herron competes in weightlifting competitions and has placed at national meets.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

## Lifting Spirits

Many freshmen enter high school in hopes of discovering their niche. However, freshman Sean Herron found his niche two years before his first day of high school.

Herron first became involved with power lifting to enhance his strength training for wrestling. Herron has been wrestling since kindergarten and has been power lifting for over two years.

"My coach, Mr. Connors, started training me and before I knew it, he had me power lifting."

Powerlifting is comprised of three components: squat, bench press, and deadlift. All are scored individually and added to make up the individual's total score. Power lifters

are categorized by sex, age, and weight.

"A power lifter has three tries to lift the weight he chooses. Most people lift a lighter weight at first and keep adding weight to the next to lift. To win your weight division, you have to lift more weight than the other person does. You take the heaviest weight that you lifted in the three tries and the heaviest lift wins. That goes for squat, bench, and deadlift," Herron says.

Despite the benefits lifting has had on Herron's wrestling skills, power lifting has a definite goal of its own.

"The purpose of power lifting is to see how strong you are. It is a sport

about strength," Herron says.

Herron competes in national meets and proves he has the strength to outlift his competitors.

"My first meet was a couple weeks ago and I placed second in the nation because it was a national meet," Herron says. The meet took place in St. Louis, Missouri.

Herron works out at the Pit and practices his power lifting two times a week to prepare for his competitions. He also has to watch his weight so that he can make weight, similar to wrestling.

"I don't know what the heaviest weight I can do is, but I work out with, for squat, around 180. I deadlift

around 245 and I bench around 120," Herron says.

Overall, Herron thinks that power lifting is a blast. He also believes that what he attains from it is valuable in more ways than one.

"Power lifting has been very successful for me because I have gotten a lot stronger from working out. It has taken years to build muscle and get where I am, but it has been worth every minute of it."

Through his hard work and dedication over the course of his power lifting training, Herron has accomplished what most athletes only dream of.

Susan Muensterman '05





Freshman Chris DeWitt listens while Mrs. Jewell Joffrey critiques his collage. DeWitt is an Art I student and enjoys improving his artistic talent.  
Staff Photo

Mr. Dominic Thompson helps tune senior Christina Ward's clarinet before the band's pep assembly. The band performed for the entire student body before competing at regionals, which they advanced to for the first time in four years.

Photo by: Meghan Berneking



# Express Yourself

One may consider English or Mathematics some of the most important classes to take during the high school years, but the need for students to express themselves through artistic methods is equally as important as these core classes.

Art classes are becoming increasingly popular and students as well as teachers enjoy the classes.

"Art class is kind of like a freedom. It's not like your regular classes that you are required to take," junior Molly Couture says.

Art is a long process, requiring an investment of time as well as talent.

"I like it when I see a student take a raw idea and develop that idea and fight it to the finish," art and drafting teacher Roger Sills says. "I enjoy watching the students end up with a really neat finished project."

Besides putting a student's talents into a visual form, the fine arts department also teaches students to express themselves musically.

Band is becoming a new favorite among many students at Mater Dei and builds upon a love of music that many have developed.

Junior Melissa Elpers, who participates in pep, concert, and marching band, has been playing since grade school.

"I have been playing alto saxophone since fifth grade, tenor saxophone since sophomore year, and soprano saxophone since this year," Elpers says.

The fine arts department isn't a new department, but some of their offerings are, including theatre classes.

Junior Brittany Erikman, who this year is taking her second theatre class, enjoys all aspects of the class.

"I'm glad that I have the opportunity to learn and progress as an actress," Erikman says.

Learning to express yourself is the key to making those "core classes" more meaningful.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05



Julian, Ryan  
Kelley, Michelle  
Kemper, Amber  
Klueg, Anthony  
Koester, Audrie



Krieg, Jared  
Kurzendoerfer, Myranda  
Lambert, Alyssa  
Lehman, Lisa  
Lehman, Nichole



Lewis, Samuel  
Lutterbach, Emily  
Lutz, Donald  
Lutz, Laura  
Macke, Shad



Mandel, Emily  
Marshall, Jonathan  
Matt, Andrew  
Mcdaniel, Adam  
Miller, Katelyn

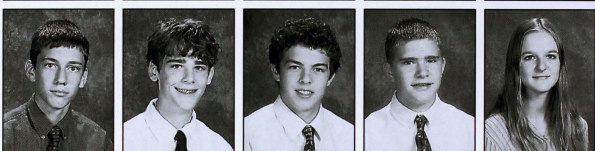
Musgrave, Ryan  
Niemeier, Lauren  
Niemeier, Ryan  
Nix, Chad  
Norris, Danielle



Padovic, Melissa  
Parkinson III, Gerald  
Peak, Jessica  
Petitjean, Emilee  
Phelps, Jordan



Pigman, Brian  
Pohlman, Peter  
Price, Matthew  
Raben, Samuel  
Rausch, Courtney



Reising, Jewel  
Rhodes, Michael  
Rice, Zachary  
Riggs, Mackenzie  
Ritter, Danielle



# Foreign Affairs

The foreign language department at Mater Dei is the craziest department of all the departments. Though Spanish and German are the only alternate languages that Mater Dei offers, many students flock to them just to try something new. In turn, it is the teachers' efforts that make foreign language classes so appealing to so many students.

"I love teaching and I always have," says first, second and fourth year Spanish teacher Mrs. Judy Berberich. "There is nothing like trying to get across something that is difficult and all of a sudden the student says 'ah I get it now.'"

Not only do students enjoy learning in class, but they experience the culture out of the classroom as well. Biennial trips to Germany over spring break with German teacher Mr. Steve Rode and lots of food are keys to learning the culture.

"In past years I have taken students to El Charro or other Spanish restaurants," says Berberich.

But everyone remembers the fles-

as that fill the halls with scents of salsa and tacos.

So, what actually goes on during the learning portion of a typical foreign language class?

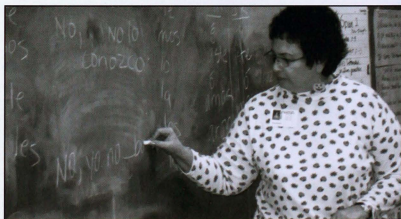
"I basically teach them how to speak in German," says Rode, the lone German teacher. "I try to instill conversational skills. My goal is for students to carry on conversations."

To learn these skills, the teachers use a variety of techniques, including the "fly swatter" game.

"I like to use a variety of approaches in order to enable the students to learn," says Berberich. "Students especially seem to learn quickly with the fly swatter game and have fun with it."

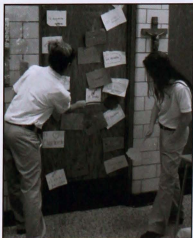
Even though they are a lot of fun and quite tasty, the foreign language classes are a great way to prepare for college and the world outside Mater Dei. The language skills taught by the foreign language departments will aid Mater Dei students for miles and miles.

Shanna Bush '04



Ms. Joan Vickery explains a Spanish lesson for her Spanish III class. The class appreciates Ms. Vickery's efforts to enliven the class. Every Spanish student looks forward to the fiesta at the end of the year.

Photo by: Katie Scheller  
Students of Mrs. Judy Berberich's Spanish I class play the famous "fly swatter" game, an enjoyable approach to studying, to review for their upcoming tests.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller





# Preserving the Memories

Creativity is expressed in many different ways, some are good and some are disastrous. There is everything from an individual piercing, actions, clothing, and body art to the way they harness their energy. Some people spend time hanging out with friends, sports, and clubs, while others find things to do at home to keep them entertained. There are several people at Mater Dei who have found scrapbooking as a positive way to spend some of their spare time and to show off their creativity.

"I think scrapbooks are more personal than picture albums," says senior Jeanina Butler.

A scrapbook is a collection of pho-

tos and personal mementos that one chooses to save. It has evolved over the years and has become a very popular hobby.

"I like to go to Hobby Lobby because they have a large selection of scrapbook stuff," says senior Jill Merkel.

There are many places to get scrapbook supplies. There are even stores dedicated to scrapbooking and now there are classes too.

"My mom and I took some scrapbooking classes and they showed me some different things," says freshman Rachel Williams.

With all the different opportunities to get the required necessities for

making a scrapbook it can really add up. Especially with all the personal effects, it really puts a dent in one's wallet.

"I spent a lot of money on scrapbooks probably because I go a little crazy with money," says Butler. "It is a lot of money with all the stickers, pictures you make and have copied, pens you use, background pages, and just the little extra things you find for your pages."

Making scrapbooks can be very expensive and addicting, especially since it is considered a lifetime hobby. Many people get started at a young age and keep with it. Some people just fall into it from previous hobbies.

"I started it because I love to take pictures and I didn't have any where to put them," says senior Shanna Bush. "I also like to do creative things so I put two and two together."

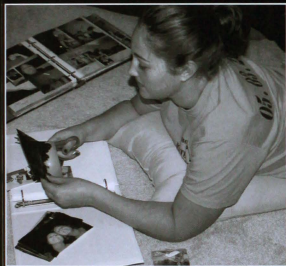
Scrapbooking may seem like a lot of work, but really it's a great deal of fun.

"Scrapbooking is fun, it gives a place to pictures and it gives me something to look at when I get older," says Williams.

Though the hobby may be fun, there is work involved. Scrapbooking is very time consuming and is usually put together over many months of hard work.

"How long it takes me to make a page varies on my mood," says Merkel. "It can take up to a half an hour."

Katie Scheller '04



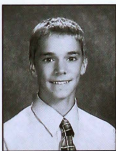
Relaxing on her bedroom floor, senior Shanna Bush cuts a photo to paste in one of her four scrapbooks. Bush has been scrapbooking since eighth grade year to record her memories from year to year.

Photo by: Katie Scheller



Freshman Rachel Williams is hard at work pasting pictures to her scrapbook. Her scrapbook is filled with memorabilia from her grade school years at St. Wendel.

Photo by: Katie Scheller



Rollett, Kyle  
Rolley, Danielle  
Sammet, Samantha  
Schenk, Adam  
Schenk, Nicholas



Schneider, Sarah  
Schoettlin, Brandon  
Seibert, Andrew  
Seibert, Ashley  
Shetler, Andrew



Stephens, Emma  
Stoltz, Margaret  
Swickard, Keri  
Swihart, Tyler  
Tenbarge, Megan

# No Cold Feet

Everyone knows the common generalizations about freshman: young, scared, and all alike. However, Mackenzie Riggs is one Greenie who stands out from the rest of her freshman class. She is an experienced figure skater and a member of an ice skating team that competes nationally.

Like many people who are serious about their sport, Riggs started ice skating at a very young age.

"I've been skating since I was four, so it has been about eleven years," Riggs says. "My older brother was in a lot of sports so my mom wanted me to get started in a sport, too. I really liked skating."

Riggs skates not only out of passion, but also to keep herself physically fit.

"I skate mostly because I really like doing it and because I've gotten pretty good at it, but also because it keeps me active," explains Riggs. "The only other sport I do is cheerleading, so I need to do some-

thing else to keep myself in shape."

Because of her experience in skating, Riggs makes the sport look effortless and graceful. But even with years of experience, figure skating can still be challenging.

"I practice about three times a week for an hour and a half at Swonder's Ice Rink," Riggs says. "I practice my jumps, spins, and my programs for competitions."

Practice is not full of just jumping and spinning. She has to work on the entire program at a time.

"The difficult parts for me when I skate are learning the footwork for programs because I have a hard time remembering it, and learning

harder jumps like my double loop and double toe."

Nonetheless, all the hard work and practice pays off in competitions.

"Last year my skating team won three first places at nationals in Chicago," Riggs clarifies. "My favorite part of skating is going out of town for competitions. I love traveling to other cities and hanging out with my friends on the skating team."

Not only is Riggs a great team skater, but she also demonstrates leadership on the ice.

"Last year I was co-captain of my skating team and won two awards: The Jenny Seitzinger Award, an award for team spirit and attitude,

and the Sportsmanship Award, which was sponsored by the nationals in Chicago," Riggs says.

Riggs plans to continue skating for as long as possible.

"I'm pretty sure I'm going to skate throughout high school and hopefully I'll be able to skate throughout college," Riggs says. "Schools like the University of Miami and Delaware offer ice skating scholarships and that would be great to get."

Although Riggs is only a freshman, her future already looks bright, and with her talent and hard work ethic, she will surely skate her way to great places.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05

Mackenzie Riggs gracefully glides across the ice as she practices her program. Riggs skates out of love for the sport and to keep herself physically active.  
Photo by: Tiffany Floyd



Freshman Mackenzie Riggs lands a sit spin from one of her routines. Riggs has been skating for eleven years and has been co-captain of her skating team, winning many awards.  
Photo by: Tiffany Floyd

Tepool, Gary  
Van Cleve, Lauren  
Vanhooser, Alexander  
Vanhooser, Jacob  
Wade, Jackie



Wagner, Hannah  
Waldroup, Andrew  
Walker, Andrew  
Wargel, Elizabeth  
Wayne, Brooke



Weber, Ann  
Weber, Emily  
Weinzapfel, Kari  
Weinzapfel, Kellyn  
Werner, Bruce





# Class of 2007



Wheeler, Paul  
Whorl, Jenna  
Wildeman, Krista  
Williams, Mckenzie  
Williams, Rachel



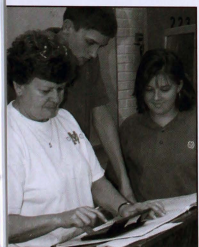
Wink, Ryan  
Wolf, Marie  
Wolf, Michael  
Yingling, Sarah  
Zeller, Anna



Zenthoefer, Carly  
Ziliak, Magan  
Zirkelbach, Lynnsey



Mr. Joe Dippel observes his freshman physical education class as they play basketball. Basketball is just one of the many team sports the P.E. classes participate in throughout the school year.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller



Mrs. Carolyn Adler calculates her students' grades from her physical education classes. Achieving an "A" in Mrs. Adler's class is no small feat.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller

## Hit the Showers

Physical fitness is a necessity to maintain a healthy lifestyle. It's not easy to exercise while sitting in a classroom, but some classes stress the importance of fitness.

"Without a healthy body it is hard to have a healthy mind," says Mr. Joe Dippel, freshman and elective gym teacher.

The gym classes help to give students an understanding of the importance of exercise and health.

"We teach many lifetime sports where students will learn some leisure activities that they will be able to use as they get older," explains Dippel.

Gym is mandatory for freshman, making the classes rather large and limiting them to certain activities.

"With large classes we use team sports so students have to get involved," explains Mrs. Carolyn Adler, freshman gym teacher. "We'd like to put in individual sports, but it's just not practical with so many students."

Physical education classes are not just offered to freshman, however. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors all

have options to take them. The students like having a break from the normal classes and lectures, although students are taught knowledge about specific sports.

"It's a great way to relieve stress," exclaims senior Laura Schroeder. "It gives me a break from school."

Students aren't the only ones that enjoy athletics. Adler, a longtime sports fan, knew as a student that being a gym teacher was her calling.

"I have always enjoyed different sports and that was my dream to come back to Mater Dei and teach P.E.," Adler says.

Dippel agrees, "I have always been around P.E. and have done it ever since I can remember."

The gym classes are sometimes restricted due to a lack of resources, but Dippel and Adler have high hopes for future classes.

"In the future I'm looking forward to swimming and aerobic activities," Dippel says. "We just need to get the equipment."

Katie Scheller '04

# Faith Matters

Although most areas of learning of Mater Dei are geared toward academics, one department ministers to the spiritual needs of students.

"Religion is the foundation of what the school is about," says Mr. Scott Whitehouse, junior/senior religion teacher. "The religion department helps to set the tone and environment around school."

Some students enter Mater Dei without any knowledge of their faith, so the religion department helps these students come to know their faith better.

"Our department provides a vehicle through which students can develop a greater understanding of their relationship with God and use that to enhance their everyday lives," comments Mr. Dave Wathen, junior religion teacher.

Religion classes also offer insight into the history of their faith and the origins of modern day rituals so that students know what they are doing

as well as why.

"I think religion classes are important because everyone needs someone to believe in," says senior Liz Kirsch. "The religion classes have taught me more about where the customs in our church come from, so it's a lot easier to understand them."

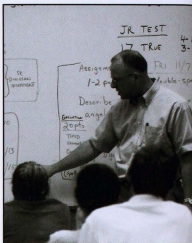
Some classes even analyze scripture passages so students can relate the Bible to their everyday lives.

"Scripture class basically deals with the Old Testament and gives students a basic background so they can understand that Christianity is an extension of Jewish religion," says Wathen, who teaches Scripture and Church History. "It also explains how students can relate to it in their lives today."

However, the main focus of the department is to help students grow in their relationship with God and give students a better understanding of what faith can do for them.

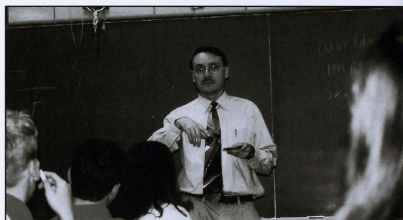
Ashley Alles '04

Taking a break from the power point presentations, Mr. Scott Whitehouse explains the assignment to the senior class. Some of his assignments consist of responses to the weekly soapbox. Photo by: Katie Scheller

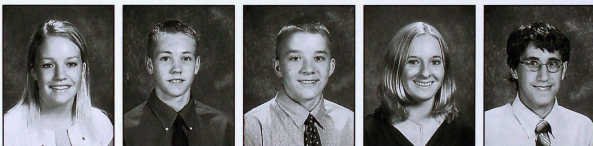


Freshman religion teacher Mr. John McMullen diverges from the topic in his Catholic Traditions class to tell a story about the famous Waffle House in Vincennes where he grew up.

Photo by: Kendra Scheller



Adler, Courtney  
Adler, Joshua  
Adler, Kyle  
Alexander, Kathleen  
Anderson, Steven



Appler, Penny  
Armstrong, Daniel  
Arnold, Joseph  
Babcock, Jaci  
Bell, Ariel



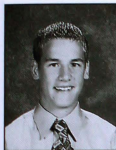
Berneking, Meghan  
Bittner, Tyler  
Bohleber-Schenk, Brittney  
Branson, Robert  
Burkeem, Alicia



Butler, Joseph  
Capshaw, Charles  
Catt, Kassidy  
Clements, Branden  
Clements, Calvin







Clements, Kyle  
Coudret, Christopher  
Cox, Amanda  
Crowe, Aaron  
Dausman, Benjamin



Deig, Brandon  
Deig, Cassandra  
Devault, Brian  
Dick, Julia  
Dingman, Wesley



Edwards, Alyssa  
Egl, Jamie  
Eickhoff, Jonathan  
Eickhoff, Matthew  
Elliott, Kevin



Seniors Todd Wannemuehler and Kristin Kissel trick-or-treat for canned goods with the CTM group. The group will donate the collected food to a charitable cause.  
Photo by: Jenna Schmitt



The CTM group poses for a quick picture before heading out to trick-or-treat for canned goods. This is one of many activities they put together to help out the community.  
Photo by: Jenna Schmitt

## Getting to Know the Options

Though Mater Dei is considered a small school, it's still difficult to know everything that goes on. One such unheralded group is Christian Teen Meeting, commonly referred to as CTM. The CTM group has been meeting for several years. To senior Kyle Kraft, CTM is summed up in one word: fun.

"For part of the meeting, it is a time for people to get together and talk about current issues taking place in their lives and to pray. The rest of the night is just us having fun and eating food all night long," says Kraft.

The outstanding part about CTM is its integration in which seniors to freshmen are all thrown together in a

healthy Christian environment. The meetings take place at senior Philip Eipers' house the first Friday of every month and are led by his mother, Elaine Eipers. Mrs. Eipers helps lead the discussions and ease the tension by her presence.

"The meetings have helped me to be more assured about what I believe in," comments freshman Rachel Buskavitz. "They have answered a lot of the questions I had."

It takes awhile for people to be accepted into new groups and to become comfortable in them, especially for freshmen.

"I was very nervous about going to CTM because I was unsure about

how it was. I didn't know if it was going to be fun or if I was going to like it," said Buskavitz.

"When I walk down the hallways I can see more people that I know from the meetings," states freshman Kista Wildeman. "It makes me feel safer because not everyone is strange to me."

Attending meetings is not all that CTM entails. To get the most out of the meetings, one has to get involved in the discussions and volunteer work. For example, on Halloween students dressed up in costumes and went trick-or-treating for canned goods to donate to a food bank here in Evansville.

Besides helping the community though, the meetings also help a person exercise his or her faith.

"I think I have always had a strong faith, or at least tried to have a strong faith," says Kraft. "When I go to CTM it helps me to maintain that strong faith and also makes it stronger."

Praying on the weekend may not sound like a very fun thing to do, but praying is not the only thing the meetings are. The meetings consist of games, prizes, food, and all out fun.

"Even if it doesn't seem like the 'in' thing to do, try it anyway," declares Wildeman. "You'll discover it doesn't matter. If you don't like it, that's ok!"

Shanna Bush '04

Elpers, Britanni  
Elpers, Emily  
Elpers, Jaci  
Elpers, Nicole  
Elsner, Danielle



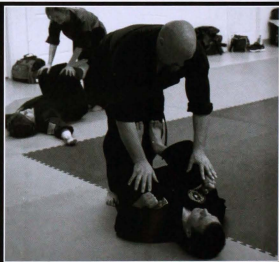
Farny, Nicholas  
Fehrenbacher, Aaron  
Fehrenbacher, Robin  
Fischer, Michael  
Fisher, Toria



Fleck, Kristen  
Fleming, Natalie  
Floyd, Tiffany  
Funke, Katharine  
Gilles, Adam



Nathan Meredith warms up before practicing his katas, combinations of movements arranged in patterns. Meredith has been involved in karate for eight years, and his experience allows him to help beginners.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller



Sophomore Nathan Meredith helps a fellow student with his forms. Meredith is a second-degree black belt in Chun Ji Do.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller

# Hi-yah!

What comes to mind when you hear the word "karate"? Jackie Chan and *Shanghai Noon*? Mater Dei has its own set of martial arts wizards in sophomores Nathan Meredith and David Learned. Both have been taking lessons for several years and are black belts in their respective forms of martial arts. Meredith started lessons eight years ago and is a second-degree black belt in Chun Ji Do, a branch of martial arts created by Meredith's teacher, Master Robert Cutrell.

"Chun Ji Do is actually a mix of several different martial arts, including Taekwondo, Kempo, Shotokan, and JuJitsu," Meredith explains. "The

name 'Chun Ji Do' translates to 'The Universal Way of Enlightenment.'"

Learned has been a student of karate off and on since he was in first grade.

"I was having trouble in school and my mom thought karate would help me," says Learned. "It taught me how to focus and have higher concentration. I stopped taking lessons in fourth grade after I earned my black belt, but a few years ago I was helping my brother with his forms and I realized how much I missed it. I started taking lessons again and I am currently working toward my second-degree black belt."

To earn each colored belt or a

degree of a belt, students must perform sets of forms, also called katas.

"Katas are combinations of movements arranged in patterns. Most katas are self-defense actions," Meredith clarifies. "It takes a long time to earn each belt. There are eleven levels below black, and then nine degrees of black."

Both Learned and Meredith compete against other students in several competitions.

"There are three main types of competition in martial arts," Learned explains. "In one, you perform a kata and you are judged on performance and technique. Another is very similar to the first one, except that you

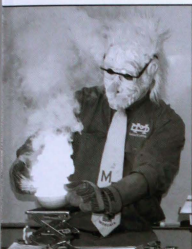
perform katas using actual weapons. The third way is sparring, which is when you use katas against an opponent. You 'fight' for a certain number of rounds, earning points each time you hit your opponent in certain areas."

"Being involved in martial arts has helped both Learned and Meredith learn qualities that will serve them throughout their lives.

"To become good at martial arts, you must be willing to work hard, focus, and persevere," says Meredith. "Since I started studying Chun Ji Do, I've learned all these qualities, plus how to defend myself."

Ashley Alles '04





Mr. Robert Schleiter experiments with different chemicals in Chemistry class. Schleiter's love of science and sense of humor, as shown by the Halloween mask he wears, make this class especially fun. Photo by: Katie Scheller

Mr. Carl Voegel's freshman Biology class listens as he explains a lesson. Biology is a worthwhile class to take, especially for those considering the medical field. Photo by: Katie Scheller



# Bio-hazard

For Mr. Jeff Jewell, earth science and biology teacher, science has always been a fascinating subject. But for some students, science class is merely a subject they can't escape, indeed, just a graduation requirement. Luckily, Mater Dei has teachers that try to make science more meaningful to those of us who prefer classes that don't involve dissecting animals and calculating density.

"Science is fascinating, and I'd like to get that across to my students and give them a perspective of life and the world around them that they may not have thought of before. It makes you think logically," Jewell says.

Not only does Jewell teach his students to appreciate science, but he also tries to involve them in his classes. He would like them to take a more active role in the learning process.

"I like to see the students taking more ownership in their class," says Jewell. "When they give science a chance, even though they don't

particularly care for it, they may find it more enjoyable.

Like many other science educators, Mr. Ron Hickman prefers hands-on learning activities as opposed to lectures. Hickman strives for an approach that allows him to coach his students so they become familiar with the material, yet it simultaneously allows freedom to learn about the topics they want to learn.

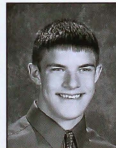
"I have one thing I want my students to do, and that's learn the process of science and use it," says Hickman. "When I give them an assignment or lab they don't understand, the whole purpose is to get them to ask me questions," Hickman says. "If students ask me questions, I know exactly what to teach."

Although Hickman and Jewell would like their students to fully appreciate science as much as themselves, they realize not all students are cut out for the field of science.

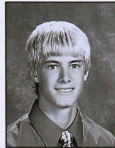
Susan Muensterman '05



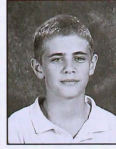
Goans, Leslie  
Goebel, Andrea  
Goebel, Jeremy  
Goebel, Tim  
Goldman, Michael



Grabert, Jessica  
Grossman, Kyle  
Haag, Justin  
Hassler, Nathan  
Hinderliter, Nicole

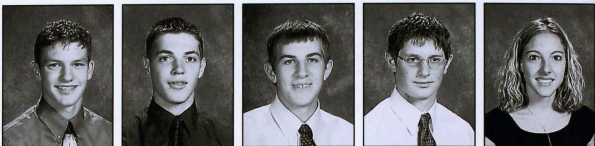


Hinton, Ryan  
Hoffman, Ashley  
Hudson, David  
Johnson, Jeffrey  
Jost, Alexa

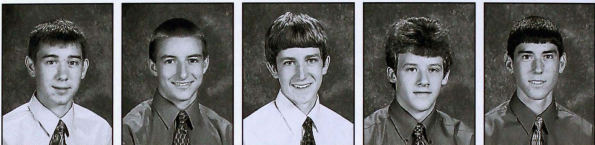


Jourdan, Joshua  
Karges, Matthew  
Kelley, Joseph  
Kempf, Cory  
Kempf, Hailey

Kempf, Mason  
Kercher, Andrew  
Kippenbrock, Neil  
Kraft, Elyse



Lambert, Adam  
Langton, Daniel  
Lannert, Corey  
Lappe, Derek  
Lasher, Benjamin



Lawson, Reece  
Learned, David  
Loehr, John  
Lehrlein, Matthew  
Major, Matthew



Martin, Brittany  
Marx, Ryan  
Masterson, Hilary  
Mayer, Rosanne  
McKinney, Patrick



# C.E.O. 101

The variety of business classes offered at Mater Dei can not only be useful for students now, but also in their future careers. These classes not only include accounting, business foundations, and business law, but also marketing and economics.

Many of these classes are more hands-on and teach students how to run a business in the real world. For example, the marketing class creates a business and actually sells a product around school.

"In terms of the kids, I hope that they develop a passion for learning and they become responsible and accountable," says Mrs. Donna Lefler.

Economics teaches valuable real-world skills that everyone will use regularly.

"In economics class, I cover the basics," explains Lefler. "It is not just about money, it is about choices. All choices have a 'dollar amount' involved. Choices affect everything we do as people and as a country. Some of the things we do in class are

the stock market game, the marriage game, we write checks, balance a checkbook, do taxes, and learn about the Fed and government debt."

The business teachers have also taken a new approach to teaching this year. In addition to covering new material, Sister Mary Francis is also using a new testing approach that she calls plickies.

"I like the students to do all the work," explains Sister. "I gave my Law classes a choice of me lecturing or them doing most of the work on their own. They chose the latter. Also, with the testing I gave them a list of twenty-five questions that they study and for the actual test, they answer one of the questions."

Because the business staff is dedicated to the subjects they are teaching, it is easy for students to become interested in the classes. Although business classes may not be for everyone, the subject matter is.

Jill Merkel '04 and Ashley Alles '04



Senior Rayne Bitter receives a hall pass from Sister Mary Francis. Sister Mary Francis' Accounting and Business classes are great for those interested in pursuing a career in business.  
Photo by: Shanna Bush

Mrs. Donna Lefler explains an Economics paper to senior Jennifer Carter, commonly known as Bob. Mrs. Lefler's Marketing and Economics projects are well known throughout Mater Dei.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller





# Country Craze

As country music is becoming more popular nationally, it is also receiving more attention from Mater Dei students. With some of the big names in country making concert stops in Evansville, more and more students are jumping on the bandwagon.

"The Toby Keith concert was awesome," says senior Kristina Kayser. "I knew the songs because they are so popular and the atmosphere was great because everyone got into it."

Country music appeals to a great number of fans with its variety of sounds and styles. Many songs also have a special meaning, such as Toby Keith's "The Angry American."

"The music has a powerful message and influences the way people act," says junior Amber Ferrairi. "I listen to it because the songs help me relax, and they are easy to relate to."

Songs with patriotic themes have become more popular due to the war against terrorism and can serve as outlets for political feelings. These songs also bring people together who normally wouldn't be around each other.

"I think our country has become more family oriented since nine-eleven. That's basically what most country music is based on," freshman Andy Walker says.

For both the artists and the listen-

ers, country music is a way of life because its lyrics and tunes are easy to identify with.

"The artists are people you can relate to and admire. A lot of people started listening to it, and it has caught on," comments junior Michelle Farney.

Country music hasn't always been so popular, though. Through the years it has intermingled with other genres, such as pop and rock, and evolved into a new genre altogether.

"I grew up listening to country music, and I've always loved it," says junior Susan Muensterman. "It used to be the 'not-cool' thing to listen to, but I think most people have come

around."

The uniqueness of country music is demonstrated through its one of a kind artists. Many students are dedicated fans of artists from Martina McBride to Tim McGraw because of their distinctive tunes and voices.

"My favorite country song is 'Don't Take the Girl' by Tim McGraw," comments sophomore Mallory Schenk. "Of course Tim McGraw is hot, but he also has a really good voice."

"Don't Take the Girl" is the best," agrees Farney. "It tells a story that's sad and sweet."

Although country music has left its mark, it will not be fading anytime soon. The way country has been growing rapidly is evidence that it won't be letting up in the near future. Its lyrics, music, and artists are what keep country music strong, and the future holds more to come.

Shanna Bush '04 and  
Jaclyn Muensterman '05



Sophomore Paul Mindrup listens to a country CD to hear his favorite song. Country music has become more popular with both guys and girls because of its variety of artists, styles, and sounds.

Photo by: Joe Butler



Sophomore Kelly Muensterman decides to buy a tractor calendar. Because of the local interest in country music, many popular artists have made concert stops in Evansville.

Photo by: Paul Mindrup



McMillan, Christin  
Meredith, Nathan  
Mesker, Laura  
Miller, Brandon  
Miller, Britney



Miller, Nathan J.  
Miller, Nathan S.  
Miller, Zachary  
Mindrup, Paul  
Mitsdarffer, Kelsey



Mochau, Jonathan  
Modessitt, Mark  
Moll, William  
Moore, Riley  
Moore, Zachary

# A Perfect Shot

Trap-shooting isn't the sport for the typical high school student. However, Shawn Will is far from the typical high school sophomore.

"I started trap shooting in third grade and have been doing it for seven and a half years," Will says.

Trap-shooting may seem complicated at first, but it is actually very simple.

"I shoot trap, which is a kind of shooting using a twelve-gauge shotgun. You shoot at disc-shaped targets that are shot into the air by a machine called a trap. The (Olympic) International version is basically the same with faster speeds, more drastic angles, and varied heights," Will explains.

Will first acquired an interest in trap-shooting through his grandpa.

"My grandpa started shooting long before me, and he took me with him one time," Will says. "He let me try, and I wasn't very good, but I liked it so I kept going with him."

Will is attempting to make trap

shooting a family affair for the Will's.

"My grandpa got me started, and we managed to get my mom and grandma interested, but I'm still trying to get my brother and sister interested too," he says.

Because Will enjoys trap-shooting, he practices any chance he gets.

"I usually practice three nights a week for two to three hours. Then I go to a shoot somewhere on the weekend. We've been to Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio, but for International, Junior, and Olympic competition, I compete in Colorado Springs, Colorado," Will explains.

Will became a national qualifier when the National Shooting Sports

Foundation and the Junior Olympics Committee sent scouts to state shoots all over the country. They selected twenty-five people to interview at the nationals, and from those twenty-five, they selected fifteen hopeful shooters to participate in the Junior Olympic Development Camp in Colorado. Will was one of the chosen fifteen out of thousands.

Will also has received numerous awards, including both team and individual titles.

"Everyone wants to be good at everything they do, whether it's athletics or academics. It makes me feel pretty good knowing that I was one of the fifteen selected from the

thousands of youth shooters across the country," Will says.

Will has a passion for shooting that will more than likely follow him throughout his lifetime.

"There are still people who are ninety-five-years-old shooting. I plan on shooting as long as I'm able to."

Will's trap-shooting talent not only makes him unique from other Mater Dei students, but it also sets him apart from most other trap-shooters his age. After all, not many high school sophomores are national qualifiers at the Junior Olympics. Maybe someday we will be seeing Will compete for the gold at the Summer Olympics.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05

Sophomore Shawn Will prepare to load his rifle at the St. Wendel ball diamond where he practices his trapshooting. Will is an accomplished trapshooter has won numerous awards for his talents.

Photo by: Susan Muensterman



Shawn Will aims his rifle as he gets ready to shoot at his targets, which are called traps. Will's grandfather encouraged him to begin shooting when he was in the third grade.

Photo by: Susan Muensterman

Morgan, Haley  
Muensterman, Kelly  
Murphy, Kellyn  
Nelson, Lucas  
Nemer, Caitlyn



Niemeier, Andrew  
Niemeier, Michael  
Norman, Katelyn  
Oliver, Lauren  
Paciorkowski, Sarah



Parkinson, Madison  
Payton, Tiffany  
Probert, Allison  
Raben, Allison  
Raben, Emily







Ramsbey, Genna  
Rathgeber, Jennifer  
Render, Kasey  
Rice, Joshua  
Ross, Erin



Rush, Tegan  
Sartore, Rosanna  
Schaefer, Bart  
Schapker, Scott  
Scheller, Katherine



Scheller, Kendra  
Schenk, Mallory  
Schenk, Rachel  
Schiff, Logan  
Schill, Laura



Schmitt, Scott  
Schnar, Ryan  
Schnur, Andrea  
Schoenbacher, Tiffany  
Scott, Alivia



## It's Sew Good

Although most academic departments focus on textbooks and facts, one section of classes at Mater Dei is geared towards preparing students for real life.

Besides the well-known sewing and cooking classes, Interior Design, Child Care, and Clothing and Fashion Design are also offered.

Because each class deals with a variety of topics, these classes are definitely not your typical eighty-two minute classes.

"I like to divide class time into my time, your time, and our time," says Mrs. Becky Larson, the sole teacher of the department. "I like to incorporate as much hands on as I can."

Many students find Larson's classes more enjoyable because there is so much hands-on work that they see how it relates to them.

"I took Intro to Life and Careers last year and I really enjoyed it," says sophomore Rachel Schenk, who is currently taking Fashion Design. "I decided to take another of Mrs. Larson's classes because I think know-

ing how to sew will help me with my major and also later on in life."

Cooking might not change, but the role of adults in society does, and Larson sees that she has to constantly change to keep up. Even though her past projects and assignments have proved to be successful, Larson still has more plans in mind for the future.

"I would like to incorporate the use of PowerPoint presentation into the classroom presentations, update the equipment in the clothing lab so it could be more technology compatible, and purchase programs for diet analysis," Larson says.

Although the classes themselves are interesting, sometimes interesting topics is not enough to inspire students to enroll. A teacher passionate about his or her craft is a great help in inspiring students to learn.

"I love to cook, sew, plan homes, and decorate homes," Larson says. "I love to share that knowledge with young people."

Jill Merkel '04



Senior Kevin Tepool sews pants as a project in Mrs. Larson's Family and Consumer Science class.

Larson's fun and creative projects include sewing aprons and pillows as well as pants.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

Mrs. Larson measures the exact amount of water for a recipe. The cooking side to Larson's classes are a favorite among most students. Freshman hall sure smells good!

Photo by: Katie Scheller

Scott, Sarah  
Seib, Jessie  
Seibert, Stephanie  
Short, Kevin  
Soellner, Matthew



Solis, Toni  
Spahn, Kim  
Stephens, Ryne  
Stolz, Dustin  
Sullenger, Ashley

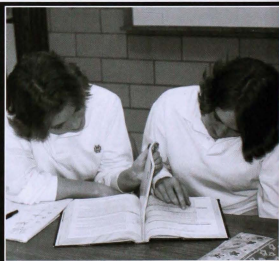
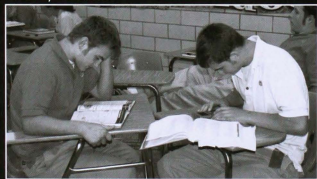


Taylor, Matthew  
Tekoppel, Andrew  
Tenbarge, Kenny  
Topper, Alex  
Vanhooser, Samantha



Twin juniors Jaclyn and Susan Muensterman study for their Precalculus test together. The twins see a lot of each other during school day because they have six out of eight classes together.

Photo by: Jill Merkel



Junior twins Matt and Mike Coughlin study their Spanish III homework. The twins look very much alike, but their personalities set them apart.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

## In the Twin Zone

The world as a multiple is something that can only be experienced through the lives of actual twins and triplets. Twins and triplets share a special bond that is irreplaceable and eternal.

Proving how much they are alike, both Muenstermans responded with almost identical answers when interviewed separately.

"It's fun. There's always someone to do something with or to talk to. It's like being with your best friend all day long. You're never lonely," says junior Susan Muensterman.

"Having a twin is great. It's like having a built-in best friend. I can't imagine being without her," says

Jaclyn.

For Mater Dei's own set of triplets, the Clements', their relationship sometimes becomes a little overwhelming.

"It's like having friends spend the night, but sometimes you wish the friends would leave," says sophomore Branden Clements.

Despite the similarities and the hefty amount of time they spend together, all agree that they do enjoy their own hobbies and have converse interests.

"You share some hobbies with one brother and different hobbies with another. It's nice to do your own thing," says sophomore Calvin

Clements.

No matter how much their interests separate them, there will always remain an everlasting relationship.

"There is always a special bond between twins because we were 'womb mates,'" says senior Liz Kirsch.

A look inside the Muensterman twin bond reveals how close they are.

"I read tons of books about first-hand accounts of twins," Susan says. "In almost every story, Jaclyn and I could relate in some way or another. It was amazing how accurate everything was."

Although they may not find it difficult being twins or triplets, they do admit it can cause frustration.

"It can be frustrating because you have to share everything. However, I think it has more advantages than disadvantages," says Calvin.

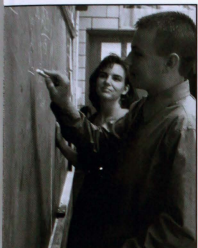
People confusing their identities is another primary cause of frustration for twins or triplets.

"Yes, people get us confused with each other, but sometimes I respond to Calvin or Kyle because I'm too lazy to correct people," says Branden.

Although twin/triplet life may have disadvantages, it appears unanimous that the advantages greatly outweigh the disadvantages, and being a multiple isn't something they'd trade.

Jill Merkel '04





Freshman Kyle Hertel solves a problem on the chalkboard in Mrs. Debra Schorr's class. Schorr worked previously as an engineer and became a teacher through the Masters Licensure Program.  
Photo by: Jessica Knight

Sophomores listen as Mrs. Angie Strehl explains how to solve a problem to her Geometry class. Strehl is an excellent teacher at Mater Dei and one of the students' favorite teachers in the Math Department.  
Photo by: Jessica Knight



# The Keith Theorem

Although some say that math is boring and tedious, every student must admit that math is one subject they will continue to use even after they graduate from Mater Dei. Something must be right in the math department because two of the five teachers in the department graduated from Mater Dei and have returned to teach at their alma mater.

"I was taught by Mr. Keith, Mrs. Haton, and Mrs. Thomas," says Geometry teacher Mrs. Angie Strehl.

Mr. Keith is a Mater Dei legend and has taught many generations of alumni.

"Math today is pretty much the same as it was when Mr. Keith taught me in 1979," comments Algebra teacher Mrs. Jeanne Thomas. "But there is more emphasis on how you can use math in real life. I teach math because it has always come easy to me, and it is fun for me."

Mrs. Debbie Haton has taught every math teacher at Mater Dei with

the exceptions of Keith and Schorr. She teaches math because it was her favorite subject in school. Starting her teaching career at Mater Dei, Haton has been here ever since.

"I think it's harder for the students to come back and work with their 'ex-teachers' than it is for the teachers to work with their 'ex-students' because of the teacher-student relationships that are formed. It takes awhile for the 'ex-students' to get used to calling me by my first name," says Haton.

Although working with a former teacher or student may be hard to adjust to, the satisfaction and respect of their former high school creates a unique relationship.

Haton adds, "Coming back to teach at your former high school has its advantages and disadvantages, but overall the former students have a sense of pride and ownership about Mater Dei that you won't find at other schools."

By Ashley Alles '04



Vaught, Cameron  
Wandtke, Haley  
Wannemuehler, Hannah  
Weinzapfel, Daniel  
Weinzapfel, Ellen



Weinzapfel, Emily  
Weinzapfel, Jake  
Weinzapfel, Kayla  
Weinzapfel, Leah  
Weinzapfel, Paul



Werner, Brian  
Wildeman, Sondra  
Will, Kayley  
Will, Shawn  
Williamson, Cherie



Wintnerheimer, Emily  
Wire, Jason  
Wolf, Adam  
Yingling, Benjamin

# Mind Games

Although many students believe that they will never use the facts they learn during high school, such as the quadratic formula or the date of the Battle of Bull Run, in real life, some classes at Mater Dei can actually be related to life after graduation.

"I like sociology because it deals with current issues and not the same old facts that I've learned since grade school," says junior Emily Stute.

This is what sets apart the Social Studies department from the rest of the academic field. Mr. John Goebel, a nine-year teacher at Mater Dei, teaches in the Social Studies department as well as the History department. Social Studies basically consists of two classes, Psychology and Sociology.

"Psychology is the study of the human mind and behavior," Goebel explains. "Sociology is the study of society, and we talk about social issues."

Along with his students' fascina-

tion of Sociology and Psychology, Goebel finds the classes appealing to teach because of the change each year brings to the lessons.

"Society always changes culturally and environmentally. Psychology always changes in what we know about human behavior," Goebel says.

Although Goebel likes teaching Sociology, his favorite class to teach is Psychology due to his own interest as well as the students' interest.

"Psychology is more interesting to teach, and the students seem more interested in it, which makes it easier to teach," Goebel says.

Though Sociology and Psychology are electives, Goebel believes the classes are important to the development of a young person and will help in life after high school.

"Studies show the more well rounded a person is, the better off they are," Goebel says.

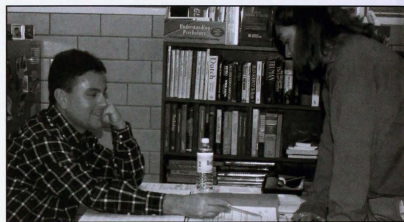
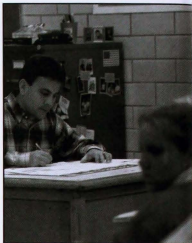
Jaclyn Muensterman '05

Mr. John Goebel grades his Sociology students' papers as they work on their assigned homework. Students love Goebel's Sociology class because of its insightful and current topics.

Photo by: Susan Muensterman

Junior Beth Cardin listens as Mr. Goebel explains a test answer. Goebel's sense of humor makes him a fun, interesting, and challenging teacher to work with. Most students enjoy his teaching style.

Photo by: Brittini Herron



Adcock, Lauren  
Alcorn, Andrew  
Ambrose, Gregory  
Austin, Haley  
Barchet, Mary



Barnes, Kathryn  
Bartek, John  
Beach, Nathan  
Bradford, Ashley  
Byrley, Jessica



Cardin, Beth  
Coomes, Jeremy  
Copeland, Emily  
Coughlin, Matthew  
Coughlin, Michael



Couture, Molly  
Denstorf, Jenna  
Devilze, Jason  
Dewig, Chad  
Dick, Jessica







Droste, Jared  
Epers, Melissa  
Epers, Tara  
Elsner, Shane  
Erkman, Brittany



Farmer, Patrick  
Farney, Michelle  
Fehrenbacher, Sarah  
Feller, Matthew  
Ferrari, Amber



Fischer, Aimee  
Fischer, Phillip  
Fuchs, Michael  
Goebel, Audrey  
Goebel, Cory



Senior Katie Frank sings and plays an original song, I Shouldn't Be Waiting. This is the first year Katie has competed in the Fall Festival Talent Show and impressively made it to the final round.

Photo by: Ashley Alles



Stinkin' Garbage, a percussion ensemble, performs for their fans at the Fall Festival Talent Show. This band is popular because of its uniqueness and excitement during performances.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

## In the Lime Light

Whether it lies in sports, academics, or performing arts, people need to express their talents. This year, many Mater Dei students took their talents to the big stage by performing at the Fall Festival talent show. For most of those who participated, it was a first time experience. Many had performed previously in other talent shows and felt that the Fall Festival presented a great opportunity to perform again.

"I've never participated in the Fall Festival talent show, but I've been in the Mater Dei talent show twice," says senior Katie Frank, who sang and played an original song.

Senior Brian Kuester, a member of

the Stinkin' Garbage quartet, echoes Frank's comments. "We had done several other talent shows, such as the Birthday Bash talent show down at the riverfront, and we decided that the Fall Festival talent show would be fun to participate in."

Erkman agrees that it was the same situation for her.

"This was my first year at the Fall Festival, but I've performed at the (Vanderburgh County) Fair and the Riverfest. I also went to Nashville to 'compete' last year."

The Fall Festival not only presents everyone with a chance to be heard but the fan support is amazing.

"As we performed, it was very ex-

citing to be in front of so many people," says Kuester. "Many people came out which made the Fall Festival performance the most fun."

Others agree that nothing compares to the Fall Festival talent show.

"It's an amazing feeling when you're singing and the crowd is yelling for you. It makes all your hard work worth it...even if you lose," says Erkman. "I've been performing since I was eight and my experience in the Fall Festival was the most fulfilling."

It takes tons of hard work to even make it to the actual talent show. Hundreds of acts were cut down to the select sixty who perform at the Fall Festival. Most performers have been

working on their acts for at least a few months, if not longer.

"We first performed this act a year ago at Mater Dei's spring talent show," says sophomore David Learned. "We've been practicing since then."

Although this talent show was just for fun, it also gave some performers insights into their futures.

"When I was performing, I knew this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," says Frank. "I felt like I belonged there."

Who knows? Maybe a few lucky performers could jump from the Festival stage to the lights of Broadway!

Jill Merkel '04

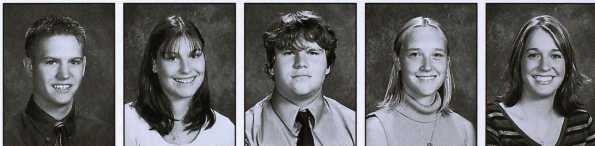
Goebel, Katherine  
Goedde, Shane  
Goelz, Michael  
Grattenthaler, Matthew  
Groves, Beth



Hage, Lauren  
Hall, Wesley  
Henderson, Joshua  
Hermann, Jacob  
Herron, Britni



Hertel, David  
Holzappel, Patricia  
Jenkins, Drew  
Johnson, Hannah  
Kaiser, Leslie



Seniors Ashley Alles and Megan Wright load their school supplies into Alles' mini van before basketball practice. With her van, Alles can take her whole basketball team out to eat before practice.

Photo by: Katie Scheller



Senior Andy Barchet climbs into his van after school. Barchet uses his van to go on fishing trips and for camping. People have been known to sleep in it during camping trips.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

## The Bigger the Better

Every sixteen-year-old dreams of cruising around town in his or her first car. It doesn't seem fair that while some students are driving sports cars, a few MD students have been dealt rather large vehicles, such as the so-called "mini" van.

Junior Mary Williamson commutes to school, work, and everywhere else in her mother's minivan. She actually drives it more often than her mother. Williamson has been targeted with strange reactions from the very start.

"When I went to take my test for my driver's license, the lady followed me out to the parking lot and asked 'where's your car?' I said, 'that's my minivan,' and she laughed,"

Williamson says.

Junior Matt Grattenthaler is familiar with the same experiences.

"I get many strange reactions from people," says Grattenthaler. "I usually cruise Green just to see the expressions on people's faces when they see such a crappy van," he says.

Grattenthaler was dealt his white van because it was free and he had no choice. Although he has fixed up his van with a system, hubcaps, and shag carpet, Grattenthaler still has an aversion to it.

"My van is a piece of junk and driving it makes me feel like a disgrace," says Grattenthaler. "The worst part about driving it is the embarrass-

ment."

Williamson, however, doesn't mind driving her 2000 silver minivan.

"Many people drive crappy cars, but mine's nice," Williamson says. Her van has all the extras that many teen drivers' cars lack: power windows and locks, a CD player, and keyless entry.

Williamson also explains the perks of driving a minivan.

"It's easier to see out of the windows because there are so many of them. I never have to deny any of my friends a ride, either, because I always have room."

Despite her gratitude for her van, Williamson hasn't always felt this way.

"I've been a little embarrassed

because most seventeen-year-olds have their own cars. Sometimes I feel like I'm borrowing someone else's car since I don't have my own."

Williamson initially worried about what other MD students might think of her van compared to cars driven by other students. However, she has gotten to the point where she is no longer bothered by other people.

"Some people call it my pimp mobile," jokes Williamson.

As Williamson dreams of a 2004 Cavalier C24 and time drives by, one thing will remain certain. Her "boat" will continue to draw attention and certainly will not go unnoticed.

Susan Muensterman '05





Mr. Darin Knight explains the alliances between countries during World War I as he uses the map to illustrate his point. Knight's class is a favorite among students because of his laid back approach to teaching.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

Mr. Mike Goebel and senior Stephanie Schenk go over tests from his Advanced History class. Goebel's students enjoy his class because of his intense knowledge of history.

Photo by: Susan Muensterman



# Reliving the Past

History is part of life; the classes at Mater Dei discuss many different cultures and experiences. Many Mater Dei students are of German or Irish ancestry, therefore, it is an advantage to learn about other cultures in the classroom. Mater Dei classes offer just that advantage.

Mr. Darin Knight, a history teacher at Mater Dei, teaches the history of the United States.

"In U.S. History I, I cover colonial times to the Civil War. In U.S. History II, I cover the Civil War to World War I, and in U.S. History III, I cover World War I to the present," says Knight.

Though totally different classes, Knight believes each class is important for many different reasons.

"It's always important to learn from our past, so we don't repeat the mistakes others have made," says Knight.

Mr. Dave Wathen, another history teacher, also stresses the importance of learning history.

"Hopefully, students learn to ap-

preciate history," adds Wathen. "The students are given a great opportunity, and hopefully they will use it to further their education."

Many of the history teachers use videos to supplement their lectures because students generally learn better with visual aids.

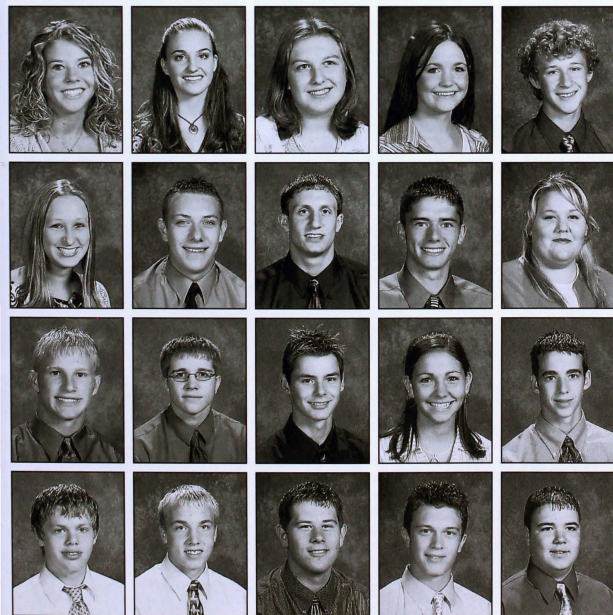
"I like watching videos because it enhances what I've already learned from the book," says junior Jaclyn Muensterman.

As more changes occur throughout history, the history department must adapt.

"I like the fact that we have three semesters of U.S. history," says Knight. "History keeps getting longer and it's difficult to cover all the history in one year."

It can be assured with its talented and passionate staff, the History department will continue to expand and progress even though time will continue to march forward.

Brittini Herron '05



Keller, Adria  
Kerchief, Brittney  
Ketzner, Rachel  
Koester, Meagan  
Koester, Rhen

Kollker, Kasey  
Kopec, David  
Krossel, Scott  
Krack, Andrew  
Lefler, Ashley

Lehman, Joseph  
Lehman, Scott  
Locke, Jordan  
Luigs, Rachel  
Lutterbach, Tyler

Macke, Benjamin  
Maier, Craig  
Martin, Daniel  
Matt, Ryan  
Meier, Joseph

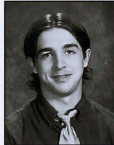
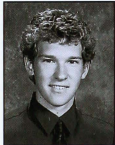
Mesker, Allison  
Morrow, Christina  
Morrow, Mallory  
Mueller, Dana  
Muensterman, Ashley



Muensterman, Jaclyn  
Muensterman, Jerad  
Muensterman, Lauren  
Muensterman, Susan  
Murray, Getty



Neisen, Kyle  
Padavic, Jennifer  
Perkins, Ryan  
Provost, Emily  
Raben, Jordan



Reckelhoff, Anna  
Reddington, Andrew  
Render, Nikolette  
Rielman, Michelle  
Rosek, Corey



## Hands On

Not all Mater Dei students learn inside the walls of Mater Dei. Several students depart from school every morning to participate in the T&I program, offered at schools such as North and Central.

"I wanted to take T&I because I wanted to learn about building trades," says junior Joey Meier. "I don't plan to go to college so this is a great program for me. I don't have to go to college for what I plan on doing."

Meier intends to enter the Union of Plumbers and Steamfitters or possibly work at Vinhurst Sheet Metal.

Just because these students are in T&I doesn't mean they are not going to college. Junior Luke Spaetti plans on entering an automotive program after graduation.

"I'm doing T&I to get a jump on other people going into the automotive industry," says Spaetti. "I will already have two years of experience going into college."

The structure of the T&I program is not entirely different from the typical Mater Dei class. There is actual in-

class learning where students sit inside the classroom and study different topics, but the bulk of the class is hands-on applications.

"After we learn about something in the classroom, we go into the shop and work on cars with that problem," Spaetti says.

Inside the classroom, Meier also studies the books and completes safety tests, which he claims are the worst aspects of T&I. Nevertheless, his particular course of study allows him to gain valuable real-world experience to prepare him for the future.

"My favorite part about T&I is getting to go out to the job site and work," Meier says.

Before heading back to Mater Dei for their final two blocks, the boys utilize their extra time by heading out to lunch, yet another advantage of the T&I program.

"I get to spend half of the day doing something I like to do and get to eat out everyday," Spaetti says. "What could be better?"

Susan Muensterman '04

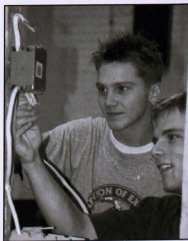


Seniors Bryan Williams and Chris Arnold sand a table during their T&I class at North High School. The T&I program allows them to learn practical applications that will further their education and prepare them for their careers.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

Senior Jared Waterman works on an example model of an electrical outlet at the T&I class at North. He is one of the many Mater Dei students who travels to North.

Photo by: Katie Scheller





# Strike a Pose!

While most students are walking the halls at Mater Dei, a select few are walking runways. Many students dream of strutting their stuff on the runway, but very few actually get to live out their dream.

Senior Beckie Kelley has been involved in the modeling industry since she was in grade school.

"My eighth grade teacher knew a lady who taught a modeling class at Sears and referred me to her," Kelley explains. "I started modeling my Freshman year, but I signed with an actual agency the beginning of sophomore year."

Sophomore Erin Ross also began her modeling career at an early age.

"I started modeling when I was in the fourth grade at Kelly Nance's agency," says Ross.

Sophomore Kendra Scheller, who started participating in pageants the summer of 1997, explained how her sister's participation encouraged her own involvement.

"My older sister was into it, and I wanted to become involved because it looked like she was having a lot of fun," explains Scheller.

Though models make the job look effortless, modeling isn't all fun and games.

"I think it's tiring walking up and down the runway several times, having to stand perfectly straight the

whole time you walk," Ross says.

"Modeling isn't as fun and glamorous as it looks. It is extremely demanding, and you also give up your freedoms. I have to consult my agency if I want to do anything concerning what I look like. They control my appearance more than I do. I can't even cut my hair without asking them first," Kelley says.

However, many models find great pleasure in their work.

"It's work, but I find it enjoyable and fun to do. I like to perform, and being up in front of people doesn't really bother me," Scheller says.

"I think it's a lot of fun, too. It would be nice to travel to new places and

model for big companies. Plus you get to meet a lot of great people," adds Ross.

The modeling industry is a scary business, and a model must have thick skin in order to survive.

"You have to have a strong sense of self because you're appearance is constantly criticized. Clients are extremely critical and don't care if they hurt your feelings," Kelley states.

Though Kelley, Ross and Scheller enjoy modeling through their high school career, they aren't sure if it is something they want to pursue later in life.

"It would be great, but realistically modeling is extremely competitive and by chance. It's like the music business. If opportunities come my way, I'll take them, but right now I'm focusing on school," explains Kelley who plans to major in social work in college.

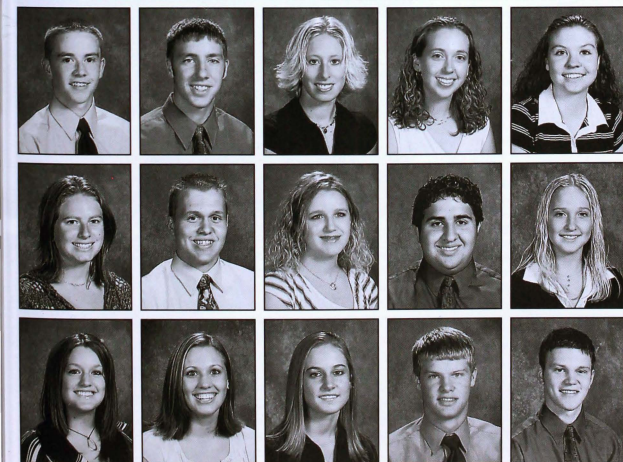
Modeling is a fun but strenuous process, and at the end of the day, these girls prove they have the look. Jaclyn Muensterman '05

Kendra Scheller gives her thank-you wave to the judges and audience. She won the Miss Indiana Junior Teen title and competed at Nationals in California.

Photo provided by: Kendra Scheller

Sophomore Kendra Scheller walks across stage to give her personal introduction on the first night of three during the National American Miss. Scheller has been competing in pageants for 7 years.

Photo provided by: Kendra Scheller



Rousey, Arthur  
Sammet, Eric  
Schapker, Kristin  
Scheller, April  
Schentrup, Cassandra

Schiff, Marie  
Schillinger, Cody  
Schmitt, Natalie  
Schutz, Craig  
Scott, Kourtney

Seibert, Alissa  
Sheridan, Mary  
Sheller, Emily  
Sheller, John  
Slaton, Dustin

# Angels in the Rough

Trying something new and different is not something that every teenager can do nowadays, especially with peer pressures lurking around every corner. Adding a religious experience can make standing out even worse, but five students from Mater Dei went against the odds and stood up to the pressure. These students took a week out of their summer vacations to travel to Pennsylvania on a mission trip.

"Going on a mission trip is something I'd always been interested in," says Junior Haley Austin. "It sounded like a lot of fun and helping people out is something I take interest in."

Everyone was a little nervous about what they were getting into, but after they warmed up to each other they had a blast.

"I was scared at first because I didn't know what to expect," states senior Katie Scheller. "I was the only senior from Mater Dei, but I'm happy I went because it was one of the best things I have ever experienced."

Junior Haley Austin poses with an elderly person she was working with. On the mission trip, Austin, along with many other teens, worked to help others without any modern conveniences. Photo provided by: Haley Austin

The group mainly consisted of students from the Holy Redeemer youth group, but there were also students from Mater Dei, Memorial, Mt. Vernon and North. When the group arrived in Pennsylvania they met up with other groups from Michigan and Pennsylvania, among other places.

"It was beautiful there," says Austin, "the weather was great and the sky was so vast and clear."

Even though the trip was fun, it was not a vacation. The students were put to work helping out the people in the community they stayed in. Their work consisted of everything from entertaining mentally handicapped adults to cleaning houses.

"I felt a great sense of pride at the end of each day of work because I spent the day focused on other people instead of myself," says junior Rachel Ketzner.

While they were there, their days were jam-packed. After beginning each day with a prayer service, they headed to work without any of the usual modern conveniences.

"We got one shower the whole week!" exclaims Scheller. "Since we were helping they decided we were supposed to conserve water also."

By the end of the week, all the students knew more about each other than they ever thought possible.

"I wanted to grow closer to the

people in my youth group," stated Ketzner, "and I achieved that."

They are even keeping in touch with the people they met from other cities, as well as some of the people they helped.

"It was a rewarding experience to see the impact we made on their lives even though we were just there for a week," said Scheller.

Although the week is long over, these five girls still remember everything with great detail and will carry their experiences with them forever.

"I would definitely like to go back," says Austin. "It was an excellent experience I know I will never forget."

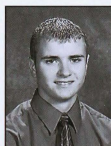
Shanna Bush '04

Junior Natalie Schmitt and a fellow mission trip member help fix a person's house. Schmitt made many new friends on the trip and enjoyed getting to help those in need.

Photo provided by: Natalie Schmitt



Spaetti, Luke  
Staup, Whitney  
Stoltz, Christopher  
Stute, Emily  
Swickard, Kyle



TenBarge, Jonathan  
Toelle, Amber  
Unfried, Bradley  
Vick, Allison  
Weber, Benjamin



Weber, Timothy  
Weinzapfel, Joseph  
Weinzapfel, Phillip  
Werner, Abigail  
Wildeman, Casey





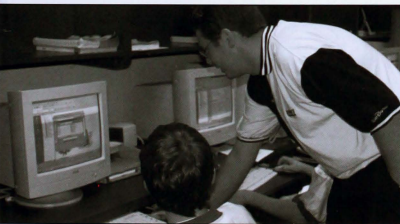
# Class of 2005



Wildern, Ryan  
Will, Alex  
Williamson, Mary  
Woehler, Leslie  
Wolf, Christopher



Wolf, Natalie  
Yellig, Heather  
Zenthoefler, Abe  
Zenthoefler, Kate



Mr. Jason Craig demonstrates to a student how to fix a problem in his Desktop Publishing class. Craig was a student teacher last year, but is now taking over the classroom.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller



Mrs. Julia Kunkler watches as junior Corey Rosek creates a web page. Students enroll in computer classes to enhance their computer skills.  
Photo by: Susan Muensterman

## High Tech

As our society becomes more and more dependent on computers, it is important for students to be able to keep up and learn the newest technology.

"I am in Desktop Publishing because everything is basically run by computers nowadays," says junior Whitney Staup.

Almost anything there is to learn about computers can be found in the technology department at Mater Dei. Although one computer class is required for all freshmen, this department also offers electives that go more in depth, such as Web Design and Desktop Publishing.

"I try to help students learn skills they need if they are going to continue in a path of business," says Mr. Jason Craig, first year technology teacher.

Because many students learn more working on their own than through lecture, some teachers have tried to give students more opportunities for individual time.

"One thing I use is a hands-on ap-

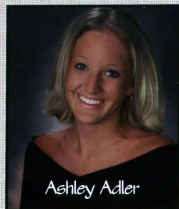
proach instead of lecture," says Craig. "I have found that sometimes the students can learn more from each other than they could from me."

In addition to learning more about computer programs, the elective classes also give students a chance to help their school by making the school's web page. Another favorite project is the "Million Dollar Project," in which students must spend imaginary money on items of their choice.

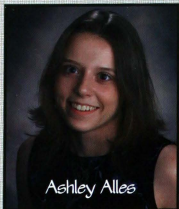
"At a point, I hope it becomes more student facilitated learning instead of teacher-student facilitated learning," says Craig. "Computers are going to be around for a while. I would like to help the students build fundamentals and grounds for their careers. It is a neat thing to have that impact on them."

With today's focus on the Internet and technology, it can be assured that every person will use computers for something in his or her lifetime. For this reason, it is definitely a benefit to take classes dealing with technology.

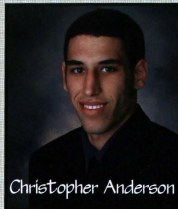
Jill Merkel '04



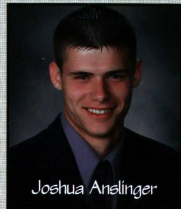
Ashley Adler



Ashley Alles



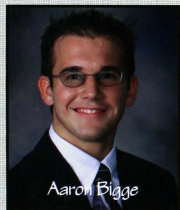
Christopher Anderson



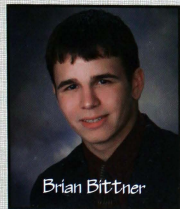
Joshua Anelinger

# VISITATION

## Exploring Campuses



Aaron Bigge



Brian Bittner

Every Mater Dei student must eventually face the day when he or she crosses the stage and moves on to college. For some, the college search has been an ongoing process. The first step in choosing the right college is making a visit to the prospective school. Most seniors make numerous visits before deciding.

Senior Katie Frank says, "It confirmed what I wanted to do by telling me what kind of work load I would have. Even though I found out I'd have to take five years to double major, it was exciting to see the programs available."

The campus surroundings and the distance from home also play a large role in choosing a school.

"I have been to Murray (State University) before, and I felt at home. It isn't extremely large, but it is spread out and more open," comments senior Jessica Knight. "Everything you need is within a two minute drive of campus."

After visiting schools, some students find that it is not what they expected.



"I thought I wanted to go to Ball State, but I visited and it was like its own city," says senior B.J. Griese. "It didn't seem like a college campus and I couldn't see myself going to school there."

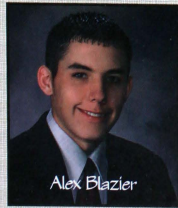
Visiting schools also gives students a better feel for college.

"You seem to have more free time and independence because

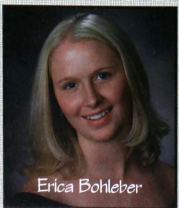
you're not stuck in one building all day," says senior Andrew Cheaney.

Sitting in on classes and touring the campus can paint a vibrant picture of what college is like.

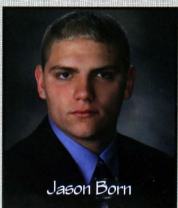
"A lot of the campus is under construction," says Knight, "but by 2004 there will be a new activity center with a pool, several courts and other things."



Alex Blazier



Erica Bohleber

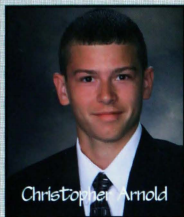


Jason Born

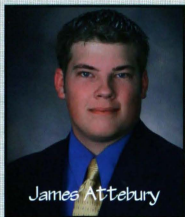


Shanna Bush

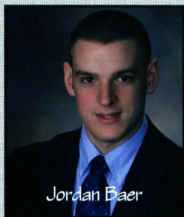




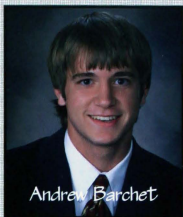
Christopher Arnold



James Attebury



Jordan Baer



Andrew Barchet



Seniors Jeanna Butler and Lauren Mochau compare shirts in the Indiana University bookstore. Beside dressing like a college student, walking around campus and eating in the dining hall are common ways to get the feel of college.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

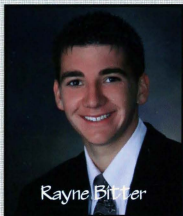
Senior Jessica Knight looks at the available drawer space in a Murray State dorm room. College visits help students learn what they need to take to college and what is best to leave behind.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

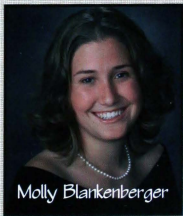


Senior Hallie Denstorff examines a Murray State University shirt. Denstorff, like many other students, has taken friends with her on college visits to help her with the decision. Typical college visits consist not only of campus tours and information sessions, but also time for shopping in the bookstore.

Photo by: Jill Merkel



Rayne Bitter

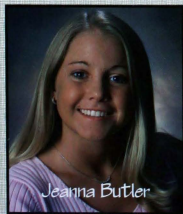


Molly Blankenberger

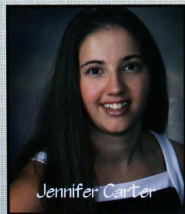
Most seniors agree that visiting college is a major help in deciding where to go.

Says Frank, "College visits are definitely a good idea because you get to see the place you plan on spending your next years and you get to talk to the people who are going to help your career."

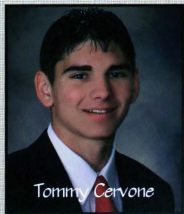
Ashley Allen '04



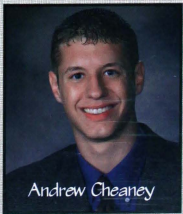
Jeanna Butler



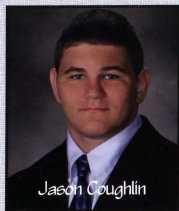
Jennifer Carter



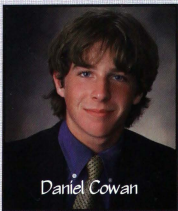
Tommy Cervone



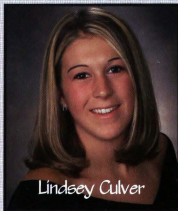
Andrew Cheaney



Jason Coughlin



Daniel Cowan



Lindsey Culver



Hallie Denstorff

# AIRBORNE

## Flying Above the Odds

Students everywhere aspire to be something great. Doctors, lawyers, teachers and musicians are a few of the common goals heard most often among Mater Dei students. However, every once in awhile someone comes up with an objective that is different.

"I want to be a pilot," says senior David Wolf, "because it's what I enjoy. I have never wanted to be anything else and I don't think I'll change my mind."

More specifically, Wolf wants to

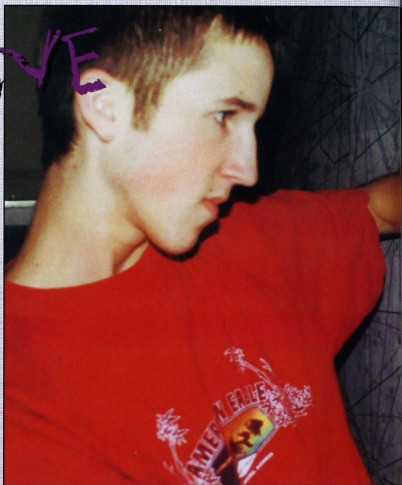
be a commercial or private plane pilot. He is planning to attend Purdue University, Indiana State University or Vincennes University because of their excellent reputations in teaching aviation.

Although his interest in planes has been evident for as long as he can remember, Wolf hasn't been up close and personal with them very much.

"I remember when I was in Pittsburgh in fourth or fifth grade, I begged my mom to take me to the airport," shares Wolf. "That's the earliest encounter I had with an airplane, and I knew it was for me."

Ever since that experience Wolf had a growing interest in planes. With his model airplanes and aviation books and magazines, he has kept his interest alive through the years. Wolf puts the models together himself and they can even be spotted in his senior pictures.

Two years ago he decided to join a club involving aviation. The Aviation Explore Post 347 is a group of people who meet twice a month at the Evansville Regional Airport.



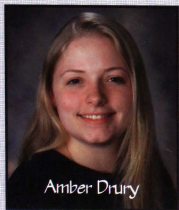
The post goes up into the control tower of the airport and meets the people who work there. Sometimes the post members even get to listen to the radar and help out.

"Not only do we have meetings," states Wolf, "but we also go on trips to St. Louis, Daytona, Gatlinburg, and Dayton, Ohio."

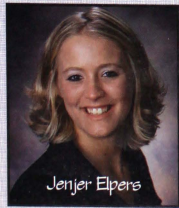
The leader of the group, Captain

Pilot for American General Mike Rasche, helps out abundantly. He answers tons of the questions the post members have and advises the members on their future aviation choices. The post members learn from him because of all the experience he has.

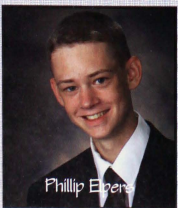
"Mike has helped me decide what type of aviation career I want



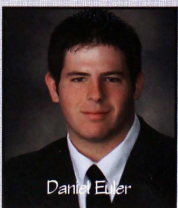
Amber Drury



Jenjer Elpers



Phillip Elpers

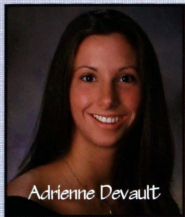


Daniel Eder



Jonathon Fehrenbacher

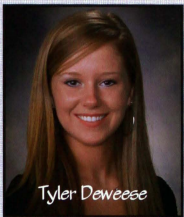




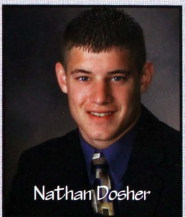
Adrienne Devault



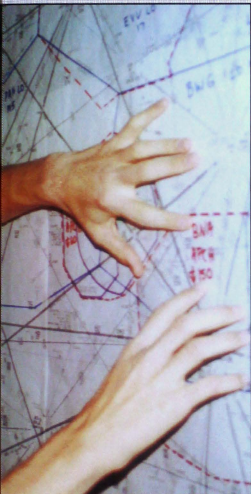
Christina Devault



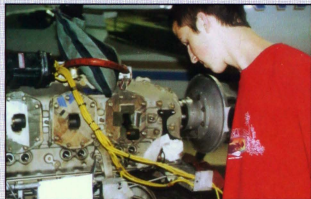
Tyler Deweese



Nathan Doshier



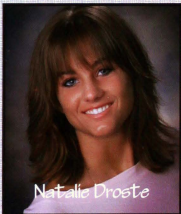
Senior David Wolf examines the engine of a Cessna 172 airplane. To better understand how engines work, the aviation club disconnects wires and then puts the engine back together. Photo by: Shanna Bush



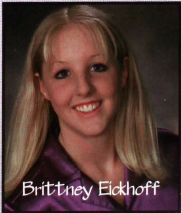
Looking closely at a chart of the regional area, Wolf makes a flight plan. Pilots use this chart to calculate mileage and to determine how the wind will affect their flights. Photo by: Shanna Bush



Wolf monitors the radar covering the Evansville area. The workers in the air traffic control tower are responsible for managing all of the flight plans for planes flying in the area. To more fully experience life in the aviation industry, members of the aviation club are allowed in the tower to help and observe. Photo by: Shanna Bush



Natalie Droste



Brittney Eickhoff

to go into; he's helped me explore the different fields of aviation so I could pinpoint what I really want to do," says Wolf.

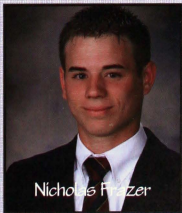
Wolf is ready to take a chance and follow his dream into the wonders of aviation. Defying the odds and trying something different is not something everyone does. Shanna Bush '04



Anna Flake



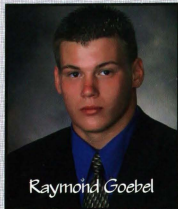
Katie Frank



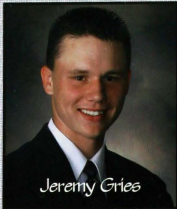
Nicholas Prezzer



Mackenzie Goebel



Raymond Goebel



Jeremy Gries



Benjamin Griesse



Brent Hagan

# LIFESAVER

## Going the Extra Mile

Doctors, teachers, and policemen are essential people who make life run safely and peacefully. Along with these necessary people are firefighters. These brave individuals risk their lives for complete strangers. Mater Dei senior Brittany Eickhoff recently joined this group by becoming a member of the German Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Membership in the fire department has become somewhat of a family tradition for Eickhoff.

"My dad and his brothers were on the fire department when they were growing up," Eickhoff says. "I felt it was my duty to join."

Eickhoff, who joined the department in May of 2003, trained for weeks to become a volunteer firefighter.

"I had to go through grueling training. I went through a nine week first responder training, which deals with medical runs," Eickhoff explains.

Although Eickhoff's basic training is now complete, she still must attend training once a week along with other squad members.

"We have training every Monday night to keep our skills sharp. Every third Monday of the month is EMS training," Eickhoff says.

Though the training is complete and the class written and practical exams have been passed, Eickhoff isn't yet able to do all she can.

"Right now, I do a wide range of things. Since I haven't gotten my first responder papers back, all I can do is be a gofer. I can't go on a run until I get back my certifica-



tion papers," says Eickhoff.

Being a new member and the youngest on the squad, Eickhoff is thoroughly enjoying her experiences with the German Township Fire Department.

Eickhoff explains, "I like helping people in need because it makes me feel respected and needed."

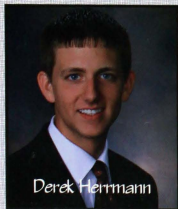
Being the youngest member on

the squad isn't always pleasant.

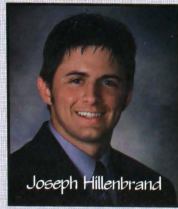
"I get picked on a lot, and the guys give me a hard time because I don't know the technical names for some of the tools," says Eickhoff.

Eickhoff, who plans to major in nursing, believes that joining the fire squad will aid her in the future.

"This gives me a hands on feel for nursing, only it's out in the field.



Derek Herrmann



Joseph Hillenbrand



Brittany Hoefling

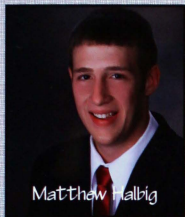


Matthew Julian

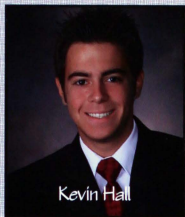


Kristina Kayser

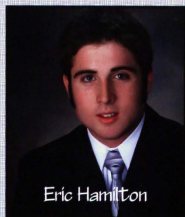




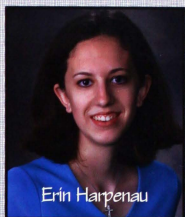
Matthew Halbig



Kevin Hall



Eric Hamilton



Erin Harpenau



One of the more experienced firefighters explains to Eickhoff how and when to use the chain saw. Eickhoff is continuing on her family tradition of being a volunteer firefighter.

Photo by: Susan Muensterman

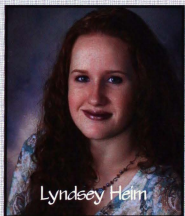
Eickhoff helps fellow firefighter Lester Garrett disassemble a chain saw. Part of Eickhoff's practical training includes using saws to cut through roofs and cars.

Photo by: Susan Muensterman



Senior Brittney Eickhoff uses a chain saw to cut through a wooden plank. To get her certification papers and become an official firefighter, Eickhoff must attend numerous training sessions and pass both written and practical exams.

Photo by: Jaclyn Muensterman



Lyndsey Heim



Jonathon Herron

not in the hospital," Eickhoff remarks. Being a volunteer firefighter is an opportunity that not everyone can experience, and Eickhoff is glad to have the chance to serve others. "The biggest benefit," Eickhoff says, "is knowing I help keep the community safe and that I can do something to save someone's life." Jaclyn Muensterman '05



Rebecca Kelley



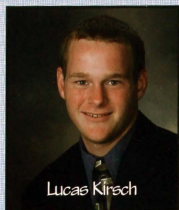
Katherine Kemmerlin



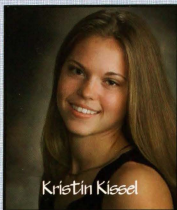
Andrea Kiesel



Elizabeth Kirsch



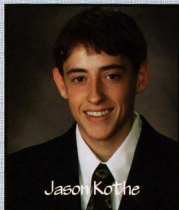
Lucas Kirsch



Kristin Kiesel



Jessica Knight



Jason Kothe

# FRIENDS

## A Long Way Comin'

We've all seen friendships disintegrate over the years until mere memories remain, new companionships develop, and the words spoken between "best friends forever" are not much more than a mere "hello." Between grade school and high school, people and their interests change, so it's not hard to see why once "everlasting friendships" fall apart.

As grade-schoolers at WCCS, a group of seven girls, Hallie Denstorf, Anna Flake, Jessica Knight, Jill Merkel, Courtney Moore,

Katie Scheller, and Laura Schroeder, began their days together on the playground. Not yet the best of friends, some alliances were formed while juvenile disagreements separated others. It wasn't until around sixth grade that their friendship really developed, and the traditions began. Among their special traditions is "secret time."

"At every slumber party, we would sit in a circle and talk about everything that's been happening. It was things that we wouldn't tell anyone else. It never left the room," Moore says.

Another tradition is their yearly trip to Denstorf's grandparents'. "Every Christmas, we go up to my grandparents' house," Denstorf explains. "My grandma fixes a big meal and chocolate milkshakes."

Though their solid friendship was apparent, people were skeptical that it would last longer than their WCCS days. "After grade school, most people make new friends and drift away from the old, as a result of arguments or different interests.



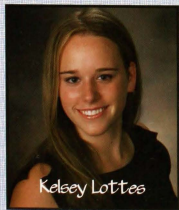
"There's never going to be anything big enough or an argument severe enough that I'll stop talking to one of them," Moore says.

"Our teachers in grade school always told us we wouldn't be friends when we got to high school," says Merkel.

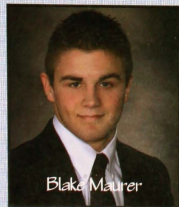
"We told them in the sixth grade we would go to the Bahamas when

we were seniors in high school, but they didn't believe us," says Flake.

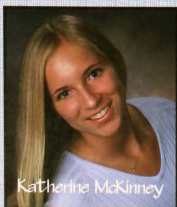
Years have passed since the girls made that proclamation, and despite their teachers' predictions, they have plans for the spring break of their senior year. The Bahamas didn't quite work out as planned, but their alternative is just as good. They've decided to drive down to



Kelsey Lottes



Blake Maurer



Katherine McKinney



Jill Merkel

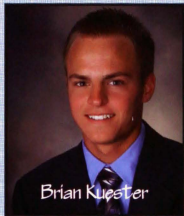


Kyle MacFarquhar

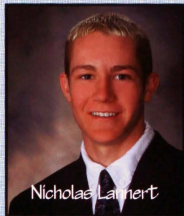




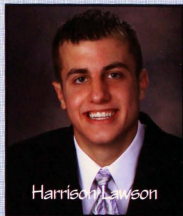
Kyle Kraft



Brian Kuester



Nicholas Lammert



Harrison Lawson



Seniors Knight, Merkel, Flake, Denstorff, Schroeder, Moore, and Scheller celebrate their eighth grade graduation by showing off their dresses.

Photo provided by: Hallie Denstorff

The girls pause to pose for a picture at their eighth grade Honors Night. They have been friends since sixth grade and have continued their friendship through high school.

Photo provided by: Hallie Denstorff

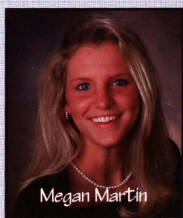


Michele Lewis



The girls found time during their eighth grade class trip to St. Louis to get together for lunch. Although they were split into different groups for the majority of the trip, the girls managed to find each other throughout the day.

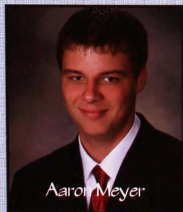
Photo provided by: Hallie Denstorff



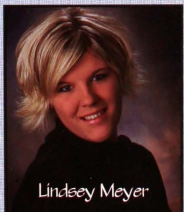
Megan Martin

the Dauphin Islands in Alabama, and they intend on sending their grade school teachers a post card.

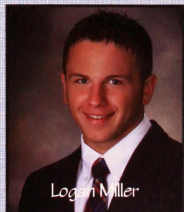
As long as the seven are together, a good time is guaranteed. Denstorff, Flake, Knight, Merkel, Moore, Scheller, and Schroeder have proved their friendship will last in the Dauphin Islands and back. Susan Muensterman '05



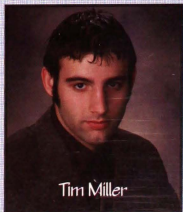
Aaron Meyer



Lindsey Meyer



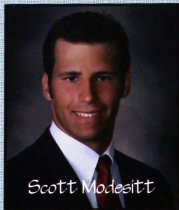
Logan Miller



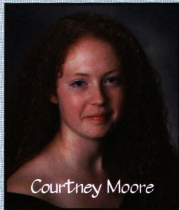
Tim Miller



Lauren Mochau



Scott Modesttt



Courtney Moore



Meghan Murphy

# PUCKER UP

## Take One for the Team

It's common knowledge that Mater Dei is known for its tradition of athletic excellence. Some students, however, devote their time and energy to non-school sports, such as the roller hockey team founded by several Mater Dei senior boys. Although the schedule can be irregular, the players after on occasion, and the rink is the Golfmoor tennis courts, the players aren't discouraged and show great enthusiasm for their sport. After all, it's all about having fun.

"Taylor Udhe '03, Andy Wathen and I collaborated to form a team two years ago," explains senior Nick Lannert. "We picked up some recruits along the way to complete the team, such as juniors Chad Dewig and Ben Macke, and seniors Andy Barchet, Kyle Messersmith, Michael Pigman, and Jon Herron."

The purpose of the sport is purely based upon personal enjoyment.

"Not only is it fun, but it's different because not many people play around here," Wathen explains. "It beats lying at home on my couch trying to get fat."

The rationale behind the team is scattered. Foremost, it's based upon having fun, but some participate as a method of venting their frustrations.

"I play roller hockey because it gives me a chance to plow people to the ground," Herron says.

The players are proud of how far they've come in the past two years; however, many admit they are not the most experienced and skillful team in the league. Despite this they play with passion.



"It seems like I've been playing my whole life, but in actuality, I've only been playing about a year," says Herron.

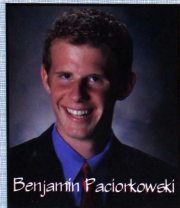
Despite Eric Reffett's lack of experience and insecurity in his skill, he isn't deterred from leading the team as their coach. Reffett plays for pure pleasure of the game.

"It's been my dream since I was

eight-years-old to coach Mater Dei's greatest success story: the street hockey team," jokes Reffett.

In spite of the fact that there is generally a steady lineup of players, the roller hockey team is continuously on the lookout for new additions. They accept anyone who wants to join.

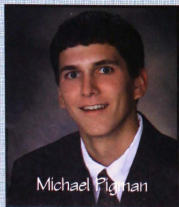
"If you want to play, bring your



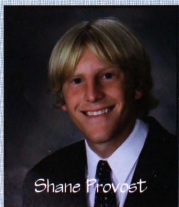
Benjamin Paciorkowski



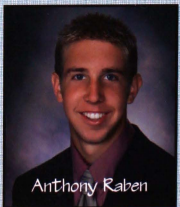
Jacelyn Phelps



Michael Pigman

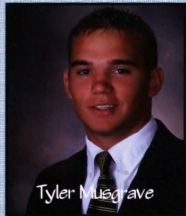


Shane Provost

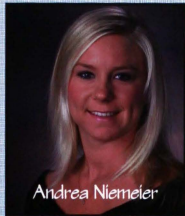


Anthony Raben

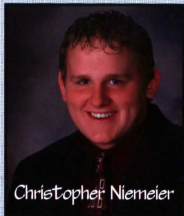




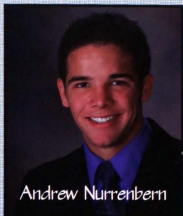
Tyler Mušgrave



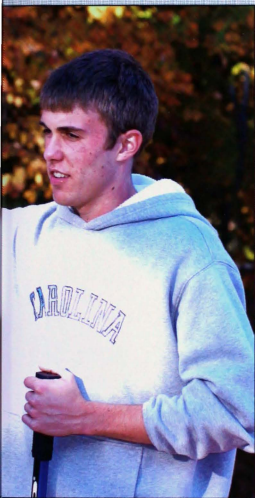
Andrea Niemeier



Christopher Niemeier

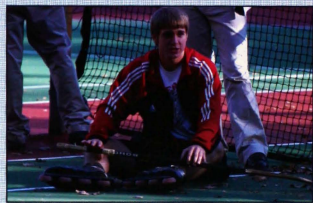


Andrew Nurrenbern



Senior Andy Barchet takes a breather after a rough practice at Golfmore tennis courts. Practices can get pretty rough and tiring when these boys get together.

Photo by: Katie Scheller



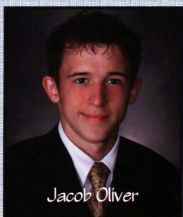
Seniors Nick Lannert and Andy Wathen high five after their team scored a goal. The teams are different each time they play, but they always work well together regardless of who's on which team.

Photo by: Katie Scheller



Seniors Nick Lannert, Andy Wathen, and eighth grader Dustin Scheller come together and lift their sticks after time out pep talk. They often lift their sticks to help pump them up or after they score. The team has everything a school regulated sport has such as a coach, equipment, and practices.

Photo by: Katie Scheller



Jacob Oliver



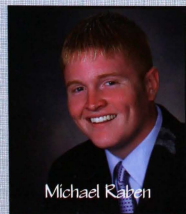
Rebecca Parkinson

skates and stick," says Wathen.

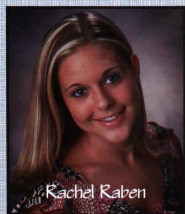
Although the street hockey team doesn't play with complete seriousness, like other sports, they welcome competition and one day hope to have a tournament.

"We will play whoever dares to challenge us," Barchet says.

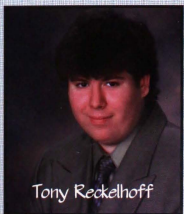
Katie Scheller '04 and Susan Muensterman '05



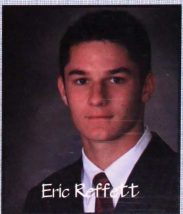
Michael Raben



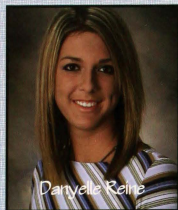
Rachel Raben



Tony Reckelhoff



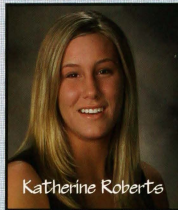
Eric Raffett



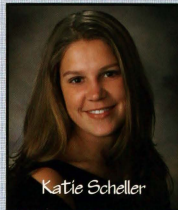
Danyelle Reine



Katie Reising



Katherine Roberts



Katie Scheller

# OUT-TO-LUNCH

## A Little Bit of Freedom

All underclassmen know there are certain privileges that can't be obtained until senior year. For example, seniors receive first choice when enrolling in classes and are always dismissed first from in-school functions. The ultimate privilege for seniors is definitely the freedom of "out to lunch."

"Out to lunch is something I have looked forward to since I was a freshman because it seemed like my brother and his friends had so much fun," says senior Jill Merkel.

Most seniors enjoy the freedom

of "out to lunch" and agree that it has been worth the wait.

"I have the freedom to go anywhere, order what I want, and eat what I want," says senior Katie Kemmerlin.

The average "out to lunch" for a senior consists of food and fun.

"After we report to homeroom, everyone runs down the stairs and piles into their friends' cars," senior Ashley Alles describes the typical noonday ritual.

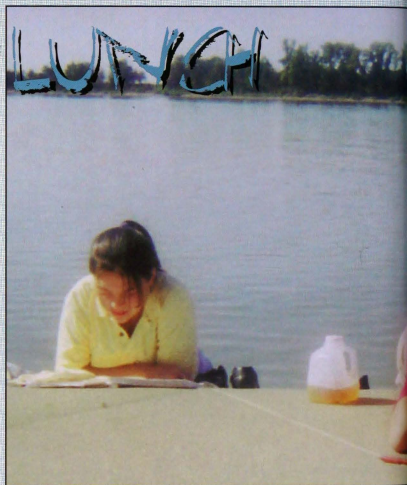
From the north side of town across to the east side, seniors can be spotted dining at their favorite restaurants.

"Some of my favorite places to go during "out to lunch" are Arby's and Fazoli's," says senior Ashley Adler.

"Two Brothers Chinese buffet is where I like to go," senior Lyndsey Heim says.

"During Fall Festival week, a group of us went and ate lunches by the river just for something different," senior Kristi Wilsman says.

Many seniors choose to use their free time in other ways besides



eating. Some can be spotted roaming the aisles of our local Wal-Mart or catching some rays at Premiere Tan.

"I usually go home or to Laura's (Schroeder) house," senior Kristina Kayser says. "It feels like you're breaking the rules, and it makes the day go by faster."

For a number of seniors, "out to

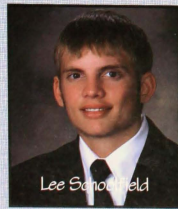
lunch" is not always about where they want to go, but rather how much money is in their pocket.

"Where I go depends on how much money I have at the time," says Kemmerlin.

"Since "out to lunch" is such a long awaited privilege and can be easily taken away, seniors try their best not to take it for granted and



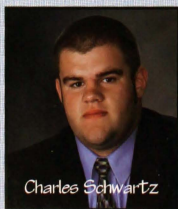
Jenn Schmitt



Lee Snodgrass



Laura Schroeder

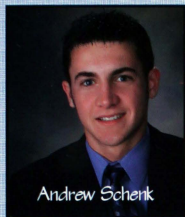


Charles Schwartz

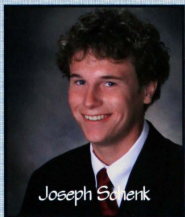


Hanna Scott

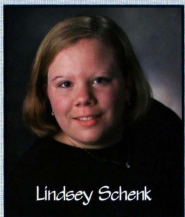




Andrew Schenk



Joseph Schenk



Lindsey Schenk



Stephanie Schenk



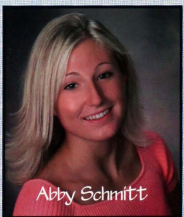
Seniors Molly Blankenberger and Megan Martin tear into their food at Arby's during out-to-lunch. Arby's is one of the most common hangouts during out-to-lunch.  
Photo by: Shanna Bush



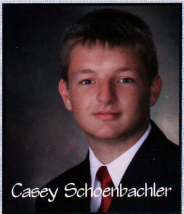
Seniors Kristi Wilsman and Hallie Denstorff study for a test during out-to-lunch while enjoying the heat of the sun down by the river.  
Photo by: Jill Merkel



Senior Nick Lannert shovels in some food at China Town Buffet during out-to-lunch. This chinese restaurant is a favorite among many seniors because they can enjoy an all you can eat buffet for a relatively low price. An all you can eat buffet is a necessity in order to fill the appetites of some of the senior guys.  
Photo by: Ashley Alles

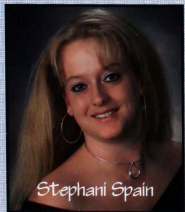


Abby Schmitt



Casey Schoenbacher

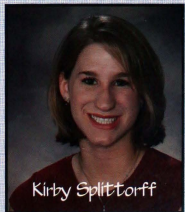
be careful not to let it be revoked.  
"We try to get back to school five minutes early so we aren't late for class," says senior Kirby Splittorff.  
Everyone agrees that senior "out to lunch" makes the week pass by faster. It brings variety to normal everyday school life.  
Shanna Bush '04 and  
Jaclyn Muensterman '05



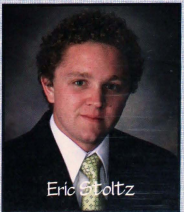
Stephani Spain



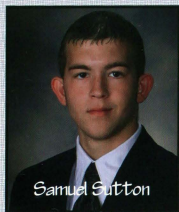
Brandy Sparks



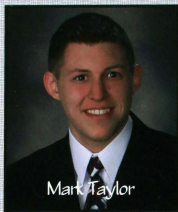
Kirby Splittorff



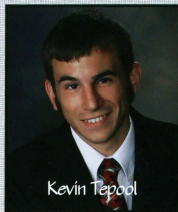
Eric Stoltz



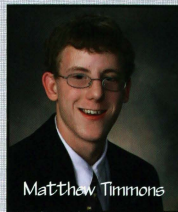
Samuel Sutton



Mark Taylor



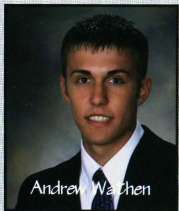
Kevin Tepool



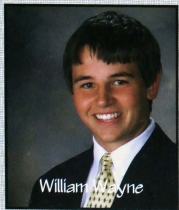
Matthew Timmons

# BIG PAWS

## Willy Leaves His Print



Andrew Wachen



William Wayne

Being loud, tough, obnoxious and uncaring of what others think are the traits needed to be Mater Der's mascot, Willy the Wildcat.

"I love the attention that I get from being Willy," confesses senior Brent Hagan, who is known for acting wild and crazy in his "cat" suit.

"I think people are inspired when Willy is at the games because he's good at keeping the crowd fired up," says senior Hallie Denstorf.

Willy travels to the major sporting events, encouraging the crowd with his cheers and peppering them up.

"I rode to Double Cola with Eric Stoltz in his jeep," says Hagan. "I waved to kids and people would speed up to see me."

Not only does the crowd enjoy Hagan's enthusiasm, but the members of the teams appreciate his commitment as well.

"He shows heart and dedication," says senior Jason Kothe. "It helps to pump up the players."

Hagan took the job of Willy to show his dedication and spirit.

"I'm not involved in athletics



anymore and I wanted to support my team, so I decided to take on the role of Willy," Hagan says.

Being Willy is not always fun and games.

"It is hard to move with all the kids following me and it's hard to see," says Hagan.

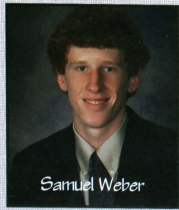
The little kids look to Willy with awe, although sometimes it can be

bothersome to have them around.

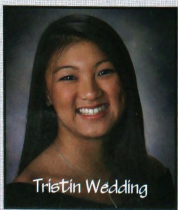
"There is a certain feeling I get because the kids look up to me, but sometimes they pick on me and pull my tail," explains Hagan.

"That is why I need someone to walk with me at all times."

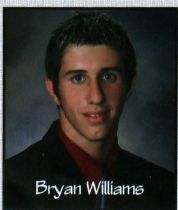
Who knew being a high school mascot could be so dangerous that it would require a bodyguard.



Samuel Weber



Tristin Wedding

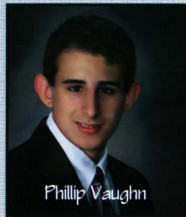


Bryan Williams

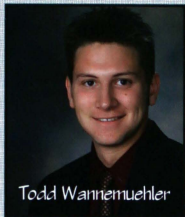


Kristi Wileman

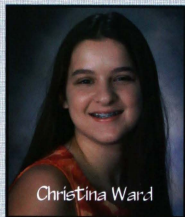




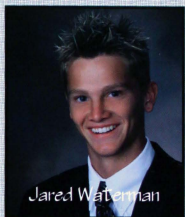
Phillip Vaughn



Todd Wannemuehler



Christina Ward



Jared Waterman



Willy the Wildcat sits among the student body in the senior section at one of the pep assemblies. Senior Brent Hagan shows his support by dressing up as Willy for every major assembly. Photo by: Katie Funke



Senior Shane Provost gets up close and personal with Willy the Wildcat. Willy is a favorite among the student body. He always gets the crowd pumped up and everyone wants to shake his paw. Photo by: Katie Funke

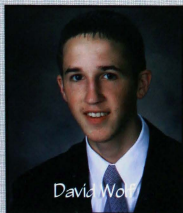


Brent Hagan cools off after a boys soccer sectional game versus Princeton. Hagan dressed out as Willy for many of the soccer games to help cheer on the team. He has been seen here at home and as far away as Castle decked out in his Willy suit. Photo by: Jill Merkel

"Other schools don't like me," says Hagan. "A student from Mount Vernon told me she wanted to punch me in the face."

Hopefully in the future someone who possesses the same traits as Hagan is willing to step up and fill the big paws.

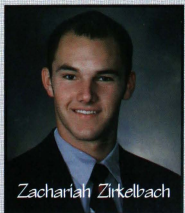
Shanna Bush '04 and Jaclyn Muensterman '05



David Wood



Megan Wright



Zachariah Zirkelbach

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# Supporting Roles

Mater Dei's administration is the cornerstone of Mater Dei. Without these hardworking individuals, this school wouldn't be able to stand as strongly as it does. The administration consists of Principal Ms. Marie Williams, Assistant Principal for Student Services Mrs. Darlene Quinlin, guidance counselors Mrs. Kristy Herr and Mrs. Robin Sitzman, and Mr. Joe Herrmann, Athletic Director.

"You never know what you're going to walk into," Mrs. Quinlin says.

Quinlin's job deals with attendance, transportation, crisis, safety, evacuations, speakers, and discipline, just to name a few.

"The best part is sharing with the students and knowing I can make a difference," Quinlin says.

Second year guidance counselor Herr was drawn to Mater Dei by its excellence and values.

"I'd never been in any Catholic systems before and I was impressed," Herr says.

Herr's job as guidance counselor consists of working with students, dealing with standardized tests, and helping with college planning and visits.

"I like my job because no two days are the same. You never know what's coming in the door," Herr says.

As first year Athletic Director, Herrmann undertakes a wide variety of tasks.

"I make schedules, schedule games for teams, schedule officials, make a budget for each sport, answer phones, and supervise all coaches and all home athletic events," Herrmann says.

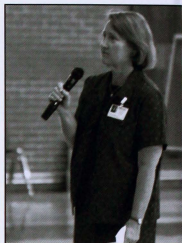
Although becoming Athletic Director is a large undertaking, Herrmann is enjoying his new career.

"I really enjoy getting out and watching the sports," Herrmann says.

Despite the administration's numerous responsibilities and occasional aggravations, they are enjoying their time at Mater Dei.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05

Principal Marie Williams speaks to the student body after a Friday afternoon pep assembly. Before coming to Mater Dei, Williams worked at the Catholic Center. Photo by: Katie Scheller



Principal Williams often takes time out of her schedule to visit classes and interact with students. Senior Katie Roberts and sophomore Rachel Schenk listen as Mrs. Larson gives advice to them on a sewing project. Photo by: Katie Scheller



Adler, Carolyn  
Alles, Kim  
Ames, Roseanna  
Amos, Georgianna  
Bailey, Terry



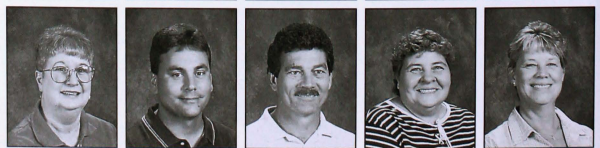
Becker, Dan  
Berberich, Judy  
Bumb, Gloria  
Craig, Amy  
Craig, Jason



Dauby, Sr. Agnes Marie  
Dick, Randy  
Dippel, Joe  
Drew, Chris  
Freeman, Rosemary



Gibbs, Roberta  
Goebel, John  
Goebel, Mike  
Greulich, Sue  
Haton, Debbie



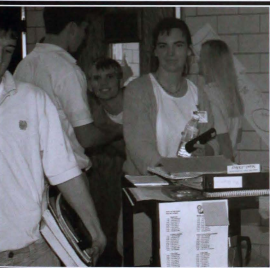




Helfrich, Ethel  
Hemmer, Becky  
Herr, Sr. Donna Marie  
Herr, Kristy  
Herrmann, Joe

Hickman, Ron  
Jewell, Jeff  
Joffray, Jewell  
Keith, Rick  
Kirchoff, Mary Jo

Knight, Darin  
Kunkler, Julia  
Larson, Becky  
Lefler, Donna  
Little, Mary Jane



Mrs. Debra Schorr pushes her heavily supplied cart through senior hallway. Without a room of her own, Schorr switches classrooms with other teachers. Getting through the crowded hallways can sometimes be tricky. Photo by: Jaclyn Muensterman



Hidden in a small corner of the teacher's work room, Mrs. Weber uses her planning period to grade tests and papers. Mrs. Weber is one of many teachers who has to share the small workroom. Photo by: Susan Muensterman

## A La Cart

Like students, teachers come in all sizes: tall, short, old, young, and more. Yes, we've all seen them pushing their black carts through the hallways from class to class. Due to the growing population of students, the addition of faculty members, and lack of classrooms, some teachers don't have the privilege of teaching a classroom of their own.

Although a seven-year faculty member of Mater Del, English and Spanish teacher Kathy Weber still doesn't have a classroom of her own.

"I don't have my own room because there aren't enough classrooms, and the teachers that have rooms have had them for a long

time," Weber says.

Debra Schorr is also a roomless teacher. Schorr uses a cart to transport her belongings from room to room.

"Sometimes I feel like a fish swimming upstream," Schorr jokes. "One day I was late to class and one of my students wrote me up a tardy slip!"

English and theatre teacher Chris Drew agrees that getting to different classrooms is sometimes difficult.

"Occasionally it's hard to get through the hallways," Drew says.

Drew, who used a cart last year to transport his materials, has laid his cart to rest at the present.

"This year I've organized my ma-

terials so I can get to classes without pushing a cart," Drew says. "I now have a corner office with a window."

Weber, too, disposed of her cart. "Last year I had seven different rooms, and this year I'm just in two. It's awesome!" Weber says.

Teaching in different classrooms can often make organization difficult.

"Since I move from room to room, it's hard to find one location to keep items organized," Schorr says.

Drew agrees that organizing materials is difficult but not impossible.

"Organization isn't my strong point, but I'm getting better," Drew says.

Even though these teachers travel from class to class, students don't

have a problem tracking them down. "Amazingly, people find me. I don't know how," Weber says.

On the other hand, it is harder for Drew's students to locate him.

"They are constantly trying to find me to turn in late papers," Drew says.

Although being without a classroom isn't a crying matter, Drew, Schorr, and Weber all agree they would like to have a room of their own.

Schorr, however, has grown attached to her cart and even decorates it for the holidays. Yet, she would gladly trade it in for a classroom.

"I'd give my cart up in a heartbeat for a room," Schorr says.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05

McMullen, John  
Mitchell, Wynn  
Murray, Beth Ann  
Nurrenbern, Carol  
Nurrenbern, Ruby



Payne, Julie  
Quinlin, Darlene  
Quinlin, Kevin  
Reneer, Shea  
Richey, Marilyn

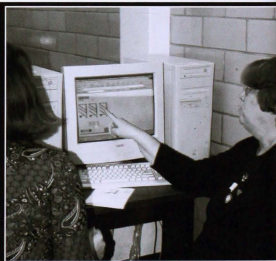


Richie, Cora  
Rode, Stephen  
Rogge, Rose  
Schenk, Tonya  
Schleler, Robert



To create a new pin, Reising first comes up with an idea and explains it to Joffray. After Joffray draws and completes the design, it is sent off to a company where a mold is made and the pins are produced.

Photo by: Susan Muensterman



Pamela Reising, a 1966 graduate, started Rainbow Enterprises LLC after retiring from Bristol Myers earlier this year. Reising's pins support a variety of causes from breast cancer to Right to Life.

Photo by: Susan Muensterman

## Art With A Message

Jewell Joffray, first year faculty member of Mater Dei, has long been an advocate of breast cancer awareness. So it was no wonder that when her aunt suggested a way to raise money for the cause, Joffray didn't think twice about helping out.

"This project was a total collaboration of my aunt and I," Joffray explains.

For Joffray, the project is personally driven and has a message that hits close to home.

"My aunt's friend is a breast cancer survivor and this pin is a celebration of her hard fought battle with the disease," says Joffray.

Joffray's grandmother-in-law is

also a survivor of the disease. She suffered through a double mastectomy before her cancer went into remission.

The idea for a pin is the easy part. Joffray says that she and her aunt spent many hours talking and planning for this project.

Designing and creating the pins is the hardest part of the project. Joffray sketches the design, and the sketch is then sent to a manufacturer that tries to match and duplicate the sketch onto a 3D metal pin.

The design of the breast cancer pin is a white rectangular box with three pink diagonal ribbons wrapped around the box. Written on the three

ribbons are the words "Inspect," "Detect," and "Survive."

"These words represent the three stages that breast cancer patients go through," explained Joffray. "We feel that by buying the pin, you are giving the gift of life to yourself and giving back to others at the same time," states Joffray.

After the manufacturer produces the pins, Joffray sells the pins to family and friends and through the main office here at Mater Dei.

The cost of each pin is five dollars and 10% of profits will go towards a local breast cancer foundation in the fight to raise awareness.

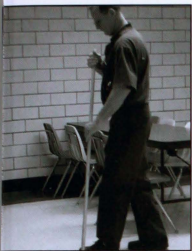
Pins to make other pins, such as

an abortion pin and a pin to save arts and music programs in schools, are in the works. The next pin to be marketed is a pin promoting the awareness of heart disease. Joffray and Reising not only create pins to raise awareness for diseases, but also to honor those close to them that have been affected by the disease.

"My uncle has suffered four heart attacks during his life," explains Joffray.

Wear these pins as a gift to yourself, as a gift for others, and as a symbol of your support to all those who have and still are suffering. Laura Schroeder '04 and Ashley Alles '04





Janitor Terry Bailey sweeps the floor after a messy lunch period. The janitorial staff spends extra hours working to make Mater Dei look its best.

Photo by: Susan Muensterman

Secretary Jeanne Tornatta helps administrative assistant Carol Nurrenbern figure accounts. The secretaries in the main office act as mothers away from home for many students.

Photo by: Allison Probert



# Motherly Touch

Students at Mater Dei may not realize how many different people are behind the scenes running an ordinary school day. Mater Dei's supporting staff is the groundwork for the entire school and makes everything run smoothly, from the morning announcements to the afternoon assemblies.

Secretary Mrs. Kim Alles is new to the supporting staff team. This is her first year as a secretary and she enjoys it very much. Her job entails book-keeping, answering phones and helping the students, among many other things.

"It's what I went to college to do and I enjoy the working environment," says Alles. "Basically we are mom's away from home."

Mrs. Jeanne Tornatta is a friendly face well known in Mater Dei's main office. When a student is ill or needs someone to talk to, Tornatta is there to help.

"I sincerely like kids," says Tornatta.

"These are the best years of their lives and this is the best school that they could ever be in."

Some of the jobs around the school can go unnoticed, such as the plumbing or sweeping, which is mastered by our janitorial staff.

"I like my job, it's different," says Mr. Terry Bailey. "It's not the same every day."

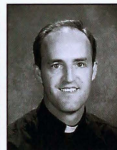
Another group of people that basically rule the hearts of hungry teenagers are the cafeteria ladies that everyone knows and loves.

"My kids went here," says Mrs. Ethel Helfrich, "and I like being around all the young people."

"I especially like being available to my children," says cashier Mrs. Tonya Schenk. "The ladies are also very nice."

With all these people working together to keep the day running smoothly it's no wonder that the school day nearly always runs perfectly.

Shanna Bush '04



Schorr, Debra  
Sills, Roger  
Sztzman, Robin  
Skelton, Linda  
Steckler, Fr. Ken



Stowers, Mel  
Strehl, Angela  
Thomas, Dennis  
Thomas, Jeanne  
Thompson, Dominic

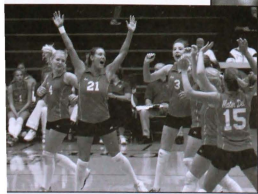
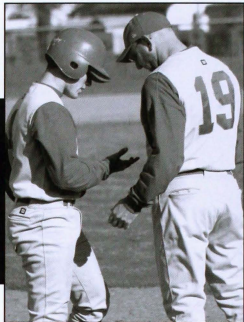


Tornatta, Jeanne  
Vickery, Joan  
Voegel, Carl  
Wathen, Dave  
Weber, Kathy

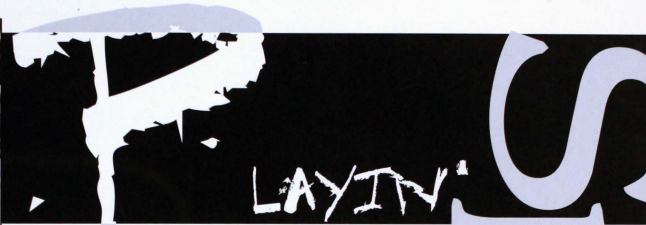
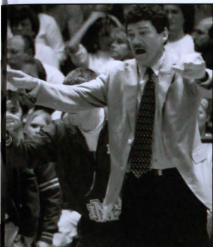


Weber, Molly  
Whitehouse, Scott  
Williams, Sr. Mary Francis  
Wilson, Rick

# BOUGLES







**When we take the field to play, everyone knows  
who we are.**

Mater Dei has a long tradition of excellent sports  
teams that have filled numerous trophy cases and  
fans that fill the even the largest stadiums.

**But it all starts with sportsmanship and teamwork,  
the hallmarks of great teams.**

What we have is what most teams can only dream  
of. Our coaches understand the game better than  
anyone and they communicate their knowledge to  
the players. By playing to the best of their abilities,  
these athletes honor their school community, their  
coaches, their parents and the entire student body.

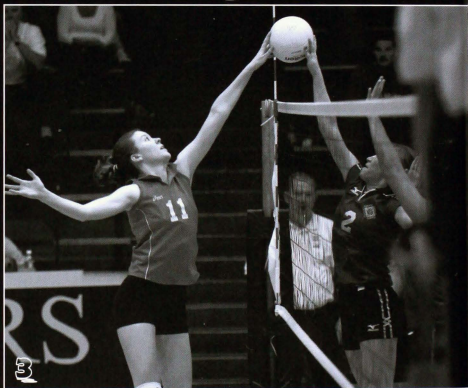
**Everyone watching in the stands, on the sidelines  
or on the court sees what makes us so special.**



1

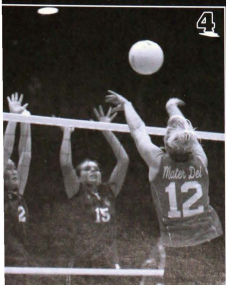


# Volleyball

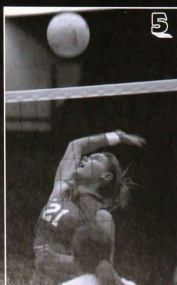


3

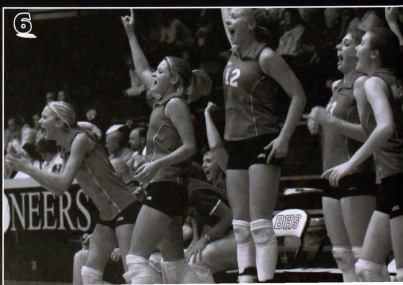
## A Learning Year



4



5



6



Watching the ball fly over the net is sometimes enough to draw a person into a volleyball game, but with the introduction of rally scoring, it has become even more exciting. Rally scoring awards a point every time the ball hits the floor and also calls for the team to win three out of five games.

"Before a game we join hands and say a Hall Mary," said senior Kristin Kissel, who was named Academic All-State. "Then we go out onto the floor and shout 'teamwork.'"

Mater Dei is all about tradition, and it's the little things like saying a cheer that can make a big difference in the way a team competes.

"As seniors, we tried to get everyone excited before the games because the more fun we had as a team, the better we played," said senior Katie Roberts, who was named to the All-City first team.

Even though the team didn't go as far as they had hoped, they didn't step away empty handed. The team walked away from the season with a record of twenty-four wins and ten losses while also earning the title of co-city champions.

"We lose some of our games slip away, but I was not unhappy with the season as a whole," said coach Carolyn Adler.

Since there were only four senior players this year,

1. Senior Andrea Kiesel sets up a teammate with one of her team high 487 assists. In addition to being a team captain, Kiesel was also named second team All-City and All-Conference.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

2. Stretching to reach the ball, senior Katie Roberts attempts a return during the Reitz game. Roberts was the team leader in aces, digs, and blocks.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

3. During sectionals at Boonville, junior Cassie Schentrup blocks the ball from going over the net. The Wildcats beat Memorial in a five set marathon, but lost during the sectional camp Heritage Hills.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

4. Setting the ball over the net, senior Andrea Niemeier helps her team to another victory. Niemeier led the city in kill percentage with 31% and was named first team All-City and All-Conference.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

5. Katie Roberts spikes the ball over the net during the sectional game against Bosse. One of the team's biggest accomplishments of the season was beating Jasper.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

6. Sophomore Tiffany Payton, sophomore Hailey Kempf, senior Andrea Niemeier, sophomore Alyssa Edwards, and junior Cassie Schentrup celebrate during the Memorial game at sectionals.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

Mrs. Adler decided to let them alternate as captains. It was easy to see that they enjoyed being role models for the younger players on the team.

"It really wasn't difficult being a leader, and it was fun working with some of the underclassmen," said senior Andrea Kiesel. "I especially enjoyed working with the younger setters."

"The captains picked the team up and made us want to work harder," said junior Jessica Dick. "We knew that every game was the last chance the seniors would have to play that team, and we wanted to make it worth their while."

Along with the senior captains, Mrs. Adler added guidance and helped all the players enhance their skills, both physically and mentally.

"At games, Mrs. Adler would give us talks when we were in the huddle. She also found inspirational articles in the newspaper and read them to us to encourage us to work as a team," said senior Andrea Niemeier.

Even though the team has seen better seasons, the players learned from their losses as well as their successes. This season rewarded them with valuable experience that will hopefully aid the younger players in years to come.

Shanna Bush '04

# How They See it...

Freshman Margaret Stoltz, who participated on the freshman volleyball team, had an inside view of the team and the season.

"Although the team could have come together a bit more and cared less about the stats, they had a lot of talent and came together when it mattered."

Stoltz also had the duty of supporting the reserve and varsity teams at their games and cheering them on.

"I supported them because they supported us when we played. I had a lot of support for my team and I yelled and cheered. It kind of helped them to achieve more and have more energy. Also, we dressed up in crazy red and gold with old Mater Dei jerseys and with ribbon and glitter for sectionals."

Being a member of a team means not only participating and supporting the team, but also expressing happiness for other members of the team when they succeed.

"It was really exciting to see them take what they learned in practice and do so much better in the games and get caught up in the moment. I like to see them win and I like to see them play really good games."

Part of the reason the team did so well may have been due to the strong senior leaders.

"Andrea Niemeier was a really good leader and she never talked down to anyone. She's just awesome. Katie Roberts, she's a beast because she can kill the ball if she wants to."

Another reason Stoltz views these girls as star quality is because of their ability to play even when injured.

"Niemeier's foot got ran over but she played anyways, and Tara Elpers hurt her back. Most people still played although they were injured."

**Volleyball**  
23-10

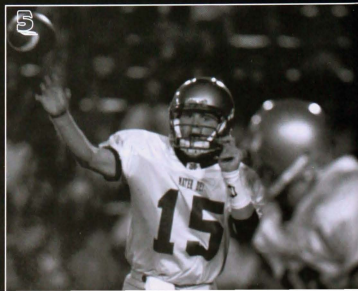
<b>Vs. UNION COUNTY</b> 25-10, 25-5	<b>Vs. BOSSE</b> 21-9, 21-7, 21-11
<b>Vs. NEW HARMONY</b> 21-17, 21-10, 21-9	<b>Vs. BARR REEVY</b> 21-14, 21-15
<b>Vs. FOREST PARK</b> 18-21, 19-21, 13-21	<b>Vs. WHITE RIVER VALLEY</b> 21-12, 21-6
<b>Vs. MOONVILLE</b> 18-21, 12-21, 17-21	<b>Vs. MT. CARMEL</b> 21-15, 21-18
<b>Vs. HERITAGE HILLS</b> 21-23, 14-21, 17-21	<b>Vs. BOONVILLE</b> 17-21, 21-15, 21-19
<b>Vs. SEYMOUR</b> 16-21, 21-17, 21-12	<b>Vs. CASTLE</b> 21-15, 21-18, 12-21, 18-21, 10-15
<b>Vs. JEFFERSONVILLE</b> 21-6, 21-11	<b>Vs. HARRISON</b> 21-18, 21-15, 21-6
<b>Vs. FLOYD CENTRAL</b> 11-21, 15-21	<b>Vs. GIBSON SOUTHERN</b> 21-17, 21-7, 21-13
<b>Vs. SILVER CREEK</b> 21-9, 19-21, 21-11	<b>Vs. CENTRAL</b> 21-13, 21-17, 21-15
<b>Vs. MEMORIAL</b> 16-21, 21-9, 21-16, 21-14	<b>Vs. OLDENBURG ACADEMY</b> 21-7, 21-5
<b>Vs. REITZ</b> 21-13, 21-19, 21-16	<b>Vs. COBYDON CENTRAL</b> 15-9, 17-21, 15-21
<b>Vs. JASPER</b> 21-11, 21-21, 21-18	<b>Vs. COLUMBUS NORTH</b> 21-9, 17-21, 15-21
<b>Vs. NORTH</b> 17-21, 15-21, 18-21	<b>SECTIONALS</b>
<b>Vs. MT. VERNON</b> 21-5, 21-16, 21-6	<b>Vs. BOSSE</b> 21-11, 21-7, 21-8
<b>Vs. NORTH POSEY</b> 21-11, 21-14, 15-21, 14-21, 15-6	<b>Vs. MEMORIAL</b> 21-15, 17-21, 21-18, 18-21, 15-9
<b>Vs. EDWARDS COE</b> 21-16, 23-21, 21-18	<b>Vs. HERITAGE HILLS</b> 15-21, 12-21, 15-21



# Football



Led by the Dirty Dozen





"Now is forever," a slogan created by the senior captains of Mater Dei's football team, best describes Mater Dei's 2003 football season.

"I like the slogan because it reminds me that I will always have the memories of some of the best times of my life," senior linebacker Scott Modesitt said.

With its dedicated and talented members, the Mater Dei football players played an unforgettable season of victory, laughter, and friendship. These moments made the 2003 season one of a kind.

"The way we got along with each other made this year different than other years," senior running back Tyler Musgrave said.

"I think this season was unique because our senior leaders were great motivators and took it upon themselves to make sure that we were all focused," senior wide receiver Drew Alcorn said.

The team's bond was exceptionally strong this year and helped further the team's success during the 2003 season.

"Everyone was involved with each other on and off the field, and that really gave us that special bond to mold together as a team," Musgrave said.

Although the team already had a tight bond, when senior leader Blake Maurer dislocated his shoulder the team truly united.

"I think the team really came together when Blake got hurt. We had to prove to everyone, but mostly ourselves, that we could be successful without a team leader. We used his absence as a reason to step up on our own play," Alcorn said.

"We had injuries that affected the team greatly, and the fact that when a major contributor to our team was out, others were right there to step it up

Senior wide receiver Zach Zirkelbach leaps to wrestle a pass from his Memorial opponent. This season, Zirkelbach caught 42 passes and gained 788 yards in addition to setting a record for the longest pass play in Mater Dei history.

Staff Photo

2. Seniors Raymond Goebel and Jason Coughlin lead the team onto the field before the Reitz game. The twelve seniors on this year's squad played a major role in the team's success by stepping up to lead the underclassmen.

Staff Photo

3. The offensive line sets up to block during the sectional final game versus Heritage Hills. Because the linemen do the dirty work of blocking, they often don't receive recognition, but they are an essential part of the team's success.

Staff Photo

4. Maurer sprints for a school record 7.4 yards per carry, senior Blake Maurer sprints for another touchdown against Heritage Hills in the sectional final. After suffering a dislocated shoulder against North, Maurer recovered to lead his team to an 8-3 record.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

5. Junior quarterback Dustin Slaton passes for another of his 181 completions on his way to completing 68% of his passes, which set a new Mater Dei record. Slaton passed for a total of 2,835 yards and was named to the class 3A All-State team.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

just that much more to make up for it meant a lot towards the overall morale of the team," Modesitt said.

Although injuries and obstacles plagued the team, the players still found enjoyment in the sport both on and off the field.

"The Castle game was the most fun because it felt like I was playing a college game because it was during the day, and we had a large crowd to give it that atmosphere," junior lineman Danny Martin said.

"I enjoyed Monday night football at Musgrave's," Modesitt said.

Though we all have our own favorite memories of the 2003 season, the players' favorite events of the season differ.

"I remember when Nathan Miller recovered the onside kick during the Heritage Hills game because it was a very controversial call. It was an awesome moment to be caught up in," Modesitt recalled.

"My favorite game of the season was probably against Harrison. In my opinion, that was our best team game," Alcorn said.

"I remember blocking the punt against Memorial and running it back for a touchdown," Martin said of his most memorable moment.

All in all, Mater Dei's 2003 football season proved to be successful and enjoyable for both the players and the fans. Though seniors will be leaving the team and others will be joining, the 2003 football season was a season that the boys will always remember.

"The twelve seniors became like brothers, and it was all thanks to just a game," concludes Modesitt. Jaclyn Muensterman '05

# How They See it...

Sophomore reserve defensive end Jeremy Goebel is one of many fans of Mater Dei's varsity football team. Goebel viewed this season as an inspiration for next year.

"It wasn't a disappointment, but we fell short of our goals and lost to Heritage Hills in the sectional semifinals. I can tell that the juniors will definitely step it up next year and we'll be gunning for Heritage Hills."

The season was not only good for the team, but each member got something different out of the season and grew in his own way.

"Our final game made me want to improve much more for next year and help the team in any way I can."

Goebel's interest in football was kindled at an early age because his brothers played football and participated in the Mater Dei tradition.

Goebel eventually got his chance to be part of the great tradition that his family was part of.

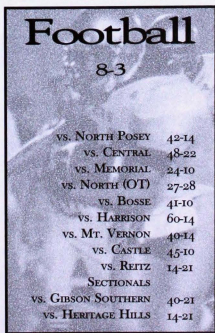
"My role was reserve but during practice I went out on scrub teams just to try to work hard for the varsity to improve their game."

The long practices during the school year were tough, but nothing could be harder than the two-a-days in the hot summer sun. These summer practices showed the boys' dedication to the game, all the while improving their skills.

"The team prepared together, and we had a lot of hard days back in July and August that helped us grow as a team."

Having seen the team's game plans during practices, Goebel found watching the games entertaining, but would rather be playing.

"I was impressed at the stuff that the varsity put together when we had big challenges to step up to, but I would always rather play than watch."



Football	
8-3	
vs. NORTH POSEY	48-24
vs. CENTRAL	48-22
vs. MEMORIAL	24-10
vs. NORTH (OT)	27-28
vs. BOSSE	41-10
vs. HARRISON	60-14
vs. MT. VERNON	40-14
vs. JUNIOR	45-10
vs. REITZ	14-21
SECTIONALS	
vs. GIBSON SOUTHERN	40-21
vs. HERITAGE HILLS	14-21



# Girls Golf



“Like a Puzzle”





The 2003 Mater Dei Girls Golf season was one of the most exciting and enjoyable seasons the team has ever experienced. With the returning players and the addition of new members to the team, their season was filled with victory, humor, and friendship.

One of the greatest aspects of starting a new season is the anticipation of the unknown. For the girls, this season especially proved to be different from all the rest.

"Being a senior really made this year unique. This season was a lot of fun because I got to go on all the road trips," said senior Hallie Denstorff, who joined the team her junior year.

"We all got along so well and had a blast together," senior Abby Schmitt explained the team's close relationship.

"Everyone really took the time and made this season the best and most enjoyable. We had three seniors and because of them, I think we had an overall good year," said sophomore Kasey Render, who has been golfing since age eleven.

Another unique aspect of the season was that the team scored higher than in years past.

"This was the first golf season that our team ever got ribbons. We placed second at city," commented junior Natalie Wolf.

For first-year golfer junior Niki Render, joining the team was a smart move. Although inexperienced, Render learned the skills of golf rather quickly.

"This was my first year playing, so my best score

was 55," Render said.

The goals Denstorff set for herself were a plus when it came to scoring.

"At sectionals I wanted to do a 9 or less on every hole, and I did it!" Denstorff exclaimed.

Not only did the determination of the players help to end a season successfully, but also the relationships the girls shared with each other helped strengthen the team.

"Our team fit very well together. We were like a puzzle. We would help each other during practice and also give much needed advice," Denstorff explained.

"If someone had a bad day, everyone would try to make them feel better. Hallie would do something stupid to make me laugh," Render said.

The preparation before their golf meets is one of the many favorite memories of the golfers' season.

"Before meets we would eat food that Kasey's dad would bring us," Denstorff says of their pre-meet rituals.

"Mr. Render always brought us a lot of food and we pigged out!" Niki Render exclaims. "One time he brought us cheeseburgers from McDonald's! Everyone loved that."

Through the losses and the strenuous practices, the excitement and the victories, the experiences the girls shared created a golf season unlike any other.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05

# How They See it...

Sophomore Emily Raben was an extra on the girls golf team and helped them during practices and saw their game grow. She wasn't able to play during the actual games because of the number of golfers.

"Jaclyn and Susan Muensterman and I went there and practiced and the other girls would go out and golf. Mr. Jewell would come back and work with us."

The girls went to each practice to get better and put in the same effort that the other golfers did.

"I was there to improve my own game so when the seniors graduate, the team would have experienced people."

Not being able to play in the meets didn't stop Raben from going back to practice day after day.

"It took determination to get a better score. Everytime you go out, you want to get a better score than the last time."

Throughout the practices, Raben has learned many new things and was helped by many of the seniors.

"Laura Schroeder, Hallie Denstorff, and Abby Schmitt were good influences on the team and very skilled. They watched how I hit and told me what I was doing wrong."

Raben also learned from watching the other members of the team that to get to play in the meets.

"It was neat to see how natural the swing and the game came to them. Kasey Render had really nice form. She really knew what she was doing."

Overall Raben was happy with the girls' season.

"Some of the meets the girls would come out on top of three games and then at some I would hear they didn't do as well as expected. But at every practice they would come out with good attitudes and work hard to improve."

Senior Hallie Denstorff marks her ball with her initials to distinguish it from the other golfers' balls. Denstorff was one of three seniors who led the golf team to a second place finish at the city meet and a strong showing at sectionals.

Staff Photo

Senior Laura Schroeder, a three year veteran of the team, chips her ball towards the green. This season, Schroeder alternated at the number one spot with Natalie Wolf and earned second team All-City honors.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

Carefully eyeing the hole, junior Natalie Wolf lines her ball up before putting. Wolf was the most successful golfer on the team this year and placed third at sectionals, qualifying her for regional competition.

Staff Photo

Trying to finish her round under par, sophomore Kasey Render decides the best angle to hit her ball. Render improved in her second year on the squad and helped the team shoot their best 18 hole round at sectionals.

Staff Photo

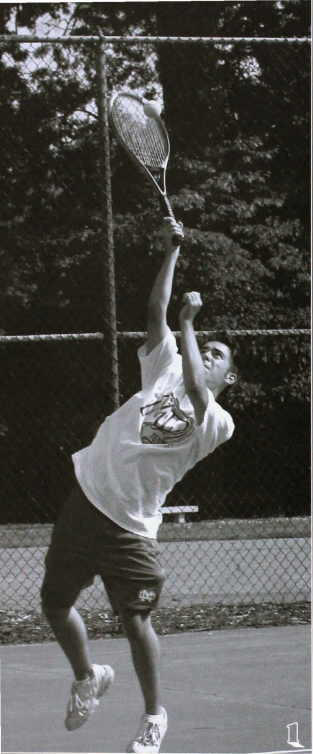
Natalie Wolf drives her ball up the fairway before sinking a birdie putt at the Boonville Country Club course. Wolf advanced to regionals at Bedford North Lawrence and finished with a 93, improving her score seven strokes from an earlier competition.

Staff Photo

Pondering over the lie of the ball, senior Abby Schmitt decides which way to aim her ball. Schmitt has been golfing for three years and had her best performance of the season at the 2003 city meet, where she placed second.

Staff Photo

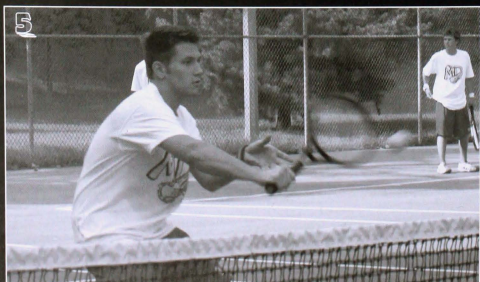
Girls Golf	
29-42	
PROVIDENCE INV.	5-9 (6TH OF 15)
CENTRAL INV.	4-8 (9TH OF 13)
BEDFORD NORTH LAWRENCE INV.	1-12 (13TH OF 14)
BOSSE	W
CASTLE/BOONVILLE	0-2
NORTH	L
HARRISON	W
CENTRAL/PRENTON	2-0
CITY TOURNEY	5-1 (2ND OF 7)
BOONVILLE	L
RETFZ	L
CASTLE/MEMORIAL	0-2
SIAC	3-4 (5TH OF 8)
MT. VERNON	L
SECTIONAL	9-4 (5TH OF 14)



# Boys Tennis



Playing for the Love of the Game





# How They See it...

Freshman Peter Pohlman received the opportunity to view boys tennis from inside.

"Being a freshman on the team meant doing small favors, like carrying water bottles and bagging luggage."

Being a member of the tennis team not only helped him improve his skills on the court, but also it was a good time and a way to meet new people.

"I figured out my weaknesses and tried to improve them. I practiced a lot, but it was fun. I had a great time playing with everybody. Everyone on the team was friendly. I learned not to be intimidated to play against a senior."

As an insider of the sport, Pohlman got to see things that perhaps the casual observer may not have seen.

"I remember the Phil shot. Phil Elpers every once in a while had a really lucky volley shot that would go lateral – straight off to the side. No one could return it. He had several of these, they always just come out of nowhere."

So what motivates someone to not only choose a particular sport, but to remain motivated?

"I picked tennis because it is what I liked and what I was good at. I played before for a while in grade school and as a kid I took lessons. If I didn't keep trying, the upperclassmen would hurt me. A couple of them threatened us, in jest. Some people got frustrated and they didn't play as well, but no one slacked off."

In every sport, activity, or event there is usually at least one moment that stands out for everyone. Sometimes, however one particular moment cannot be pinpointed.

"I didn't have on in a game or anything, nothing significant happened. It was all good. The whole season was just an up for me."

Traveling to matches on the road was another time for bonding.

"We shared in mutual immaturity on our road trips," said Wannemuehler.

Despite the lighthearted exterior of the team, they are serious about tennis, and most of the players work hard to improve even after the season has ended.

"We began practicing in early August up through early October," Neisen says.

Even though the team lost more matches than they won, many of the players progressed throughout the season as they got more court experience.

"I got better through the year, but I still didn't have a very good record," commented Neisen. "We still practiced together even after the season ended, so maybe I'll be better next year."

One of the team's youngest varsity players is sophomore Branden Clements, who will more than likely become even better as an upperclassman.

"Branden is very good. He's very natural," says Neisen.

This season, Clements was forced to step up to play the number one singles spot after regional qualifier Lindsey Wagner graduated. Being a two-year varsity member has given Clements the experience needed to provide leadership in the future.

"When I realized that I'd never experience the Mater Dei High School tennis tradition again, I enjoyed every moment of the season," Wannemuehler concluded.

Susan Muensterman '05

What the boys tennis team lacked in stats they made up for in spirits. The 2003 tennis season was laced with humor, competition, and overall enjoyment.

The highlight of the season was by far their 3-2 victory over Reitz.

"We may not have had the greatest season, but we beat Reitz, so that's all that matters," said junior Phil Neisen, who played doubles with senior team captain Todd Wannemuehler.

No matter what, senior Phillip Elpers could be counted on for a laugh or two. He helped keep the team's spirits high as the season went on.

"We had two colors of shorts, one for home and the other for away and Phil always wore the wrong color," Neisen laughed.

Wannemuehler, a four-year veteran of the tennis team, also noted that every time Phil would employ his "god-like" serve, it was good for a few laughs.

"Two of those serves hit me in the back of the head," Wannemuehler laughed.

Pre-game and post-game dinners proved to be excellent bonding experiences because the social setting allowed the players to become closer as a team and also to relax after strenuous matches.

"We went to Fazoli's once after one of the matches and had a breadstick-eating contest. Peter Pohlman ate thirty breadsticks," revealed Neisen.

The tight-knit team also bonded through, as Wannemuehler noted, "the consumption of Mrs. Clements' excellent snack goods."

Using all of his energy, senior Kevin Hall serves during a match against Castle. Although Hall has been on the tennis team for only two years, he has proved himself to be a very valuable asset and a great leader.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

2. Kyle Kraft anticipates the exact moment to swing his racket and connect with the ball. Kraft is a four year member of the varsity tennis team and one of five seniors on the squad.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

3. Reaching for the ball, junior Kyle Neisen volleys the ball back to his opponent. After last year's arm injury, Neisen had a great comeback season that helped the entire team.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

4. Kevin Hall gives the ball a nice hard whack over the net scoring on his Castle opponent. Hall's swift moves and fast feet helped him to win many matches.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

5. Senior Todd Wannemuehler smashes the ball during a match against Castle. Wannemuehler has played both singles and doubles, so he shared his game experience with the underclassmen to help them learn and understand the game.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

6. As the jester of the team, senior Philip Elpers is serious on the court during a match. In between matches and during practices, Elpers can be spotted juggling or making jokes to inspire his teammates.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

Boys Tennis	
2-10	
vs. CENTRAL	0-5
vs. HERITAGE HILLS	2-3
vs. MEMORIAL	0-5
vs. CASTLE	0-5
vs. REITZ	3-2
vs. NORTH	1-4
vs. BOSSE	2-3
vs. GIBSON SOUTHERN	4-1
vs. HARRISON	0-5
vs. MT. VERNON	0-5
vs. NORTH POSEY	1-4
SECTIONALS	
vs. MT. VERNON	0-5



# Girls XC



Determination and Devotion





Sweat dripping off a determined face and the constant fluid motion of legs driving to the finish line are just two things expected at a cross country meet. However, it takes a both physically and emotionally strong person to be a member of the Mater Dei girls cross country team. Not only does it take time and a strong work ethic to succeed, but also a strong faith in God and in your teammates. Although the sport as a whole may not seem thrilling to fans, each individual runner works extremely hard to improve and run her best race. Each runner on the team this year played a part in creating a memorable season.

"Each person on the team contributed hard work and determination that made this season the best we ever been a part of," senior Katie McKinney said.

The runners' strenuous work and dedication helped the team end the season with a sixty-eight to thirty-six record. Not only did the girls end their regular season on a high note, but they also kept their effort up during the postseason, finishing second in the city, fourth in the SIAC, third in the sectional, fifth at regionals and twelfth at semi-state.

"I think that the preseason conditioning in the summer months helped out a lot this year," said senior Lauren Mochau. "It got us used to running in the hot weather."

Along with the team's success, three-year veteran McKinney had an outstanding season individually. She is a three-time regional and semi-state qualifier, she

finished her Mater Dei career by placing forty-ninth at state.

"I feel very lucky to have had Katie on my team the past two years," says sophomore Kim Spahn. "Seeing how hard she works and how happy she is when she wins makes me want to work towards my goals."

Of course, the girls probably wouldn't have been as successful if it wasn't for the help and commitment of their coach, George Moll. Moll not only advised the team on how to succeed and improve their times, but he provided much needed inspirational advice as well.

"Coach always told us that if we were pleasing to God, our job was done," said junior Kathy Goebel.

Though prayer and determination were key points to the season, the friendship and teamwork of the runners ultimately helped the team achieve their goals.

"We were very close this year," commented Mochau, "more so than the previous years."

"Our team was very supportive," said Spahn. "We all believed in each other and never got mad with someone if they didn't have a good race."

All in all, the girls overcame their hardships to run an awesome and successful season. Their determination and devotion to the Mater Dei cross country team created strong bonds and a season they won't soon forget.

Shanna Bush '04

# How They See it...

Junior Brittni Herron found herself involved in a praiseworthy sport, the cross-country team. This team is praiseworthy for more than one reason. Not only did Katie McKinney qualify for state for the second year in a row, the boys team qualified for state for the first time in twenty-three years. Herron gives her perspective on the team from the inside out.

"I thought it was one of the best seasons ever because the guys went to state and the girls did really well also. It was a lot of fun."

Herron also took on the role of supporting her team and her teammates.

"I was on the team and everybody supported each other and everyone got along with each member of the team. You just want them all to do well."

This exemplary season, having been one of the best in Mater Dei's history for the cross-country team, may be due not only to the runners themselves, but also to the coach for all his teachings and support.

"Coach Moll really supported us in our running. We prayed before every practice and he was just a really good coach. We were successful this season because of our coaches, our leaders, and our determination."

After this commendable season, Herron and the rest of the cross-country team have to keep up on their practicing and continue to motivate and support each other. Losing a couple of seniors, there will certainly be room for some of the juniors or underclassmen to step up and take the leadership roles of the team next year.

"We had good leaders on our team that really went further and set a good example for us to try and live up to."

Coach George Moll explains the route of the course to senior Lauren Mochau before the sectional meet. Moll encouraged and inspired his runners by leading them in prayer after every practice and before every meet.

Photo by: Brittni Herron

1. Junior Audrey Goebel and sophomore Katie Scheller high five after completing a race. These girls, along with the rest of the team, were always supporting each other and encouraging their teammates.

Photo by: Brittni Herron

2. Senior Katie McKinney maintains her focus as she sprints along the course to the finish line. McKinney defeated her central archrival Heather Stembbridge to win the regional crown and went on place 49th in the state meet.

Photo by: Brittni Herron

3. Kim Spahn, a sophomore runner, gives her all to stay in front of her Reitz and Memorial opponents as they near the end of the course. Spahn could always be counted on to encourage and cheer on her teammates.

Staff Photo

4. At the sound of the gun, the girls take off running. At practice, the team works on pacing themselves so they have enough energy to sprint at the end of the race.

Photo by: Brittni Herron

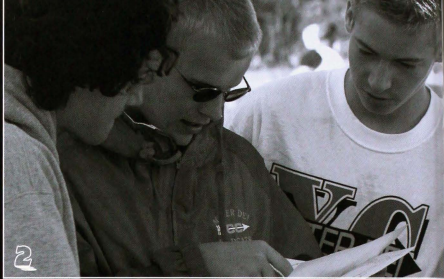
5. Sophomore Katie Scheller keeps a determined face as she dashes past her challengers at the regional race. Scheller was named both All-City and All-SIAC and advanced to semi-state competition.

Photo by: Brittni Herron

**Girls XC**

68-36

BOONVILLE	1-0
BOSSE/NORTH	2-0
GIBSON SOUTHERN	CLASS
HARRISON/MEMORIAL	1-1
MATER DEI INV.	12-6
REITZ/ CENTRAL	1-1
MEMORIAL INV.	8-1
NORTH/HARRISON/ CENTRAL	2-1
PIKE CENTRAL	10-5
CITY	5-1
SIAC	4-3
SECTIONAL	9-2
REGIONAL	5-4
SEMI-STATE	8-11



# Boys XC



## The Race to State





# How They See it...

Many people think of the Mullet boys when they hear of the cross-country teams. Junior Jeremy Coomes was one of these mullet boys and was a member and strong supporter of the boys cross-country team.

"We just wanted to have fun and show support to the team. Eric Sammet and I found the mullets at Wal-Mart and we thought it would be funny to get them. We went to all post season games from sectionals to state."

Coomes and Sammet weren't the only ones to show support to the team by dressing up. At state there was a large group of guys that painted their bodies to show their support.

"It was me, Eric Sammet, Dustin Stoltz, Jason Devillez, David Hertel, Patrick Farmer, Mike Coughlin, and Philip Fischer. Michael Fuchs went too but he was too scared to body paint so he didn't do anything. It was pretty cold, but we toughed through it."

The mullets were very strong supporters and weren't afraid to stand out.

"Many people looked at us more than the runners and took pictures of us and laughed at us. We were so energetic and it helped to pump them up."

Coomes had many memorable moments and was proud of his teammates.

"The best was at Regionals, Katie got first and advanced and Scott got second and the boys team got fourth and advanced."

Coomes' support and the support of the other mullets helped the boys cross-country team advance to state and have a very memorable year.

"We advanced seven people to state. I think we had a really good season"

Weber, the team's only senior.

Because the team will return six of their top seven runners, next year appears to be looking even brighter.

"This team gained a lot of experience at state," says Weber, who was named Most Improved Runner. "Next year the whole team will be back except for me, so they will be led by three seniors. Now that everyone has experience at state, they know what to expect and how to run."

The teammates shared their knowledge to help each other improve.

"Coming into the season, I had no clue what to expect," said Koresell. "My best learning experience was running with Andy Krack as he helped me to become a better runner."

The honor of competing with the best of the best was a defining moment for the team.

"Making it to state was the best part of the season," said Weber. "It was the best feeling ever being up on the stage and knowing that we would be competing with the best teams in Indiana."

"The feeling one gets standing at the starting line with the best runners in the state, with thousands of people watching, should be enough for any runner to work as hard as they possibly can to get back to that same spot," Krack concluded.

Ashley Ailes '04

The boys cross country team set many records and accomplished many goals this season. The team was the first from Evansville to advance to state competition in twenty-three years. This improvement has been long in the making, but new additions further complemented the blend of seasoned runners.

"Coming off last year, we knew we would be better with the addition of Scott Koresell, Patrick McKinney, and the incoming freshmen," said junior Andy Krack. "We knew that in order to advance to state, we would have to tighten up our top five."

Koresell proved to be a great addition to an already talented team, placing in both the city and All-City meets.

"The team acquired several first year runners (including Patrick McKinney and myself) that strengthened the top five lineup," explained Koresell. "There was no real off-season for our group of runners because we started running together the day after the boys state track meet. We all became better friends and stronger runners due to the extensive training. The summer workouts really improved our team's talent and unity."

Because most of the team ran together during the summer, they formed friendships that carried on into the season and helped their success.

"A team that knows each other and has camaraderie has the best chance at doing well," said Sam

met. Trying to overcome his Bosse opponent, sophomore Michael Fischer pushes himself to the finish line at the Memorial Invitational. The Wildcat runners defeated eight teams at the Invitational on their way to a 89-24 season record.

Staff Photo  
2. 2003 graduate Michael Weil passes on his knowledge to current sophomore runners Dustin Stoltz and Patrick McKinney. Weil continued to run with the team to help the new runners adjust to high school competition.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Freshman Jerry Parkinson pins on his number before a meet. Since the team had only one senior, many underclassmen stepped up to fill leadership roles.

Photo By: Brittini Herron

4. Scott Koresell, a junior runner, sprints to widen his lead at the Memorial Invitational. Although this was Koresell's first year running cross country, he won the city and SIAC titles. He was also named to the All-City and All-SIAC first teams.

Staff Photo

5. Junior Andy Krack prepares for his upcoming race by putting his spikes in. Although he contracted mononucleosis toward the end of the season, Krack still had a very successful year and was able to compete in the state meet.

Staff Photo

6. Andy Krack pushes himself past a Mount Vernon opponent on his way to placing second at the Memorial Invitational. Krack earned first team All-City and All-SIAC honors in addition to qualifying for regionals and semi-state.

Staff Photo

7. Freshman Sean Herron runs his hardest as he approaches the finish line. Even though he is only a freshman, Herron had an excellent season and was one of seven runners to compete in the state meet.

Staff Photo

**Boys XC**  
84-29

BOONVILLE	1-0
BOSSE/NORTH	2-0
GIBSON SOUTHERN	CLASS
HARRISON/MEMORIAL	2-0
MATER DEI INV.	17-1
REITZ/CENTRAL	2-0
MEMORIAL	8-1
NORTH/HARRISON/CENTRAL	3-0
TERRE HAUTE	4-1
CITY	6-0
SIAC	7-0
SECTIONAL	10-1
REGIONAL	8-1
SEMI-STATE	16-3
STATE	3-16



# Girls Soccer



Where Have All the Seniors Gone?





# How They See it...

Although Madison Parkinson was only a member of the reserve girls soccer team this season, she felt as though she were a member of varsity herself. Her support of the varsity team, along with other reserve members, helped to strengthen the morale of the overall season.

"They were my friends, and I got along with everybody."

When the times were tough and the girls spirits began to fall, Parkinson did her best to encourage the varsity girls.

"I was a supporter. When they were fighting I made them get together, and I made everyone laugh when they were unhappy."

Parkinson has always had a love for soccer, and even through the rough practices and occasional arguments, she saw the season as successful.

"It was long and hard because there were no seniors, but it was good."

As a member of the reserve team, Parkinson felt it was her duty to help the varsity team out every opportunity she had.

"I always cheered for the varsity girls and encouraged them to do well."

Experiencing the season firsthand, Parkinson has learned a great deal about playing Mater Dei soccer and being a member of a team.

"I learned from the varsity players and became a better player this season."

Not only has Parkinson's soccer skills improved this season, but she has also grown as a person with the help of both varsity and reserve soccer team members.

"I grew from being shy around them to becoming their close friends."

This season for the girls soccer squad was a challenge because it was a year without seniors. Coupled with the loss of All-State player Jenna Babcock, the team had no returning leadership. Though faced with this daunting task, the girls pulled through to finish the season with a record of 5-9-3.

"We had no real leadership and no one to help us through disagreements," said sophomore Jaci Babcock. "The captains helped, but it wasn't the same as having seniors on the team."

Many MD teams have vast numbers of seniors and thus have good leadership, but the girls soccer team is young and still learning from the success of previous teams.

"This year was basically a rebuilding year for us," said sophomore forward Natalie Fleming.

Although they lacked senior leadership, the team still found strength and encouragement in the girls that stepped up to play the role of team captain.

"Our team captains would push us during practices and help us to move past the pain," said junior Katie Barnes. "They would run with the people who had trouble and encourage them to keep going." Junior goalkeeper Michelle Rietman believes that the captains' dedication to the team helped improve their overall success.

"Even though we had no seniors, I feel that our

captains led the team well because they encouraged us to put forth a good effort," Rietman said.

Although the team had some disagreements, the girls worked hard to put their differences aside and learned to play as a team.

"On bus rides we would always move around and sit next to a new person every time," explained Rietman. "Everyone got to know a different person on a more personal level and it helped us to bond and help each other out on and off the field."

This year's squad had no stars, just solid players who worked together to accomplish their goals.

"Last year, teams would focus in on Jenna and have two or three girls stay on her," said Babcock.

"This year they were forced to stay with all of us."

Though their passion for soccer helped the team to be a success, many players believe that the key to true success is friendship with teammates.

"The better you get along as a team, the better you'll work together as a team," said junior Haley Austin. "I hope that we can forget about personal problems and just play for the love of soccer."

Although the team was young, the effort the players put into both their game on the field and their relationships with one another contributed to the making of a tougher and more experienced team.

Ashley Alles '04

1. Sophomore Natalie Fleming uses quick footwork to keep the ball away from her Memorial opponent. After joining the varsity team as a freshman, Fleming used her experience to help the team in pressure situations.

Staff Photo

2. Running ahead of the competition, Natalie Fleming sprints down the field as she tries to score a goal. In addition to stepping up to fill the scoring void left by Jenna Babcock, Fleming was named second team All-City and All-SIAC.

Staff Photo

3. Closely pursued by Harrison players, junior forward Katie Barnes dribbles down the field looking to find one of her teammates for an easy goal. Because there were no seniors on the team, Barnes and the other juniors were forced to step up and lead the underclassmen.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

4. Junior goalkeeper Michelle Rietman leaps to make a save against the Memorial Tigers. Rietman proved to be a very reliable goalie, recording 115 saves and averaging 5.25 shutouts in 1,260 minutes.

Staff Photo

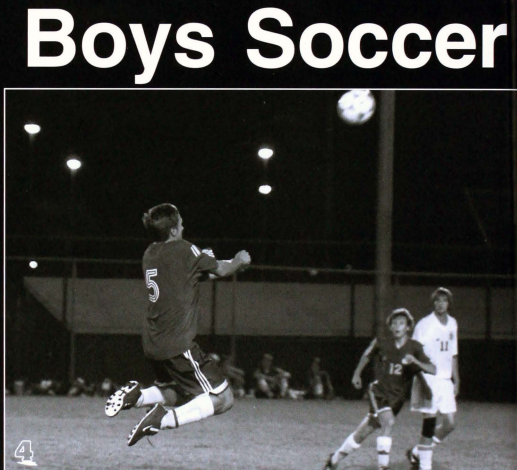
5. After stealing the ball from a Harrison player, sophomore Leslie Goans dribbles the ball down the field. Goans was named to the All-City team and represented district 5 in the all-district games.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

6. Juniors Kristin Schapker and Allison Mesker congratulate each other after scoring a goal in their game against Harrison. As the team captains and leaders, the juniors helped the underclassmen work through their differences to play together as a team.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

Girls Varsity Soccer			
5-9-3			
VS. UNION COUNTY	11-0	VS. FATHER RYAN	0-0
VS. FOREST PARK	12-2	VS. REITZ	1-2
VS. HARRISON	0-0	VS. NORTH	2-3
VS. NORTH	2-5	VS. OWENSBORO	1-0
VS. MEMORIAL	0-3	VS. CASTLE	1-3
VS. HERITAGE HILLS	7-0	VS. CENTRAL	0-6
VS. BOSSE	5-1	VS. WASHINGTON	0-0
VS. HARRISON	1-3	SECTIONALS	
VS. BATTLE GROUND ACAD.	0-3	VS. MEMORIAL	0-2



A Year Four Years in the Making





Four years ago, the Mater Dei soccer sectional champs were inexperienced boys, many of whom grew up playing soccer together. These young men had a dream in mind, but they never truly realized just how far that dream would take them.

This season was the culmination of their four years of hard work, which made it different and more enjoyable than all the other years.

"There were more than two or three leaders," said senior Nick Lannert, "because every senior was a leader. In the past, we only had two or three seniors, so that's all we had to look up to."

"Not only was the team made up of seventeen seniors, but every player improved in the offseason.

"Every year prior to this, we lost in the tournament. This year we had a goal and united around it," Refreth commented.

Their goal was the primary unifying factor that led to their sectional victory.

"Almost all of us have worked together our whole lives. This year was the completion of what we worked for since we began," Refreth said. "We did really well and were able to set several team records and come away with a well-deserved sectional cham-

ionship. Holding up a trophy that we worked for and being able to be a part of something this special was very memorable."

But more important than the senior leadership, the victories, and even the sectional championship, the boys loved their sport and had a good time.

"I had the time of my life for four years and that's all that matters. These guys I grew up with are like my brothers," Lannert concluded.

The bonding was a major part of what made them work so well together as a team.

"We ate a lot, joked around, had a good time, and knew what we had to do by the time we walked through the fence and onto the field," said Refreth.

The huge fan turnout also contributed to the great season because it inspired the players to work even harder for their team and school.

"Playing in the regional with a big crowd was amazing," said senior Lee Schoolfield.

Dedication and teamwork bound the team together, and in the end, their hard work proved that all the time, strenuous practice, and effort they exerted was well worth it.

Susan Muensterman '05

# How They See it...

Branden Clements was a first-class supporter of the boys soccer team, and knew just as much about it as the team members themselves. Both of Branden's brothers played for the team, letting Branden have a bit of a more insiders look on the team and the season.

"Both of my brothers played on the team, and the games in general are always fun to watch. I thought it was really exciting and they were really competitive with some of the top teams in the city."

Clements not only enjoyed watching the team, but he also wholeheartedly supported the team and his brothers.

"It gave me a chance to be around some of my friends on the JV soccer team."

Clements was not the only supporter of the team. At every game the stands were crowded with parents and students.

"Anyone that came and cheered for the team helped."

Clements viewed the team as hard-working, determined, and having a good combination of skill and attitude.

"The team was really determined and geared to winning sectionals. They all worked well together."

As in most seasons, there is always a particular moment that sticks out in the minds of the observers.

"When Joe Schenk scored the game-tying shot against Memorial. It was a really awesome shot because it was behind the eighteen."

Clements and the rest of the soccer supporters viewed the season and the team as one of the best in years. Losing seventeen seniors, there will certainly be room for underclassmen to step up and take over the leadership roles.

## Boys Varsity Soccer

14-3-3

vs. VINCENNES LINGON 4-0  
vs. MEMORIAL 1-1  
vs. HERITAGE HILLS 3-0  
vs. NORTH 4-0  
vs. DAY SCHOOL 4-1  
vs. FOREST PARK 3-1  
vs. BOSSE 5-0  
vs. HARRISON 2-4

vs. FLOYD CENTRAL 1-2  
vs. REITZ 4-1  
vs. MT. VERNON 3-0  
vs. JASPER 0-0  
vs. BOONVILLE 2-0  
vs. CASTLE 1-1  
vs. CENTRAL 5-0  
vs. MT. CARMEL 5-1

SECTIONALS  
vs. CENTRAL 6-1  
vs. PRINCETON 7-2  
vs. MT. VERNON 5-0

REGIONALS  
vs. CASTLE 0-1

1. Senior Michael Pigman extends his leg to save the ball from going out of bounds during the Mount Vernon game. The Wildcats defeated their Posey County rival 3-0 in the regular season and 5-0 in sectionals.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

2. Attacking the goal, senior forward Jake Oliver attempts to score as Central players try desperately to get back on defense. Oliver was one of seventeen seniors who led the soccer 'Cats to a 14-3-3 record.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

3. Senior Kyle Messersmith, one of the co-captains of the team, corrals the ball and sprints downfield toward the goal. Messersmith was named to the All-City and All-SIAC first teams in addition to leading the team in scoring.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

4. Leaping to intercept the ball, senior Kyle Messersmith out jumps his Central opponent on the way to leading the Cats to a 5-0 victory. The team later beat the Bears 6-1 during the first round of sectionals.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

5. Four year varsity member Andy Barchet lunges to save the ball from going out of bounds. Barchet, a senior, was a very aggressive and valuable member of the team because of his willingness to give his all every time he stepped on the field.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

6. The team slaps hands with its great fan base after defeating Mt. Vernon 5-0 in the final sectional game. Having the bleachers packed with cheering fans boosted the team's spirit and helped them go far in the tournament.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

# How They See it...

Senior Jennifer Carter, nicknamed Bob, is the Mater Dei girls basketball team manager. She has been through all the ups and downs of four seasons, but this one was unique.

"This season was different than past years because we had a senior dominated team, and we didn't have the usual 'star go to player' that we've had in the past. Each night a different senior stepped up to lead the team; they didn't have to look to one person for leadership."

The season, however, had its low points as well as its high points.

"This year I missed the 'set knowing that you will win a sectional title.' Playing in 3A is a lot different than 2A."

The most important moments of the season are clear in Carter's mind.

"The defining moment of the season was when we beat Vincennes Lincoln because after struggling to beat them for three years, we overcame the odds and beat them. When the junior varsity beat Henderson County, it felt like we had won sectionals."

Throughout the season, the players' hard work and teamwork showed the overall skill of the team.

"When we went to three overtime games against South Spencer, it enabled the coaching staff to see the team's character. Even though we lost, I was so proud of the leadership of the seniors. Even on the bench, they never stopped yelling. It amazed me that we never stopped. That was a war."

Carter's four-year run as manager has left her with life-long memories.

"I'll take the love of the players from the senior class with me. I hope that I'll never forget what they gave me this season. They taught me that no matter what happens and how people look at you, you are always capable of reaching the next level."

With twelve capable and talented players on the roster, vying for playing time can become complicated and controversial.

"We had eight seniors, and every one of them was totally and completely different. Splitting up the playing time was difficult and at times, hard feelings arose," says junior Jessica Dick.

But the team left their hostile feelings off the court when the time came to play.

"The season was a roller coaster ride. Some days were up, and others were down. But we would play as a team, and leave any differences at the gym door," says senior Kristin Kissel.

The team, many of whom have been playing together since grade school, began the year with new traditions, one of which was wearing red arm bands.

"The red arm bands were worn all season in memory of John Roberts, Katie Roberts' dad," says senior Abby Schmitt. "He was the St. Philip girls coach just about every year many of us girls played there."

During the game against Harrison, Katie Roberts reached a pinnacle moment in her basketball career, achieving her 500th rebound. For other teammates, however, the little things were what made the season memorable.

"We sang on bus trips to random songs like Grease. Somebody would start it, and everybody would join in and sing along," says Dick.

Playing varsity basketball, for others, is an achievement in itself.

"The first time I heard my name announced was special because it sunk in that I had accomplished my goal of playing varsity," senior Ashley Alles says.

The team also had a supportive fan base. Many of the junior and senior guys showed their support for the girls by scrimmaging them in practice and imitating the future teams the girls would play.

"We had the best crowd of students ever thanks to a group of senior guys we call 'the bomb squad,'" laughs Kissel.

Senior Night was yet another crowning moment for the team. The seniors were honored by the coaching staff along with teammates.

"It's a great feeling to win our last game on our home court," says Schmitt.

Although the team didn't make it as far as they would've liked, the players agree that the journey was well worth the work.

"The second after we lost in sectionals, I was kind of in shock because I couldn't believe it was all over," says Alles. "I didn't want to believe that the best five months of my life were over and that I'd never get to play basketball with my teammates again. I couldn't have wished for better teammates to share my senior season with."

Susan Muensterman '05

Girls Basketball	
9-12	
vs. SOUTHRIDGE	56-69
vs. VINCENNES LINCOLN	56-50
vs. BOONVILLE	47-55
vs. REITZ	61-72
vs. FAIRFIELD	58-56
vs. MT. VERNON	57-48
vs. NORTH	59-66
vs. NORTH POSEY	54-46
vs. HENDERSON CO.	33-59
vs. JASPER	46-59
vs. HARRISON	71-58
SIAC TOURNAMENT	
vs. CASTLE	45-82
vs. HARRISON	62-44
vs. MEMORIAL	46-78
vs. BOSSE	45-59
vs. SOUTH SPENCER	69-74
vs. CASTLE	70-87
vs. CENTRAL	66-60
vs. MADISONVILLE	69-66
SECTIONAL	
vs. MT. VERNON	54-39
vs. MEMORIAL	54-83

1. Junior Audrey Goebel goes up strong for a layup during the Mt. Vernon game of Sectionals. Playing for her third year on the varsity team, Goebel was a tremendous defensive machine, averaging 3.3 steals per game.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

2. Sophomore Tiffany Payton protects the ball from a Mt. Vernon defender. As an underclassman, Payton made her mark as the second leading scorer on the team, averaging 9.3 points per game.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Junior Jessica Dick shoots against the state-ranked Castle Knights. As one of the two junior starters this season, Dick averaged 2.3 rebounds per game.

Staff Photo

4. Senior Jessica Knight stands strong against a Southridge defender. Knight won the Kiwanis Award for her talent in basketball and her overall attitude.

Staff Photo

5. Senior Kristin Kissel skillfully defends against a Mt. Vernon opponent. Kissel averaged 1.8 deflections per game and was an important asset to the team. Photo by: Brittini Herron

6. Looking for an open teammate, senior Katie Roberts dribbles the ball down the court. Roberts led the team in both scoring and rebounds and pulled down 25 percent of the team's defensive rebounds.

Staff Photo

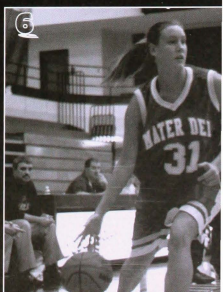
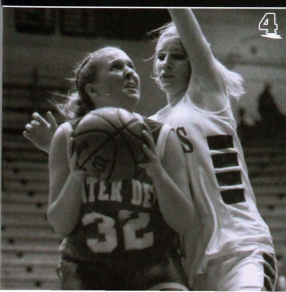




# Girls Basketball



## A Trying Season



# How They See it...

As a first year varsity member of the basketball team, senior Lee Schoolfield had a unique look at their championship season.

After playing as a freshman, Schoolfield got cut the next two years. However, he wasn't discouraged and decided to try out as a senior.

"I wanted to be on the team because I love basketball and I didn't want to regret not trying out. At the beginning of the season Coach Goebel told me that I wouldn't be able to play much. I stayed because I just wanted to be part of the team."

Because of Schoolfield's determination and perseverance, he was a favorite among the crowds. Many times the students would encourage him by chanting "We want Leel!"

"Everyone knew that I was part of the team and I appreciated the cheers because I know they appreciated what I did and how I worked in practice. At the assembly after state, I was the last senior announced and I got a standing ovation. I felt that Zach and Halbig should have gotten the ovation because they were the leaders."

Although Schoolfield did not play a lot, he knew his role on the team and was happy to make sacrifices.

"My job as the 'ninth man' is to come in and give someone time to rest while trying to not cause turnovers. Nobody thought we would make it as far as we did. My most memorable moment was going to the line at state. The last shots of my life were exciting and nerve wracking. I thought I airballed the first shot because of the crowd, but I made them both."

Overall, Schoolfield had the time of his life.

"The season was unforgettable, and I learned that if I really want to do something to not give up."

If someone had told the boys basketball team at the beginning of the season that they would win state, none of the players would have believed it.

"I don't think anyone thought we would win," says junior guard Craig Maier, "but it was one of our goals."

To achieve their ultimate goal, the team had to first go through three ranked teams in the post season, starting with the fifth ranked Heritage Hills Patriots. The Wildcats, who lost to the Patriots in the regular season, ended the Patriots' sectional run in the second round by three points in a tight battle.

"I always thought that if we could get out of our tough sectional, we could win state. However, I had doubts when we got beat by both Memorial and Heritage Hills on back to back nights earlier in the season," says senior Matt Halbig.

The team faced their most daunting task of the season in fourth ranked Vincennes Lincoln in the second game of regionals. The game was even more difficult because MD's crowd was outnumbered almost three to one. However, the 'Cats stayed tough and saw semi-state within their grasp when Craig Maier was fouled with under ten seconds to play.

"I felt confident when I went to the line because I knew if I wasn't, I wouldn't hit the shots. When I got the ball I did my usual free throw routine," says Maier.

"When my second free throw went in, I knew we were going to win and it was awesome hearing their crowd go from screaming to speechless."

After defeating the defending state champion Chatahd at semi-state, the boys headed to Indy to face seventh-ranked Bellmont.

"I think we were all a little nervous the week before the championship," adds Halbig. "But we practiced hard and watched film and read scouting reports on Bellmont. Coach Goebel did an excellent job of preparing us defensively for Bellmont."

The Mater Dei crowd filled Conseco Fieldhouse to cheer the 'Cats to victory. After a tight first quarter, the team outscored Bellmont 19-6 in the second quarter to increase their lead to 17 points at halftime. Helped by a 31-23 rebounding advantage and 53% shooting from the field, the team never looked back to win 63-45.

"It felt great knocking off all three ranked teams because we were never the favorite and we proved to be the best by bringing back the rings," concludes Halbig. "This season could only be described as unbelievable. It had its ups and downs, but when it came to the end of the season we pulled it together to play as a team and won the ultimate goal."

Ashley Alles '04

Boys Basketball	
21-6	
JEFFERSONVILLE	71-56
MT. VERNON	54-56
RELTZ	54-43
NORTH POSEY	60-43
NORTH	58-60
BOONVILLE	74-63
PRINCETON	68-47
BREESE MATER DEI	51-36
CASTLE	68-64
MEMORIAL	67-49
CENTRAL	45-48
TELL CITY	88-58
SOUTH SPENCER	78-55
HERITAGE HILLS	78-91
MEMORIAL	72-74
BISHOP CHATARD	50-47
HARRISON	71-65
MADISONVILLE, KY	80-62
CASTLE	68-65
BOSSE	70-58
CENTRAL	58-63
SECTIONAL	
MEMORIAL	69-52
HERITAGE HILLS	59-55
REGIONAL	
CORYDON CENTRAL	79-71
VINCENNES LINCOLN	50-49
SEMI-STATE	
BISHOP CHATARD	55-44
STATE	
BELLMONT	63-45

1. Junior Drew Alcorn closely defends his Bellmont opponent as he prevents him from passing or shooting the ball during the state final game. Alcorn was a major asset to the team, averaging 4.0 points a game.

Staff Photo

2. Breaking through the Bellmont defense, senior Matt Halbig makes his way to the basket for the shot. Halbig was the leading scorer for the team, scoring 438 points throughout the season.

Staff Photo

3. Junior Wacey Hall hangs on the rim for a moment after one of his famous slam dunks. Hall really got the crowd going when he dunked on the other team. Hall was the second leading scorer, with 399 points during the season.

Photo by: Alex Jost

4. Going for the rebound, senior Matt Halbig and junior Wacey Hall push past the other team to get the ball. Halbig and Hall were also the two leading rebounders with 218 and 202 rebounds, respectively.

Staff Photo

5. Sophomore Kelly Muensterman holds tight to the ball as the other team tries to steal it. Muensterman was one of the best shooters on the team, with a 51.9% average. Staff Photo

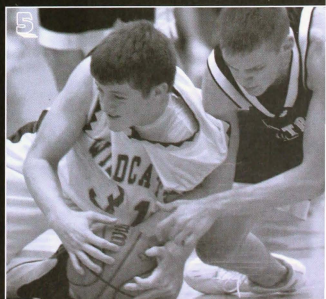
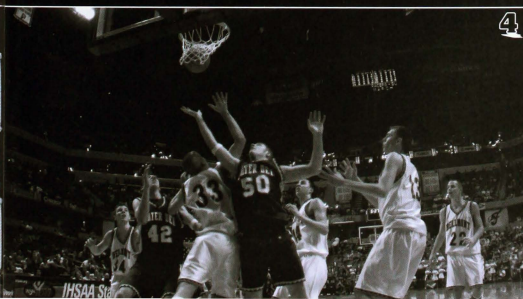




# Basketball



## An Unexpected Ending



# How They See it...

"One word to describe the season would be competitive," says junior swimmer Jenny Padavic. "A lot of the teams were on the same level, and we had to work hard to pull out a win. All the meets were really close, only a couple of points difference. Everything we did mattered, every win was important."

Padavic knows the pressure to win. "I was the 400 free relay fourth swimmer. The fourth swimmer is usually the person they can count on to bring on a win or keep a lead. It is pretty hard because everyone puts their best swimmer in fourth. Once I dive in, I know I am up against some really good competitors."

Padavic, a three-year team member, realizes how teamwork and improvement goes hand in hand.

"We all kept each other pepped up, but our coach really kept us together. He did our cheer in the beginning and led our prayer."

As a freshman, Padavic had an older sister on the team for her to look up to. This year, her sister, Melissa, a freshman, was given the same opportunity.

"I hope I was a leader. It was different with a younger sister. Instead of looking up to an older sister, I was the one looked up to. I had to be a role model in and out of the pool. In the pool, I had to push others to work as hard as they can. Outside, staying close with my sister and making sure that I understood the problems and concerns of the freshmen."

This year, Padavic set a time of 1:25.8 in the breast stroke, allowing her to break the Mater Del record.

"I hope that Melissa feels she has more of an edge with me. I would hope she doesn't feel bad about beating my record. In fact, it would be cool. I don't want her to be scared to break it and maybe go to state."

The girls swimming season is one of great improvements, memorable moments, laughs, and overall fun times. With the success of this season, the girls show no signs of letting up in the future.

"I thought the season was great," says senior Brandy Sparks. "We had a lot of fun and did very well in the city, SIAC, and sectional meets."

Swimming takes a lot of time and involves a lot of hard work. To avoid complications during the season, the girls have pre-season conditioning practices, which involve swimming and lifting weights.

"I swim the backstroke every meet, and I worked out to get my muscles strong so I didn't have injuries later," adds Sparks.

The injuries were a prime concern for the girls at the beginning of the season, but they still performed remarkably well, even when not at their best.

"At the beginning of the year, many of the swimmers had to sit out with shoulder problems. But we worked through it and came back strong," says junior Christina Morrow.

The meets are sometimes slow moving, but most are intense, and the time passes quickly. The team arrives at the meets two hours early to prepare and strategize, which requires a considerable amount of

devotion that is shown throughout the season.

"The meets are very nerve-racking. We always get nervous before we swim," says Sparks.

However, the girls on the team find ways of calming themselves, from laughing to just goofing around. With the meets provoking the girls' nerves, it is nice for them to take a breather.

"We all have inside jokes, and the seniors make it a lot of fun by just goofing around," says Morrow.

With only two seniors on the team, the underclassmen have to step up to fill varsity positions. The underclassmen, displaying great heart throughout the entire season, not only turn the hard work into fun, but also make their successes more worthwhile.

"The underclassmen are so much fun. They work hard and have a lot of potential," adds Morrow.

The underclassmen aren't the only ones who step up during the season. With the juniors providing tremendous help and support of the team this season, they will be the leaders of the team next year. All the hard work and dedication put forth will pay off.

"The upperclassmen are a lot of fun, too. We all were especially close, and I'm sure they'll be great leaders next year," says Sparks.

Brittini Herron '05

## Girls Swimming

23-10

CITY RELAYS 4TH PLACE TECUMSEH/PIKE CENTRAL W SOUTHERIDGE L CASTLE/NORTH L REITZ W	BOSS/CENTRAL L CITY DIVE/CITY MEET 3RD PLACE JASPER/HARRISON L NE DUBOIS/HILLS W MEMORIAL (L)/CENTRAL (W)	2 OF 3 SIAC PRELIMS/FINALS 3RD PLACE PIKE CENTRAL (W)/MEM (L) 2 OF 3 IHSAA SECTIONAL 3RD PLACE
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1. Second team All City 200 free style relay member Jenny Padavic swims her last lap trying to break yet another record. Padavic, a junior, was also a member of the first team All City in the 100 breaststroke and second team All SIAC.

Photo by: Stephanie Seibert

2. Four-year member and co-captain of the swim team senior Brandy Sparks holds up the lap marker for one of her teammates. As co-captain, Sparks was a good motivator in helping her team succeed.

Photo by: Kendra Scheller

3. Sophomore Genna Ramsbey completes her first dive at the City meet. Ramsbey, a two-year member of the swim team, was one of two divers on the swim team this season.

Photo By: Kendra Scheller

4. Record breaking juniors Katie Zenthoefter and Jenny Padavic calm their nerves by goofing off in the pool before a meet. Zenthoefter, a three year member of the team, made first team All City in the 200 and 500 freestyles. She also set the record for the 500 freestyle with a time of 6:04.15.

Photo by: Kendra Scheller

5. Junior Jenny Padavic, swimming in her best event, breaks the breaststroke record with the time of 1:12.78. Padavic's sister freshman, Mallory Padavic, also swims in the 100 breaststroke and was a member of the second team All City.

Photo by: Kendra Scheller

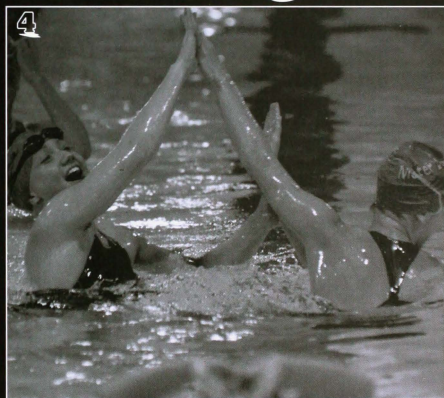
6. Senior co-captain Brandy Sparks competes in the backstroke event. The team's other co-captain, senior Hollie Denstorf, also a four year member of the team, helped the team through motivation.

Photo by: Kendra Scheller

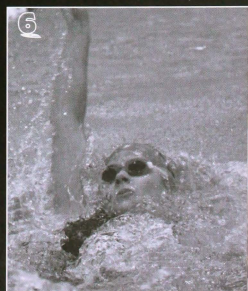




# Girls Swimming



Teamwork Heals Early Injuries



# How They See it...

Sophomore swimmer Lucas Nelson worked tirelessly with his teammates this season to help create a memorable swimming season.

"Besides our 2-11 record, it was great. We improved greatly from last year. Three-fourths of the records were broken, everyone really swam hard, and it showed."

Before competitions, the swimmers prepared by themselves, but also together as a team.

"We always had a prayer and did some cheers to get fired up. We each kind of prepared in our own way."

Though the season was not all fun and games, Nelson enjoyed being part of the team.

"I liked everything: the competition, the practices with our coaches, the bus rides, all of it. Our team is like brothers, and it's great. I think swimming against better teams helped us improve, too. We tried as hard as we could and never gave up."

The boys helped each other improve during the season.

"We tried to give suggestions to each other about their strokes. If they lost a tough race, we were there to pick them up."

With his dedication and love of the sport, Nelson succeeded in making an unforgettable swimming season.

"My most memorable moment is when I won the Consoles of the 100 back, finishing seventh. I beat my best time and set a record, too. I was seeded ninth, but I pulled out the win."

Through the season, Nelson not only improved in swimming, but he also learned that practice does make perfect.

"I learn something each practice. Each practice my stroke becomes better. Each new thing learned helps, even if it's just a little."

"This year's swimming season was a lot of fun. We began practicing at our new facility and we had a blast," sophomore Mark Modesitt says.

The boys swim their hardest every day at a new practice location on Mulberry Street.

"We practice at Impact Ministries for two hours Monday through Wednesday, and for one and a half hours on Thursday and Friday," sophomore Branden Clements says.

Although practicing hours daily could be straining, the boys still enjoy the work it takes to achieve their goals.

"The practices are hard but fun," Clements explains.

While practice does make perfect, success would have been hard to come by without the help of good coaching.

"Our new coach Brad Gilbert made our season a success because he, along with Robert Thomas, helped us improve," Modesitt says.

The swimmers also assist in furthering the advancement of their own team.

"I think Calvin, Branden, and Luke all aided in the success of the team," sophomore Adam Lambert says.

With the help of fellow teammates, the swimmers

found incentive to swim their hardest.

"When everyone tries his best, it motivates and encourages our other teammates," Clements says. Modesitt agrees with the importance of team enthusiasm.

"We encourage each other to do better and to compete at a higher optimum level," Modesitt says.

Other factors also contribute to an enjoyable swimming season for the boys.

"I like the camaraderie of the team, although we don't have any real leadership," Modesitt says.

On the other hand, Clements finds the swim meets most gratifying.

"I like competing. The meets are the best. I feel good when I race and give it my all," Clements says.

The meets aren't the only fun part of the season, however.

"The bus rides to and from the meets are the best part," Lambert said.

Though the swimming season was a combination of hard work and play, for the boys, the season was unforgettable. With the enthusiasm and encouragement from their teammates and the devotion and aid of their coaches, the boys swam their way to the top.

Joelyn Muensterman '05

## Boys Swimming

2-11

CITY RELAYS 7TH PLACE	BOSSIE/CENTRAL 2ND	NE DUBOIS/HILLS 2ND PLACE
BOONVILLE/HARRISON 2ND PLACE	CITY MEET 6TH PLACE	CENTRAL/MEMORIAL 3RD PLACE
MEMORIAL/NORTH 3RD PLACE	JASPER/HARRISON 3RD PLACE	SIAC PRELIMS/FINALS 6TH PLACE
RETT 2ND		IHSAA SECTIONAL 7TH PLACE

1. Sophomores Branden Clements, Calvin Clements, and Lucas Nelson cheer on their team at a meet at Lloyd Pool. Branden Clements participated in the 200 medley relay, the 100 fly, the 100 breaststroke, and the 400 freestyle relay this season.

Photo by: Kendra Scheller

2. Sophomore Nick Farney races to the end of the pool during a meet. Farney was one of the six sophomores who helped the team grow. As a team, the boys swam three to four miles of laps every night to help improve their times.

Photo by: Kendra Scheller

3. Ryan Marx, a sophomore, dives into the pool as fellow teammate sophomore Mark Modesitt finishes his leg of the 200 meter freestyle relay. Practices at Impact Ministries included races between teammates to incorporate fun.

Photo by: Kendra Scheller

4. Sophomore Lucas Nelson competes in the backstroke during the City Meet at Lloyd Pool. During the season Nelson improved his backstroke by lifting weights to add toughness.

Photo by: Kendra Scheller

5. Lucas Nelson races backstroke during the City Meet at Lloyd pool. Nelson, who has swam backstroke since childhood, competed in the 200 individual medley, the 100 backstroke, and two relays.

Photo by: Stephanie Seibert





# Boys Swimming



## Small Ripples, Big Dreams



# How They See it...

Participating on the Mater Dei girls bowling team is a great way to have fun while improving the bowling technique. For senior Jill Merkel, joining the bowling team is a decision she is happy she made.

"I decided to join the bowling team my senior year because I heard it was fun and a lot of guys in my class were on the team also. Anna Flake and I were the only two senior girls on the team, but it was still a lot of fun."

Since the only two seniors were both first-time bowlers, the roles seemed to be switched because they got to learn from the younger members of the team.

"All the girls were really nice and were willing to show us ways to improve our game. I got to know people that I wouldn't have otherwise gotten to know."

The coach was also a big help to the girls in improving their game.

"Mr. Stephens and Mr. Dippel were very helpful. They were at every practice and every meet and they offered a lot of advice to help us improve."

Although the girls team didn't end up with an outstanding record, it was a learning experience for all that were involved.

"I didn't even care when we didn't win the meets. For the most part, we knew we wouldn't win so it was more about having fun. It felt good though when I beat the girl that I was against individually."

The bowling team is a great thing to join for someone who wants to be a part of a team, but is busy with other activities.

"I work and participate in other activities, but bowling didn't interfere with any of those because the schedule wasn't really intense."

For Merkel and the rest of the girls, it was overall a good season and most will return next year.

The girls bowling team struggled and didn't have the best season, but it didn't show in their attitude. The girls were cheerful in both victory and defeat. This season was full of good times, interesting memories, and great improvement.

"The season was wonderful," says freshman Emma Stephens. "We all had so much fun even if we didn't get the averages that we wanted or win many games."

The bowling team practiced once a week at Franklin Lanes. Practice helped the team tremendously and gave them more one on one time with the coaches. The coaches were always ready and willing to help and offer advice on what they felt the girls needed to work on.

"Practices were really laid back and a lot of fun. Mr. Dippel and Mr. Stephens helped us learn how to bowl much better," says senior Anna Flake.

The girls bowling team consisted of a small number of girls, so everyone had to step up. It's hard to pick out someone who stood out as the leader. All the girls contributed to the team and did their part along the way to make the season better.

"We were all leaders and worked hard together as a team," says junior Aimee Fischer.

The meets, which were usually only once a week, like practices, were also laid back and very enjoyable for the girls.

"Bowling meets are organized with having five people on each team and each person bowling against the person in the same position on the other team. The highest score between the two gets the point. So, individually you want to score higher than the person you are against, but in the end it is a team score," says Flake.

Having been on the team before, many of the upperclassmen stepped up and helped to show the

new bowlers how the meets were organized and what they consisted of.

"The upperclassmen were great. They didn't treat me like a freshman and everyone got along great," says Stephens.

While the bowlers at Mater Dei worked hard during practices to improve their game, the girls still knew how to have a good time and enjoy the season.

"I enjoyed bowling because I think out of everyone in the league, we had the most fun," adds junior Lauren Muensterman.

Being able to have fun is a great reason to participate on the bowling team, but there are also the serious moments that create everlasting memories.

"My greatest memory was when I got a turkey (three strikes in a row) at City during the Baker's game," recalls Fischer.

The girls bowling team was really close throughout the entire season. All the girls got along well and encouraged each other during the season. Most of them look forward to coming back next year to yet another season of fun and enjoyment.

"It was so much fun," says Stephens. "I can't wait till next year."

Brittini Herron 05'

1. Freshman Emma Stephens releases the ball during one of their weekly practices. Perfecting releases and follow throughs was one of the main things the team focused on during practices.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

2. Checking their scores on the monitor, junior Hannah Johnson and freshman Emma Stephens see what they have to bowl in the next frame in order to achieve the score they want.

Because of the teams combined effort and hard work, the girls improved greatly over the season.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Junior Lauren Muensterman prepares her release as she bowls a frame during practice. This is Muensterman's third year participating on the girls bowling team.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

4. Following through after her bowl, junior Lauren Muensterman waits to see how she bowled. Muensterman was one of the key players on the team along with a leading scorer.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

5. Freshman Emma Stephens along with her father, the girls bowling coach, checks the lineup for the meet. They had to check to see which girls were bowling when in order to plug them into the screen.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

**Girls Bowling**

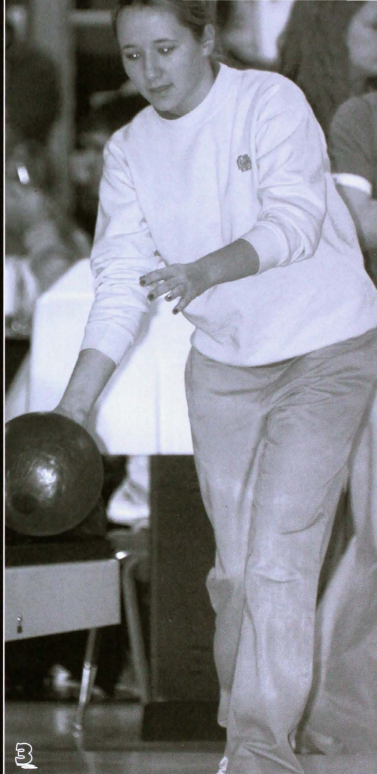
1-8

CASTLE	L
REITZ	L
NORTH	L
CENTRAL	L
HARRISON	L
BOONVILLE	L
BOSSE	L
MEMORIAL	W

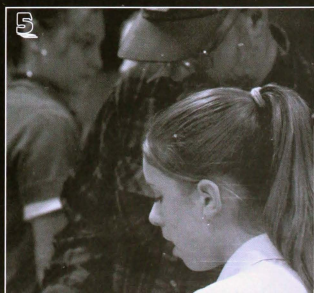




# Girls Bowling



Getting by One Pin at a Time



# How They See it...

The bowling team is a relatively new sport at Mater Dei and is still building ground and working its way up. For senior Jan Fehrenbacher, bowling is a way to be involved while having fun.

"I quit basketball and I work, but I didn't want to be working my whole senior year and I wanted something else to do."

Although bowling may not be taken as seriously as other sports around Mater Dei, they still have to practice and it can be challenging.

"Bowling was a challenge because we weren't very good and we didn't practice as much as the other teams. We practiced once a week at Franklin Lanes whereas most others practiced every day."

Participating on the bowling team, like any other commitments, has high points and low points.

"It didn't take too much time because it was only one meet and one practice a week. It was expensive because we had to pay \$7 for practices, but meets were free."

The boys coach, Mr. Joe Dippel, deserves a lot of credit for the success and building of the team. He went to all the practices and had meetings during activity periods.

"I was really bad at first. I would average a 99 game, but by the end of the season I was averaging 170 because I began to curve it instead of a straight ball. I see a future for bowling because Mr. Dippel is willing to give up his time and teach others how to bowl."

Taking part in the bowling team has been a learning experience for Fehrenbacher and the rest of the boys who participated.

"I gained more respect for bowlers now. I watch it on tv more because I can see how hard it is and it takes a lot more time to get a shot down."

Most sports at Mater Dei are taken very seriously by the athletes who compete, especially when it comes to winning and losing. However, one of MD's newest sports, boys bowling, is played mostly for enjoyment and for the members to improve. The relaxed and lighthearted environment is what makes bowling enticing for many of the members.

"Meets are fun because most of the other teams take bowling pretty seriously, but we usually don't," says senior Tommy Cervone.

Others members of the team decide to participate in bowling because it gives them something to do with their spare time. The bowling team doesn't take up as much time as other sports at Mater Dei, so even if the boys hold a job or are involved in other things, they can still find time in their schedules to bowl.

"I decided to join because I got cut from the basketball team and I thought bowling would be fun," comments senior Alex Blazier. "It's been everything I thought it would be and more. The team really didn't care about all the losses because we were there to have fun and everyone else was taking things very seriously."

The actual bowling competition takes place during meets, which are broken down into individual matches. The meets are held once a week at various bowling alleys around the city.

"Seven people actually go to the meet and five participate in each match," explains Blazier. "The two people with the lowest scores from the first match sit out the second match. You get a point for every sole victory against your opponent and you get five points if a majority wins out of the five."

Bowling practice is also not typical of other sports teams because it takes place off of Mater Dei's campus and members must pay every time they practice. The boys must also drive themselves to the

majority of their meets, except for once when they took a bus to a meet in Boonville.

"We practice on Tuesdays during the season at Ter school," says Cervone. "We bowl a series (three games) and then Mr. Dippel, our coach, picks the top five averages plus two substitutes to bowl in that week's meet."

Although the team struggled for the better part of the season, things picked up when they got their first victory against North.

"The best part of the season was when we finally won a meet against North," says Cervone. "It was our last meet before sectionals and it was good to get a win."

Some bowlers will remember individual achievements as the best part of the year.

"The highlight of this year for me was when I beat Chris Seyffarth from Mount Vernon," remarks Blazier, a two-year member of the bowling team. "He was leading the league in average when I beat him."

Although the year was not an outstanding one record wise, for the members of the team it was an awesome season and they will never forget the fun they had and the memories they made on the boys bowling team.

Ashley Alles '04

1. Senior Eric Reffett, a three-year member of the boys bowling team, checks out his score on the monitor. The team practiced at Franklin Lanes weekly and also had some meets there. The boys scores improved over the season. Photo by: Katie Scheller

2. Senior Kevin Hall throws his hands up in excitement after throwing a strike. The guys worked hard and were proud when they threw strikes and had good scores. Photo by: Katie Scheller

3. Getting ready to release the ball, senior Jeremy Gries maintains good form as he hopes for a strike. Form was a main thing that coach Mr. Joe Dippel worked on with the players. During activity periods during school, Dippel often took the team into the gym to study videos on form. Photo by: Brittney Kerchief

4. Helping freshman Ryan Musgrave with his swing, senior Eric Reffett coaches him through the motions. Reffett and the other seniors were excellent leaders to the younger members of the team. Photo by: Katie Scheller

5. Senior Kevin Hall follows through after releasing the ball at a meet at Franklin Lanes. Following through on the swing is key to a good bowl. Photo by: Katie Scheller

**Boys  
Bowling**

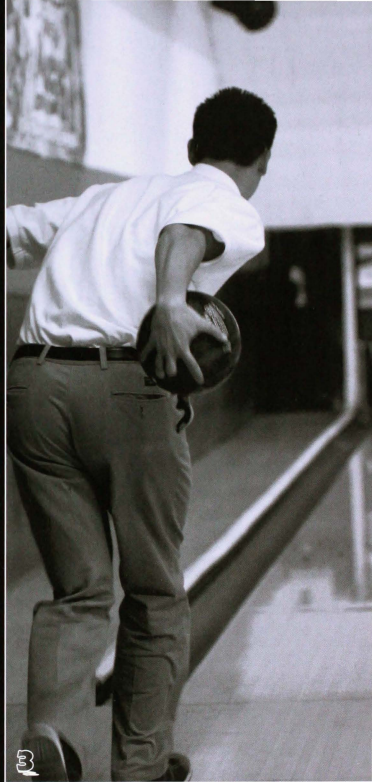
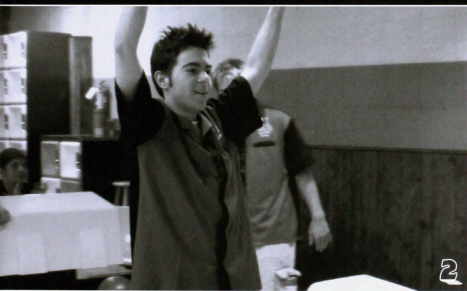
1-9

I HARRISON	L
MT. VERNON	L
REITZ	L
CENTRAL	L
CASTLE	L
BOSSE	L
BOONVILLE	L
MEMORIAL	L
NORTH	W

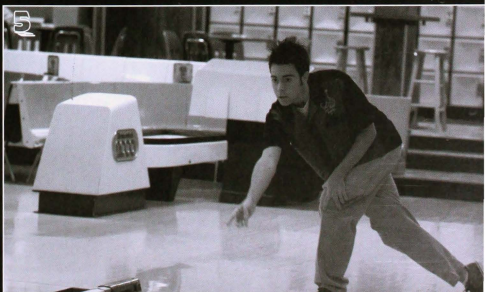




# Boys Bowling



Just for the Fun of It



# How They See it...

Although freshman Chris Emmert is not a wrestler, he has found his place among the wrestlers by becoming the team manager.

"My grandfather told me that I should manage football before I could play football, so when I found out I could play football, I didn't have to manage it, so instead I manage the wrestling team."

Not many freshmen have the guts to take on an important position like this, but Emmert seized the opportunity as a result of his own initiative.

"I came and asked Coach Goebel towards the end of football season, and he said that I might have to share the job at first, but later I was told I had the job."

It was a lot to learn at first for Emmert, but it became familiar territory for him as the season went on.

"There was a little bit of a demand to get things ready in the beginning, but I got the hang of it after a couple of weeks. I learned more of the technical stuff first, like how far the trash can was supposed to be from the mat or how far the official's table was supposed to be from the mat."

Emmert has many responsibilities as wrestling team manager.

"I get uniforms ready, equipment, make sure everything is washed and organized and everyone has what they need."

The job is definitely not always easy for Emmert, but he admits that it is a learning process for him.

"Sometimes it's hard because I'm not at their level because I'm not a wrestler, and I don't know quite as much as they do."

As for the end of an otherwise successful season, Emmert feels the same as many other wrestlers.

"It was a bit disappointing. I thought we could do it in the end, but it just didn't turn our way."

Mater Dei wrestling is a tradition well-known for its success throughout the state of Indiana. This year's season was one of both great success and unforeseen heartache. After winning nine state titles in a row, the streak ended during the team state semifinals against Portage.

"This year's season, by any teams' standards, would be rated an unqualified success; but the end result did not meet our goals and expectations," says head coach Mike Goebel.

The coaches and the team knew from the beginning that the season would be tough. Lawrence North and Portage were both ranked highly in the state, and Mater Dei knew it would be a challenge for the title.

Although the team as a whole was not victorious, certain individuals were. Junior Joe Lehman placed sixth at 140 lbs., senior Joe Hillenbrand placed fifth at 125 lbs., junior Matt Coughlin won the state title at 152 lbs., and senior Blake Maurer captured the state title for the fourth year in a row at 171 lbs.

"After winning state, I felt like I could smile forever. I wanted to be a 4x state champ since grade school, and all the time I put in and all the sacrifices I made finally paid off," says Maurer.

As for Coughlin, capturing the state title was a dream he had come close to the two years before, but watched slip away in the last seconds.

"Winning state felt amazing, and it was probably the best feeling. Of course the hard work was worth being awarded with a state title," explains Coughlin.

For the rest of the team, it wasn't all about winning state titles; some just wanted to hold their positions or validate and prove that they had earned it.

"I approached this year differently only because it was my first year on varsity, and I wanted to stay on varsity so I worked harder," says 189 lbs. senior Raymond Goebel.

Others along with Raymond also felt the pressures of maintaining their positions on varsity.

"I felt more pressure to do better overall because people could wonder why someone else wasn't out there. Every time I stepped on the mat, it could be my last," says senior Andy Barchet, who wrestled off and on at 145 lbs.

Even though the team's season ended with unexpected disappointment, the season was not a failure.

"No championship has ever been given to Mater Dei, every title over the years has been earned. Maybe that realization will be better understood and help us become better. I must emphasize again that fun and success, and the thrill of competing in front of the Mater Dei crowds far outweighs the sadness over our loss. We will be back," Coach Goebel declares.

Jill Merkel '04 and Brittni Herron '05

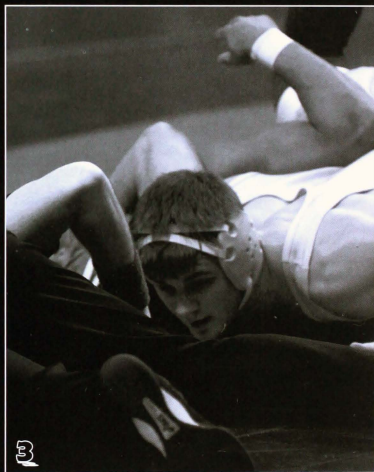
- On his way to an undefeated season, junior Matt Coughlin uses a reverse half nelson to pin his opponent at individual state. Coughlin went on to win the 152 lb. state championship and led the team in pins with 22. Photo by: Katie Scheller
- After throwing his opponent in a lateral drop, 140 lb. junior Joe Lehman struggles to stay on top during team semi-state competition. After compiling a 39-5 record and placing sixth in his first appearance at state, Lehman was named one of Mater Dei's most improved wrestlers. Photo by: Emily Raben
- In his semifinal match at individual state, senior Blake Maurer turns Hamilton Southeastern's Patrick Turner with a Turk. Maurer ended his high school career with a 187-2 record and became the sixth four-time state champion in Indiana history. Photo by: Katie Scheller
- After scrambling from the whizzer position, senior Bryan Williams finds himself awkwardly trying to defeat Mike Lecuta, a state placer from Portage. After battling injuries for most of the season, Williams came back to wrestle at 119 lbs. during the state tournament. Photo by: Katie Scheller
- Struggling to hold his opponent down with a headlock, senior Brian Bittner waits for the ref to call his pin. This year Bittner moved up a weight class to successfully wrestle at 112 lbs. after wrestling at 103 lbs. for the past two years. Photo by: Emily Raben

Wrestling			
22-1			
VS. JASPER	VS. BOSSE	VS. HANNIBAL	REGIONAL
65-6	78-0	58-12	VS. PRINCETON
VS. SOUTHBIDGE	VS. FOREST PARK	VS. CENTRAL	53-14
63-9	76-3	55-15	VS. MEMORIAL
VS. FLOYD CENTRAL	VS. CASTLE	VS. ST. GENEVIEVE,	54-12
58-15	55-6	MISSOURI	SEMI-STATE
VS. JENNINGS	VS. BLOOMINGTON	48-22	VS. FLOYD CENTRAL
COUNTY	SOUTH	VS. RETZ	47-19
57-6	56-18	60-7	STATE
VS. PIKE CENTRAL		VS. NORTH	VS. PORTAGE
59-9		82-0	25-29
VS. MEMORIAL	VS. BELLEVILLE		
55-10	ALTHOFF, ILLINOIS		
	56-9		

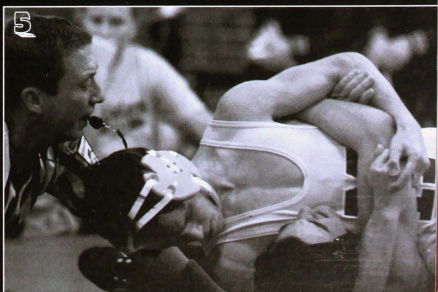
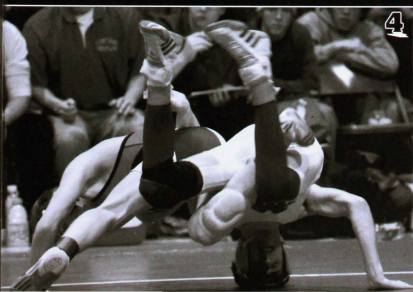




# Wrestling



## A Season of Firsts





# Girls Track



# Racing to Glory





# How They See it...

The girls track team is a sport that many people are involved in for various reasons. Although there are not many senior girls on the team, the ones that are fulfill their positions as leaders.

"The seniors on the team are great. They really make the effort to get to know you and help you. They're not scary, you can actually talk to them. They treat you like an equal, and they're really cool to hang out with," says junior Brittini Herron.

The team as a whole supports each other in every aspect of the competition.

"We get along great. We support each other any way we can. We cheer each other on and encourage each other. We sometimes give incentives like cookies," says senior Jenna Schmitt.

There are many different reasons that the girls joined the track team. Some take part in order to get into or stay in shape for other sports. Others join because their friends are on the team and told them how much fun it is, and still others join because they enjoy the sport.

"I ran track in grade school, and I missed not doing it freshman year so I joined this year," says sophomore Kendra Scheller.

Although the girls enjoy themselves and have fun on the team, there is still a lot of hard work involved in being on the track team. Practices vary for all the members of the team, depending on which event they are participating in.

"For me, practices are different than most. Some days I will focus on discus and work on that the whole time. Other days, I will spend time on pole vault. Still other days, I'll have a workout to run or handoffs to practice," says senior Laura Schroeder.

There are many individuals on the team that achieve great things. Having some newcomers, it is impressive to how well they are doing.

1. Looking toward the next hurdle, senior Jeanna Butler concentrates on finishing the race strong. Butler, one of the team's senior leaders, helped the team tremendously with her skills and attitude.

Photo by: Leah Weinzapfel

2. Trying to keep perfect form, junior Michelle Farney throws shot at the SIAC, held at Castle. Farney, a first year member of the track team, throws shot and runs the 400 meter run.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Members of the team gather to encourage sophomore Katelyn Norman as she struggles to finish the two mile race. All runners will testify that fans cheering them on makes running much easier.

Photo by: Leah Weinzapfel

4. Senior Laura Schroeder stretches to release the pole before going over the bar as she sets another of her pole vault records. Schroeder led the area in this relatively new event with an 8'6" mark, but she made her mark in the discus. After throwing her personal best in sectionals and then beating that PR with another best throw of 133' 4" to win her regional, Schroeder placed third at State with yet another personal best 133' 9".

Photo by: Leah Weinzapfel

5. Junior Aimee Fischer contorts her body in order to jump completely over the bar without knocking it down. Fischer competes in most of the field events, including high jump, long jump, discus, and shot put. Photo by: Leah Weinzapfel

6. Using all of her energy to generate as much speed as possible, junior Kristin Schapker competes in the 100 meter dash. Schapker is one of the team's leading sprinters and finished the season well.

Photo by: Leah Weinzapfel

"It's only my first year and I got second in the city in shot put with 33'11", says Schmitt.

For those members that have participated for many years, they have improved and seen their teammates improve and some plan on continuing their track careers in college.

"I'm excited to pole vault next year for Murray State University. I believe high school track has prepared me well," says Schroeder.

While some are planning on continuing their track careers in college, others are just trying to focus on this year's season and achieving personal goals that they have set for themselves.

"My goal for this year is to have personal record times in the 1600m run and 3200m run. I also want to go to state in both of them again," says senior Katie McKinney.

Of all things, the girls on the team agree that track is a great sport to participate in. It's a great way to stay in shape, make friends, and have fun. Hopefully they continue their success in the years to come.

Jill Merkel '04

Girls Track	
23-10	
VS. MEMORIAL	LOSS
VS. CASTLE/NORTH	2 OF 3
VS. MT. VERNON	WIN
VS. REITZ/CASTLE	3 OF 3
VS. PIKE CENTRAL	2ND
VS. CENTRAL/MEMORIAL	2 OF 3
BOONVILLE RELAYS	4TH
CITY MEET	5TH
SIAC MEET	3RD
SECTIONALS	4TH

Freshman Emily Weber, a member of the girls track team, ran the 100 and 300 hurdles this season. For Weber, the 2003-2004 track season was both successful and enjoyable.

"I really enjoyed the season because it was my first year of high school track."

Weber, one of the three freshmen on the girls track team including Rachel Buskavitz and Krista Wildeman, found encouragement and assistance from the upperclassmen on the team.

"The upperclassmen help teach us how to do our events. Christina Morrow taught me the hurdle form and spent a lot of time throughout the season helping me to improve."

The team's support of each other was also very encouraging to Weber.

"Everyone on the team is friendly. We all support each other, and everyone cheers for everybody else."

Running is not new to Weber, however, she does realize the differences between high school and grade school track.

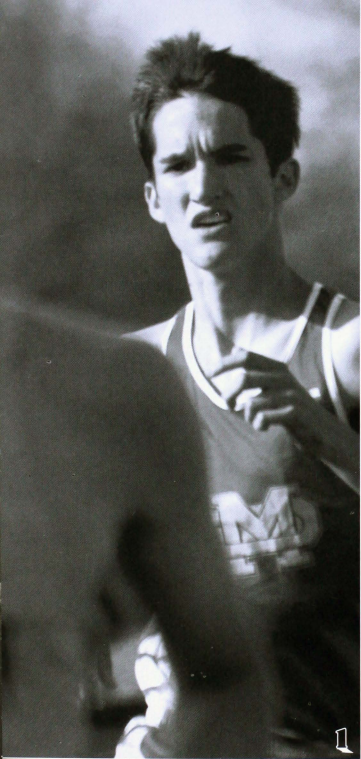
"I've been interested in running since seventh grade, but you have to run a lot more in high school than grade school. There is a lot more competition, and everyone is a lot better than grade school."

Although she is an experienced runner, Weber's nerves still get her before a race.

"I was nervous before the meets because I was scared I was not going to do well. In the 300 hurdles I got tired and scared I wasn't going to make it over the hurdle."

From her first season on the girls track team, Weber became familiar with the Mater Dei track team, and she enjoyed herself in the process.

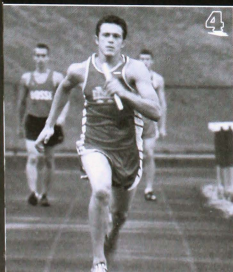
"The season was great. It was hard work, but I enjoyed it and look forward to next year."



# Boys Track



## Going the Distance





# How They See it...

Although it was tough to beat previously outstanding track seasons, the boys track team completed the 2003-2004 season with success. The teammates' dedication to the sport along with the pure skill of the runners created a season that will not soon be forgotten.

"This year's track team did better although we still were not the best team in the area," says junior Scott Korossel.

The boys track team as a whole improved in all areas due to the addition of new members and long practices.

"As a team, we came together better than in previous years. The distance team was strong as expected, but with the additions of Ryan Matt and Jason Devillez, the sprinters were also stronger than expected," says junior Andy Krack.

The teams' many gifted runners also helped lead the team to victory along the way throughout the year.

"I did pretty well this year," says Korossel, "I set the school record in the 800 meter run."

Senior Brian Kuester, who ran the 800 meter and 3200 relay, greatly contributed to the success of the team this season also.

"My personal goal for this year was to get a PR in the 800, which I already have done," says Kuester.

Kuester was not the only member on the team to set personal records, however. Other teammates reached their goals to set and break records this season.

"Andy Krack, Patrick McKinney, and I took 1-3 in the mile at the city meet, all setting personal records," says Korossel.

The boys' excellent teamwork helped create a stronger and more improved team this season. With each event, the boys came closer to their main goal of success.

"Our team improved this year mainly with our distance runners becoming even stronger than last year. I think the field events and sprinters have also given us more points than in the past," says Kuester.

It was also the distance runners that represented Mater Dei in the state finals. The 3200 relay team of Korossel, Farmer, McKinney and Blake Maurer went into the state meet, finishing 17th with a time of 7:58. Krack also qualified to go to state in the 3200 meter run, finishing 30th with a time of 10:06.

It was the hard practices, healthy diets, and teammates encouragement that kept the boys in top condition to run their best, but sometimes staying enthused could be difficult.

"The thought that practices would benefit me and the team got me through hard practices. Every hard practice was kind of like a meet in itself challenging yourself, and it felt good when you made it through," says Kuester. "Also my teammates doing the workouts with me helped to make it easier for me to keep going."

Krack found the motivation to run from different sources, however.

"I run track for the competition. If you don't come mentally and physically prepared to race, it will show," says Krack. "If you go out and do everything you can to be the best you can, you will win."

Jaclyn Muensterman '05

As a varsity member of the boys track team, junior Corey Rosek added much to the team. With his positive attitude, sense of humor, and skill in running, Rosek helped the team achieve success.

"It's been a really good season, mainly because the cross-country team carried us by winning all the distance events."

Rosek, who ran hurdles for the team, knew his strengths and weaknesses and did his best to improve this season.

"I've never fallen and I can't really afford to because I'm not quite as fast as everyone else."

For Rosek, the practices and work started early in preparation for the upcoming season.

"We start conditioning in December. We run every day, and once practices start, we go out to Central and start practicing with the hurdles and the high jump."

Rosek, one of the many juniors on the team, enjoys running with his fellow classmates. However, Rosek agrees that the younger members of the boys track team also are of great assistance to the team's success.

"The team is mainly composed of juniors. The underclassmen are really good this year because they are actually running in the meets. Freshmen usually never run in varsity meets."

Rosek agrees that the team's camaraderie is a main factor in making the season fun and exciting for everyone.

"We have gatherings at Fazolis the night before most meets. We always go out to eat after the big meets."

All in all, it's his teammates that make the sport so much fun for Rosek.

"I like to run and the atmosphere on the team is very fun because Matt Feller livens it up."

**Boys Track**  
43-27

VS. MEMORIAL	W
VS. JASPER (JV ONLY)	L
VS. MT. VERNON	L
VS. REITZ	L
VS. CENTRAL/MEMORIAL	2ND
PRINCETON INVITATIONAL	6TH
MT. VERNON INVITATIONAL	3RD
CITY MEET	4TH
SIAC MEET	5TH
SECTIONAL	7TH

1. Junior Patrick Farmer struggles to overcome his opponent during the 800 meter race. Farmer is one of many in a strong junior class that will continue to help the track team in the future with his devotion and success to the sport.

Photo by: Leah Weinzapfel

2. Sophomore Daniel Langton clears the ten foot mark on his first vault at Central Stadium. The Wildcats went on to beat both Central and Memorial, in part due to Langton's nearly perfect form.

Photo by: Paul Mindrup

3. Junior Jason Devillez stretches as he does the long jump during the SIAC finals held at Castle. Devillez, who competed in long jump and sprints, was a great asset to the team this season.

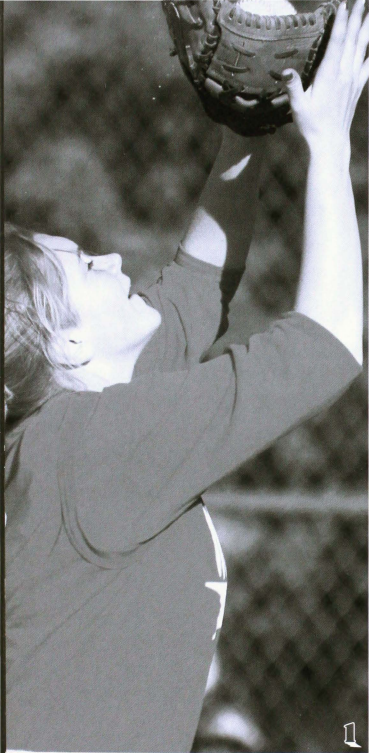
Photo by: Brittini Herron

4. First year member of the boys track team, junior Ryan Matt, sprints in the meet at Castle. Matt's joining track helped the team as a whole succeed in regular and post-season.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

5. Junior Scott Korossel leads the pack, including teammates sophomore Wes Dingman, junior Patrick Farmer, and senior Sam Weber, in the one mile race during the Memorial meet. Because the distance is similar to the 2.5 miles run in cross country, many runners also run track in the spring.

Photo by: Brittini Herron



# Softball



## Underclassmen Fill Big Shoes





# How They See it...

Freshman Marie Wolf may be one of the youngest members of the girls softball team, but she has years of experience to put her ahead of the game and to give her insight on how to play at this level.

"I've been playing since kindergarten. I just tried different things and I liked it."

In her first-year of varsity softball, Wolf distinguishes the huge differences between grade school and high school softball.

"Everyone's a lot better now. In grade school, people weren't as aggressive. High school is a lot harder. Practices are different because there is lots of running. Every time you miss a ball, you have to run a sprint. In grade school, it didn't mean anything and no one really cared. There's also more people, and we had to tryout in grade school there weren't try-outs, everyone made the team."

Wolf knows that putting in many long hours of practice and preparation for games has brought the girls closer together as a team, something that every team needs in order to succeed.

"Everyone's really close, and they work together as a team. You don't just have one person that does everything."

As a freshman, Wolf has three more years of softball to look forward to and to eventually become a leader herself, but for now, Wolf looks to the senior stars for leadership and guidance.

"We only have two seniors. They're both really good. Megan Wright shows a lot of talent and determination, and she has a good attitude that rubs off on everyone. I look forward to being a senior and playing softball. I want to be a good leader like the two seniors now are and lead our team forward."

to step up and fill big roles on varsity, and they will only improve with the experience they are gaining.

"I think having a young team has both helped and hurt us," says Rietman. "We have been hurt because we don't have much experience, but it also helps us because it makes us strive that much more for victory."

Some of the team's highs this year came when they performed up to expectations and played together as a team.

"I think that if we don't make any errors and execute in our hitting we can play with any team any time. One of the best games of the year was the game where we annihilated Central because we pulled together as a whole," remembers Rietman. "That is an unbelievable high when you beat somebody who has a much better record than yourself."

Regardless of their wins and losses, the members of the softball team enjoyed a memorable season.

"Our theme this year was 'Git'er done!' and that proves how determined we were," says Wright. "We haven't had many victories and we've struggled all year, but we have never given up. Our team is very close and has so much spirit that we just keep fighting back."

Ashley Allen '04

This season for the softball team has had its ups and downs, but will still be one to remember. Although the team's record isn't as good as the girls could hope for, the perseverance they have showed throughout the season is something to be proud of.

"One of the best things about our team is that we never give up and fight to the end," says junior Michelle Rietman.

Leading this year's squad were two seniors, Megan Wright and Erica Bohleber. Both had four years of playing experience, so they could help the underclassmen learn and understand the game.

"Megan and Erica have really pulled through for us this year," remarks Rietman. "They know how to bring the team up when things aren't going so well. That's what I really admire about them."

However, the maturity that the seniors add to the team doesn't come without the responsibility of leading every other player and setting a good example.

"I do feel some pressure to step up because I am a senior," says Megan Wright. "I am very disappointed when I make a mistake and let my team down, but they help pick me up. The team responds to Erica and I really well. They respect us just as we respect them—we are like one big family."

The juniors and underclassmen have been forced

1. Squinting at the sun, sophomore catcher Sarah Scott concentrates on catching a pop up. Scott is a two-year member of the varsity team and is a fun member to have on the team.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

2. First baseman Madison Parkinson bends to tag a Harrison base runner. Parkinson is one of many underclassmen who have moved up to fill spots on the varsity team this season.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Sophomore Tiffany Payton prepare to lay down a bunt against Central at USL. Payton, a well rounded athlete, plays volleyball and basketball as well as softball. Photo by: Stephanie Seibert

4. After catching a long throw from the outfield, Sarah Scott hustles to tag out a Harrison Warrior before she can score. Scott, as a catcher, is the last line of defense to keep a base runner off of the score board. Photo by: Andrea Goebel

5. Freshman Jenna Adler crashes into an opponent as she slides into home. Only a freshman, Adler occasionally steps up from reserve to fill a varsity spot. Photo by: Stephanie Seibert

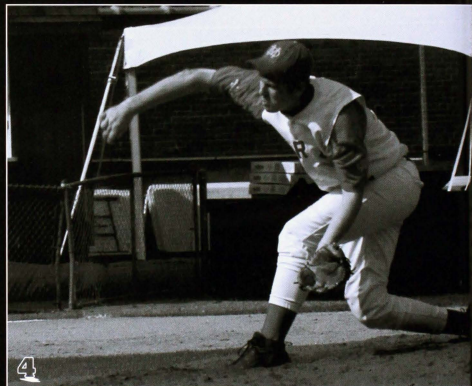
## Softball

10-20

VS. KINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL 9-4	VS. MEMORIAL 3-8	VS. CENTRAL 7-2	VS. BOSSE 8-0
VS. KINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL 9-7	VS. PRINCETON 3-4	VS. HARRISON 2-3	VS. BOONVILLE 0-10
VS. CUMBERLAND CO. 0-11	VS. BOSSE 7-0	VS. NORTH 0-6	VS. CASTLE 4-3
VS. CUMBERLAND CO. 0-14	MIDWEST CATHOLIC CHALLENGE	VS. CASTLE 0-8	VS. HARRISON 1-5
VS. NORTH 2-4	VS. MAULEY 3-9	VS. MEMORIAL 1-8	VS. CENTRAL 6-0
VS. REITZ 0-4	VS. ST. BENEDICT 2-9	VS. MT. VERNON 3-0	VS. REITZ 2-0
VS. JASPER 1-2	VS. OWENSBORO CATHOLIC 0-5	VS. JEFFERSONVILLE 0-7	SECTIONALS VS. MEMORIAL 10-0
	MT. NOTRE DAME 0-4	VS. NEW ALBANY 0-3	
	VS. NORTH POSEY 4-3	VS. SOUTH SPENCER 0-1	



# Baseball



## Pitching a Successful Season





This year's boys baseball season was a roller coaster ride, but the boys stepped up and accepted the challenge.

"The season has been up and down," says junior Jay Reddington. "We are a very young team and we are still learning a lot every day."

The team was challenged every step of the way, but they took it all in. Each player did his part to help the success of the team with his attitude, ability, and determination.

"The attitude of this team was great. They took a personal responsibility to show up for every game ready to play," says head coach Darin Knight.

The attitude of the team could be attributed to their success off the field, as well as on. Whether on the field or not, the boys were a team.

"Our team gets along very well. We are more than a team, we are friends," adds Reddington.

In order to do well in the games, the practices were a place for the team to improve daily.

"We try to create as many situations in practice

that we might see in a game," says Coach Knight. "We think that if you think it in practice, then it becomes habit as the games progress."

This season also brought about many things to remember and wonderful memories to share.

"My most memorable moment of the season was beating Central twice by one run," says Reddington.

With only two returning seniors on the team, the team truly depended on each other.

"The upperclassmen have taken charge here towards the middle of the season and are leading the team better," says sophomore Tyler Bittner. "The underclassmen are learning the program and how important it is to give 'it all you got' every day."

With the team growing and changing this season, it's no doubt that the guys can look forward to continued success in the future.

"Both upper and under classmen are all great athletes," adds Reddington. "We have a lot of talent on this team."

Brittini Herron '05

Carefully watching the game from the dugout, junior Jared Droste keeps stats during the game against Mt. Vernon. Although Droste is a part-time pitcher, he keeps stats during most of the games.

Photo by: Emily Raben

Senior first baseman Matt Halbig stretches to catch the throw and tag out the Harrison baserunner. Halbig, a four-year member of the team, was one of the two seniors on the team.

Photo by: Emily Raben

Senior third baseman Jeremy Gries prepares to tag out a baserunner at a game versus North. The Wildcat defense lived on trying to find players that were taking careless risks like trying to steal bases.

Photo by: Natalie Fleming

Kyle Grossman pitches at a Mater Dei versus North game. As only a sophomore, Grossman contributed to much of the team's success this season.

Photo by: Natalie Fleming

Sophomore Matt Major climbs off of the ground after sliding into third base at a game against Mt. Vernon. Major and the Wildcats enjoyed playing baseball as much as winning games.

Photo by: Jessica Byrley

Senior Jeremy Gries watches intently as sophomore Joe Kelley pitches the ball to a fellow Mater Dei player in hopes of striking out a Mt. Vernon opponent. The Wildcats' continued teamwork was a major factor when it came to winning games.

Photo by: Emily Raben

# How They See it...

Junior Jared Droste has the opportunity to view the game through two different perspectives, the pitcher's mound and the stat sheets. As a first-year varsity player, Droste also recognizes the striking differences between reserve and varsity.

"We been playing baseball for ten years. It's a lot more intense and a lot more competitive playing on varsity. It's definitely not as laid-back as reserve, and you play a lot more."

The differences for Droste are not only in the physical side of the game, but also in the mental aspect.

"The mental side of it is a lot different. When you pitch, for example, and give up a hit or walk, you can't turn one mistake into two. You have to be a 'bulldog' quoting Coach Knight."

Droste tries to be of help wherever he is needed. He has even taken over the job as team statistician.

"I just pitch whenever the starters need relief. While I'm not pitching, I keep stats for the varsity team. I just do it because it keeps me in the game when I'm not playing, and nobody else wants to do it, so I do it."

Inside jokes make the experience of playing varsity ball more rewarding and more memorable for Droste.

"It was funny when Coach Knight called Joe Kelley 'King Kong' for missing the bunt sign because he struck out swinging four times when he was supposed to bunt."

Droste is part of the junior class who dominates the team this season.

"With only two seniors on the team, the juniors kind of have to step up and be leaders. We just take more responsibility for the mistakes of the team. We pick each other up by not being negative and just keep trying to be positive. We just work as a team."

## Baseball

13-12

VS. VINCENNES LINCOLN

15-5

VS. NORTH POSY

12-1

VS. FOREST PARK

0-9

VS. REITZ

5-1

VS. BOSSE

2-4

VS. CENTRAL

1-0

VS. PRINCETON

12-2

VS. PINE CENTRAL

11-9

VS. HERITAGE HILLS

4-3

VS. MT. VERNON

3-4

VS. MEMORIAL

0-10

VS. HARRISON

3-4

VS. CASTLE

3-4

VS. CENTRAL

5-4

VS. BOSSE

15-4

VS. HARRISON

11-1

VS. NORTH

3-7

VS. NORTH

8-9

VS. HARRISON

1-5

VS. SOUTHRIDGE

7-5

VS. REITZ

4-0

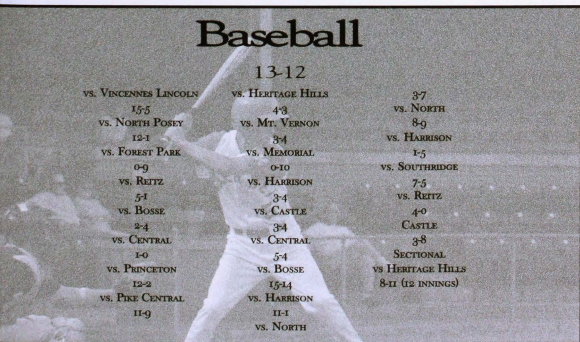
CASTLE

3-8

SECTIONAL

VS. HERITAGE HILLS

8-11 (12 INNINGS)

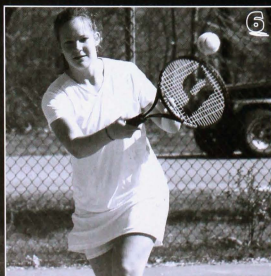




# Girls Tennis



## New Coach Tackles Young Team





# How They See it...

For junior Molly Couture, what sets this year apart from her two previous years on the girls tennis team is the lack of senior leadership.

"Having no seniors makes it tough for matches. We have a freshman playing number one singles, and the juniors have had to step up. Some of the teams we play have been playing their whole lives and belong to tennis clubs so they're really good. When we win, it's because we've worked harder and wanted it more."

The team is also going through its third coach in as many years.

"Our new coach has really helped. She knows what she's talking about and she works us harder than other coaches have. The seniors last year were fun, but this year is totally different because the coach has a different mentality. The competition in the city is really serious, but we still have fun. One of the most hilarious things is when our coach makes bird noises at us when we make mistakes. We all get a good laugh out of that."

The defining moment of the season for Couture came during a regular season match against rival North.

"It was really awesome when Audrey and I beat North. We took them to three sets and the match lasted about three hours. We won the first set in a tiebreaker and then lost the second, but we came back and also won the third set in a tiebreaker."

Regardless of how this season ended for the girls, they are looking forward to next year with all of the team returning.

"Everyone on the team is looking forward to next year. Amber Toelle will be coming back from her injury and more girls might try out for the team. When you mix that with our returning players, I think next season will be the best we've had in a long time."

For Will, tennis is not only a team sport, but also one of individual competition.

"I play tennis because not only do you play your opponent, you compete against yourself. Tennis is a very mental game. You have to constantly be thinking about what you need to do to beat your opponent. The team constantly motivates me and so does the feeling after a win," says Will.

After losing many seniors to graduation, juniors and underclassmen were given the chance to fill their spots.

"We didn't have any seniors this year, so we needed some people to step up and be leaders. A few of the juniors took charge and made sure we had fun, but most people knew their roles," says Will.

Goebel was one of two varsity juniors to lead the team. After just completing a strenuous basketball season shortly before tennis started, the dedicated junior committed herself to another sport. However, for Goebel, tennis evokes a different atmosphere.

"Tennis is more relaxed, and it's just a leisure sport that anyone can enjoy and not be so competitive. I don't think about winning all the time like I did with basketball. I play tennis to have fun," Goebel says, "but I also don't mind winning."

Susan Muensterman '05

"Having a fun coach makes the tennis year fun and so much more worthwhile," says the three-year veteran junior Audrey Goebel.

After alternating coaches too many years before, the girls tennis team has finally found a coach they like and one who they believe is here to stay.

"Anytime our coach tries to yell something at us, her voice cracks like three times. It's hilarious, especially when Hannah Wagner imitates it for the rest of the practice," sophomore Kayley Will laughs.

The girls tennis team is in the stages of a rebuilding year and teammates admit that the scores may not show, but the team has greatly improved. Much thanks goes to the team's dedicated coach, Krista Loewen. She challenges the team to take the game seriously while at the same time making practices fun and matches fun and enjoyable.

"At one practice, the ice cream truck came to our net. I've never seen our team run as fast as we did that day," says Will.

The ice cream truck incident is likely the most memorable event for most of the team.

"We held our treats in one hand and rackets in the other and played a game to see how many forehands we could get in a row," laughs sophomore Laura Mesker.

1. Freshman Hannah Wagner and junior Molly Couture listen to instructions from their coach Krista Loewen. Although this is Loewen's first year coaching, the girls appreciate the new outlook she brings and her dedication to the sport.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

2. Preparing to put all of her energy into her swing, junior Molly Couture concentrates on getting the ball over the net. Couture was one of the juniors who took over the role of leading the team.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. First year varsity member sophomore Kayley Will returns a serve during her number two singles match. Since the team had no seniors, many underclassmen were forced to step up and fill varsity roles.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

4. Swinging hard, junior Audrey Goebel takes her time and sets up a hit. Goebel used her endurance from basketball and cross country to help improve her game on the tennis court.

Photo by: Toni Solis

5. Junior Molly Couture prepares to hit an overhead shot. Couture played doubles with junior teammate Audrey Goebel and did extremely well this season.

Photo by: Toni Solis

6. Returning a serve, junior Katie Barnes shows her versatility. Barnes, a two year member of the tennis team, played both doubles and singles this year.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

7. Sophomore Laura Mesker moves in to return a volley from her Bosse opponent. This year, Mesker played mostly doubles with fellow sophomore Hannah Wannemuehler.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

**Girls Tennis**

3-10

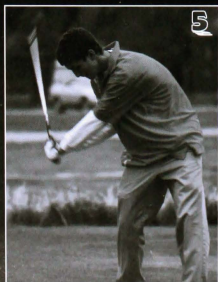
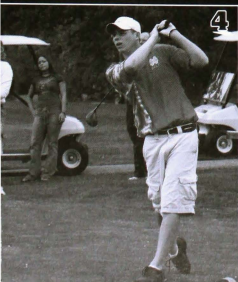
VS. PRINCETON	L
VS. NORTH	L
VS. MT. VERNON	L
VS. CASTLE	L
VS. BOSSE	W
VS. DAY SCHOOL	L
VS. VINCENTS RIVET	L
VS. NORTH POSEY	W
VS. MEMORIAL	L
VS. HARRISON	L
SIAC	6TH
VS. GIBSON SOUTHERN	W
VS. CENTRAL	L
VS. REITZ	W
SECTIONAL	
VS. CENTRAL	L



# Boys Golf



## Putting for Perfection





# How They See it...

One of the most underrated sports today is golf. (Without the major fan support and with few wins, it can be hard to find players to fill an entire varsity team. So, why would anyone want to play at all?)

"I live by a golf course, work on a golf course and I'm good at golf," says senior Nick Frazer.

It's not very often one sees a team with freshman playing varsity, but for the boy's golf team it seems normal and works out very well.

"The underclassmen have stepped up a lot this year," says senior Scott Modestiff, "especially freshmen Jared Krieg and Mitchell Eickhoff. They have been very impressive."

Golf may seem like a boring sport, but there are many things that go into a game. There are so many rules that the players have to carry their rule book with them at all times during a match.

"Golf is much easier in the physical aspect compared to some other sports," states junior Craig Maier, "but mentally golf is much harder."

There is need for concentration, form, and focus to succeed in a golf match, among other things, and these are addressed during practices.

"We practice at the Helfrich Park golf course and play nine holes," says Maier. "Then after the nine holes we stay for 45 minutes and putt and chip."

With all the practicing though, being a member of the boys golf team is not all work and no play.

"We're a very relaxed team," says Modestiff. "We're

not doing as well as Cracker Jack Jewell (Mr. Jeff Jewell) would want us to, but at least we're having fun playing golf and joking around."

Even though the team as a whole hasn't been doing as well as they had hoped, there are some shining members on the team.

"The team is about thirteen and forty, which is not too good," states Frazer, "but I've done well getting first, second, and sixth in a few of the major invitational."

Although the team is lacking in the score department, there are many fond memories that have been made during the season.

"One of my favorite memories is when Craig Macke broke a seven iron standing on the eighth tee," remembers Modestiff. "Also, it was hilarious when Macke killed a goose on accident."

Maier recalls another memory as his favorite of the season, however.

"My favorite memory is when Mitchell Eickhoff asked when the 'Fort Knox' tournament was," says Maier. "What he meant was the North Knox tournament."

Another memorable moment was when a team-mate accomplished an amazing feat.

"Though I didn't see it, Mitchell Eickhoff's hole in one was a big thing for the team, even though it wasn't during a match," states Frazer.

Shanna Bush '04

Junior Ben Macke, a three year member of the boys golf team, helps create a successful atmosphere for the 2003-2004 season. His attitude and sense of humor aid to the team's relaxation with the sport.

Although Macke already enjoys golfing, the season is more enjoyable because he does not have to worry about paying every practice.

"I like golfing because it is relaxing, and I can't pass up the opportunity of free golf everyday."

Golfing, for some, is a life-long passion and something a person can always participate in. Macke is a three-year veteran of the golf team.

"I've been on it since freshman year, but I've been playing longer than that."

For Macke, practices are a way to have fun and prepare for golf meets and improve golfing skills.

"We practice putting, but practice is more laid back and not really serious. I threw my golf club at geese all the time."

With the loss of many players from last year, Macke and the boys golf team had to step it up to continue the Mater Dei tradition. Many usually sleep in on Saturday mornings, but the golf team is up and out on the green in the early morning.

"Saturdays meets start at like 11 or 12 and last till 6 or 7. It varies depending on who plays first."

Macke and the team help and support each other throughout the entire season.

"We have good team unity, and we help each other."

Macke, along with the other upperclassmen enjoy their new leadership positions as experienced members of the boys golf team.

"The underclassmen are still learning. It's fun having seniority over other people."

1. Junior Craig Maier prepares to tee off and drive his ball off the number three tee at McDonald's golf course against the Memorial Tigers. Maier, a three-year member of the golf team, is a huge contributor to the team's score at the meets.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

2. Shading his eyes from the sun, junior Ben Macke looks for his lost golf ball. Macke often gets frustrated and throws his golf club when the ball goes the wrong direction.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Sophomore Matt Loehlein observes the green as he prepares to putt at the McDonald's course. Though only an underclassmen, Loehlein helps up the team's score.

Photo by: Meghan Berneking

4. Senior Nick Frazer watches his ball to see how close it lands to the green. Frazer has improved each season of his golf career and was medalist in the city tournament this year.

Photo by: Meghan Berneking

5. Freshman Mitch Eickhoff swings at the ball on the fairway to hit it towards the green. Eickhoff has improved his eighteen whole score to seventy-six strokes.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

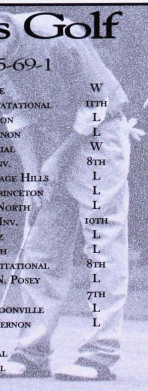
6. Freshman Mitch Eickhoff's swing is aided by Coach Jeff Jewell. Jewell often watches and critiques the boy's swings, so he can then help them to achieve perfect form.

Photo by: Meghan Berneking

## Boys Golf

25-69-1

VS. BOSSE	W
VIN. LINCOLN INVITATIONAL	11TH
VS. HARRISON	L
VS. MT. VERNON	L
VS. MEMORIAL	W
CENTRAL INV.	8TH
VS. CASTLE/HERITAGE HILLS	L
VS. MEMORIAL/PRINCETON	L
VS. CENTRAL/NORTH	L
MEMORIAL INV.	10TH
VS. RITZ	L
VS. NORTH	L
NORTH KNOX INVITATIONAL	8TH
VS. GIBSON SO/N. POSEY	L
CITY	7TH
VS. MEMORIAL/BOONVILLE	L
VS. MOUNT VERNON	L
SIAC	
SECTIONAL	
REGIONAL	
STATE	









# **T** INVOLVED

**Everyone knows that Mater Dei students are top notch academically.**

But how many people know that we excel in other competitions? That we are giving our time to help others? Or that we are expressing our creativity?

**We are a busy bunch, volunteering and involving ourselves with different clubs and organizations.**

**From service club to Mat Cats, we are very giving of our time outside of the classroom.**

In fact, it is in these clubs and organizations that many of us make our biggest contributions.

Not everyone is an athlete.

**And even though most of the community doesn't see us in action, some benefit from what we do.**

**We don't have to be seen to shine.**

CRISTOS

Sophomore cheerleader Lauren Oliver helps cheer the football team to another victory. The cheerleaders keep the crowd excited by performing dances as well as cheering.

Photo by: Brittni Herron

With ten seconds left on the clock, tension mounts among the sea of red and gold-clad fans. As the shot goes up and falls perfectly into the net, the crowd goes wild. Shouts and cheers from the joyous fans fill the gym. However, the loyal crowd doesn't get pumped up by itself. It takes special people to entertain the crowd.

Many organizations, events, and people contribute to entertaining the crowd. Cheerleaders keep the crowd alive during basketball and football games. Meanwhile, the Dance Cats entertain them during home game halftimes.

"I feel that our performance gets the crowd pumped up and more involved in the game," explains junior Dance Cat Brittny Kerchief.

Individuals such as Kyle Messersmith and Tyler Musgrave go the extra mile with their outrageous outfits to keep the crowd both enthused and amused.

"I dress up to make people happy, to keep their spirits high, and to make people laugh," remarks senior Kyle Messersmith.

Entertaining the crowd is not only important at games, but also during the school day. Band and Winterguard keep the school spirit going with their energizing routines. Pep assemblies are held to get the student body excited about upcoming games.

"Without the band, the school would have pep-less pep rallies," laughs sophomore Caitlyn Nemer.

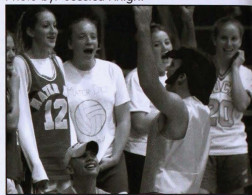
Also, without the Pep Club our school would not be decorated with the brightly colored posters that support our teams. The Pep Club is also responsible for organizing our pep assemblies.

Sophomore Pep Club member Rosanna Sartore remarks, "Pep Club is a fun way to get involved with sports



Senior Tyler Musgrave dresses up as Elvis to pump up the crowd at the Mater Dei-Memorial volleyball sectional. Dressing up in outrageous outfits serves to inspire the crowd and generate laughs.

Photo by: Jessica Knight



even if you are not on the team."

The Student Council members do their part in entertaining the students by creating unusual and wacky ideas for Homecoming week.

"Homecoming week brings everyone's spirit out and gets them excited about the upcoming game," says sophomore student council member Kendra Scheller.

The seniors are given a lot of credit for keeping the crowd entertained. By dressing up, they pump up the crowd and show that they are not afraid to stand out.

"My friends help me pick out what to wear. Sometimes I look in my closet and am like 'That'd be fun to wear,'" comments Messersmith.

When rallying with the opposing team they maintain school spirit and get the entire crowd involved. Seniors also lead the way by showing younger classmates how to get involved. Senior cheerleaders and Dance Cats lead their teams and do their part in pumping up the crowd.

Many people entertain the crowd in their own special way. Mater Dei has always been known for the support of our loyal fans. Without them, Mater Dei's athletic and academic teams wouldn't be as successful.

Tiffany Schoenbachler '06, Rosie Mayer '06, & Jessica Byrley '05



# Pep It Up

## Entertaining Our Crowd





## HOW THEY SEE IT...

Entertaining the crowd is a hard task to accomplish. Many students and even faculty at Mater Dei try their hardest to entertain the crowd at pep assemblies, sporting events, and other school events. Sophomore Tegan Rush is a member of the marching band, which is one of the main groups that is responsible for entertaining the crowd.

"I have played the drums since I was in sixth grade, but being in concert band as a freshman is what got me involved in marching band. During marching band season, we play at pep assemblies and the student body really seems to get into the music."

Entertaining an entire crowd is not a job for just one person. It takes numerous people and different talents, especially in the case of the band.

"I play the bass drum and we always play cadences, which are rhythms played with drums. Each drum has a different pitch so the cadence sounds like a song. All the basses, snares, and tenors are part of the drumline, which keeps the beat of the songs moving."

Participating in marching band, or any of the bands, is a rewarding experience. Not only are they a main focus, especially during halftime of sporting events, but they also receive a positive response from the crowd each time they play.

"What I like most about band is being able to interact with people and playing all the cadences in the parades and at games. We try to get the crowd fired up and we try to get them ready for the start of the second half so the team can try to pull out a win if we are losing."

Participating in the band is not strictly limited to playing at school events.

"We perform during halftime of games, but also we perform during most parades, like the Fall Festival, the Christmas parade, and the Labor Day parade."

Taking part in band is a rewarding experience for all of its members. They get to do something they love while entertaining others and pumping up the crowd. They may not always get the recognition they deserve, but they are appreciated. Without the band, the assemblies and games would definitely be less lively.

1. Sophomore color guard member Rachel Schenk competes with the rest of the band at the Pike Central Invitational. This year the marching band performed music from the motion picture *Robin Hood*.  
Photo by: Jill Merkel

2. Senior Todd Wannemuehler stands in for Mr. Keith and escorts Mrs. Haton during the announcement of the Faculty Homecoming Court. Students were able to vote for queen and king throughout football homecoming week.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller

3. The cheerleaders imitate the Radio City Rockettes and perform a kickline to entertain the crowd at a football game. The cheering of the crowd often makes the difference and inspires the team during close games.  
Photo by: Brittini Herron

4. Freshman Michael Rhodes proudly displays his support for our football team by showing off his painted chest. It's rare to see a freshman show this much enthusiasm while supporting the Wildcats.  
Photo by: Shanna Bush

Junior Brittany Erkman works the crowd during a basketball halftime. The Dance Cats spend many hours practicing each routine to make it perfect.  
Photo by: Rosie Mayer

# Letting everyone know what's goin' on

At Mater Dei there has always been a tradition of excellence to uphold. The way we achieve this from year to year is by word of mouth. All of the activities that students participate in to become involved in the community and school help the tradition to continue.

Service Club works year round to serve the community by organizing and participating in community projects. The most common projects include working at food pantries, collecting canned goods, and volunteering at nursing homes and day cares.

"The Service Club rocks! We do so many things to help others. It's a wonderful way to get service hours and help others at the same time," says Ms. Joan Vickey, Service Club sponsor.

To be considered members, students must attend regular meetings and are required to participate in at least three community projects a semester.

"I joined Service Club because I thought it would be an easy way to get service hours while spending time with friends. The more service projects we did, the more I realized how much the community needs talented youth to volunteer their time and efforts to help out," remarks sophomore Kelsey Mitsdarffer.

Spreading the word at Mater Dei doesn't stop with the Service Club. There are many groups that do all they can to take a stand for what they believe in. Without and Smart Moves are groups of students that take time to go to the feeder schools to teach the younger students about the effects of drugs and alcohol. Another group that informs feeder school students about facing negative pressures is Promise to Keep.

Junior Haley Austin explains, "Promise to Keep is a program to educate junior high students about abstinence and having healthy relationships. It also teaches them about the effects of having pre-marital sex."

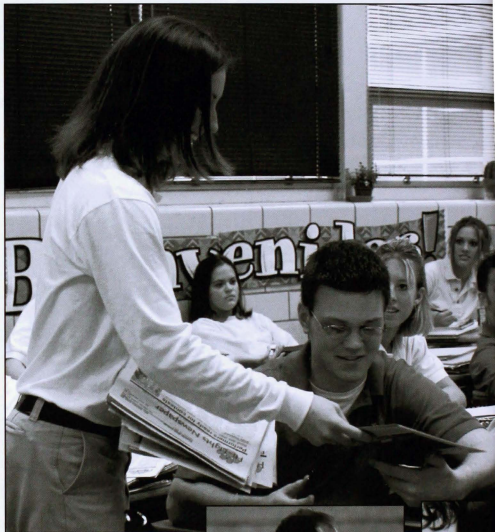
Students not only spread the word outside of Mater Dei, but have many opportunities to bring it into the school. One of the many ways to hear the word is to read it. Newspaper and Yearbook are means of student-to-student communication. Their hard work throughout the year pays off when their classmates are able to review and remember events of the past year.

"Newspaper and Yearbook are a good way to show what Mater Dei is about because you can look through the newspapers and yearbooks and see the year through pictures and stories," says senior yearbook editor Katie Scheller.

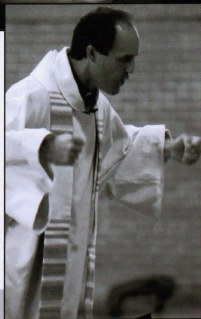
Another major part of the tradition is the spiritual aspect. Mass helps to spread the word of God and fulfill the lives of the student body and staff.

The tradition of excellence touches every student and everything Mater Dei is about. With a variety of things of happening in and outside the building it is clear the tradition is upheld through the voice of the students.

Leslie Goans '06, Andrea Schnur '06, Toni Solis '06



The editor of the *Hi-Lights Newspaper*, senior Laura Schroeder, passes out the latest edition of the paper to junior Dustin Slaton. A new paper is printed every five weeks to keep the students updated on the happenings around school.  
Photo by: Jessica Knight



During one of his more memorable Masses, Fr. Kenny Steckler tries to get the student body "pumped up" by acting like Hans and Franz. He used gestures and facial expressions to draw people into his homily.  
Photo by: Meghan Berneking

# Informed





1. Senior Becky Parkinson, a member of the student council, hangs a sign promoting teacher appreciation day. To show their gratitude, the student council baked snacks for the teachers to eat throughout the day.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller

2. Two year member of the service club, sophomore Wes Dingman helps unload a truck delivering food to the St. Vincent de Paul food bank.  
Photo by: Toni Solis

3. Seniors Jessica Knight, Laura Schroeder, Michele Lewis, and Hallie Denstorff walk in the annual Race for the Cure at Eastland Mall. This event benefits breast cancer research and awareness.  
Photo by: Shanna Bush

4. Ms. Marie Williams gives her time for an interview with senior yearbook editor Katie Scheller. The yearbook staff spends much of their time and energy getting quotes in order to record the events of the past year.  
Photo by: Shanna Bush

5. Senior Student Ambassador Jeanna Butler posts Honor Roll results on a bulletin board at Corpus Christi. The students return to feeder schools to inform the school of how their past graduates are doing at MD.  
Photo by: Kristi Wilsman

Senior Lucas Kirsch is one of many who participate in the religious-related activities that the school has to offer. Both Liturgical ensemble and Teens For Life give him the chance to take a stand on issues he believes are important.

"I wanted to spread what I thought about the topics," says Kirsch. "In Teens For Life, we learn different views on the death penalty and abortion, which helps us to find out how we feel about the topics."

Participating in these activities gives students the opportunity to share their activities with those outside the student body.

"We are more active on the public level and the community than in the school itself. Liturgical ensemble helps us to worship and praise God in ways that are interesting to young people. We also go out into feeder school and parishes to sing and show them what we are all about," says Kirsch. "Seeing the faces of the kids when we sing in Mass encourages me to continue doing all I can to promote liturgical ensemble."

Teens for Life, however, ventures much further than the feeder schools.

"Every year we go to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. This gives us a chance to see firsthand what goes on in the capital and learn what we can do to help make abortion legal."

Belonging to a religious group helps foster a sense of community.

"Belonging to Teens for Life makes me feel like I am making a difference because I am standing up for what I believe in."

Like any other activity, Teens for Life and Liturgical Ensemble require dedication and work, but this is not always evident to those who are not participants.

"From the outside, most people do not see the time and thought that are put into these organizations."

Religious groups also help to enhance Kirsch's faith.

"Being involved with these groups gives me something positive to do with my time. They help me to grow in my walk with God and develop my values."

These religious activities will leave an impression on their members even after they depart from the halls of Mater Dei. Because they are full of meaning, the values the members can acquire through these groups will hopefully follow them throughout their lives.

"I would advise all underclassmen to get involved in something now because high school goes by much faster than you think it does. If you are involved with an activity you are passionate about, high school will be a much more meaningful experience for you."

How They See It

# Students are finding new ways to compete

Mater Dei is made up of far more than athletics. Students compete in activities ranging from band to academic super bowl. Many of these activities lack the fan support and acknowledgment they deserve.

The efficiency car team starts from scratch, using bicycle tires and aluminum tubing to build an engine. The team spends numerous hours working on their invention, and when complete, their car competes in Indianapolis.

"The parents are their main supporters. We don't get many students that can go up because the competition is on a school day," explains Mr. Robert Schleiter, faculty advisor of the efficiency car team. "This year we are doing two cars, one of which is a stock car," says Schleiter.

The Academic Bowl teams compete in subjects such as fine arts, math, science, history, and English. Members who compete on two teams are able to compete on the interdisciplinary squad, where questions are taken from all five areas of study.

"We have meetings once a week for history. I study three nights a week for all three teams and do online research," says sophomore Ellen Weinzapfel, a member of the history, science, and interdisciplinary squad.

Many people wonder how the students participating in Academic Bowl can enjoy having the extra homework. However, for many members they view the issue in a different light.

"It fills up my time but it enhances my appreciation for math and the arts," explains junior Natalie Wolf, a member of the math and fine arts squads.

Winterguard is a breakoff of marching band in which girls spend hours of practice perfecting a routine. Practices, usually held three times a week for three hours, help the girls to become better acquainted with their routine.

"The whole purpose of guard is to express a musical selection using flags, sabers, rifles, and other various equipment. Essentially, we perform the musical selection to interpret it kind of like a poem," says senior Katie Reising.

The winterguard team journeys throughout Indiana to compete against schools out of the Evansville area.

"Many competitions are away from home, so there are rarely any fans from Mater Dei attending the meets," says freshman Krista Wilderman.

These teams, often unrecognized, play an important part in making Mater Dei unique. With a little help and a lot of self-support, these teams are making themselves known.

"We bring the car in on May Day, and are mentioned in announcements, newsletters, newspaper, and the alumni newsletter," says Schleiter.

The winterguard team also appreciates the small amount of recognition they receive.

"I think that we are recognized much more than we used to be," says Reising. "We still don't receive the recognition that wrestling or football does, but then again we haven't won state yet."

Caitlyn Nemer '06 and Leah Weinzapfel '06



Juniors Kyle Neisen and Drew Jenkins, along with sophomore Corey Lannert, work on updating the efficiency car. The team has high hopes for this year's competition after achieving 989.01 miles per gallon last year.

Photo by: Caitlyn Nemer

Senior Katie Kemmerlin performs at the winterguard prelims competition in Mooresville, Indiana. On their way to their best season in many years, the guard placed third out of fourteen in the state.

Photo by: Ashley Alles



# Recognized





1. Sophomore color guard member Rachel Schenk prepares for the Central Marching Band Invitational by applying her makeup. The band ended its season by advancing to regional competition for the first time in three years. Photo by: Ashley Alles

2. Sophomore Amanda Cox and freshman Rachel Buskavitz read over a speech before choosing their duo. The speech team sent 13 members to state competition. Photo by: Rosanna Sartore

3. During the math round of the Mater Dei Academic Super Bowl Invitational, senior Ashley Alles whispers her answer to senior teammate Derek Herrmann. The academic competitions give students an opportunity to show off their knowledge of various subjects. Photo by: Jaclyn Muensterman

4. Sophomore band member Tegan Rush tunes his timpani before a competition at Central High School. The marching band is judged on a variety of areas, including music tone and marching form. Photo by: Ashley Alles

5. Freshman Sam Raben shows his school spirit by voting for Ms. Williams to be crowned Faculty Homecoming Queen. The fundraiser was a friendly competition between the staff and gave the students an opportunity to laugh at their teachers. Photo by: Brittini Herron

Competing is common around Mater Dei in more ways than one. As a sophomore, Rosanna Sartore participates on the speech team and competes using her theatrical talent.

"I really enjoy being in speech. The important part of being in an activity is not the recognition you receive, but it's what you get out of it. I've made a lot of friends that I would not have talked to except for the fact I am on the team with them."

Even if speech isn't always looked at as the "cool" thing to do, there are many benefits one can gain from the speech team.

"It's a lot like theatre because you perform, but it is not a huge audience. You learn a lot about expressing yourself. When I talk to others I can see body language that I didn't notice until I joined the speech team."

From the outside view of the speech team, there are many things that would be missed or not understood. As an insider, Sartore sees it and understands it all.

"Someone outside of the speech team doesn't get to see our competitions. They show what we've been working on and practicing. No one goes to the speech meets and sees what is it all about. There are times when we are goofing off, or just relaxing and having fun, but we work hard too."

Although speech is not a physically challenging team, the work is intense and the competitions are mentally testing.

"A lot of people don't understand that the competition is about brains. They also don't understand what it is like to go through a competition like speech."

The speech team's success is due mainly to the participants themselves, but the team wouldn't be where it's at if it wasn't for Mrs. Donna Letfer, the speech coach. The whole speech program has improved drastically with Letfer's input.

"She works really hard and puts her heart and soul into the team. Some of them mirror her efforts."

Letfer's guidance proved to be a key part of the team and many didn't know what to do without her.

"When she was sick, many dropped off because she wasn't there to keep it going. She knows when to tell it to you like it is or when she needs to let you think about things. She knows when to push and when not to. She puts in long hours at practice and goes home and puts in more hours."

Although the speech team is not an athletic competition, it is still very competitive and requires the same hard work and dedication other teams need.

How They See It...

Mr. Dennis Thomas, Mr. Robert Schleiter, Mrs. Becky Hemmer, and Mr. Jason Gries participate in a faculty homecoming basketball game. The faculty also played in the band and led the crowd as cheerleaders.

Photo by: Meghan Berneking

The groups that spread school spirit at MD boost the morale of the fans and encourage athletic teams. These students do their best to spread spirit around Mater Dei in their own ways. They put much time and effort into keeping students interested and enthusiastic about extracurricular activities and athletic events. Although this is no simple task, students enjoy the effect they have on the student body.

"The role of a cheerleader is to lead the team to a victory through support and encouragement and to lead the crowd in doing the same. Our enthusiasm shows through our chants and cheers and hopefully rubs off on the crowd," says junior cheerleader Amber Ferrari.

The pep club's role is also similar to the cheerleaders' because of the support they show for the MD teams. The pep club supports the teams by creating posters for lockers and assemblies and by making and selling buttons.

"It makes people more aware of how well the teams are doing and encourages people to go and support the teams at their games," says junior Britney Kerchief.

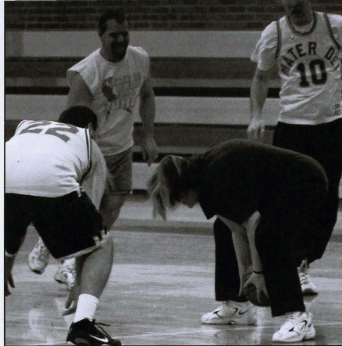
The hard work and time the pep club and cheerleaders spend does not go unappreciated.

"The most rewarding thing about cheering is when the entire fan section for Mater Dei joins along and leads the team through an outstanding game," says Ferrari.

Sophomore Sandra Wildeman also agrees that all the hard work they put into their cheers is worth it.

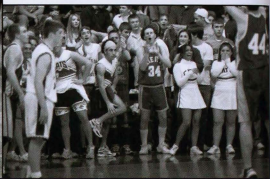
"Getting the bumps on the logs to stand up and cheer is the most rewarding aspect of cheering," Wildeman says.

Invoking the spirit in students during school Masses is the mission of the liturgical ensemble. These students' talents do not go unnoticed when many students enthusiastically



The Mater Dei crowd cheers on sophomore Kelly Muensterman during a basketball game. The student body plays a huge part in encouraging the team to victory.

Photo by: Paul Mindrup



join in their worship during Mass. Actively participating in Mass gives the students the chance to express themselves to God with each other.

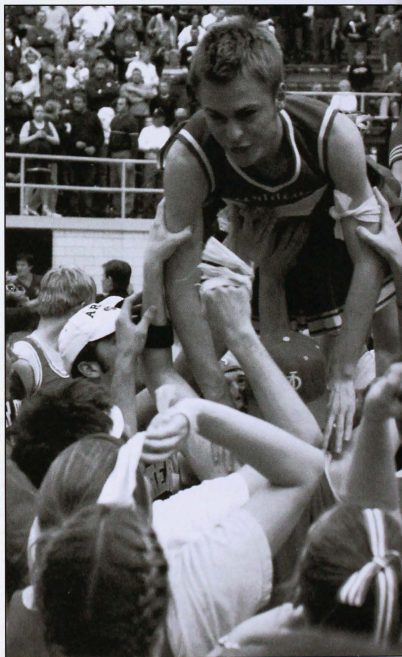
"Seeing others sing gives people the courage to sing and participate in Mass," says junior liturgical ensemble member. "It's also fun being able to be the leader and really getting into Mass makes it more fun and real to us."

The senior class has a responsibility to get crowds pumped up at assemblies, games, and Masses. Their participation often sets the foundation for how much others actively participate. Underclassmen often look to seniors as an example of how to act and join in the festivities.

"They make it more interesting so freshmen want to join in the fun", says freshman Sarah Schnieder. "This year's senior class has taken up their leadership role well. The freshmen want to participate in pep assemblies and Mass because they look at the seniors and see how much fun they're having and want to join in. The seniors aren't afraid to go all out and have lots of fun."

No matter which group of students is spreading the spirit at Mater Dei, the student body has no problem getting pepped up. Mater Dei is fortunate to have a spirited student body.

Meghan Berneking '06, Paul Mindrup '06, & Jessie Seib '06



# Spirit

We Got Spirit, How 'Bout You?





## HOW THEY SEE IT...

Senior Brian Kuester devotes some of his valuable time to dressing up and cheering on his fellow classmates in their athletic events.

"I like to dress up crazy at the games, and it is always a good way to get the crowd going. Whenever there aren't themes, we often like to make up our own."

Kuester is not the only senior guy dedicated to spreading spirit and pepping people up.

"At the girls games Simon Anderson, Eric Stoltz, and Joe Schenk also dress up. Then, at the guys games Jake Oliver and Brent Hogan dress up and sometimes Drew Nurrenbern."

These guys don't just dress in the usual school spirited outfits, but they go to all extremes to get the crowd's attention so they can better pump up the crowd.

"First of all, we think of a crazy outfit that no one would think of to wear to a basketball game and think of a way you could have one of those outfits relate to the opposing team. For instance, we wore scuba gear and said we were drowning the rebels at the homecoming game when we played South Spencer."

Kuester and the rest of the guys don't just dress up for the crowd's attention, of course that is probably a plus, but they do it for numerous reasons.

"It is fun and it is our senior year so you have to have a lot of school spirit and you have to get the underclassmen into it because they don't always show school spirit. It is also a good way to show school spirit and have tons of fun while cheering on the different athletic teams."

All their hard work and crazy outfits have paid off not just for their benefit, but for the benefit of the teams that they support.

"We supported the girls basketball team because there were eight seniors and I had a lot of friends on the basketball team, so I like going to the games and supporting my friends. I know from the games that I played in that the crowd can influence the performance a lot and it helps to have your friends there to cheer on your team. Even if we lost, we had a good time and boosted the team's morale."

1. The senior male cheerleaders attempt to make a pyramid in order to show the student body their great school spirit. They dressed up for many basketball games to inspire the players and entertain the crowd.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

2. Ben Paciorkowski looks on as senior Logan Miller and his mom play a "Newlywed" type game at a football pep assembly. Many groups try to think up fun and creative ideas to entertain the crowd at pep assemblies.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

3. Dance Cat Robin Fehrenbacher performs a routine at one of the home basketball games. The Dance Cats show their efforts at each home basketball and football game.

Photo by: Meghan Berneking

4. Sophomore pep club member Rosanna Sartore begins hanging signs on athletes' lockers. One of the pep club's major projects is making signs to hang around the school to keep spirits high.

Photo by: Meghan Berneking

Senior Brian Kuester does twenty push-ups to celebrate the boys basketball regional victory.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

# “A leader is one who knows the way, shows the way, and goes the way.”

Mater Dei has many different groups that encourage students to stand up and be leaders to the rest of the student body. Leadership is one aspect that makes Mater Dei a strong school and community. The senior class is looked upon for leadership by the rest of the school because they are the oldest and have the most experience. It is their responsibility to encourage and inspire the rest of the student body.

“As a senior, I feel we have more responsibility because we must make sure everyone is doing what they are supposed to be doing,” says senior Katie Frank.

Besides the senior class, being a part of Student Council is an excellent way to lead the way. Some of the ways council members help the school include deciding what spirit themes will be used during Homecoming week, setting dates for the dances to be held, and organizing canned food drives as well as the Adopt-A-Family program.

“When you’re in Student Council, you need to watch what you do because others are always looking up to you and you need to earn respect,” comments senior Laura Schroeder, the Clerk of Mater Dei-ville.

Senior homeroom representative Hallie Denstorf agrees saying, “It takes a lot of responsibility because underclassmen and other peers look up to us. Especially the freshmen, because they look up to all of the upperclassmen.”

Another group who leads by example are the students who share their experiences and choices with grade school children. Smart Moves, Without, and Promise to Keep are only a few examples of students that take the leadership role to a new level. They take time out of their classes and lunch periods to go to the elementary schools and talk to the children.

“If you know people are looking up to you, it makes you want to set a better example and giving up time after school is worth it,” junior Mallory Morrow replies.

Service Club is another example of students who go out of their way to help the school and the community. They volunteer themselves in many activities around the city that display leadership. A few examples of what the service club does are going to St. Vincent De Paul’s food pantry and unloading trucks of food, making cards for the patients at Pine Haven nursing home during the holidays, and volunteering their time to work at White Cane Day at Mesker Park Zoo.

“It’s rewarding to know that I am helping to make someone else’s life easier. It’s amazing that I can make a difference just by volunteering a little bit of my time,” says junior Susan Muensterman.

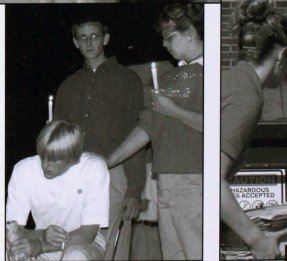
These are just a few groups of people who lead the way at Mater Dei. Leadership is an important part of our pride and tradition.

Andrea Goebel '06, Brittney Kerchief '05, & Kendra Scheller '06



Principal Marie Williams swears in Mater Dei-ville’s clerk Laura Schroeder on Inauguration Day. In the afternoon assembly, the clerk swears in the mayor and the judge to begin their duties. Photo by: Katie Scheller

Senior Smart Moves members Shane Provost, Jenna Schmitt, and Derek Herrmann perform at the Red Ribbon Week assembly. The skit performed gave insight on how drugs affect the lives of others. Photo by: Andrea Schnur



# Leadership





1. Senior police officer Eric Stoltz gives a ticket to an illegally parked car. Police officers not only enforce the school laws in the parking lot, but around the hallways as well.

Photo by: Stephanie Seibert

2. Faculty and students meet around the flag pole on the National Day of Prayer. This is a way for the students and faculty to gather and pray together.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Senior girls offer their advice on different situations to the sophomore girls at the sophomore retreat that was held at Mater Dei. They discussed many topics, from religion to peer pressure. Photo by: Brittini Herron

4. Brandy Sparks and Brian Kuester recycle papers used by the Mater Dei departments. Sparks and Kuester recycle papers to help out the school and the environment.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

5. Mater Dei-ville Mayor Todd Wannemuehler pauses for a moment to consider an option suggested by one of the other student government members. Wannemuehler encourages everyone to voice their opinions and concerns. Photo by: Ashley Alles

Senior Todd Wannemuehler is well on his way in leading the way. As mayor of Mater Dei-ville, Wannemuehler is definitely seen as a leader to the rest of the student body and even the faculty. The mayor has many duties and requires much time and commitment.

"My position is important to me because it allows me to develop my leadership ability while I help improve our student city. One half of my job involves the behind-the-scenes organization and the other part involves delegating responsibility to the other council members."

As the mayor, Wannemuehler must devote his time and talent to the student body, but he must also be willing to hear the opinions and concerns of the other council members and the whole student body. One of his main duties is to relay the students' questions, statements, and concerns back to the faculty members or the principal.

"I feel the student body responds well to me because I am part of the student body. The students know and trust that I have their interests in mind because we share the same interests."

Portraying a leader is a hard role to fill. There are many times when Wannemuehler must be a leader outside of the mayor role.

"Outside of being mayor, I also headed the prom-planning committee as junior class president. While this responsibility proved difficult, it also filled me with a greater appreciation and understanding of leadership."

As head of student council, Wannemuehler interacts with and evaluates the other council members. He knows that the job of mayor is very important and requires specific qualities that he feels many of the council members possess. Although he personally will not be the one to choose next year's mayor, he still gets a vote and that means he needs to pick the person he think will be most qualified to take his place and lead the school.

"In my opinion, leadership requires passion, perseverance, empathy, honesty, listening skills, patience, and most importantly self-sacrifice. During my mayoral term, I've been blessed with the opportunity to work with numerous other Mater Dei-ville student leaders. These individuals have both made my job much simpler and increased the overall effectiveness of the Student Government."

Wannemuehler really stepped up and fulfilled his duty as mayor from day one when he was elected. Next year, we can only hope that someone as dedicated as Wannemuehler will be elected for the position of mayor of Mater Dei-ville.

# Mater Dei's Creative Minds Think for themselves

Creativity can be shown through artistic expression, and each student's perspective of creativity is unique. With classes such as creative writing, art, yearbook, and newspaper, students find enjoyment in their own way of displaying creativity.

Art classes are a common way for Mater Dei students to express their creative minds teach students the skill to approach art from a different perspective.

"Everybody has a different style of creativity. In art you have to find ways to catch everyone's eye," says sophomore art II student Madison Parkinson.

Creative writing class is an excellent outlet for students to put their creative minds to work. The different writing techniques taught in creative writing, from poetry to short stories, allow students to put their pen to paper.

"We are working on poetry and it helps us to work on grammar as well as expressing thoughts and feelings on paper. Some poetry is even published in a Creative Communications contest," says sophomore Jessica Grabert.

Outside the classroom, the yearbook and newspaper staff works to show the school and community the everyday life of students. Staff members attend athletic events and extracurricular activities to photograph and interview students. It takes time and effort to photograph an engaging picture, just as it does to write a poem that will catch the reader's attention and stick out in their minds.

"Yearbook is a big scrapbook of your friends, school, and life in high school. There's a point to it, it feels like you've accomplished something for yourself and for others," says senior 2003-04 yearbook editor Katie Scheller.

To improve their work, staff members invite guests to their classes to critique their work. They attend a Media Day workshop at USI in order to learn new techniques, from photography to writing, they can incorporate into their newspaper or yearbook. Though the classes are enjoyable, they are still hard and require a large amount of time and effort from the students.

"It's very stressful because its based on deadlines and you want it to do a good job because it reflects on you," explains Scheller.

Some students use their imaginative minds to deliver important messages to the present and future wildcats. Groups such as Smart Moves, Without, and Promise to Keep explain the importance of good decision making skills.

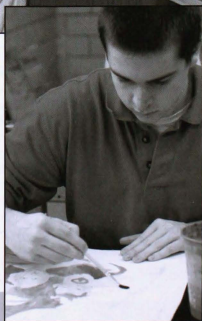
"We have to add style to all of our skits and programs in order to make it exciting but still informative," says junior Promise to Keep member Britney Kerchief.

Creative classes at Mater Dei provide a unique environment in which students express themselves freely. Artistic classes are an important aspect of students' lives and support them in their abilities beyond math and history. These classes provide students an alternative way to productively express their creative minds.

Kelsey Mitsdarffer '06, Emily Raben '06, & Rosanna Sartore '06



Senior Shanna Bush begins yearbook class by checking the assignments in her mailbox. The staff uses their mailboxes to communicate with each other and store information on articles.  
Photo by: Jill Merkel

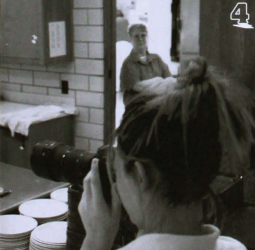
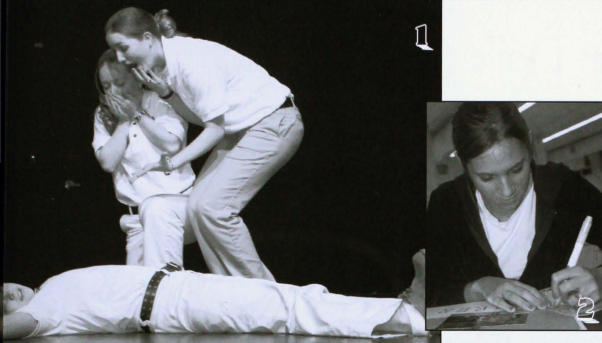


Junior Ryan Perkins paints intensely in Mrs. Jewel Joffray's advanced art class. Students enjoy taking art because it gives them a creative outlet and a chance to get away from the books.  
Photo by: Susan Muensterman



# Creativity





Around Mater Dei, there are many creative minds. Many classes and groups display creativity in certain individuals. Creative writing, art, interior design, journalism, drama, yearbook, and newspaper are some examples. Sophomore Caitlyn Nemer is one of many who chose to enroll in these creative classes.

"I am in journalism so I can be in yearbook next year and start to develop the skills I will need in reporting for different things. In the future I hope to work for a magazine or newspaper."

Journalism is one of many classes offered at Mater Dei that requires creativity. It differs from other required classes because it allows students to express themselves in ways that others don't by challenging the students to look at things from different perspectives and to create new ideas that can be used in the newspaper and yearbook.

"This class is different from most because the things we do are so different than a regular class such as making layouts, taking pictures, interviewing people, and writing stories. It takes creativity because you have to have some ability to think outside the box and show others what they can't normally see."

There are many different assignments and duties to be completed in the journalism classes, which leaves open a wide area for students to find a favorite area in which they choose to excel.

"We work with others to develop a better sense of knowledge regarding journalism. I most liked the photo assignments where we had to exercise creativity because it gave us a chance to be different and get out of the normal routine."

Whereas the journalism classes are based upon creativity, there are still guidelines the school requires them to follow and that includes the routines of taking notes and tests.

"We take tests weekly on the current events and A.P. style book."

Journalism classes give many people a different view on journalism and yearbook and an possibly pursuing a career in one of the other.

"It has made me see how much work the yearbook and newspaper staff members put in writing stories and taking the extra effort to help out and know more about what's going on around them. It sets us up for being better in college and opens our minds to different experiences."

If someone is considering going into a field of creativity, journalism is only one of many classes that students can take to further their education on the subject and gain some first hand experience in the field of study.

1. Junior Brittany Erkman and sophomore Rachel Schenk rehearse with senior Kristi Wilsman playing the collapsed victim. An essential aspect of theater is being able to act in many different genres. Photo by: Brittini Herron

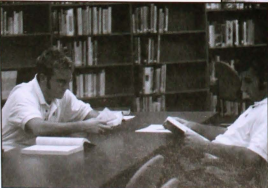
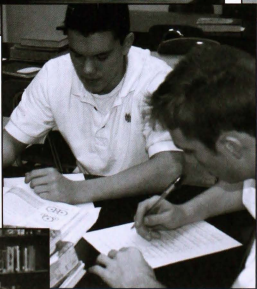
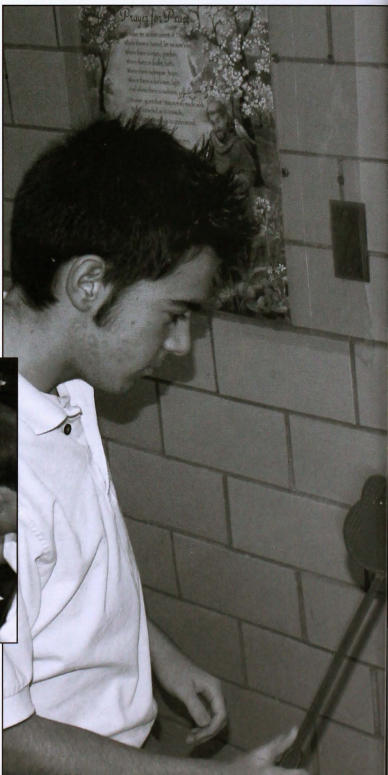
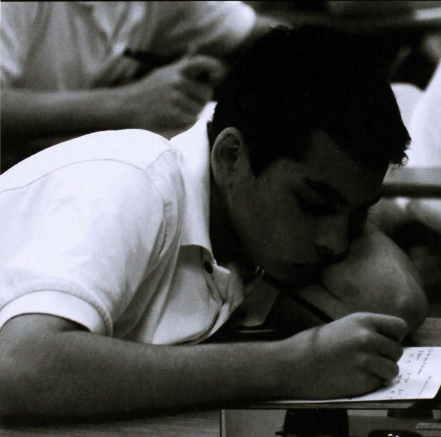
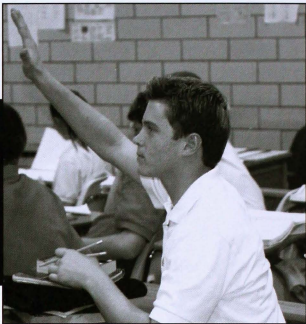
2. Junior mat cat member Ashley Muensterman prepares coach Kelly Maurer's scrapbook. Along with many other responsibilities, the mat cats create scrapbooks for the varsity wrestlers and coaches. Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Freshman speech team members Emily Mandel and Danielle Ritter search for this season's piece. Since the team received a grant, the speech team was able to purchase new materials for upcoming competitions. Photo by: Jessica Grabert

4. Sophomore Kelsey Mitsdarffer photographs the Mater Dei cafeteria ladies as part of a journalism assignment. An important part of journalism class is getting familiar with the camera and how to capture creative photos. Photo by: Rosanna Sarlore

5. Play director Mr. Chris Drew applies gray hair to senior Tim Miller, who was cast as Mr. VanSchtop in the fall production of "Spirator City." Hours are spent applying makeup to transform the actors into their characters. Photo by: Rosie Mayer

How They See It







# STUDYING

**From bell to bell, we are learning.**

But a great deal of learning goes on outside of the 90-minute block and not all of it comes from a traditional lecture.

**Everyone hears about our SAT scores and sees our Lilly scholars, but they don't have the chance to see our classrooms. They don't know the dedication of our teachers or their creativity.**

Unfortunately, many think that these students are naturally brilliant and that they just do well automatically, which is not the case. It is the continuous efforts of the entire faculty; making learning fun, meaningful and relevant, as well as informative.

**Everyone needs to see the whole picture to truly understand why Mater Dei Students succeed.**

Many Mater Dei teachers like to incorporate hands-on projects into their classes to help students learn. Senior Andy Schenk shares some insight into why he enjoys participating in projects that teach.

"During my four years at Mater Dei, I have been involved in many projects that teach. Some of my favorites were the senior English literature project and the Econ Stock Market Game."

Most students enjoy projects that get them out of their desks because presentations and projects make learning more fun than if a teacher lectures for ninety minutes. Some students also enjoy getting to take the stage and stand up in front while sharing their ideas with the rest of the class, such as the projects the seniors had to do in Mrs. Donofrio's English 12 class.

The English power point presentation was fun because I led a group of three other students and we taught the class the story of *Morte d'Arthur*. I like projects like power point and other hands-on projects because they help me understand what's being taught. I'm a really visual person."

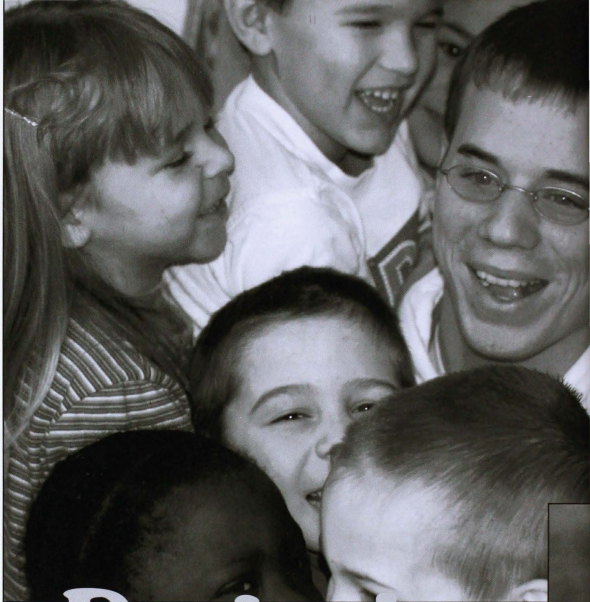
Other projects, however, are unlike the power point presentations and do not involve teaching a class, but remain very hands-on and visual. One example of this is the marriage game in Economics.

"It helps you learn the pros and cons of how a good marriage works and the finances that are involved in every economic decision. I've probably gotten the most out of this project because it made me realize how tough it can be to finance and budget a marriage and possibly even a family."

Another project that Schenk has done heavily involved with is designing the school's web page in his advanced web class.

"I took web design as a junior and learned the basics of making a web page. This year in advanced web, I used what I learned last year to make a web page about the student council. The website is set up to kind of show off Mater Dei-ville and the surrounding community. My group felt that the Mater Dei-ville government should be recognized because it is unique and modeled after a real city government. The group of Erin Harpenau, Rhen Koester, Drew Nurenberg, Craig Maler, and I won first place in the district for the site."

Whether or not someone is a visual learner, projects that teach are important to break up the routine of ninety minute lectures. Whether being the teacher or being the listener, everyone can learn from these projects, and some may even one day grow to enjoy them.



# Projects

## Teaching about life

Mater Dei is full of classes that give students opportunities to experience life in the real world. Many teachers incorporate their own life experiences into their lessons to help teach the students. One such teacher is Mrs. Donna Lefler, who adds projects such as the Stock Market Game and Practical Living Experience into her senior Economics classes.

"I decided to do these projects because my sons moved out on their own and they didn't know how to buy groceries or balance a checkbook," says Lefler. "PLE teaches the students money management and how to balance their budget."

Another project that has real-life value is Baby Think-it-over done by Mrs. Larson's Child Care class. To experience what life with a newborn is really like, students are given a mechanical baby that cries and needs attention exactly like a living infant.

"The responsibility of caring for a newborn teaches the students that they don't have time for a baby at a young age," says Larson.

Most students who have suffered sleepless nights because of their babies now realize how much work parenting is.

"These babies were more real to me because you actually had to support the baby's head and rock it to sleep," reflects senior Megan Martin.

Ministry, one of the newest classes offered at MD, gives students a chance to serve their community by spending time at daycare centers, nurs-

ing homes, and food shelters.

"Being in Ministry and helping at Evansville ARC teaches me what working with kids is like," says senior Liz Kirsch. "Feeding the kids and putting them down for naps will help me because I want to major in Elementary Education."

Finally, one project that every student must endure before leaving the freshmen English classrooms is the dreaded Comma Project. This project, which teaches proper comma usage, is representative of the freshmen academic year.


"Of all the problems that freshmen have, it is commas that seem to take the most ink out of my red pens," says Mr. Chris Drew.

Despite the hard work and torture that freshmen must go through in order to complete the Comma Project, most realize that the benefits of the Comma Project will last through a lifetime of essays and term papers.

"When I was first assigned the Comma Project, I thought, 'Why do we have to do this?' but now I realize that it helped me to learn about how to use commas properly," says freshman Frank Fabiano. "I thought that there were too many rules and it was hard at first, but I worked hard and turned it in on time. I would advise next year's freshmen to pay attention and follow directions so they will get a good grade on it."

Tori Fisher '06, Alex Jost '06, & Allison Probert '06





Senior Nick Frazer is mobbed by the children he works with as a part of Ministry class. Frazer spends his time volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul's daycare center while other classmates help out at nursing homes and food shelters.

Photo by: Laura Schroeder


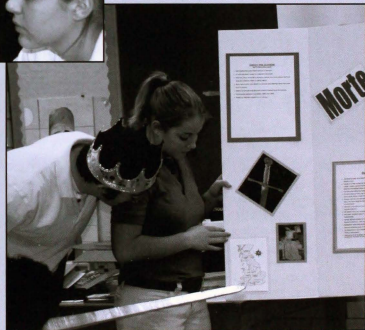


Reaching over a senior student, Mrs. Donna Lefler gives her advice on which stock would be best to buy. The Stock Market Game simulates real world stock trading, which may become a valuable skill later in life.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

During their group projects in English 12, seniors Dan Euler and Jeanna Butler teach the class about Morte D' Arthur. To make the project more interesting the group decided to add a little flavor by wearing a crown and using a sword.

Photo by: Katie Scheller



Before receiving their mechanical baby, seniors Christina Devault and Chris Niemeier listen to instructions from Jackie Richards, a representative from St. Mary's Hospital, about the responsibilities of becoming a parent.

Photo by: Katie Scheller



Freshmen Mitch Funke, Laura Hall, and Marie Wolf measure the height of a tree using a protractor during biology class. The biology classes rely heavily on the outdoors for projects and experiments.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

# HOW THEY SEE IT . . .

Sophomore Meghan Berneking enjoys participating in many of the hands-on projects that are offered at Mater Dei. Many students feel that participating in hands-on projects is a good opportunity to learn things otherwise not taught inside a classroom. These projects help make each school day unique and more interesting.

Berneking's schedule consists of

many classes that allow hands-on creativity. These classes do not only require the usual note taking, boring lectures, and assignments, but also require the ability to interact with others. To succeed with these projects, one must be able to connect the learning and the fun.

"I am in advanced biology where we dissect things a lot. I am also taking creative writing and journalism. In

creative writing, we write stories and poetry. In journalism we do Mr. Wells' dirty work while learning the basics of writing and taking pictures."

Berneking, although only a sophomore, has already experienced many creative classes that incorporate hands-on projects into everyday learning. However difficult hands-on projects may seem to students, most of the time the goal of

these projects is to aid students who learn visually.

"In Advanced Biology, it's easier to learn when you can see the animal instead of just looking at a picture. Mr. Voegel often tests us on a camera so you have to know what he's talking about."

Many students enjoy hands-on learning because it breaks up a day of teachers lecturing and students falling asleep. It allows them to get out of the hard desk chairs and stretch their weary limbs.

"It's a nice to take a break from taking notes and reading textbooks."



Junior Dana Mueller gets her lamprey ready for dissection in anatomy and physiology. Students in the second Semester class also dissect a fetal pig and study various skeletal structures.

Photo by: Stephanie Seibert

Sophomores Jessie Seib and Leslie Goans review the pictures they took for an assignment in journalism class. The students were given many photo assignments that allowed them to get a hands on experience on how the cameras work.

Photo by: Tiffany Floyd





Incorporating more projects into the class schedule gives the students more of a chance to have fun with learning and also helps the students remember the things they learned in class.

"These projects teach because it puts you more into the real world, it applies. I think these methods are effective because you remember stuff better, especially in journalism when we do stuff on the computer."

Hands-on projects are a great way to interact and learn while providing lessons that won't be soon forgotten.

# HANDS-ON HANDS-ON

## A different approach to learning

Every student learns in his or her own way. At Mater Dei, teachers foster students' learning methods with projects and Hands-on activities. Classes from marketing to anatomy and child care to T&I bring a new classroom experience everyday.

"Dissecting in Biology makes it easier to learn because you're able to see what the animals look like on the inside," says sophomore Amanda Cox. "It's easier to memorize the parts when you see the real thing."

Economics, a required class for seniors, helps prepare students for the world. Students enrolled in this class participate in the marriage game and the Stock Market Game, two main hands-on activities the class offers.

"I try to pick stocks that everyone uses," remarks senior Zach Zirkelbach, whose team has been ranked as high as number one in the state. "The stocks I choose are medical related because every person needs medicine."

The marriage game gives students an opportunity to work with other people while learning tasks that are common for most adults.

"It was a lot easier for me because I worked by myself and I didn't have some of the problems that married couples had," explains senior Lindsey Schenk.

Marketing class also gives students a chance to experience the business world. For one hands-on project, students design a product they intend on selling to the student body. Stocks are then sold to fund the creation of their idea. After the product is finally created, students sell the finished product to the student body. This hands-on project gives students experience in the process of producing and selling their own product.

"The puppy chow project made the class more fun because it broke up the lectures and gave us a chance to see how the business world works," says sophomore Kenatia Scheller.

Adult roles is another class offered at Mater Dei that helps students in life beyond the classroom. The class involves learning formal etiquette and helpful tips that can be used in real life situations.

"One project that we do involves staining cloth and then finding the best way to remove the stain," says senior Katie Kemmerlin.

Most students agree that hands-on classes make the day more enjoyable and go by faster. With the variety of ways to lengthen education, it is no wonder hands-on learning is a big part of Mater Dei.

Tiffany Floyd '06 and Stephanie Seibert '06



Seniors Jenjer Elpers and Kevin Tepool cook stir-fry in Mrs. Larson's senior home economics class. This isn't the only class one can take to learn valuable life skills. Textiles and designs, orientation to life and careers, and child care are other classes one can take to further his or her preparation for life.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller

Junior Emily Shetler puts some finishing touches on her project in Mrs. Larson's fashion design class. In this class students learn the basics of sewing. Many sewing projects include pants, aprons, and pillows.  
Photo by: Jessica Knight

# HOW THEY SEE IT . . .

Rare are the students who are willing to join everything possible and work hard to achieve excellence. A model example of this effort is sophomore Mark Modestit. While maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Modestit participates in numerous activities and sports.

"I am a council person-at-large, a member of the reserve football team, the varsity swimming team, a drama participant, a theatre club

member, a speech team member, a member of liturgical ensemble, a member of Without/Smart Moves, Service Club, and Academic Super Bowl. I am also a boy scout and a published poet."

There are many factors that can encourage someone to become involved and excel in all areas. Many people do not have the motivation or the dedication that is needed in

order to achieve success.

"I really started to get involved in high school because I knew it really mattered. I joined all these activities so I'd become more diverse, and it gives me opportunities to meet new people and explore new things."

Numerous activities not only allow students to meet new people and try new things, but they teach valuable lessons such as time management

and organizational skills.

Not only does an overachiever need to be motivated, and acquire all the necessary skills, they must learn to balance their time so they don't become tired and unfocused.

"I organize my schedule and cut back on social time. I really don't know what I'd do with more free time, but I keep doing it so I can be more prepared for a better future."

Of course, being involved in countless activities, things are bound to get hectic, especially if the activities begin to overlap.

"Most of my activities are on all



Senior Lindsey Schenk receives help from Mrs. Robin Sitzman during a Wednesday tutoring session. Schenk takes time out of her schedule to go to the sessions in order to improve her grades. Many students take advantage of after-school tutoring to bring their grades up.

Photo by: Hannah Wannemuehler

Sophomore Derek Lappe puts his answer to Mrs. Mitchell's history contest in the answer box. Mitchell offers the contest to her classes to expand their knowledge of history while giving an opportunity for extra points.

Photo by: Katie Scheller





arent days, but sometimes my schedule conflicts. One day I had music, speech, and swimming practice all meeting at the same time after school. I somehow managed my time and made it to all three activities."

Modesitt is a prime example of extra effort in more ways than one. He hopes to attend Notre Dame and major in political science or pre-law. These are some very high standards he has set for himself to achieve, but he maintains the focus he now possesses, he is sure to become successful in the future.

# Extra Effort

## EXTRA EFFORT

### Proof that hard work pays off

Students who are willing to take time out of their busy schedules and give extra effort are not hard to find at MD. These students, often rare, make up a large portion of the student body.

Many students like to go the extra mile and put in extra time in order to achieve a good grade, reach a certain goal, or receive a prestigious award.

"Hard work definitely pays off in the end," says senior Blake Maurer, a four-time wrestling state champion and honor roll student. "I am living proof."

Improving grades and maintaining GPAs are main priorities that many students work extra hard for. Staying after school on Wednesdays for Ms. Williams' study hall is one way that students can try to improve their grades. Extra credit, such as volunteering at Recycle Day for Mr. Voegel, is another way for students to raise their grades.

Students aren't the only ones making extra effort. Many teachers also give the effort to help their students improve their grades or get recognized for their hard work. Ms. Rogge encourages her students to enter their writing into various contests in order to get published.

"I think we have very talented students who

should get credit for their talent. It looks good on a resume. It is also good attention for our school and good for our reputation," says Rogge.

Through her history contest, Mrs. Mitchell also challenges her students. Each day before class, students have the opportunity to answer a review question for bonus points. Points accumulate throughout the quarter and the student with the most points wins a prize.

"It gets students focused before class starts. It's a good review, and it can help students who don't do very well on tests to gain some extra points," explains Mitchell.

One way for chemistry students to earn extra credit is to demonstrate experiments at open houses and at eighth grade visitation.

"The experiment I did was called 'Old Foamy,'" says junior Anna Reckelhoff. "I mixed hydrogen peroxide, soap, and sodium iodide in a graduated cylinder, and the reaction caused foam to explode out of the top."

Putting in extra effort is a great way to achieve recognition and greatness. It shows that students want to be successful, both in school and out.

Brittney Miller '06, Katie Funke '06, Jessica Grabert '06, & Kayley Will '06

Juniors Brittni Herron and Allison Mesker get to school early to study together in the hallways before the start of the day. Many students use the early morning hours to get help from teachers and study in groups since the new schedule has eliminated study blocks.

Photo by: Shanna Bush



Sophomore Kayley Will lights the candles that will inflate her hot air balloon. The balloon, a project for chemistry class, could earn students up to twenty-five extra credit points.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

Senior Nick Frazer is one of many students at Mater Dei that trades places for a small portion of his school day. Frazer trades places by participating in ministry class, where he and the seven other students in the class go to places like daycare centers, homeless shelters, and nursing homes to help out. Ministry class is one of many ways that students take on leadership roles and become teachers.

"In ministry class, I go to St. Vincent's Day Care and volunteer in a classroom with about fifteen kids. I help out the teachers and do all the fun activities with the kids."

Participating in ministry class has many benefits and is not only for students hoping to pursue a career in religion or the church, but it is also a way to become involved with the greater ministry of the church.

"I have learned a lot of patience with dealing with the kids there and I've learned how to deal with complaining and crying children. I like it because it's something different from the usual every day going to school and sitting in a classroom. It's fun because there is no routine and you never know what's going to happen."

Ministry class definitely gives students a feel for teaching and even shines a different light on learning and the way students understand the work that teachers do and what is being taught to them.

"I've gotten more respect for teachers and what they put up with. They deal with a lot more stuff than we think. It's hard to be a teacher."

Even if someone isn't necessarily hoping to pursue a profession in education, ministry class gives students a chance to experience leading a group and what it means to make a difference in children's lives.

"I think I've made a difference because every time I walk in the classroom, the kids run up to me yelling my name and give me a hug. I like it because it's nice to be appreciated."

For Frazer, enrolling in ministry class appears to be a very wise decision, one that he will remember for a long time.

"I initially joined ministry class because I didn't want to take another art class and David Wolf told me that I should do ministry. Now, I would definitely recommend that people take this class and get out and help others because it's fun to help and you are able to get away from Mater Dei for a little bit of time."

Ministry is not just a class in which a student receives a grade and will easily be forgotten when the semester ends. It is a class that will allow for the development of a person's faith.



## Trading Places

### Students and teachers trade roles

Have you ever wondered what it would be like if teachers and students traded places? Although some may think the idea is farfetched, it is actually more common than most think. Everyday students here at Mater Dei act as teachers through tutoring fellow classmates in subjects from phonics to math. Teachers also help students that need extra help out of the classroom.

"Students are more attentive when getting help from a peer," says sophomore tutor Britney Miller.

On the other hand, some might think that they would get more help from a teacher than a tutor. Regardless, it is not hard to see that they enjoy helping others with their studies.

So we've seen what it's like for students to be teachers, but what about teachers being students? Some faculty like math teacher Mrs. Angela Strehl and principal Ms. Marie Williams are currently studying to get their master's degree while working at Mater Dei.

"It's very difficult to balance everything," comments Strehl. "You lose not only your sleep, but your whole life. My whole life revolves around my boys, and it's hard to fit anything else in."

As for whether she likes being a teacher or a student, Strehl says, "I love teaching, though I would give up all responsibilities of being a teacher and an adult to just be a student again, while still retaining all of the information of my adult life."

Williams, on the other hand, says, "I feel like I never left school."

She has worked on many parts of her degree throughout her life, and can't get enough of learning new concepts and ideas.

Katie Scheller, a senior, has participated in the student ambassador program this year. In this program she goes to her old feeder school, St. Boniface, to help out by tutoring students in various subjects. She likes helping the students, but now realizes how stressful being a teacher really can be.

"I now realize how difficult it is to teach and get ideas across to the kids, but when they finally understand, it is very rewarding," remarks Scheller. "I can now understand why people would want to teach. I have found a new respect for teachers because their jobs aren't all that easy. I don't think I would ever have the patience to teach children day after day."

After seeing that teachers and students trade places every day, both sides have gained respect for each other. Students realize that a teacher's job isn't as easy as they thought, and teachers take note that being a student isn't like it used to be. It only adds to the importance of empathy and respect for others.

Natalie Fleming '06, David Hudson '06, & Hannah Wannemuehler '06



Senior Katie Scheller helps a Westside Catholic student through the Student Ambassador program. As student ambassadors, seniors travel to the different grade schools around the city to help younger students with their classwork.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

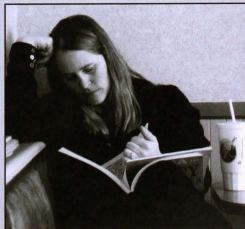
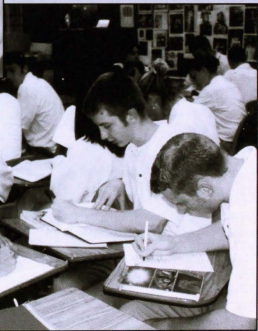


Junior Nikki Sheridan helps classmate Amber Ferrari with her homework. Students often refer to other students for help in classes because they can't always find time for the teachers to help them.

Photo by: David Hudson

When teachers finish their lesson plans early, students often tutor each other when they need help. Juniors Jason Devillez, Michael Fuchs, and Greg Ambrose work together on homework in Mr. Wathen's classroom.

Photo by: David Hudson



Geometry teacher Mrs. Angela Strehl studies for her master's degree at the local McDonalds. After three years of work, it finally paid off and Strehl received her well-earned degree in secondary education in mathematics in December from USI.

Photo by: David Hudson

Sophomore Brittney Miller adds a creative touch to her phonics tutoring session. She enjoys tutoring a five year old boy once a week for a little extra money.

Photo by: Hannah Wannemuehler

Learning typically takes place indoors. Sitting inside classrooms normally takes up the majority of the day at Mater Dei. However, some teachers take the initiative to bring their classes outside the classroom and into a different, more interesting learning environment. Freshmen experience this method of teaching most often in Mr. Voegel's freshman biology class. Chris DeWitt is one of many freshmen who enjoys taking the learning outside the classroom.

"It's almost like a break because you're not in school, and it doesn't seem like you are in class, and it makes the class go faster."

Learning outside the classroom is similar to hands-on learning because students literally have their hands on the material that they are studying. Many students find this method of learning easier because they can visually comprehend the material instead of looking at a picture. Actually seeing the lesson also makes it easier to remember the information.

"Hands on and close contact with what you are talking about definitely helps you understand it more. I recognize what we are studying when I am walking around outside and when I'm outside on my own around my house."

Mr. Voegel takes his biology classes outside and engages them in many different projects in his "outdoor classroom."

"Depending on what we are studying, we go and we might look for specific types of plants or fungus. Mr. Voegel will talk to us about what we are looking at and what we found and explain to us what they are. We might take them in and look at them in the microscopes or just look at them out there and talk about them. Once we had a scavenger hunt and we were looking for leaves when we were studying dicot and monocot plants."

Learning outside the classroom can sometimes be a messy activity and for this reason, Mr. Voegel requires his students to bring extra clothes and shoes so that they do not dirty their uniforms and track mud into the hallways.

"We bring in old pairs of shoes from home, and we keep them in his room and when we go outside we change into them and take them back off before we go into his room."

There's something exciting about taking a lesson taught inside the classroom and incorporating it into the world outside of lab tables and goggles. Not only does outdoor learning break up the routine of the school day, but it also makes learning more interesting and easier for the students to understand.



# No Limits

## Taking education beyond books

Among the responsibilities and obligations that students have to deal with, school is a top priority for most because education will determine the futures and successes of students. Much time spent outside the classroom must be dedicated to reinforcing what is learned during class time.

Study groups and tutoring are ways to continue in-class studies. Getting together at home or in libraries are beneficial methods of preparing for tests. It helps to study with peers because they are on the same level.

"Studying with a group puts more than one mind together and gets more done in less time. It keeps me entertained while learning at the same time," says junior Britney Kerchief.

Many assignments are given specifically to be done away from school. Journalism, yearbook, and newspaper classes require students to shoot pictures at extra-curricular activities. Photographing school events helps the students to become familiar with the equipment and extend their creativity.

"Shooting sporting events gives me a front row seat to the action, and it's always fun to see the outcome of my work," says junior Britni Heron.

Future interior and fashion designers can benefit greatly from sewing, cooking and child care classes by becoming more specialized in their home economics classes.

"I learned how to make a pair of pajama pants and used what I learned to make Christmas presents. It made me feel like I had learned something useful and applied it to my life," says sophomore Britney Miller.

Art students travel to art galleries on field trips and have the opportunity to view works similar to their own projects.

"Looking around at all the works gave me ideas for some of my own drawings and paintings that I've been working on. It's fascinating to see different styles, elements, and techniques in use," says junior Susan Muensterman.

Health classes travel to the morgue to see firsthand the realities of drunken driving.

"It was really gross, but interesting at the same time to see what can happen to people who abuse drugs and alcohol," states junior Mallory Morrow. "We were able to touch the organs."

Biology classes often venture into the woods to observe nature. One project, in which going outdoors is the basis of the assignment, is a week-long study of gathering natural specimens and bringing them inside to the lab to examine them more closely. Field trips, homework, and outdoor labs offer the perfect opportunities for taking education to its fullest.

Joseph Butler '06, Laura Mesker '06, & Abby Werner '05

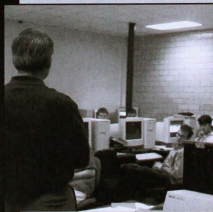
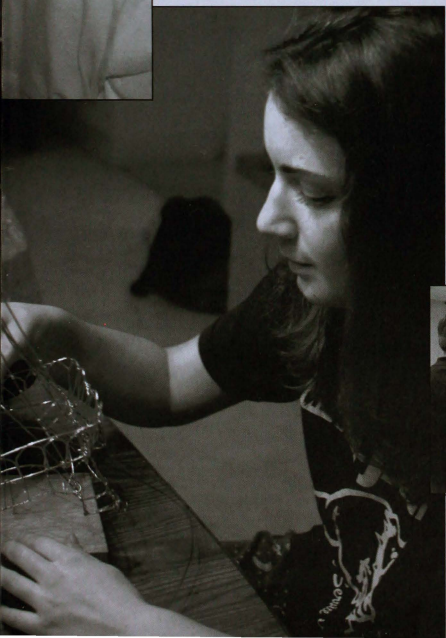


At a field trip to the Evansville Museum, sophomores Nicole Hinderliter and Hailey Kempf sketch a work for later discussion in class. Viewing the artwork gives students ideas for improving their own works.  
Photo by: Laura Mesker



Sophomore Brittney Miller snaps pictures at Howell Park during the Walk-A-Thon. The pictures were shot for a publication assignment in the Introduction to Journalism class.  
Photo by: Laura Mesker

Senior Andy Wathen landscapes the courtyard during Mr. Carl Voegel's Advanced Biology class. This project helps to keep the courtyard looking neat and presentable.  
Photo by: Stephanie Seibert



As part of Mr. Roger Sills' computer graphics class, Ron Cole from Inland Container came to Mater Dei to talk about how his business makes packaging. He then gave the students the chance to try their hand at his job, package designing, where they designed a box for a chair.  
Photo by: Katie Scheller

Sophomore Laura Mesker uses her extra time to finish a wire sculpture to be entered in the high school art show. With so many art projects that have to be completed, students often take their pieces home to stay on schedule.  
Photo by: Brittney Miller

# HOW THEY SEE IT . . .

Junior Kourtney Scott has a talent for balancing. Not only must she balance her drumsticks while performing in the band, but she also balances her time between the many activities she has joined.

"A regular day for me during band season is: I go to school, have band for two or three hours after school, go to dance for an hour and a half, then drive a half hour home and then work

on homework. Usually I try to get five or six hours of sleep."

Scott is involved in cheerleading, liturgical ensemble, dance, academic super bowl, while also maintaining the titles of drum major, junior councilperson at large, finance head of the efficiency car team, and backstage and choreographer for the musical. She does all of this while maintaining a 3.7 GPA.

"With all these activities, I have friends from every group. I enjoy doing everything that I am involved in, and I wouldn't want to give anything up. I would actually like to do more than I do now, but it really wouldn't be possible."

Scott isn't the first generation of her family to be involved in many things. In fact, it was her mom and sister that motivated her to become involved.

"My mom wanted me to get involved in high school because she was very involved when she was in high school. One main reason I got in band is because of my sister who did it all through high school and college, and I just saw how much fun it was and I realized it really is that much fun. All of my best friends are in band and that gives us a lot of time to hang out and be stupid."

Involving oneself in numerous activities, balancing time, and sometimes choosing between activities can become very stressful. How a person deals with stress plays

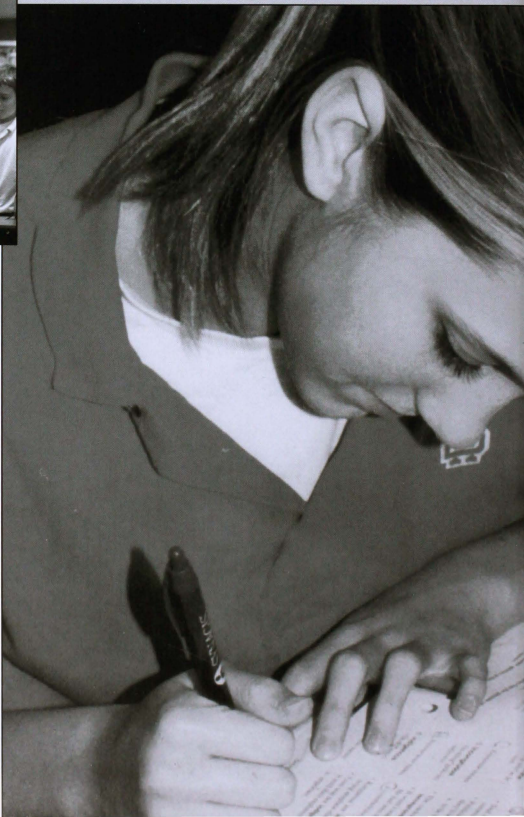


Signing his letter of intent to wrestle at Ohio State, Senior Blake Maurer is surrounded by students and teammates that support him. Blake achieved this scholarship by maintaining high academics while becoming Mater Dei's first four-time state champion.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

Sophomore Laura Mesker makes weekend plans with her friends while transferring cookies to a tray while working at the Donut Bank. Many students involved in school activities work on the side to make extra money.

Photo by: Kim Spahn





a huge role in his or her attitude.

"There seems always to be another activity that's going on at the same time as something more important. I always have to choose which activity is more important. My main stress reliever is when I'm driving home; I listen to music, and what I listen to depends on my mood. It usually calms me down."

The balancing act is a hard one to tackle and perfect. Scott is among few that have the dedication and persistence which are necessary in order to keep involved with Mater Dei and the surrounding community.

# BALANCING

## Managing time when you're involved

When it comes to Mater Dei students, getting involved is not a question. It seems like everyone is in something, but the real question is how do we balance it all. Some students have practice every night, a job, club meetings, and still manage to maintain a high GPA. Students can be in anything they want; they just need to be able to balance their schedules and know what's really important to them. One thing that really seems to help is planning ahead.

Ashley Hoffmann, a sophomore, has two part time jobs, is a member of the volleyball team, and somehow finds time to maintain a high GPA.

"When I'm not in volleyball, I work extra so that way when the season starts, I won't have to work as much," Hoffmann says.

Handling all the stress of school and sports with two after-school jobs is far from an easy task.

"I got frustrated at first, but I got used to it. It really taught me how to work with others and plan ahead," says Hoffmann.

Another good way to balance activities is for students to set goals for themselves to achieve. Blake Maurer, a four time state champ in wrestling, is a perfect example of

this. Maurer has maintained a 3.5 GPA and earned a full-ride scholarship to Ohio State.

"My main goal at the beginning of this year was to win my fourth state title, and it feels great to say that I accomplished that," comments Maurer.

Involvement in activities forces students to evaluate their priorities and make sure that their schoolwork and other more important activities come first.

Sophomore Tiffany Payton goes from volleyball to basketball to softball year after year. Going from season to season in a strenuous sport proves to be stressful at times.

"There are nights when I get home from a game, and I am exhausted. I just want to talk on the phone, but I have to force myself to do homework," Payton remarks.

It's amazing that students can balance everything and still manage to have lives. Sometimes students are in so much that they get burnt out. This is when it comes time to decide what is important.

"If you're working so much you can't get everything done, it's just not worth it," Hoffmann agrees.

Courtney Adler '06, Lauren Oliver '06, & Kim Spahn '06

Junior Kourtney Scott, along with sophomore David Learned, leads the students at a pep assembly by playing the school song. Along with participating in the band, Scott is involved in cheer, student government, dance, and still maintains academic honors. Photo by: Katie Funke



Sophomore Tiffany Payton uses a spare moment in class to study ahead for a test. Maintaining good grades is mandatory to participate in extra-curricular activities and sports. Photo by: Kim Spahn







# OUR TIME

**When the last bell of the day rings, we are off and on our own.**

After the long hours of lectures, the countless updates and the seemingly ever-present pop-quizzes, we need some time to unwind and enjoy ourselves.

**We have interests that we pursue and talents that we are developing. We use our time wisely . . . for the most part.**

We are constantly searching for fun and new things to do. School is the central focus of our lives, and although it gives us much to do, on our own we find activities to occupy our time.

**This is our life and this is how we spend our time.**

Student Life

# Shining in the Limelight



Performing isn't for everyone. Performers often have a certain star quality or charisma about them that gives them the edge and extra something it takes to entertain an audience. It is a competitive process that requires skill, concentration, talent, and overall, passion.

Junior Brittany Erikman establishes that there is nothing quite like taking the stage, and that it can actually become quite addicting.

"There's an amazing adrenaline rush that the crowd gives off," says Erikman. "Ever since I was little, stepping onstage has just been my comfort zone. I love singing."

Erikman has performed in the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival Talent Show in addition to taking the stage in musicals and plays.

"It's just a feeling of sheer bliss," says Erikman, who has sung in front of over 5000 people.

Performing comes in forms other than singing and acting, however. Junior Ben Weber, a member of the MD Speech Team, teamed up with Rosanna Sartore in humorous duo to perform "Variations on the Death of Trotsky."

"I'm a very competitive person, and, oddly enough, speech is very competitive," Weber says.

Speech team members put in hours of work each work preparing for the competitive meets. The hard work, however, is compromised with fun.

"But people don't know that it's actually fun and you don't have to do a serious piece. You can do funny things," explains Weber.

Performances are even taken inside the classroom. For Ms. Rogge's AP English class, Junior Craig Schutz composed and performed an original song for his Hamlet presentation.

"I thought the idea to write a ballad was original," says Schutz. "It took about eight hours to write the music and lyrics for the song. It takes quite a lot of time and energy to write music."

Performing is a skill that takes time to get used to and becomes beneficial when developed.

"Performing in front of people does get you prepared for speaking in front of people because that's what you have to do in real life," says Schutz.

Performing is also an area that requires thick skin to succeed.

"The stage can be your best friend or your worst enemy. If you fall down, you have to get back up and keep moving. That's all you can do really," says Erikman. "Most the time, the audience only notices the big mistakes, except for a select few," she laughs.

Susan Muensterman '05



Seniors Shane Provost, Philip Elpers, and Ben Paciorkowski "speak no evil, hear no evil, see no evil" and hide from the queen during the musical. Their trio of the Minstrel, the Jester, and the King was the subject of many laughs and created a humorous storyline.  
Photo by: Tiffany Schoenbacher







1. Acting out "Four Guys, a Camera, and a Dream," seniors Sam Weber, Joe Hillenbrand, and B.J. Griese entertain the audience at the talent show. The fourth member of the group, senior Kevin Tepool, received many laughs as he comically kept the beat on a cowbell.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

2. Carefully watching for the time to expire, senior Tim Miller awaits the queen's decision on the fate of the princess. This year's musical retold the classic story "The Princess and the Pea."

Photo by: Tiffany Schoenbacher

3. Siblings senior Shane and junior Emma Provost serenade the crowd with their rendition of "The First Cut is the Deepest" during the annual talent show.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

4. Senior Katie Frank performs both original and cover songs at the Wadi. The Wadi Cafe is a haven where many high school students relax in a tranquil atmosphere.

Photo by: Caitlyn Nemer

5. Senior Kristi Wilsman shows her star quality during her talent show performance of Reba McEntire's "Fancy." Wilsman also starred as Lady Larken in the musical "Once Upon a Mattress."

Photo by: Katie Scheller

6. Ladies-in-waiting freshman Alex Bigge, junior Brittany Erkmann, sophomore Robin Fehrenbacher, and junior Jaclyn Muensterman sing as part of the chorus during the opening song of this year's musical.

Photo by: Tiffany Schoenbacher



## HOW THEY SEE IT . . .

Being a star is something that some people dream of their entire lives. For a talented few, the opportunity to live out their dream comes early. For junior Emma Provost, being a star is something that she is already experiencing.

"I've always loved singing and I've always been told I have a good voice."

Performing on a stage before a crowd can be unnerving and even stressful.

"It's really nerve racking, but when you are on stage long enough you start to get comfortable. I have a tendency to re-

ally hear the music and project the meaning through song. My biggest fears when on stage are my voice cracking, not hitting the right note, or being flat."

Before performing, most people usually prepare in some way. Others find they don't need to prepare a whole lot.

"I don't really prepare. For the talent show I didn't even practice with Shane, but it usually all pans out in the end."

After having a great performance, it is a relief knowing that they did well and left the crowd satisfied.

"I feel totally relieved after a performance because I'm always hoping for a good performance. It feels great knowing that people enjoyed my talent."

Dreams of stardom involve fantasies of one day being famous. However, Provost does not feel famous these days.

"In my own right I have my own fans, but I don't really feel famous."

Feeling comfortable performing is something that every future star hopes to achieve. While some performers feel most comfortable on stage with other

people, others prefer to be solo.

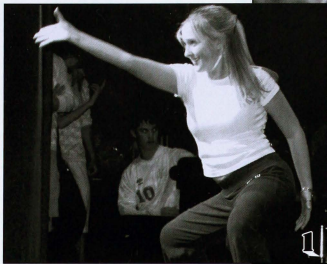
"I am more comfortable with my brother because with his personality I can mess up and he can play it off. But I also like playing solo because I can be myself and do the best that I can do and I only have to rely on myself."

Provost, taking a bigger step towards her singing career, tried out in Atlanta, GA for American Idol.

"I got a good response, the people enjoyed my voice but I felt they were looking for someone born in Georgia."

For Provost and other young star gazers, experience and practice seem to be a must in furthering their career in performing.

# It Takes Two to Tango on the Dance Floor



The music blares deafeningly as the crowd surges to the beat and laughs echo over the din. Surrounded by friends, you can't help but join in and belt out the lyrics to a popular song. Welcome to a Mater Dei dance.

"When I get on the dance floor, I don't care what people think and I let myself have a blast," says senior Eric Reffett. "Even though I am required to be at dances because of student council, I would go anyway because all the students get together and have a good time."

The Christmas Dance also gives underclassmen a chance to attend a formal dance since Prom is limited to juniors and seniors.

"I liked going to the Christmas Dance because I got to dress up," remarks freshman Liz Wargel. "It was fun shopping for my dress and getting my hair done. I can't wait until next year."

Although listening to music and busting a move on the dance floor can bring a good time, most students agree that dances are fun because everyone makes them fun.

"Dances have gotten better since my freshman year, but only because I realized that they wouldn't be fun unless I made them fun," says senior Tyler Musgrave.

Dances are also just another excuse to have something to do and hang out with friends.

"I go to dances because I like talking to people and dancing," says sophomore Danielle Etsner.

It also gives the girls a chance to primp and get dressed up for their date.

"I especially like the Christmas Dance because it's formal and it makes you feel pretty," explains Etsner.

Many people enjoy going to the dances when they are after sporting events and clothing isn't important.

"The first dances of the year are the most fun because in most cases we are celebrating a victory after a football game and we have a theme to dress to," says senior Kristen Kissel.

For many students, school dances have been the site of experiences that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

"During the 2004 Basketball Homecoming Dance, Tyler Musgrave and I went on a break-dancing rampage and challenged everyone," remembers Reffett. "Either we were better dancers or people were scared of us because we won. It was awesome."

Ashley Alles '04



Juniors Phillip Fischer, Jenna Denstorf, and Haley Austin enjoy themselves at the Christmas Dance. Four inches of snow did not slow down the excitement of the evening. The snowy night was filled with laughter, dancing, and good times.

Photo by: Stephanie Seibert







1. Junior Kourtney Scott performs at the talent show as host Eric Reffet watches on. Scott, an experienced dancer, has been performing since she was young.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

2. Senior Kyle Messersmith dances with the cheerleading team at a pep assembly held for the soccer team. The pep assemblies provided a good way to show support for school teams.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

3. Spinning around on the dance floor, junior Jeremy Coomes entertains the crowd that formed around him. Coomes was a member of the basketball homecoming court.

Photo by: Brittni Herron

4. Senior Hallie Denstorf busts a move after winning basketball state. Denstorf, one of the many who attended basketball state held at Conesco Fieldhouse, stopped filming to celebrate with her friends.

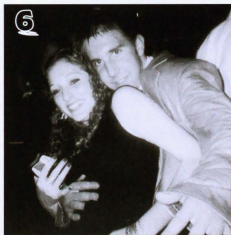
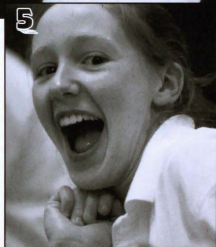
Photo by: Jill Merkel

5. Junior Brittni Herron dances during yearbook class to Tim McGraw's "Real Good Man." Herron's daily dancing makes yearbook class more entertaining.

Photo by: Shanna Bush

6. Seniors Katie Frank and Tony Raben get their groove on at the Christmas Dance. Many Mater Dei students attended the dance that was put on by the student council and held at The Centre.

Photo by: Tiffany Schoenbachler



## HOW THEY SEE IT . . .

Dances are one way for students to get loose and have fun with their friends. For a while, dance participation was beginning to suffer, however the music has swayed people back to the dance floor.

Junior Greg Ambrose is a prime example of what dances are all about. Ambrose can very regularly be seen at the dances shaking his tailfeather and having a good time.

"I think they are fun. It's a good way for kids to get to know each other. I really enjoy it."

For most of the dances during the year it is not important as to whether or not everyone has a date or goes solo.

"Usually I go if someone asks me. I'll mostly dance with my date, but I sometimes dance with someone else."

Whereas Ambrose says that most of the dances have been very enjoyable, he still can pick out certain moments that he considers his favorite.

"My favorite song to dance to is 'Hot in Here' because I'm a Nelly fan. My favorite dance in my high school career

was my sophomore basketball homecoming dance because I was elected to the court. It made me feel like I was really liked by all my fellow classmates."

The people that put together the dances, whether it be student council or the cheerleaders, try to get a good DJ that is willing to play a mix of songs so as to keep everyone happy.

"I think it's good music. The music selections that they have are fast paced and you can really get into them. When I dance, we just hang out with a group of

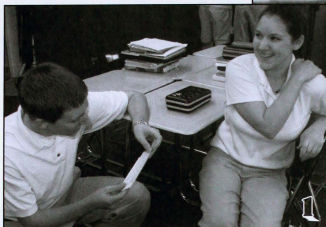
girls and guys and have fun. I am pretty much happy with the way the dances are."

Ambrose, being an upperclassman, knows that it is mainly the older students that are willing to let loose and really get into the music.

"I think it's more the upper classmen dancing because the underclassmen are sometimes nervous."

Most everyone enjoys music and dancing. Even for those few that don't like to dance, or at least not in public, the dances can still be fun. As everyone grows up and their high school years fly by, they learn to realize that it doesn't matter if they look stupid dancing, it's about having fun.

# Reaching Out to Lend a Helping Hand



Many people at Mater Dei volunteer with different activities around the community. Part of strengthening our relationship with God is helping others in service, and the Mater Dei community is well known for our efforts in doing so.

Volunteering doesn't just help the community or school, but it is also a very fulfilling experience for the volunteers. Volunteers use their talents for the greater good of helping those less fortunate.

"Volunteering makes me feel good because I am helping others and doing something to better the community," says junior Jenna Denstaff.

Many of the Mater Dei students may help out with a particular sports team by sharing their knowledge of the sport. Junior Matt Coughlin, a 2004 wrestling state champion, helps coach the feeder school teams at their freestyle practices. His presence there definitely helps to motivate and inspire the young children who may someday want to be just like him.

"I feel like I am helping the future of the Mater Dei wrestling team," says Coughlin.

Unlike a job, volunteering is something many people want and like to do. They do it because it is a good cause and a worthwhile experience.

"I enjoy volunteering," adds Coughlin. "I like to be around the kids and help teach them the things I know."

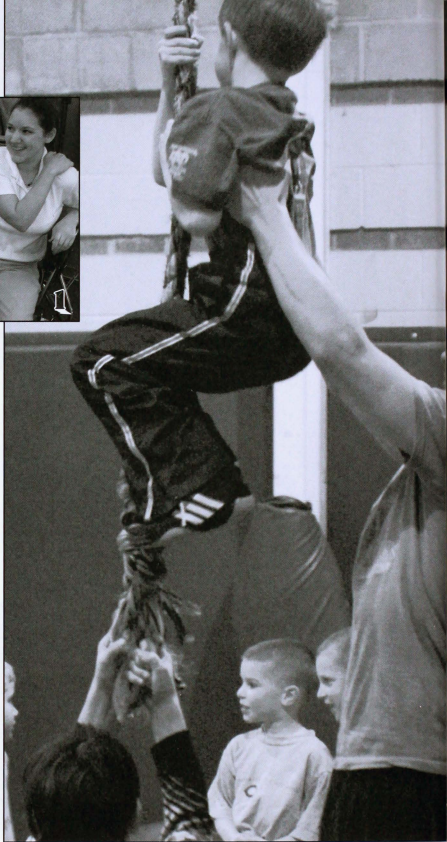
Those who volunteer know how rewarding their experiences can be, from coaching to unloading trucks at the food pantry. Each project helps someone different but their are none more important then the other.

"When I was coaching the WCCS volleyball team, the parents came up to me and told me how good I was coaching," recalls Denstaff. "They supported me and I really liked that."

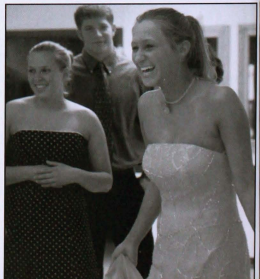
Volunteering may end up meaning more to others than anyone could possibly imagine. Just spending time with children may shape their lives for the better and give them something to look forward to.

"I was a participate in the Buddy walk freshman year, and it really meant a lot to the families of the children with down syndrome," says junior Mallory Morrow.

Volunteering is a worthwhile experience and a must at Mater Dei. Each year the students are expected to acquire a set number of service hours and normally these standards are met with ease. Britni Herron, '05



Junior Kasey Koller models her prom dress for the residents at the Pine Haven nursing home while seniors Jessica Knight and Jon Fehrenbacher wait for their turn. The service club visits Pine Haven on many occasions to entertain the residents. Photo by: Jaclyn Muensterman







1. As a member of Promise to Keep, senior Derek Herrmann acts out a skit for the eighth graders at Corpus Christi. Promise to Keep travels to grade schools around the city to promote abstinence from sex, drugs, and alcohol.

Photo by: Ashley Alles

2. Junior Matt Coughlin assists a grade school wrestler climbing the rope in the wrestling gym. Coughlin, along with other varsity wrestlers, teaches the kids moves and helps them improve their wrestling skills.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Seniors Michele Lewis, Hallie Denstorf, Abby Schmitt, and Katie Roberts stretch in preparation for the 5K Race for the Cure. The Mater Dei team participated in the High School Challenge, which involved getting volunteers to walk in the race.

Photo by: Shanna Bush

4. Student council members, seniors Todd Wannemuehler and Derek Herrmann unload cans to form the May Flower for the Thanksgiving prayer service. The student council collected cans to donate to the local food banks.

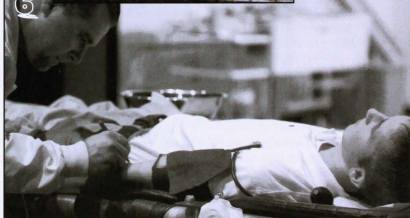
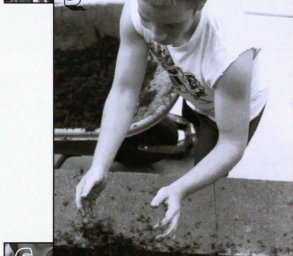
Photo by: Rosanna Sartore

5. Junior Jacob Herrmann places mulch into a flower bed around the side of the school. Many students and adults participated in the campus clean-up to make the school more presentable.

Staff Photo

6. Senior Derek Herrmann braces himself as the technician inserts a needle to draw blood. Mater Dei holds bi-annual blood drive to support the Red Cross and give back to the community.

Photo by: Brittini Herron



## HOW THEY SEE IT . . .

More important than athletics and even academics for many students is their faith. Sophomore Hannah Wannemuehler is heavily involved with her church community of Sacred Heart parish.

"I sing in the choir and read, and sometimes I help out at vacation bible school at Sacred Heart Parish. I like to be involved in my church."

Wannemuehler realizes how much more meaningful faith can become because she has put herself into situations to become more involved with her church.

"I would say that it helps you to get involved and really become a member of your church instead of just going to mass every week. It's been a positive experience and I plan on continuing to do it."

Vacation bible school requires many volunteers to be successful in teaching the children more about God and their faith.

"I help watch the kids and take them around to different activities. I have just done it one year, and I would like to do it again because it was a fun time, and some of my friends were there. It was positive

experience because I felt like I was doing something good for someone else."

Being active in the church is important to Wannemuehler.

"I think if you have the time, you are obligated to do it. I do it because I not only enjoy it, but I feel it is my obligation, too."

It means doing things other than what the average Christian does.

The benefits of being active in the church extend for Wannemuehler beyond the deepening of her faith.

"At first, I get nervous right before I go up, but once I start reading, I'm fine. I don't really think about it. And I don't get so nervous because I read through it once or twice before I have to read it over. It would be more difficult to read her at Mater Dei because you are in front of your peers, and you are more scared of messing up when you are in front of peers. But it is easier to talk about my faith now because I am more involved in it."

Wannemuehler is one out of many students who devotes time to helping others and improving the community around her. Not only does it help others, it offers her benefits as well. Everyone should take her lead and help out.

# Pigging Out

## Piggin' Out

Food is everyone's friend

Since the schedule change second semester, senior out-lunch has been reduced to half the time. Seniors are now finding themselves rushing for fast-food because there's no time to eat at sit-down restaurants.

"I have my ways," laughs senior Erica Bohleber. "It takes like two minutes to get somewhere. The key is to plan ahead of time where you're going."

An all-time favorite restaurant among many MD students is Hacienda.

"Most people go to Hacienda after movies because it's right there by Stadium 16," says junior Beth Groves. "It's mostly cheap, too, and it has great food."

It's not only about the location and the food, however. The atmosphere contributes to the quality that Hacienda offers.

"Hacienda's the place to be. It's fun to tell them it's your birthday because they sing to you," laughs junior Kyle Nelsen. "It's also funny to sneak hot sauce in your friends' food."

While many students spend time in restaurants waiting for their food to be cooked, six junior girls bake their own feast. The "cooking party" idea transpired when the girls, bored in homeroom study, started surfing the internet and found some interesting recipes,

and the cooking parties evolved.

"The cooking parties get out of hand," laughs Hannah Johnson. "We make food that looks like things. At Halloween, we made spiders using twizzlers for the legs. We also made witches' fingers by dipping pretzel sticks in chocolate."

The girls rotate houses for each cooking party, which they hold roughly once every semester, usually on the last day of finals.

"At one party, we made Toilet Bowl Punch. We poured Kool-Aid in a punch bowl and froze Hershey Kisses inside of ice cubes that would float in the punch. Then we smeared chocolate on the rim of the bowl," Johnson laughs.

The parties give the girls something to look forward to at the end of the semester.

"I really like coming to the parties together. It's fun to make food and laugh at all the stupid recipes we can come up with," says junior Rachel Ketzner.

Susan Muensterman '05



Senior Kristin Kissel dives head first into a Valentine's Day cake. On Valentine's Day, the seniors girls held a girls' night that was surprisingly raided by the senior boys.

Photo by: Jill Merkel



Seniors Kristi Wilsman and Jessica Knight pig out on cheeseburgers at the tailgating party before the state basketball game. The student body showed up in full force tailgating before each game and brought their grills to cook hotdogs and hamburgers. Photo by: Jill Merkel

Pigging Out  
Pigging Out



Mr. Rode's German IV class dines at the Gerst Haus on Franklin Street. The food-filled field trip was a reward for the students' dedication to the German language. Photo by: Jenna Schmitt



Mrs. Sitzman serves pizza to the sophomores at their ISTEP pizza party. The annual pizza party rewards sophomores for their hard work during the long week of fasting required by the state. Photo by: Shanna Bush



Sophomores Jaci Babcock, Alyssa Edwards, and Scott Schmitt, along with senior Katie Reising, put the finishing touches on their fiesta food before digging in. Each Spanish class holds a fiesta once a year so students can experience a taste of traditional Spanish culture. Photo by: Katie Scheller

Senior Laura Schroeder feasts on noodles during Spring Break on the Dauphin Islands. Since it was her last day on the island with her friends, the girls had to eat the leftovers from the past week. Photo by: Jill Merkel

# Pigging Out

## HOW THEY SEE IT . . .

Pigging out is not just something that people do during Spanish fiestas, parties, and special events. For some it is an everyday occurrence, especially if certain circumstances come into play. One such instance is the wrestling team, which senior Brian Bittner is a member of. Wrestling at 112 pounds, he knows what it is like to lose weight and also to pig out.

"The first two weeks after wrestling are awesome. We went to Golden Corral as a team and I ate a bunch of pizza. I also ate McDonald's eleven days in a row."

During wrestling season, Bittner and the other lower weights have to watch closely to what they eat. This can be very challenging and have many different effects on people.

"I get anti-social. I don't talk at all during classes. I pretty much just sleep all the time. During lunch I'd sit in the training room because people would bring it up that I couldn't eat."

Near the end of the season, they go crazy and have no limits to what they eat or the money they spend.

"We went on a shopping spree before team state. I picked out what-

ever food I saw. I spent about forty dollars and ate half of it that night."

After the season finishes, they never miss an opportunity to pig out.

"Sometimes I get up during the night and eat. I am always full now and I weigh 141. After the season was over, my dad made a big Thanksgiving meal."

Having to lose weight and keep it off, food is often on the mind of the wrestlers. They go to extremes to lose the weight and it takes dedication to continue on with it.

"At the beginning, I kind of ease into not eating. I just know I will

make it harder on myself if I eat because I will still have to run it off to make weight. But I had to do it to get a spot on the team."

Often times, he found himself daydreaming and thinking about food.

"On the sides of my notebooks, I had doodles of food and drink."

Although it takes self-control and is difficult to stick with, it is something they know they have to do in order to keep a position on the team. For the wrestlers, it is just a way of life for those five or so months.

# Moving On

## Moving On

We just don't finish school; we move on up

Adolescence is a time of growing up and moving on. As eighth graders, students move on into high school and as seniors, students move on into college. Moving on is something that everyone must experience and each person has a way of dealing with changes.

"Coming into freshman year at Mater Dei, I was a little nervous, but happy to be here," says freshman Jerry Parkinson.

The transition period is probably the scariest time for students. Not knowing what to expect going into a new school can cause anxiety for some students. However, after settling into the new surroundings, it usually becomes enjoyable and even comfortable for the students. High school opens many doors of opportunities and offers activities not available in grade school.

"I'll always remember the assemblies because they are always either funny or so crazy that you really don't know what's going on," recalls Parkinson. "I will never forget the freshman lockers because they are so small. On my first day I was worried that I would get lost or I would forget my locker combination, but that never happened."

As the year comes to an end, the seniors also experience a period of anxiety. Where some may be happy to see their high school years come to an end, others may be sad to see them go. No matter the feelings of moving on, everyone experiences nervousness about the uncertain future.

"I feel like I am the only senior who is sad about leaving," says senior Kristi Wilsman. "I am sad because I won't see my friends until breaks which are only a couple times a year and I'll miss my family because I know I have to leave."

Being a senior, most students

feel they have the upper hand at school. They have been through four years at Mater Dei and feel as if they know how things work and what to do and what not to do. Some offer advice for the freshman classes of future years.

"Just get involved in everything without overloading yourself. Be proud of yourself no matter what anyone else says," states Wilsman.

Whereas freshmen may feel like their high school years will be never-ending, the seniors know that they fly by.

"As the years went on, I got more and more anxious to get out. People always told me how fast high school goes and I believe it now," says senior Ashley Adler.

But no matter what stage of life people are in, there are always transitions they have to make; moving on is just an element of life that everyone must accept and make the best of.

Jill Merkel '04



Bishop Gerald Gettlefing makes his annual visit to Mater Dei to speak to the senior class. The seniors took the opportunity to ask him questions about various topics ranging from movies to spiritual matters.  
Staff Photo

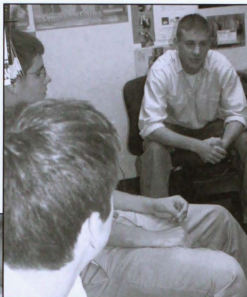
Freshman Emily Mandel tries to sort through the mess in her locker in order to find whatever she is looking for. Struggling with the tiny lockers was something all the freshman had to deal with.  
Photo by: Kim Spahn

Moving On  
Moving On



Senior guys line up behind Mater Dei alumni for the annual senior breakfast. The senior breakfast is put on by the alumni to send off the seniors and to make them aware of the alumni association.

Photo by: Brittini Herron



Mater Dei graduate Kevin Tooke talks with potential Notre Dame students inside the college room at Mater Dei. The college room is often used for college representatives to talk to students interested in attending their colleges.

Photo by: Brittini Herron



Senior Blake Maurer passes the ink pen to his father, Kelly Maurer, while younger brother Dane Maurer watches. Blake is attending Ohio State in the fall on a full ride for wrestling.

Photo by: Brittini Herron



Mrs. Shea Reneer measures senior Rebecca Kelley for her graduation cap. All the seniors had to be fitted for their caps and gowns so the school could order the correct sizes.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

# Moving On How They See It . . .

For seniors, moving on after high school is a transformation that can lead to many opportunities. For most, attending college is the next step, but for some, things come before college. Senior Michael Pigman plans on attending basic training for the Army National Guard the summer before college.

"I am going to basic training for the Army National Guard and then starting my freshman year at IU."

Pigman is pursuing his dreams that he has had for as long as he can remember.

"I am doing the Army National

Guard because I have always wanted to be in the army and I have always wanted to go to IU and it is a good way to do both."

Attending basic training, Pigman hopes to learn lessons that will help him in the rest of his life. He also has goals set for college.

"Hopefully basic will prepare me to be on my own and handle pretty much anything. I am a little nervous about basic. I am studying pre-law at IU so I can either be a police officer or a lawyer which is something I have always wanted to do."

Transition periods throughout

ones life can lead to feelings of anxiety and excitement at the same time.

"Coming into high school, I was scared that the big kids would give me wedgies and swirlies. I am pumped about going to college and I wasn't really too excited about moving on to Mater Dei."

Everyone knows that college is a more relaxed atmosphere, where students get to pick their class times and it would be easier to skip classes. For Pigman and other college-bound students, this means they have to discipline themselves in order to stay focused and succeed.

"I plan on having some fun. I just hope I don't get too lazy and don't go to class once I get in."

Leaving high school and moving to a new city can be a scary and sad time. Whereas it will bring along new experiences and opportunities, everyone must leave something behind in order to move forward.

"I will miss the people from high school and soccer."

Although not all seniors are as sure as Pigman on their college plans or after college, it will definitely be a learning and growing experience for all of them.

Wasting Our Time Away



After the 2:30 bell, the MD crowd directs its attention from taking notes to elsewhere. Aside from school athletics and after school jobs, Mater Dei students put their free-time toward a wide range of hobbies. These hobbies help students relieve their school burdens and enjoy themselves during the little free-time they have.

Junior Mary Beth Barchet is one of many Mater Dei students who put their spare time to good use. Barchet's fascination with serial killers leads her to spend time researching the topic. In addition to enjoying herself, it helps Barchet prepare for her possible future career.

"I find them really interesting because I would like to become a forensic psychiatrist someday," Barchet explains.

Researching is not the most adventurous hobby to pursue, but Barchet finds it enjoyable in a sense.

"I like to read about them and watch documentaries to figure out what it is that makes them so different. Their minds interest me," explains Barchet. "I watch movies like 'Silence of the Lambs' and 'From Hell,'" Barchet says.

Some people aren't fond of the fact that she studies serial killers, however.

"Some people think it's scary, but it's not like I idolize them. I just like to figure out what makes them the way they are," says Barchet.

Junior Michelle Reitman also spends her free-time with an enjoyable hobby: dancing.

"I like to dance in my room to rap songs!" Reitman laughs.

As a nightly ritual, Reitman dances to certain songs such as "Salt Shaker" to get her groove on.

"I love really fast moves that are fun," Reitman says. "I watch myself and perfect the moves."

Sophomore Christy McMillan spends her extra time giving horse riding lessons at her house.

"I teach girls, and we work pretty hard. I teach them about the horse and then I give them a lesson on the horse," explains McMillan.

Giving riding lessons isn't only a pleasant hobby for her, but it gives McMillan and her mother a chance to bond.

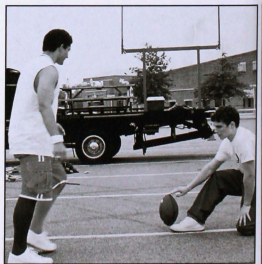
"It gives my mom and me something to relate to, because at this age there isn't really anything along common grounds," McMillan says.

Mater Dei students cling to what they are passionate about. Because students have such diverse interests, Mater Dei is unique.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05



Junior Joe Weinzapfel and sophomore Riley Moore play football in the parking lot of a Blue Cats game. Before Blue Cats games, many Mater Dei students got together to hang out and tailgate. Photo by Paul Mindrup







1. Junior Brittni Herron trains her dog, Shooter, to obey the command "stay" during practice at the Evansville Obedience Club. Herron and Shooter attend class throughout the week and hope to compete in future competitions.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

2. Seniors Jason Born, Michael Pigman, and Brian Bittner play washers at fellow classmate Brent Hagan's weekend party. The seniors got together often towards the end of the school year.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

3. Seniors Michael Pigman and Sam Weber fish while fellow classmates Mackenzie Goebel and Andrea Kiesel sit and watch. Fishing is a favorite past-time of many of the senior guys, and is a good activity to fill spare time on the weekends.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

4. After May Day, the seniors swim in Jon Herron's "car pool." They placed a tarp in the back of Herron's truck, filled it with water, and let a turtle swim in it.

Staff Photo

5. Senior Kevin Hall watches the Pacers vs. Lakers game in a friend's basement. Hall, along with other senior guys, took time out from a party to view the game.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

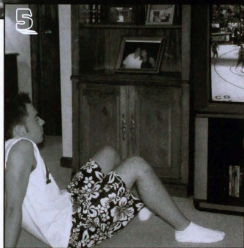
6. Sophomores Tim Goebel and Kevin Short play Playstation after school to relax and have fun.

Video games are a common source of enjoyment and friendly competition.

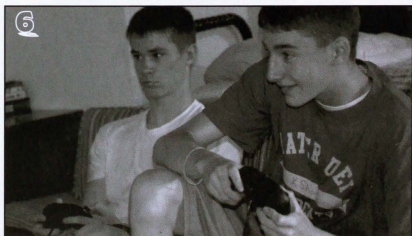
Photo by: Joe Butler



4



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2

# HOW THEY SEE IT . . .

Freshman Andy Walker is one of the few Mater Dei students who work hard to manage both academics and a social life. Walker involves himself with school related activities but also activities within the community.

"I'm into 4-H, Junior Leaders, academic bowl, track, and student council."

Like many students, Walker keeps track of each activity he is involved with in order to keep things as simple as possible.

"I write it all down in my agenda. It

still gets pretty hectic sometimes."

Family life is important to Walker and also takes up a large portion of his spare time.

"My family and I work outside in the yard, and I have sheep. I have a garden I do for 4-H and five acres to take care of."

Deciding which activity, from helping his family to academics to sports, is sometimes a difficult decision that has to be made.

"Lots of times I have to go home to see if I have other things going on. Most

of the time I can fit it all in."

Having friends involved in the same activities also makes Walker's hectic schedule more enjoyable and pleasant.

"Lots of my friends are in the same things I am in. If I go to a 4-H meeting, they are there with me."

Although Walker has little time to spend outside of the activities he has committed himself to, he still finds time to spend with his friends.

"We usually have fun doing what the activity agenda calls for. Friends come

out to check out the sheep. They find it interesting that I have sheep."

Lacking a drivers license is also a factor that makes a busy schedule difficult.

"My girlfriend is in 4-H, too. We don't drive. My parents are very nice about it. If I say I need to go somewhere, they try to take me there. I have cool parents. My dad tells bad stories about me when we are together, but that is who my family is."

Though Walker handles his busy schedule as best as he can, he still manages to enjoy himself all the while.

"I have fun with what I do. If I am having fun, then I don't really need to do anything else."

# Hitting the Road for Fun and Adventure



One of the most memorable aspects of high school is travel. Whether one-time or regular visits outside Evansville, going places breaks up the monotony of usual, everyday Evansville life.

Junior Corey Rosek visited Florida during his Christmas break. For Rosek, who moved to Evansville from Jacksonville, Florida in the seventh grade, the trip was somewhat of a reunion.

"I went to Florida over Christmas to visit my mom and two brothers," Rosek says.

Rosek flew the two-and-a-half hour trip to Jacksonville and stayed for two weeks. It was hanging out with old friends that made the trip both exciting and memorable for Rosek, however.

"I went to all my friends houses and terrorized my old grade school. It was fun," Rosek says.

Spending Christmas away from home would seem to make a person homesick, but to Rosek, a different kind of Christmas had its perks.

"It was pretty awesome because it was sixty degrees on Christmas Day," says Rosek.

Traveling is a regular part of junior Mary Williamson's life, however. One weekend per month and about two weeks during the summer, Williamson drives to Bowling Green, Kentucky to visit her boyfriend and her father. Although the trip is a long one to drive by herself, Williamson enjoys the time it takes to reach her destination.

"It takes about two hours to get there. I like to drive it myself because its therapeutic. I like two hours by myself with the windows down and the radio up," Williamson says.

For Williamson, however, trips to Bowling Green aren't much different than life in Evansville.

"I just hang out, rent movies, go shopping, or watch sports," Williamson says.

Junior Ashley Muensterman braved the sixteen hour drive to Naples, Florida with her family over Spring Break.

"We there were six days. My sister Laura and my cousin and I went to Fort Myers and met a lot of people," says Muensterman.

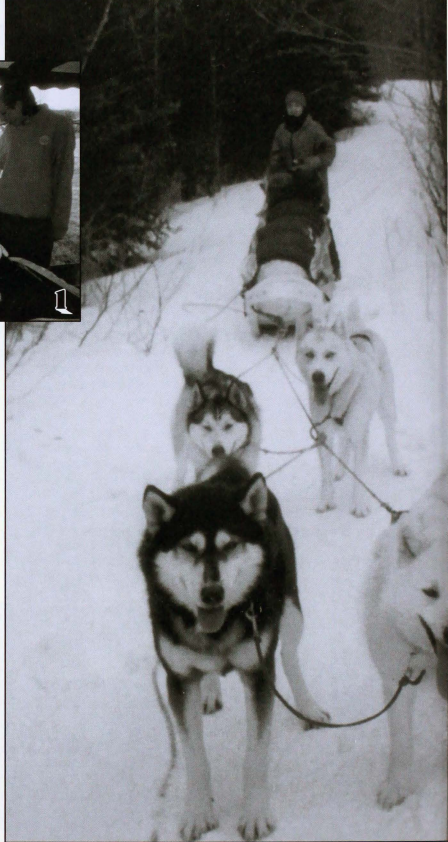
Muensterman spent a lot of time adventuring on her own, but her family was a big part of her Spring Break.

"I spent a lot of time with my family, and my cousins were there, too, so I was with my extended family," Muensterman says.

The trip to Florida was fun enough that Muensterman would drive the sixteen hours again.

"I'd go to panama or another part not so far down and go with friends," says Muensterman.

Jaclyn Muensterman '05



Not every trip students take is for entertainment. Senior David Learned traveled to Murray State to attend drum-core tryouts. Learned will be attending Murray State in the fall. For a couple months, Learned traveled to Murray state every weekend. Photo provided by: David Learned







1. Senior Eric Reffett cuts into the roasted pig at the semi-state boys basketball game in Seymour. The pig pig was paid for by the Friends and Alumni Association and donations from the student body for the pre-game tailgate party.

Photo by: Shanna Bush

2. Sophomore Katie Funke dog sleds over Spring Break in Minnesota. Funke's first time sledding was on the trip with her Girl Scout Troop.

Photo provided by: Katie Funke

3. During the long van ride home from Dauphin Islands, Alabama, seniors Laura Schroeder, Courtney Moore, and Anna Flake take a nap. The seven girls involved in the trip took turns driving to make the long drive easier.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

4. Senior Anna Flake takes time to decorate senior Hallie Denstorff's van windows during their spring break trip. The decorated van drew a lot of attention to the girls as they drove to Alabama.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

5. Senior Kelsey Lottes transfers a solution of nuclei to a slide in order to observe cell mitosis. Lottes was selected to participate in Molecular Medicine in Action, which gives students the opportunity to experience medicine firsthand.

Photo provided by: Kelsey Lottes

6. Laying on the beach in Orange Beach, Alabama, senior Kristina Kayser soaks up some rays. Many students like to take trips to sunny beaches during their week off of Spring Break.

Photo by Shanna Bush



## How They See It . . .

Many people travel to see areas of the country that they have never seen before. Freshman Danielle Rolley has been to many states with her family to see many of the United States landmarks.

"I have been to San Diego, California, New York City, Birmingham, Alabama, tons of places in Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, and Michigan."

Rolley has been traveling since she was young.

"I mostly just go to new places with

my family. We started traveling when I was around seven, and we have been going places every year. We get information on the things to do around that area and we try to do that and at the same time just relax and focus on getting away from all the stuff from home."

The holidays are a favorite time for Rolley to travel with her family.

"New York was the most memorable thing to me because it had a lot of the history from 9-11. I went over Christmas break for New Year's."

Many people watch the ball drop in New York City on New Year's Eve on television. Rolley had the chance to see it in person.

"From our hotel, you could see the ball drop. I could definitely tell why it is the biggest icon of the country."

Just getting out of Evansville is fun, even if it's not a major trip. Traveling to sports events also fills Rolley's time.

"When we went to basketball semistate in Seymour, it was a bunch of my friends, me, and one of my best friend's

parents. On the way up, we got all dressed up in crazy red and gold. We were all really hyper and pumped for the game.

Traveling also helps to break up the school year and makes time fly by.

"It gives me more times to spend with my friends, and it makes school less stressful. It gives you a chance to let go and have fun. It definitely makes the school year go by faster."

Rolley plans far in advance for her summer plans.

"This summer, we are going to Myrtle Beach, and then I think I am going to Panama City with my best friends."

Going places is a great way for friends to bond and also to see new things.

# Tech Fix

# Tech Fix

## Crossing over the digital divide

Technology is a major part of the world today. Without the Internet or cell phones, there would be no way to reach people at a moment's notice. Like the world, Mater Dei has been hit with the technology bug; there is even a technology committee of faculty members. The school's technology fix centers around the e-mail system.

"I like having the e-mail system," says Mr. Robert Schleiter. "There aren't as many trips to the office, and there's a lot less papers I have to save."

Nearly every block, many of the teachers can be spotted peering at their computer screens in hopes of finding weekly schedules and meetings times. But teachers aren't the only ones who use e-mail for school purposes.

"I like e-mailing my homework in sometimes," states senior Scott Modesitt. "It's easier and I don't have to worry about handing it in."

Some teachers, such as Mr. Scott Whitehouse, require certain assignments to be e-mailed in. While some students find it easier, others find it to be a pain.

"I hate having to e-mail my papers in because it's such a hassle, and it's hard to turn in it at the last minute if you forget about it," says senior Lindsey Schenk.

Cell phones are another form

of technology that are sweeping the school. Though phones aren't allowed in the building during school hours, students always seem to find a way.

"During Spanish IV class, I've had a full conversation with somebody on my phone. I lay my head down in my purse like I'm taking a nap and talk," says senior Hannah Scott. "but most of the time, I just listen to my voice mail."

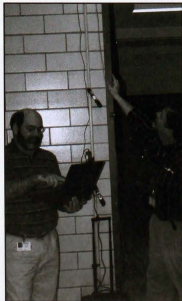
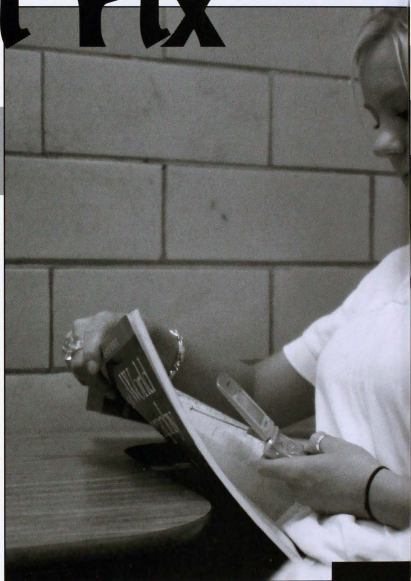
Students also use the Wireless Web on their cell phones.

"I get on the Internet during Business and Personal Law and just search the Internet when I'm bored," says senior Michele Lewis.

Other students have silent conversations, text messaging.

"I text my friend in Florida in class because I'm bored," says senior Andrea Niemeier. "I hide it in my purse to make sure I don't get caught. That explains my Pre-calc grade."

Shanna Bush '04



Rick Wilson works with a contractor to map out the building. The mapping was the first step to creating a wireless network in the building.  
Photo by: Jill Merkel



Siblings senior Rachel Raben and sophomore Emily Raben talk to their mother during lunch in the girls' restroom. Cell phones are not always used for entertainment during school, but for family purposes as well.

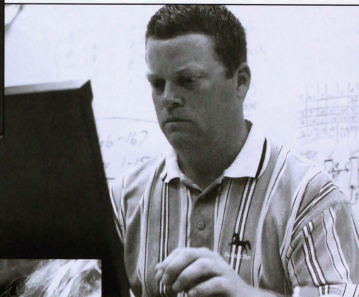
Photo by: Ashley Alles



Senior Andrea Niemeier carefully text messages a friend from Spanish class. Though risky, many students often use their cell phones during class. Methods of hiding their insubordination include purses, books, and lockers. Photo by: Ashley Alles



While using her cell phone, freshman Anna Zeller hides her cell phone to avoid being caught. Although using cell phones inside school is not allowed, many students dare to break the rules. Photo by: Ashley Alles



Mr. Jeff Jewell, a member of the technology committee, works on his laptop during class. Jewell and other teachers are members of the committee, which chooses laptop computers for the teachers. Photo by: Katie Scheller



Senior Liz Kirsch looks through her digital camera as she captures the moment on film. Digital cameras are becoming more popular among students because of the easy viewing after the picture is taken. Staff Photo

# Tech Fix

## HOW THEY SEE IT . . .

Senior Casey Schoenbachler is becoming more hooked on technology as the world is becoming more technologically advanced and aware. Without technology, many things wouldn't run smoothly, and many people would be out of jobs.

"I wouldn't have anything to do without computers because I spend most of my time on them playing games, doing research, and doing homework."

Schoenbachler's fascination with technology has led him to explore many of the jobs acquainted with technology today.

"Repairing and building computers is a hobby of mine. I play computer games for hours on end. A lot of people use computers for research. You can find pretty much anything you want to know over the Internet and even some things you don't want to know."

Schoenbachler didn't really know what he was getting into when he first began exploring and working with computers.

"I kind of understood computers and I knew how they worked. I learned by getting my hands in and doing something. I grabbed a com-

puter and a screwdriver and popped it open. Ever since I have been fascinated on how they work and it has just been a hobby of mine."

Schoenbachler admits that he has always been behind technology and has always been trying to catch up. Now that he has finally caught up, he is always adding new things to technological devices.

"The first computer I got my hands on was a slow Packard Bell that had no cd-rom and no sound. We spent nearly 150 dollars to have a 1x cd-rom and sound put in it. At the time we thought it was great.

Later, as it got older and more out of date, it was upgraded to a newer Acer computer. With that one, we were introduced to the internet and doing homework on our computers. After that, I took up building computers and built my own, exactly like the Acer but for 1/3 the cost. Every year, it seems computers get faster and there is more you can do with them."

Schoenbachler has learned through trial and error how a computer works. He learned that tinkering with electronics is something he enjoys and is good at.

# Cash Flow

It's for more than just  
paying the bills

Because it costs to live, many students find themselves filling their free-time working after school and on the weekends.

Junior April Scheller decided to work after school at Sacred Heart Day Care.

"I've always enjoyed babysitting, and I found out that it was only two hours after school, so I knew I wasn't going to be working long hours."

For high-schoolers, finding jobs they enjoy isn't always a possibility. Fast-food restaurants and movie theaters top the lists of worst jobs for many students.

"Not a whole lot of people enjoy their jobs. I sure do," Scheller says. "I don't have to worry about missing out on things because it's only two hours after school."

Working with actual family members has its perks, according to junior Mike Coughlin, who works at his dad's shop. Coughlin is preparing for his future of working in his father's shop.

"I started off cleaning and now I've worked my way up to building guards for machines. I measure and weld them together," Coughlin explains.

Over the summer, quite a few of the MD family is employed by Burdette Park. Among them is junior Beth Groves, who works in concessions. Working with other Mater

Freshman Reese Lawson washes dishes at Marx Barbecue. Not many freshmen hold jobs during the school year since driving isn't yet a privilege. Marx's close location to school makes it easier to go from school to work, however.  
Photo by: Laura Mesker

Dei students, as Groves attests, makes the job more fun.

"I like the people I work with," Groves says. "There a lot of MD people. That makes me feel more comfy because I always have someone to talk to."

Scheller also enjoys being able to work with her classmates.

"It's nice because if something comes up, and I need a substitute, I can talk to them at school," Scheller says.

But having a job also lights the path for new friendships to evolve, which is one of the reasons that Groves plans to go back for her third summer at Burdette.

"I make so many friends from other schools."

Not only do jobs, whether during the school year or summer, bring in the cash, but through friendships with those working beside us, jobs can create room for new friendships and families to grow.

Susan Muensterman '05



Junior Rachel Ketzner receives a \$100 award for designing the diocesan theme logo for the 2004-2005 school year. Ketzner's artistic ability helped her design to be creative and unique.  
Staff Photo

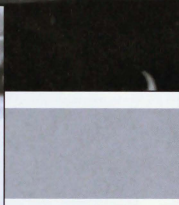
Cash Flow  
Cash Flow



During the Mat Cat car wash, junior Marie Schiff scrubs tires. The car wash was held at the Westside Burger King as a fundraiser for the wrestling team. The Mat Cats are major supporters of the wrestlers.  
Staff Photo



Senior Philip Elpers calls members of the Mater Dei community to raise money for the Mater Dei Friends and Alumni Association at the "Phone-a-thon." Elpers volunteered his time on the majority of the nights it was held and raised a large amount of money himself.  
Staff Photo



Sophomore Andrea Schnur loads a bag of dog food into the cart for a customer after ringing up their order at the west side Pet Food Center. Many students at Mater Dei hold jobs to earn their own money to pay for their many expenses.  
Photo by: Rosanna Sartore



Sophomore Ashley Hoffmann prepares donut holes for a drive-thru order as she works at the St. Joe Avenue Donut Bank. Hoffmann is one of the many Mater Dei students employed at the Donut Bank.  
Photo by: Laura Mesker

# Cash Flow

## How They See It . . .

Money is a major concern for many high school students. Senior Jordan Baer is one of the many who holds a job in order to pay for his own expenses and save for the future.

"I've worked at Buehler's Buy-Low for 3 years now. I usually work 40 hours during the summer and 30 hours during the winter. I started out as a bagger, and then my father brought me back to produce."

Baer enjoys sporting events and finds that attending them can be pricey.

"I've been to Auburn, Lexington,

and Memphis for college and pro basketball and football games. I've spent probably around \$450."

Maintaining a job during high school teaches students valuable skills in money management. It makes it more valuable when they have to earn it themselves.

"It teaches me to conserve for UK because I realize how much tuition costs. It will help in the future to pay off some of the out-of-state tuition. I've learned to manage my money a lot better now. I have to be a penny pincher. I put my change in a big jar because it's so hard to

save up money in today's economy."

Holding a job can make it tricky to get schoolwork done.

"I have taken homework to work before. I usually shut the cooler and sit behind a skid so I won't get caught. I have also taken a mini tv to work before."

A challenge for Baer is when his friends come to visit him on the job.

"Friends come in and mess around and will yell and laugh at me right in front of a manager. They will eat grapes or peanuts and will spill peanuts on the floor so I have to clean it up."

Probably the most difficult part of having a job is finding time to spend with family or friends, or just to have free time.

"It seems like I'm making excuses when I can't go out with friends, but I have no choice. I missed the SEC basketball tournament and that really frustrated me. I was yelling and screaming at everyone I was so mad. I feel like it's school to work to sleep and not really have any fun. I make up excuses in the family to get off work to go out with friends; many grandmothers have died."

# RECOGNITION FOR HARD WORK



Mater Dei has always held a tradition of excellence, but it hasn't been able to keep its name on its own. There have always been many hours of hard work and dedication that help to uphold its tradition. The people behind this are not only the faculty and alumni but also the students. They put in countless hours of devotion to their studies and extracurricular activities and that is what makes Mater Dei a school of excellence. Although the hours are long and can sometimes be stressful it is all worth it.

"There are a lot of people involved in student government, sports and clubs that can still maintain good grades. I think people like this should get recognized for their accomplishments because without them Mater Dei wouldn't be what it is," explains sophomore Kendra Scheller.

The students' involvement doesn't go unnoticed. We have many different ways in which these students get recognition for their involvement. First, there are the assemblies we have to show our support to those representing Mater Dei in sports, band, and other clubs.

"We need pep assemblies because it gets everyone involved in sports and other things they don't know much about," explains senior Erin Harpenau.

However, those not involved in sports, academic teams or clubs are still involved in school. They have just chosen to focus their time to another area of school—their schoolwork. Many students work hard to get the grades they want and get accepted into college. Mater Dei holds an Honors Day to hand out awards to all those who have accomplished an academic feat, as well as those who have made accomplishments in other areas.

"It was nice to see how hard the seniors all worked for their accomplishments. I was shocked to see how many people were involved in sports that still had a 4.0 GPA," says junior April Scheller.

For seniors, a time for recognition is the Honors Night held each year to present scholarships and to show the achievements they have received from colleges.

"It took a lot of time to distribute all of our class awards, but the people deserved them. They worked for four years for them," explains Harpenau.

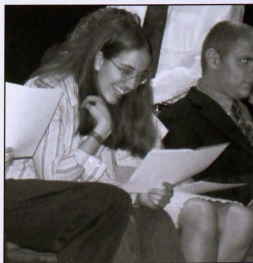
Although the excellence displayed at Mater Dei takes long hours of hard work and much dedication, it doesn't go unrewarded.

Katie Scheller '04



Senior Jennifer Carter looks at an award she received at Honors Night. The Class of 2004 was offered close to a million dollars in scholarship money.

Photo by: Kayley Will







1. Guidance counselor Mrs. Robin Sitzman hands senior Jeremy Gries an award at Honors Night for the seniors. Honors Night is a traditional way to recognize senior's accomplishments and awards from throughout the year.

Photo by: Kayley Will

2. Senior Laura Schroeder accepts an award from athletic director Joe Herrmann. Schroeder was one of four seniors to receive an All-Sports trophy.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Mr. Robert Schleler announces the results of the Efficiency Car Competition held in Indianapolis before the start of the May Day games. The Efficiency Car Team members received awards for their success and dedication to building the cars.

Photo by: Tiffany Schoenbachler

4. Senior Lucas Kirsch gives fellow classmate Ashley Alles a high five at the Senior Breakfast after she was announced the winner of the MFAA scholarship.

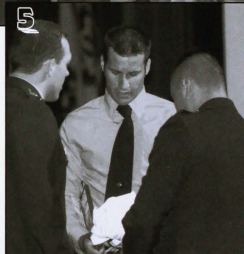
Staff Photo

5. Senior Scott Modesitt receives an alumni award from Western Kentucky University at Honors Night. Modesitt will be attending Western Kentucky in the fall of 2004.

Photo by: Kayley Will

6. The parents, family, and friends of Mater Dei students watch as the awards are given out to the seniors during Honors Night. The Honors Night is an opportunity to formally recognize the achievements of the seniors.

Photo by: Kayley Will



## How They See It . . .

Many people around Mater Dei get recognized for their efforts in sports and academics. One such example is junior Melissa Elpers, who has been honored for her accomplishments in music and athletics, as well as academics.

"I have received Magna Cum Laude on the honor roll every year and have been named Academic All-City in softball. In music, I got a Division I at solo and ensemble state in both my saxophone solo and my trio."

Elpers also was rewarded for her par-

ticipation in the University of Evansville's balsa wood bridge building contest.

"UE sponsors the bridge building contest every November. They give whoever signs up some balsa wood and there are given restrictions about height and weight. After the criteria are met, you actually build a bridge. The goal is to build the most efficient bridge. This year my bridge held 82 pounds. For winning the contest I was given a \$1,000 scholarship to UE."

Although Elpers is appreciative of her awards, she doesn't like to be singled out for her achievements.

"Honors Day is good because it shows everyone's achievements, but I was really embarrassed when they called me out for the bridge building contest."

Because she has been recognized in both academics and athletics, Elpers sees both sides of assemblies.

"I think the pep assemblies do a good job recognizing fall sports but I think they need to work on spring sports. It's hard

to acknowledge the spring sports because we don't have as many assemblies in the spring."

Receiving recognition for all the hours that students put in makes all the work seem worth it.

"I'm proud of my accomplishments because I have worked very hard. I've had to learn to be efficient with my time because there is little time in between school and sports. Sometimes the hardest part is finding the time to balance homework and practice. My academic achievements and sports achievements mean the same to me. It's rewarding to get both."

# How they see it . . .

Prom night is one of the main highlights of the school year for upperclassmen. The biggest dance of the year, students put a great deal of time and effort toward finding the perfect dress and accessories. Planning and preparing for the big night for some takes countless hours, but for senior Molly Blankenberger, the night took little preparation.

"I was late to Prom because I had a state horse show, which I placed fourth in."

Blankenberger spent the entire day of Prom at Purdue University competing in the horse show, which left very little time to get ready for her big night.

"My horse is more important than Prom to me, but luckily I made it to both. I did my hair and makeup in a half hour when I got back from Purdue and my date, Dan Euler, came to my house and we ate dinner."

Even though she was late to prom and had little preparation, Blankenberger found herself on Prom Court.

"Being on court was so cool! I've never been on anything before so it was neat."

For most students, walking through a crowd of peers would be very nerve racking, especially in competition for Prom Queen, but not for Blankenberger.

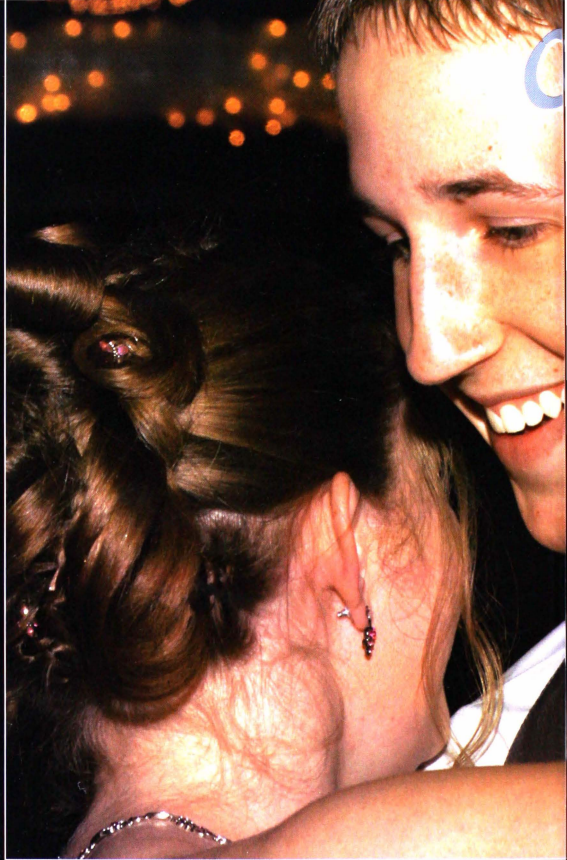
"I wasn't really that nervous, but I was scared I would trip on the stairs to the stage or something. Before I walked up though, Shane (Provost), my escort leaned over and said 'I just want you to know I would take a bullet for you.' I cracked up the entire time I walked up."

During the dance, Blankenberger was surprised to find that two other girls were wearing the exact dress as her. Though most wouldn't like the fact, Blankenberger didn't mind.

"I honestly didn't care that other people had my dress, it didn't bother me at all. I didn't even notice. Someone had to point it out to me."

Even though the dance had a rocky start, it was very memorable for Blankenberger.

"I think everyone really got along this year."



Seniors David Wolf and Stephanie Schenk dance together during a slow song at prom. The junior and senior prom, which had the theme "A Moonlight Stroll in Paris," was held at the Evansville Colliseum .  
Staff Photo

1. Senior Michael Pigman gives classmate B. J. Griese a new haircut at Jeremy Gries' afterprom party. Griese never ceases to amuse his classmates with his hilarious and sometimes random antics.  
Staff Photo
2. Mater Dei juniors and seniors have a blast dancing the Rocky Top with their partners. Carefree dances such as Cotton-eyed Joe and the Locomotion are a favorite to do dance to among students.  
Staff Photo
3. Seniors Jake Oliver, Brent Hagan, Rachel Raben, Andi Kiesel, Andy Barchet, Jessica Knight, and Michael Pigman pose for a photo on their way to Prom. They arrived in style in a stretch Cadillac Escalade.  
Photo by: Emily Raben
4. Seniors Molly Blankenberger and Shane Provost make their way through a tunnel of canes to take their places as members of prom court. Crowned prom king and queen were Provost and Laura Schroeder.



# The Last Celebration

## A Night to Remember

Prom night is a night to be remembered, but this year's prom was unforgettable. The junior class held Prom at the downtown Coliseum with the theme "A Moonlight Stroll in Paris." With the abundance of flowers, park benches, white lights, and the French Cafe, the romantic atmosphere at the Coliseum was obvious.

"The Coliseum was a lot better than SWIRCA. It was decorated really pretty," remembers senior Andrea Niemeier.

Prom is a time where the junior class gets to do something special for the seniors. Although the juniors still get to enjoy the night and have a memorable time, the seniors get to attend without doing any of the work.

"It was ten times more fun this year. The guys were even dancing and our whole class is a lot closer," says senior Becky Parkinson.

Preparation for the dance can be a difficult task, especially for the girls. After four years of dances, however, some girls have learned that they don't need to spend a lot of money in order to feel beautiful and have fun.

"I wanted to stick out and be different so I picked out my fabric and pattern and had my dress made and I saved money. I did my hair and my mom made my corsage and boutonniere," says senior Tyler DeWeese.

Certain events during the memorable night stick out in people's minds.

"I called Shane out and said he needed to get ready for a dance off and Michael Jackson came blaring over the speaker. Shane went first and put on a forgettable performance, but I on the other hand, left something that will forever be left in the history books," says Griese.

Where prom is usually more of a date dance, certain individuals choose to go single and still get to have a good time.

"It was more fun because I didn't have a guy and we are seniors and we don't have to care about what others think," says senior Hanna Scott.

Overall, the night was viewed as a success. The seniors came together as a class and realized how close they really are.

"The seniors were up in the front dancing the whole time and everybody was together. It was fun when the seniors all got in a circle with their arms around one another and danced to 'You've Got a Friend in Me' and 'Friends in Low Places,'" says Niemeier.

The junior class did an excellent job making the night special. It was a night to remember and students will definitely remember it for a long time.

Jill Merkel '04



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# How they see it . . .

The senior retreat is one of the last things the senior class gets to do as a whole. It is a time for seniors to reflect on their past four years and grow closer together as a class. Senior Matt Timmons is one of many that got a lot out of the experience.

"My classmates opened up more to their past experiences at Mater Dei and they told everyone what a good time they have had through the past four years."

One difference that the senior retreat has from other retreats is instead of having senior leaders lead the retreat, teachers and past graduates speak to them about their experiences. The senior retreat is also a time for students to open up and thank the people who have influenced them in their time at Mater Dei.

"I learned that I really appreciate all my teachers and what all the teachers have done for me and just their time and effort towards my future education."

Everyone has a favorite part from the retreat, something that stuck out in their minds as memorable. For Timmons, along with most of the class, it was the "pass the mic" section of the retreat where classmates shared memories of their experiences in the last four years.

"The personal reflection with the group was my favorite part, along with playing outside. The only thing that could have been better would be if we could have gotten a little more time when each student had reflections of past events."

The final high school retreat is also a time in which to thank one's friends for being there for them. Many people over the four years have changed friends and made new friendships.

"I just think it is weird how sometimes you can meet some of your best friends at the end of the year and your friendship models change a little bit."

For the seniors of Mater Dei, the senior retreat is a memorable experience that is a good way to bring the school year and their whole high school experience to a close.



Senior Rhett Lawson charges through fellow seniors while playing Red Rover during their break at the Senior Retreat. The retreat was held at Mater Dei Provincial House and provided a great day for the seniors to grow closer to each other.  
Photo by: Shanna Bush

1. Seniors Josh Anslinger and Ben Paciorkowski hold their hands up in prayer during mass. The mass at the end of the retreat was a great spiritual end to the day.

Photo by: Katie Scheller

2. Senior Lindsey Meyer relaxes on the ground as she writes her gratitude letter to someone who has influenced her life. The letters were a way to reflect on the past.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

3. Senior Nick Lannert composes a letter to a fellow classmates during the senior retreat. While some students decided to write to each other, many decided to write to God.

Photo by: Shanna Bush

4. Senior Tony Reckelhoff shares memories of the past four years during "pass the mic" time at the retreat. This provided the seniors a chance to relive experiences of their high school years.

Photo by: Ashley Alles



# Senior Retreat

## A Spiritual Awakening



**A**lthough each senior has his or her most memorable moment of life at Mater Dei, most agree that their senior retreat was one of the best days of high school.

"This year was the best retreat because it was a beautiful day and we got to go outside. Everyone got to express themselves and tell everyone else what they'd wanted to say for four years," reflects senior Kyle Messersmith.

One of the best parts of the day was "pass the mic" time, when each senior was invited to share memories of their four years at Mater Dei. This evoked much laughter and a few tears, as seniors realized that their high school journey was really coming to an end.

"We all came together when we went around the tables and told funny stories and memories from the past four years," says senior Brandy Sparks.

Senior Joe Schenk agrees, "It was special because everyone got to say something and tell what meant the most to them. I especially liked the memories I was involved with."

The seniors also had time to write gratitude letters to anyone that influenced their life and mend any rifts between classmates.

"I liked the apology letters because they gave me a chance to say things that I otherwise wouldn't have said," remembered senior Kelsey Lottes.

The beautiful grounds of the Mater Dei Provincial House provided a wonderful setting for the scavenger hunt and also for solitary reflection time.

"I really enjoyed the scavenger hunt because it was good to get outside," says senior Dan Euler. "It was really funny when B.J. (Griese) fell down a hill and took Jeanna (Butler) with him."

A final class Mass ended the contemplative and sentimental day.

"My favorite part was during Mass when we were singing 'You've Got a Friend in Me,'" says Christina Ward. "It seemed like everyone in the class was finally united."

The feeling of finally coming together as a class was echoed by most of the seniors.

"This retreat was the best one I've ever experienced because everyone accepted each other and had a good time," concludes senior Erin Harpenau. "It was a great way to end our senior year."

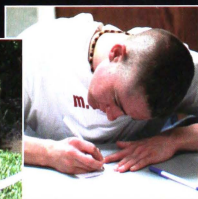
Ashley Alles '04



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# How they see it . . .

May Day for most students is an enjoyable day to look forward to. Students sign up for various events in hopes of being chosen to participate. For senior Mark Taylor, May Day was especially memorable, even more so than previous years.

"It was a lot of fun. It was good, healthy competition between the classes."

This year's May Day was different from previous years. It was a full day, therefore allowing time for more games.

"I took more of the day, but it also put in more fun events."

Another surprise difference was having Jeff Lyons attend and host a trivia game between the students and faculty.

"The trivia game was the most fun. It was fun to watch. I liked the 'Backatcha.'"

Being involved in events can make the day more enjoyable for the students.

"I was involved in the late for school event. Seniors got first place. I was put in it last year and I thought it was fun so I decided to sign up for it again this year."

For the entire student body, May Day is a special day, but for the seniors it holds special importance.

"Walking in during the mass was something different. I was kind of nervous. Sitting on the floor during the events made me feel more like a leader of the school and more of a senior."

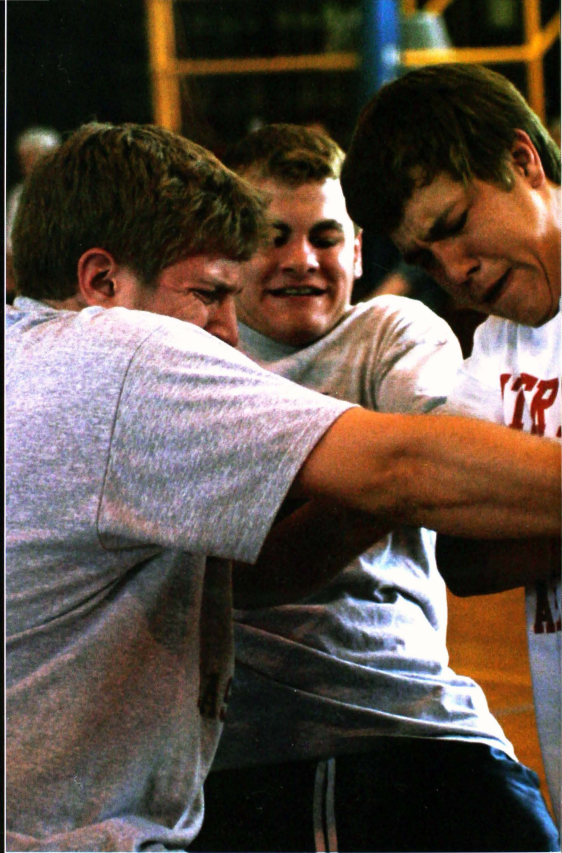
The seniors also select a fellow classmate to crown May.

"I think Megan was a really appropriate Queen because she possesses all the qualities it takes to be the May Queen."

As with every year, certain events make the day even more memorable.

"The senior class winning four years in a row was very memorable. Also, when Jason Born was showing how to do the obstacle course was pretty funny."

This year's May Day was a successful and enjoyable day for everyone. Mrs. Quinlan had an enjoyable time, being the first time in years that she was able to attend the events. Hopefully the years to come will be just as great.



1. Juniors Michael Goelz, Cory Goebel, and Matt Coughlin along with a team of fellow juniors pull against the seniors during Tug-of-War finals. The juniors were victorious in the Tug-of-War competition on May Day.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

1. During the Laundry Basket Toss, senior Molly Blankenberger gets soaked while catching water balloons. The seniors won May Day, making the class of 2004 the only class to ever win all four years.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

2. Junior Andy Reddington finishes his turn at the obstacle course by sliding through shaving cream. The obstacle course was won by the juniors by only seconds.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

3. Sophomore Erin Ross dives head first into a chocolate pudding pie during a pie eating contest on May Day. The May Day games, put on by the student council, were messy but fun for the student body.

Photo by: Shanna Bush

4. Senior Megan Wright crowns Mary during May Day mass. Wright was chosen by her classmates to crown Mary because of her generosity, compassion, and faith.

Photo by: Brittney Miller



# Celebrating Mary

## A Day of Faith and Fun



The key May Day event was undeniably the crowning of Mary by senior Megan Wright. Besides May crowning, however, "Backat-cha" was perhaps the paramount point. After all, semi-celebrity meteorologist Jeff Lyons stunned the student body with his surprise appearance as game show host.

Most of the students believed their teachers were guaranteed to win. However, their teachers' lack of skillful strategy brought the "guaranteed" victory to its demise.

"If anything went wrong, it was our strategy," says Mrs. Rose Rogge. "Letting Mr. Wathen answer for the team was our biggest mistake," she laughs.

Despite the loss, they teachers still believed the victory was theirs.

"We figured we couldn't lose because anything they knew, we taught them," says Ms. Rogge. "On the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' question, I had forgotten that two AP students from Mrs. Donofrio's class were on the student team."

The students, surprised not only by appearance of meteorologist Jeff Lyons, were also shocked that they beat their knowledgeable teachers.

"I thought we had no chance to win because the other team had really smart teachers. I was so surprised when we beat the smartest man alive, Mr. Wathen," says senior Ashley Alles.

The May Day activities, especially the pie-eating contest, held the attention of the student body as their classmates watched intently as they competed to lead their class to victory. In an attempt to win, junior Mary Williamson took the game somewhat seriously.

"In order to prepare myself for the pie eating contest, I even skipped lunch," laughs Williamson.

Williamson, however, seemed a bit resentful that the freshmen won the contest.

"The pies were a little bit unfair, and I just happened to get the fullest pie!" Williamson explains. "The freshman still had enough pie left to feed Afghanistan, but I licked that pie clean! I don't think the judges were trained fairly. I think the pies should've been weighed on a scale," says Williamson.

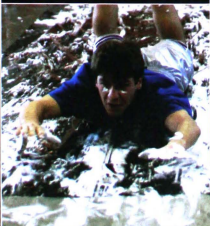
In the end, however, the seniors led the pack for the fourth consecutive year, another first in Mater Dei May Day history.

"We brought home a 'W' for the Wenis," laughs senior Blake Maurer.

Susan Muensterman '05



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# How they see it . . .

Most of the senior class attended the class trip. For a select group of seniors, the class trip was a priority, but not the top one. Senior Drew Nurrenbern explains the reasons why they weren't able to make it to the trip until later in the day.

"We went to a baseball game the same day as the class trip. It got rained out the Tuesday before the trip and the make-up game was on the same day as the trip. I didn't care that it was on the same day as the trip because I knew we'd make it to the trip later."

Once they got to the trip, they were able to enjoy the theme park with the rest of the class.

"I rode all of the rollercoasters, but Batman was my favorite. It made my tummy go up."

Unlike Drew, some of his friends weren't as excited about riding the rollercoasters.

"One of the best parts of the day was Joe Schenk being scared of the rollercoasters, Mr. Freeze in particular. I thought he was going to puke."

As for the choice of the location of the trip, Six Flags was a good one despite it being four hours away.

"I thought it was a good choice, but I don't think I could have spent the whole day there. I'm glad I went to the baseball game. I got a baseball during batting practice. That was exciting."

As for the four hour drive to St. Louis, the people who attended the baseball game were used to it.

"We made the drive on Tuesday so we were pretty used to it."

The weather turning out to be good made for the day to be more enjoyable. Although, on the way home the weather was not so great.

"The weather got bad on the way back. We drove through severe storms the whole way home. Rain is no fun."

Despite the weather and the long drive, the day turned out to be a good one and all the seniors that attended had a good day and will remember it for a long time.



Seniors Andrea Niemeier and Katie McKinney catch a few more hours of sleep on their class trip in the early morning before arriving at Six Flags, St. Louis. The seniors arrived at Mater Dei at six-thirty in the morning to leave for the theme park. Photo by: Jenna Schmitt

1. Senior Jaci Phelps browses jewelry displayed in a booth at Six Flags. In between riding roller coasters, seniors stopped to shop for souvenirs to remember their trip.

Photo provided by: Katie Scheller

2. Seniors Lyndsey Heim and Stephani Spain read a map while choosing the next ride to go on. Maps were helpful in getting around Six Flags through the day without getting too lost.

Photo provided by: Katie Scheller

3. Seniors Derek Herrmann and Lindsay Schenk ride the children's ride, Scooby Doo. The object of the virtual game was to use "fright lights" to shoot moving targets.

Photo provided by: Jenna Schmitt

4. Senior Rebecca Kelley poses while an artist draws her face. The drawing was a great way for Kelley to preserve the memory of the day at Six Flags with her senior class.

Photo provided by: Katie Scheller



# asting to the End

## A Trip Worth Taking

Although the day began very early for most of the senior class, some seniors decided to begin their day even earlier, before dawn. This group met in Mater Dei's parking lot to cook breakfast before the rest of their class arrived at 6:30 a.m.

"We got down there at 2:30 a.m. and Jenna (Schmitt) cooked breakfast over a propane grill," says senior Amber Drury. "Our idea was to beat Mr. Whitehouse to school since he gets there at four in the morning. Ashley (Alles) and I painted the MD back to red and gold and some of us painted the rock, too."

Once the buses were loaded, most of the classmates settled in to watch a movie or take a quick nap so they would be well rested for the day. After a stop on the side of the road to wait for a tardy classmate, the class arrived at Six Flags ready to take over. The biggest thrill for most were the six roller coasters, especially Mr. Freeze and Batman. Seniors Laura Schroeder and Philip Vaughn took such a liking to the Batman that they rode it eight times in a row.

"I really liked Mr. Freeze because it was the first ride I've ever been on where it took you both backwards and forwards," says senior Christina Ward. "It was the fastest roller coaster I've ever been on."

Other seniors went for tamer rides or just walked around the park.

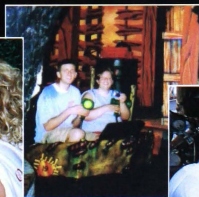
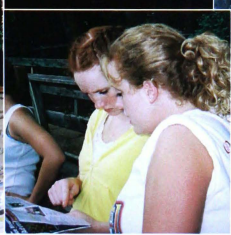
"Although Scooby Doo was a children's ride, it was full of thrills and suspense," remarks senior Derek Herrmann. "Shooting at the moving targets with the 'fright lights' was really fun because it added a competitive aspect to the ride."

Of course, no trip to a theme park would be complete without water rides. Six Flags offers three such rides, but only two were open for the seniors' visit.

"My favorite ride was Thunder River because it had all the rapids and water," remembers senior Amber Drury. "It was really hot outside and the water felt so good. I got drenched!"

After spending six hours in the park, the seniors were ready to gather up their souvenirs and head back home. Overall, the day was a wonderful chance to share in the camaraderie of the class one final time before everyone heads his or her own way.

Ashley Alles '04



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# How they see it . . .

Baccalaureate is a time for the senior class to celebrate Mass together as a whole for the last time. It has a different meaning for every student. For senior Shanna Bush, Baccalaureate was a meaningful and memorable experience.

"I thought it was a good way to end our faith life throughout high school. Now we're on our own to go to Mass."

Although the night was meant to be a serious reflective event, many students found that they had to keep it lighthearted.

"We sat and talked the whole time. Kristin [Kissel] and I kept cracking jokes."

Having Baccalaureate in the auditorium was greatly appreciated by the seniors who had to wear the hot caps and gowns.

"I liked it in the auditorium, but I didn't like being in the back row because I had carried up a memory and I couldn't see."

Memories were carried up by the seniors as they processed into the auditorium.

"I carried up the guard flag. Mr. Whitehouse told me to make sure and not hit anyone."

A touching time during the night was when members out of the senior class sang songs that reminded them of the class. Shane and BJ even wrote a special song for the class of 2004.

"The singing was nice but people wouldn't shut up and it was annoying. I almost cried when Andy Wathen was singing because I didn't know he could sing. Shane and BJ's song was the best. I want to get a copy of it."

To end the ceremony, some of the students made a slide show. It was a way for the seniors to look back and remember moments over their four years at Mater Del, laugh at the way people looked, and remember the stupid things they did throughout their Mater Del years.

"I did the slide show. I thought the 'Another One Bites the Dust' was funny."

Overall, although the ceremony may have been a little long, it was a great way to end the spiritual journey as a class.



Senior Stephani Spain receives communion from classmate Molly Blankenberger at Baccalaureate Mass. Baccalaureate was the last Mass the senior class shared together.  
Staff Photo

1. Senior Brent Hagan presents a basketball as he walks in the procession at Baccalaureate. The basketball represented the athletic achievements of the senior class.  
Staff Photo

2. Seniors Shane Provost and Andy Wathen perform "I Can Only Imagine" during the reflection time after Communion.  
Staff Photo

3. Father Ken delivers his traditional tree sermon to the seniors. Father Ken uses the story to illustrate how God has a plan for each of us and helps us accomplish our dreams.  
Staff Photo

4. Senior B.J. Griese helps classmate Ashley Alles fix her tassel before Baccalaureate Mass. The seniors helped each other out by fixing collars and buttoning robes to make sure they looked right before going onstage.  
Staff Photo



# The Last Celebration

## "A Plan For Each Of Us"

One of the biggest controversies of the year involved the location of Baccalaureate. After much dispute and discussion, the Mass, originally planned to take place in the gym, was held in the auditorium.

"Having the Mass in the auditorium worked out really well," says senior Katie Frank. "There were a few little problems, but overall it was good. The setup was changed from previous years and that made it work."

The seniors put much thought and planning into their final Mass in order to make it both symbolic and memorable. They chose to present items that represented their class, including textbooks, a basketball, a winterguard flag, a pom pom, a guitar, a bible, the may crown, and can goods. The Class of 2004 felt very strongly about contributing to all areas of Mater Dei, and these objects visualized their involvement.

The seniors were also given wisdom when Father Ken passed on some insights with the telling of the story "The Three Trees," and 1980 graduate Dan Niermeier shared his knowledge of life after Mater Dei.

"Mr. Niermeier's speech was both interesting and funny at the same time," remembers senior Erin Harpenau. "It kept everyone interested."

After the conclusion of Mass, the seniors reminisced with a series of songs and pictures. Seniors Katie Frank and Kisti Wilsman sang two songs that shared their feelings of moving on, and seniors B.J. Girese and Shane Provost performed a song they wrote specifically for their class. One of the most emotional moments, especially for the parents, came when Provost sang Cat Stevens' "Father and Son" with his father.

"Kisti and I listened to the song from 'Wicked' and we thought it fit with our class," remarks Frank. "Shane and his dad singing was the best part of Baccalaureate for me because it's not every day you see someone singing with his dad in front of everyone."

One of the most anticipated parts of Baccalaureate was the slide show. Each senior included pictures that represented their high school years.

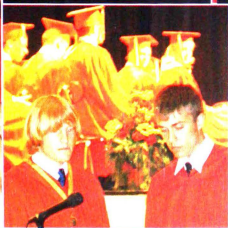
"I really liked the slide show because they put everyone in the class in it and didn't focus on one specific group," says Harpenau. "I liked the part with the people who left our class because it was nice to remember them."

As a whole, Baccalaureate fulfilled its main purpose of giving the Class of 2004 one last night of reflection as a class.

Ashley Alles '04



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# How they see it . . .

Project graduation is a time for the senior class to spend one last night together before graduating. It is a night full of dancing, games, food, and fun. For senior Stephanie Schenk, the night was one that she will remember for a long time.

"I thought the night was a good way for the class to spend its last night together. I thought it was very fun."

The theme of the night was tropical. The parents went all out decorating the gym and handing out tropical accessories for the seniors to wear throughout the night.

"I thought the theme was very cool. I liked all the decorations and stuff. The parents did a lot of good work."

Throughout the night, there were contests such as hoola hoop, limbo, and hot wing eating, along with team competitions. The teams were designated by hats that each senior received at the start of the night.

"I liked the teams and how they were chosen with our hats. I was on the team with the pirate hats. We were the buccaneers. Our team didn't win because we were slow, but it was still fun."

All of the seniors participated in the team competition, but later in the night, participating was optional.

"I didn't participate in the limbo contest; I just watched. I thought it was funny that the guys were last. I thought the girls would be more limber, but the guys made it till the end."

For most, just having a dance for their senior class was unforgettable.

"The DJ was my favorite part of the night. I thought he was cool and it was fun. I liked the music he played, and I liked that it was just our class and no underclassmen or people from other schools."

Along with everything else, the parents had tons of food waiting for the seniors when they first arrived and even brought in more food as the night progressed. As a finale, there were drawings for big prizes for those who stayed till the end.

"I didn't win anything that night, but I still had fun."



Seniors Katie Frank and Amber Drury do the chicken dance at Project Graduation. The seniors spent the majority of the night on the dance floor.

Photo by: Jessica Knight

1. Senior Brian Bittner entertains the crowd with his flexibility during a game of limbo at Project Graduation. The winner of the limbo contest won a bucket of prizes including a variety of snacks.

Photo by: Jill Merkel

2. The dancing really got started when the dj played "Redneck Woman" and all the senior girls gathered around to get in on the action.

Staff Photo

3. Seniors Jordan Boer and Andy Wathen sign the book at Project Graduation. The book included pictures of all the seniors and questions for each senior to answer such as where they hope to be in five years and their greatest memory at Mater Dei.

Photo by: Shanna Bush

4. Seniors Chris Niemeier, Tony Raben, and Eric Hamilton relived the eighties classic, "Thriller." The guys weren't afraid to strut their stuff as they moved across the dance floor and entertained their classmates.

Staff Photo



# 'Sail-abration!

## Class Bids Bon Voyage

In the last days of being a senior at Mater Dei, life is hectic. With so many things to do, all of the seniors can't wait for it all to be over with. Yet, in the history of Mater Dei, 99 percent of seniors take time out of their busy schedules to be together one last time.

"Project Graduation was dang fun," says senior Matt Timmons. "There was a lot of energy, and it couldn't have been more successful."

Project Graduation is a party put on by the seniors' parents that includes a DJ, tons of food, games and awesome decorations.

"The dancing was a lot of fun, especially because the DJ played what we wanted to hear," says senior Eric Hamilton. "The food was great, too because there was food from every place."

Parents put a huge amount of time and energy into decorating the wrestling gym for the "sail-abration." There were cut-outs for pictures, a hut, an underwater scene, a bar, and memory life-savers for every senior. Also, music for every generation and genre from Moby Moby to Vanilla Ice to Tippy could be heard flowing from the doors of the gym.

"My favorite part was when everyone got around in a circle and sang Bohemian Rhapsody by Queens," says senior Katie Reising.

The games were a big part of the evening as well. DJ Randy Weber ran the games and the teams were decided by the goofy hats that were given out right before Project Graduation started.

"Running the spoon tied to the string throughout shirts was the best game," says senior Amber Drury. "It was the most random game ever."

Along with prizes from games, door prizes, including TVs, DVD players, gift certificates, and a foos-ball table, were given out.

"I won a horse shoe set," says Wathen. "I put it up only a couple of days later and used it at Billy (Wayne)'s house."

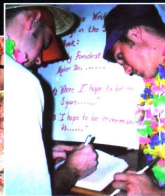
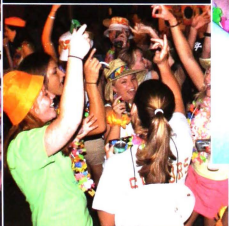
Others weren't so lucky, but no one left empty handed. Every student that attended the party went home with a bag full of freebies.

"I got a fold up chair in my bag," says Reising.

All in all, the seniors had a great time at Project Graduation and did not mind staying at school until three in the morning.

"This was a great way to end high school," states Hamilton. "Everyone got a last chance to say goodbye and make-up."

Shanna Bush '04



# How they see it . . .

Graduation is a special day for every member of the senior class. For one exceptional person, the valedictorian, the day holds even more importance. The valedictorian of the class of 2004 was Derek Herrmann. Herrmann finished off his high school career with the highest cumulative GPA of the class, over 3.99.

"It required a lot of hard work. I had to keep my grades up in every class. It was stressful because I wasn't always sure what grade I was going to get."

Along with the hard work it took to achieve valedictorian, Herrmann had to make some sacrifices along the way.

"No, it didn't really put a damper on my social life except for towards the end of the semester. I only had about a week to write my speech, so I worked with several teachers, rehearsed at home, and spent several hours on it."

After years of hard work, many people wonder if it is worth it in the end.

"Yeah, definitely. It was an honor to get it and only one person can get it. It was a goal of mine since freshman year and it was nice reaching that goal."

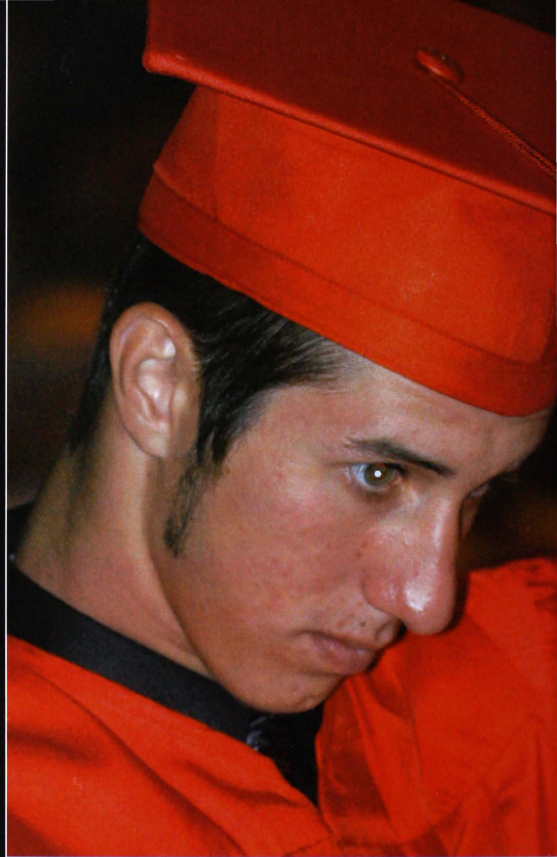
Unsure of what grades he had achieved, the rest of the class often wondered if there was a chance that him receiving valedictorian was ever in jeopardy.

"I never really questioned it. I wasn't sure towards the end of the semester but I knew I was ahead. I wasn't sure if I had an A in everything though."

Working vigorously for four long years toward a goal, it definitely would have been devastating if Ashley Alles, the salutatorian would have come out ahead in the end.

"Yes, I would have been devastated. I had been number one in the past three years so if it would have changed in the last semester it would have been hard."

Well, in the end Herrmann came out ahead and was awarded the honor of being valedictorian. All his hard work paid off and the rest of the senior class was honored to have him as their valedictorian.



After graduating, senior Bryan Williams moves his tassel to the left over his heart to signify his connection with Mater Dei. Though excited about moving on, many of the seniors were sad to leave their Mater Dei home behind.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

1. Jimmy Attebury walks onstage during Graduation at the Centre to receive his Mater Dei diploma. After four years of hard work at Mater Dei, graduation was the culmination of all their efforts.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

2. Katie Kemmerlin prepares before the Graduation ceremony by putting on her cap. The caps were somewhat difficult to put on, and often had to ask for classmates' assistance.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

3. Kirby Splitorff, Stephani Spain, and Hanna Scott look on as Matt Halbin and Lee Schoolfield relive one of the greatest moments of the year by showing off their basketball state championship rings.

Photo by: Brittini Herron

4. Katie Frank cheers up fellow graduate Jessica Knight before the Graduation ceremony begins. Frank came to the rescue by finding an extra tassel for Knight, who had misplaced hers.

Photo by: Brittini Herron



# A Final Farewell

## The End of Four Years

After thirteen years of learning and effort, the culmination of the seniors' lives was complete in just under two hours. This year's graduation ceremony did not last long, partly because Mater Dei graduated only 128 students. The traditional procession to "Pomp and Circumstance" opened the celebration, which quickly progressed to the presentation of diplomas.

A few seniors livened up the ceremony by cheering for their classmates, especially Jon Fehrenbacher, who was congratulated with the "Wenis" cheer. Kyle Messersmith made sure to record his memories by taking a camera onstage and taking pictures. Family and friends of the graduates also contributed to the comedy by banging a cowbell and setting off an airhorn to celebrate.

"I thought the crazy stuff was cool because it made the ceremony fun and entertaining," remarks senior Molly Blankenberger. "It was exciting to finally walk across the stage and get my diploma."

Retired Vectren COO Andy Goebel spoke to the graduates and gave them advice about succeeding in life. The main theme of his speech was demonstrating how perseverance can pay off in the long run, and how even Abraham Lincoln failed numerous times before becoming president.

"I thought Mr. Goebel's speech was really good because it taught us that if you continue trying through failure, you will eventually win," comments senior Jenna Schmitt. "I've failed before, but his speech gave me confidence."

Valedictorian Derek Herrmann remembered the leadership and service given by the senior class in his speech.

"I wanted to write something that would keep everyone's attention and something that they would be able to take with them," says Herrmann.

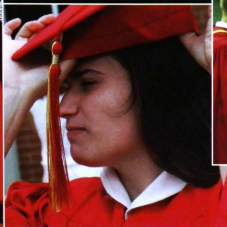
Not only was Herrmann's speech memorable, but the seniors' persistence in capturing their last class moments as a whole was also astounding to the graduates.

"What stuck out in my mind was after graduation when everyone was still taking pictures," remembers Schmitt. "Even though we took tons of pictures before graduation, everyone wanted to take them again to be sure to remember our last moments together as a class."

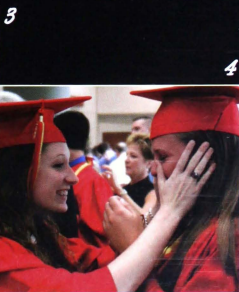
Ashley Alles '04



1

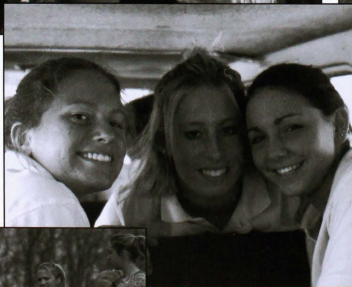
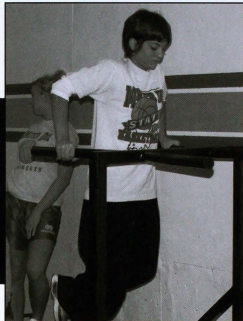
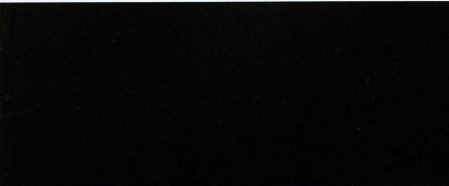


2



3

4







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Katie,  
You'll always be our shining star.  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Patrick, and Russel

Katie McKinney



Brent,  
We are so very proud of you. Be the best you  
can be, and life will give its best to you.  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Ryan, and Lori

Brent Hagan

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### Freshman Football

- Row 1 - Jonathan Marshall, Kyle Rollett, Andrew Matt, Chris Dewitt, Chris Emmert, Neil Goebel, Chad Nix, Corey Carr,  
Row 2 - Ryan Wink, Ben Fleming, Sam Lewis, D.J. Horstman, Buddy Lutz, Alexander Vanhooser, Paul Wheeler, Jacob Vanhooser, Kyle Hertel,  
Row 3 - Micheal Rhodes, Jonathan Elpers, Brandon Schoettlin, Adam Schenk, Matt Folz, Michael Cervone, Andy Seibert, Bruce Werner  
Row 4 - Adam Butts, Derek Gallo, Jordan Phelps, Frank Fabino, Zach Goebel, Matt Johnson, Greg Cardin, Nick Dewig





Dear Tyler,  
 We're very proud of you! Good luck in college.  
 Love always,  
 Mom, Dad, Jeremy, and Ryan

Tyler Musgrave



Go get 'em Chris- We're proud of you.  
 Love,  
 Mom, Dad, Angie, and Ben

Chris Niemeier

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Drew,  
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come true.  
We love you so much,  
Mom, Dad, and Brooke

Drew Nurrenbern



Natalie,  
We know you're ready to move on. Good  
luck! You'll do great!  
We love you,  
Mom, Dad, Chris, Nicole, Jared, and "Hans"

Natalie Droste

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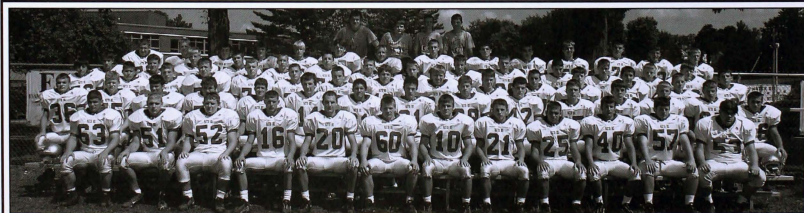
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### Reserve and Varsity Football

- Row 1 - Jason Coughlin, Jason Born, Chris Niemeier, Nathan Doshier, Zach Zirkelbach, Raymond Goebel, Blake Maurer, Logan Miller, Tyler Musgrave, Scott Modesitt, Dan Euler, Chaz Schwartz
- Row 2 - Matt Coughlin, Will Moll, Josh Henderson, Casey Wildeman, Chad Dewig, Drew Alcorn, Joe Weinzapfel, Ryan Matt, Danny Martin, Jared Droste, Dustin Slaton, Andy Reddington, Joe Lehman, John Shetler, Bart Schaefer
- Row 3 - Zach Moore, Alex Topper, Jeremy Goebel, Jason Wire, Greg Ambrose, Jason Devillez, Jake Herrman, Ryan Wildeman, Cory Goebel, Ben Yingling, Dan Langton, Kelly Muensterman, Andy Niemeier, Kyle Adler, Tyler Bittner
- Row 4 - Neil Kippenbrock, Dan Weinzapfel, Jeff Johnson, Josh Rice, Scott Schupker, Paul Mindrup, Andy Tekoppel, Joe Butler, Mark Modesitt, Paul Kempf, Riley Moore, Tim Goebel, Kenny Tenbarge, John Mochau
- Row 5 - Rob Branson, Chuck Capshaw, Andy Kercher, Derek Lappe, David Hudson, Nick Farny, Ryan Schmarre, Brandon Deig, Nathan Miller, Justin Haag, Matt Eickhoff, Nathan Hassler, Mason Kempf, Logan Schiff
- Row 6 - Luke Hassler, Greg Marshall, Logan Slaton, Jake Weinzapfel



Kevin,  
You have been a joy from the first day you  
were born. We are so proud of you. Don't  
ever change.  
We love you,  
Mom, Dad, Sarah, and Laura

Kevin Hall

Jenna,  
Success is only steps away...keep your eyes  
open and always look ahead.  
We love you,  
Mom and Dad

Jenna Schmitt

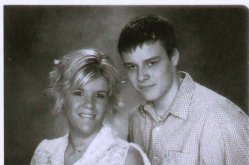


Lindsey and Aaron,  
You are finally at a crossroad where  
you will begin a journey in different  
directions. You have always been by  
each other's side, looking from a  
distance, watching out for one an-  
other. The day you were born, they  
gave us not much hope you two would  
live, and if you did, all the physical  
problems that you would most likely  
end up with. But God had another  
plan for you both - you are both per-  
fectly healthy! You both have made  
our family complete. And how VERY,  
VERY proud we are!!!

You are loved so VERY much!

Love,

Mom and Dad



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Andy,  
Good Luck in your college career  
& life! You have been a wonder-  
ful son. We wish you the very  
best health & happiness for the  
rest of your life.  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Dan & Thomas  
Andy Schenk



Kirby,  
You made it! Remember to keep  
smiling...it will make everyone  
wonder what you have been up to.  
Work like you don't need the money,  
love like you've never been hurt, and  
dance like no one's  
watching...Guacamole!  
We love you,  
Adam and Mom  
Kirby Splittorff

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Love,  
Dad & Eve

Todd Wannemuehler

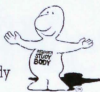


Bec,  
We always were 2 of a kind. Stay being  
you.  
Love,  
Megan

Becky and Megan Parkinson

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### Girls Golf

Row 1 - Susan Muensterman, Natalie Wolf

Row 2 - Coach Jeff Jewell, Jaclyn Muensterman, Emily Raben, Hallie Denstorff, Laura Schroeder, Kasey Render, Niki Render



### Boys Tennis

Row 1 - Kyle Neisen, Kyle Kraft, Todd Wannemuehler, Kevin Hall,  
Tony Reckelhoff, Coach Tim Sallengs

Row 2 - Lucas Nelson, Peter Pohlman, Chris Coudret, Branden Clements, Corey Lannert



"Enthusiasm is life" and you are full of both!  
We love you, Larua  
Mom, Dad, Jimmy, Mike, Andrew, Amy,  
Mary

Laura Schroeder



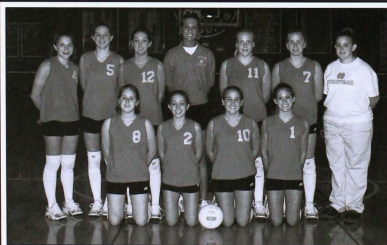
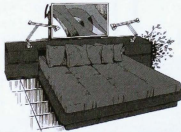
Christina,  
You always were a stinkpot!!! We are  
very proud of you and your accomplish-  
ments. Keep that beautiful smile,  
personality, beliefs, and your drive. You  
can do anything and everything you hope  
to do with your life. Just believe in  
yourself, keep your faith, show love and  
kindness to others, and the sky is the limit.  
Love always, Mom, Dad, and Brian  
Christina DeVault

# Way to go Ashley!

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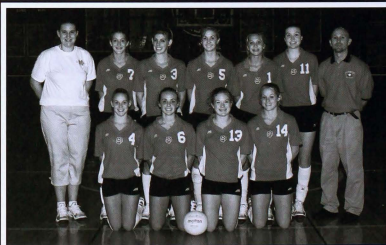
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### Freshman Volleyball

Row 1 - Hannah Wagner, Laura Hall, Marie Wolf, Jenna Adler  
Row 2 - Mallory Goebel, Lauren Niemeier, Lynnsey Zirkelbach, Coach  
Kim Goebel, Carly Zenthofer, Margaret Stoltz, Manager Kellyn  
Weinzapfel



### Reserve Volleyball

Row 1 - Kendra Scheller, Nicole Elpers, Stephanie Seibert, Hailey  
Kempf  
Row 2 - Manager Brittney Bohleber-Schenk, Laura Schili, Alyssa  
Edwards, Ashley Hoffman, Tiffany Payton, Cassie Schentrup, Coach  
Bryan Morrison





Jaci,  
We are so proud of you. Thanks for all  
the joy and happiness you have given us.  
We hope you find what truly makes you  
happy in life.  
We love you,  
Mom and Dad

Jaci Phelps



Todd,  
I love you little,  
I love you big,  
I love you like-- I always did.  
And then some!  
Good luck and love always,  
Your Big Sis Katie

Todd Wannemuehler

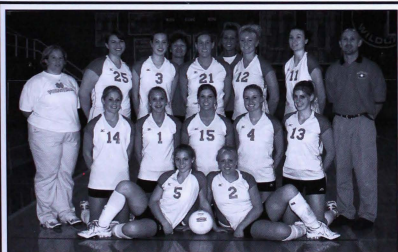
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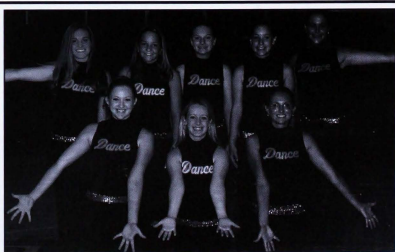
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## Varsity Volleyball

- Row 1 - Kristin Kissel, Katie Zenthoefer  
Row 2 - Hailey Kempf, Tiffany Payton, Tara Elpers, Jessica Dick,  
Alyssa Edwards  
Row 3 - Manager Lindsey Schenk, Molly Couture, Andrea Kiesel,  
Katie Roberts, Andrea Niemeier, Cassie Schentrup, Coach Bryan  
Morrison  
Row 4 - Coach Carolyn Adler, Coach Kim Goebel



## Dance Cats

- Row 1 - Stephanie Schenk, Brittany Erkman, Jennifer Rathgeber  
Row 2 - Brittney Kerchief, Mary Ann Gaffney, Robin Fehrenbacher,  
Allison Probert, Jewel Reising



Look who's ready for college!  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

Jaenna Butler

*© Creative Eye*



Brittany,  
Goodbye Mater Dei!! Off to bigger and  
better things! Good luck in college! You  
will succeed in anything you do!  
Love,  
Dad, Mom, and Ryan

Brittany Hoefling

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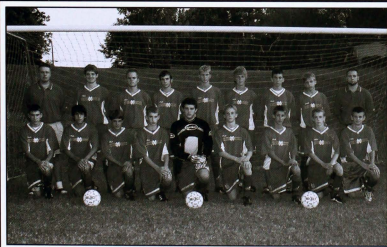
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### Boys Reserve Soccer

Row 1 - Adam Lambert, Steven Anderson, Calvin Clements, Nick Schenk, Matt Price, Jonathon Tenberge, Andrew Shetler, Ian Colligan, Kyle Swickard

Row 2 - Coach Jason Craig, Jonathon Herron, Brian Kuester, Kevin Tepool, Jared Waterman, Mitchell Funke, Brian Pigman, Tyler Hunt, Coach Tony Paul



### Boys Varsity Soccer

Row 1 - Nick Lannert, Adam Lambert, Daniel Armstrong, Kyle Clements, Brian Kuester, Shane Provost, Eric Reffet, Jake Oliver, Jason Kothe, Simon Anderson, Kyle Swickard

Row 2 - Coach Simon Kent, Coach Tim Pigman, Corey Rosek, Billy Wayne, Michael Pigman, Andy Barchet, Drew Nurrenborn, Lee Schoofield, Kyle Messersmith, Joe Schenk, Kevin Tepool, Coach Tony Paul, Coach Jason Craig





Dear Lindsey,  
We are so very proud of you.  
Always keep that beautiful smile  
on your face. May God bless you  
All our love,  
Mom and Dad

Lindsey Nicole Culver



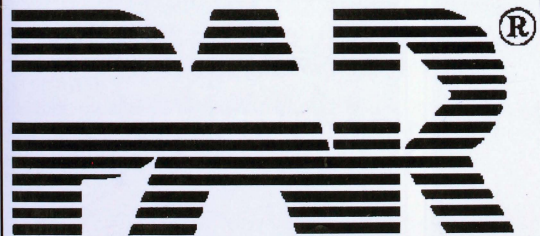
Todd,  
You have been a special "bright light" in  
our lives. Always remember to let your  
inner light shine and to use your God-  
given talents wisely. You have and will  
continue to make a positive difference in  
the lives around you.  
We love you!  
Mom, Dennis, and Katie  
Todd Wannemuehler



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**Barbara Weinzapfel**  
Class of 1977  
**James Little**  
Class of 1985



Good Luck Andy, we are very proud of you.  
Love Mom and Dad

Andy Wathen



Britney, Follow your heart and all of your  
dreams will come true. You have worked  
hard and we are so proud of you!  
Love, Mom, Dad, and Brandon

Britney Eickhoff

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Girls Reserve Soccer

Row 1 - Brooke Wayne, Katie Funke, Meghan Berneking, Rachel  
Williams, Lisa Lehman, Jordan Bartek

Row 2 - Heather Yellig, Ashley Seibert, Kelsey Mitsdarffer, Haley  
Morgan, Madison Parkinson, Melissa Padavic, Coach Tom Williams



Girls Varsity Soccer

Row 1 - Haley Morgan, Michelle Reitman, Katie Barnes, Allison  
Mesker, Kristin Schapker, Jenny Padavic, Mary Beth Barchet, Sarah  
Fehrenbacher, Haley Austin, Adria Keller, Emily Shetler, Marie Schiff

Row 2 - Keri Swickard, Jessica Grabert, Penny Appler, Alex Jost,  
Leslie Goans, Alivia Scott, Natalie Fleming, Jaci Babcock, Andrea  
Schnur, Nicole Hinderliter, Coach Tom Williams





Raymond--Always keep your wheels turning! Best of Luck in your future.  
Aunt Martha and Uncle Joe

Raymond Goebel



Dear Katie, We are so proud of you and all your hard work. Good Luck at USI and don't forget to phone home! God bless you, Honey!  
Love, Mom and Dad

Katie Reising

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---

**Best Wishes to the  
Class of 2004!**

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Brian,  
Keep playing your music. Good luck in your future endeavors. We are proud of you.  
Love  
Dad, Mom, Jason, and Cara

Brian Kuester



Megan,  
We are very proud of you and your accomplishments. You're the type of person who reflects your beliefs in how you treat others. We know you can do anything you wish.  
Best Wishes,  
Mom, Dad, Rachel, and Nathan

Megan Wright

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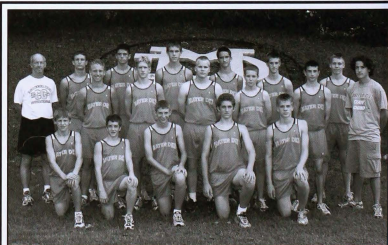
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Girls Cross Country

Row 1 - Kathy Goebel, Brittni Herron, Lauren Mochau, Julia Dick, Ellen Weinzapfel

Row 2 - Coach George Moll, Anna Reckelhoff, Katie Scheller, Alli Vick, Katie McKinney, Audrey Goebel, Kim Spahn, Coach Michael Weil



Boys Cross Country

Row 1 - Sean Herron, Jerry Parkinson, Andy Walker, Alex Echele, Shad Macke, Row 2 - Wes Dingman, David Learned, Dustin Stolz, Kevin Elliot, Michael Fischer, Coach Michael Weil  
Row 3 - Coach George Moll, Scott Koresse, Andy Krack, Matt Felle Patrick Farmer, Jeremy Coomes, Patrick McKinney





BJ,  
You always know how to brighten our days.  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

BJ Griese



Lindsey,  
Congratulations on all of your accomplishments.  
We wish you the best of luck in college and  
other life endeavors.  
Mom, Dad, Rachel, Casey, Kelsey

Lindsey Schenk



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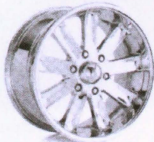
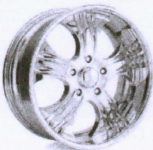
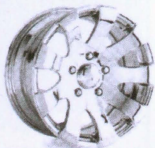
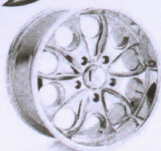
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What a sweet, little man, always stay that way. Good Luck.  
Love, Mom, Dad, Jeff, Jason, and Heather

Josh Anslinger



Sam,  
Thanks for the memories.  
Best wishes for the future.  
Love, Dad, Mom, Tim,  
Annie, Jenny, and Drew

Sam Weber

## We understand that

*Sometimes it takes more than days or weeks or months.*

### to excel in any endeavor in life

*Sometimes it takes years or even decades to flourish into the athlete, scholar,*

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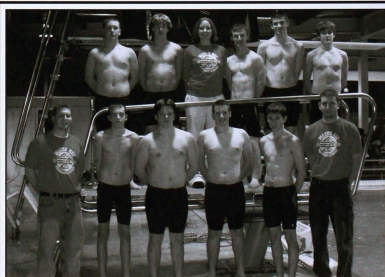


### Girls Swimming & Diving

Row 1 - Michelle Kelley, Annie Weber, Carly Zenthofer, Melissa Padavic

Row 2 - Manager Cherie Williamson, Nicole Elpers, Katie Funke, Katie Zenthofer, Jenna Denstorff, Stephanie Seibert, Tori Fisher, Coach Robert Thomas

Row 3 - Coach Brad Gilbert, Christina Morrow, Jenny Padavic, Brandy Sparks, Hallie Denstorff, Natalie Schmitt, Genna Ramsbey



### Boys Swimming & Diving

Row 1 -Coach Brad Gilbert, Tyler Swihart, Nick Farny, Mark Modesitt,  
Adam Lambert,Coach Robert Thomas

Row 2 - Aaron Crowe, Branden Clements, Manager Cherie Williamson, Ryan Marx, Lucas Nelson, Calvin Clements





We are so proud of the lovely lady you've become. Keep your smile, determination and faith in God and you will achieve your dreams.  
We love you, Mom, Dad, Chris, Jonathan and Nicholas

Lauren Mochau



Jared,  
Congratulations! We are so proud of you. You have filled our lives with love and laughter. Good luck in the future.  
Love, Mom, Dad and Josh

Jared Waterman



Hanna,  
Remember all the good times!  
Keep having fun!  
Love ya,  
Kortney and Alivia

Hanna Scott



Nate,  
You always have enjoyed life to the fullest. We wish you the best of luck in the future.  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

Nathan Doshier

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Congratulations Eric! We're so proud of you! Good luck in college and best wishes in all that lies ahead!  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Jon, & Jordan

Eric Stoltz



Molly,  
There are so many things we want for you—the strength to face life's challenges, the satisfaction of achieving your goals, a world of adventure, the peace that comes from being true to yourself...  
But most of all, we want you to know how much we love you... and how proud we are to have you for our daughter. Good Luck at Purdue! Love always, Mom & Dad  
Molly Blankenberger



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Hey bro,  
 Thanks for always being there for me when I needed you the most. I can always count on you to be there no matter what. You are the best brother anyone could ever ask for, and I love you so much for everything! We've had some fun times with many more to come.  
 Love your favorite sis, Rachel  
 P.S. Awesome job in wrestling once again!  
 Bryan Williams



Eric,  
 Your highschool years have passed too quickly. You provided us with immense pride and joy. We love you very much!  
 Mom, Dad, Joe, Jennifer and Katie

Eric Reffett



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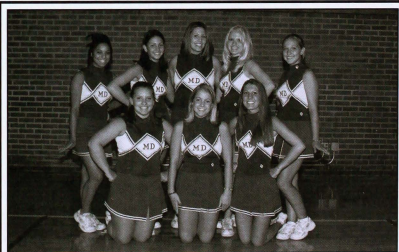
### Freshman Cheerleaders

Row 1 - Hannah Boots, Danielle Ritter, Michelle Kelly,  
 Row 2 - Lauren Hoefling, Kari Weinzapfel, Sarah Hall  
 Row 3 - Sarah Schneider, Mackenzie Riggs, Samantha Hurm, Nichole Lehman



### Reserve Cheerleaders

Row 1 - Emily Elpers, Katie Alexander  
 Row 2 - Sondra Wilderman, Danielle Elsner, Christy McMillan,  
 Row 3 - Jaci Elpers, Tori Fisher, Lauren Oliver, Ali Raben



### Varsity Cheerleaders

Row 1 - Michele Lewis, Jeanna Butler, Brittany Hoefling  
 Row 2 - Kayla Weinzapfel, Rachel Luigs, Nicci Sheridan, Amber Ferrari, Kourtney Scott



For years I've been your "bigger" little brother, but I've still always looked up to you. Good luck in college. I'll miss you.  
Corey

Nick Lannert



Hey Bubba,  
We've had some good times over the years. I can't wait until we're both at Purdue next year!  
Love,  
Holly

Brandy Sparks

# Pierre

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Class of '62

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Class of '88

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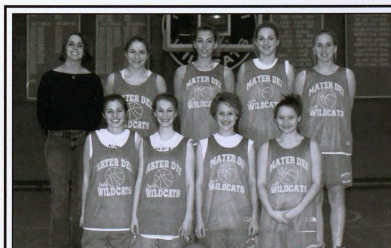
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Girls Freshman Basketball

Row 1 - Jenna Whorl, Sarah Yingling, Audrie Koester, Jackie Wade

Row 2 - Coach Jessica Powell, Mallory Goebel, Myranda Kurzenoerfer, Lauren Niemeier, Margaret Stoltz





Katie,  
You have always been a precious  
treasure to me and your dad. You  
have made us proud. Aim for the  
stars.  
Love  
Mom

Katie Roberts



Todd,  
I am very proud of you and of all your  
many accomplishments. I wish you all the  
very best that life can bring.  
I love you!  
Grandma Pat

Todd Wannemuehler



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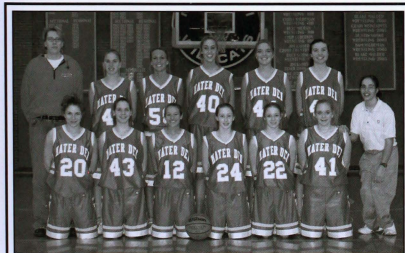
107 N. Garvin Street  
Evansville, IN 47711



Good luck and best wishes  
to the class of 2004

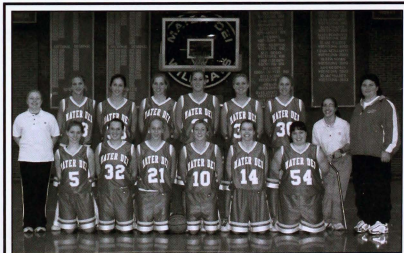
Jerry and Barbara Goedde  
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Girls Reserve Basketball

Row 1 - Mallory Goebel, Mallory Schenk, Jaci Babcock, Brittini Herron, Emily Weinzapfel, Sarah Scott, Jennifer Carter  
Row 2 - Coach Angela Lintker, Margaret Stoltz, Brittani Elpers, Madison Parkinson, Michelle Farney, Cassie Schentrup



Girls Varsity Basketball

Row 1 - Kristin Kissel, Jessica Knight, Audrey Goebel, Abby Schmitt, Ashley Alles, Megan Wright, Jennifer Carter, Coach Missy Groben  
Row 2 - Amber Drury, Tiffany Payton, Laura Schroeder, Katie McKinney, Katie Roberts, Jessica Dick, Mallory Morrow



May the future bring you as much joy as you have brought us. Follow your dreams. Don't forget to dance.  
Love Mom & Dad

Kristi Wilsman



Dear Jason,

You are our first "Born", in whom we are well pleased. We are very proud if you and all of your accomplishments. We look forward to following you in your future ventures. Go Navy or Purdue!

Love,  
Dad and Mom  
Jason Born



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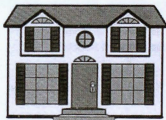
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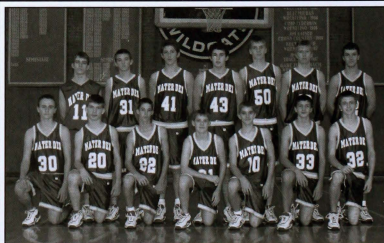


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### Boys Freshman Basketball

Row 1 - Ryan Gries, John Marshall, Andrew Shetler, Zach Bittner, Adam Schenk, Mitchell Eickhoff, Jared Kreig

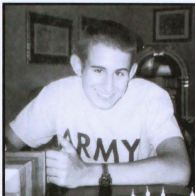
Row 2 - Jordan Phelps, Derek Gallo, Alex Echele, Matt Price, Shad Macke, Ryan Niemeier, Greg Cardin





Michele,  
You are a wonderful person and I am so glad that you're my daughter and my best friend. Spread your wings and fly!  
Love  
Mom

Michele Lewis



Phillip,  
Be all that you can be!  
Love,  
Mom, Dad  
Robert & Lauren

Phillip Vaughn



Dan,  
Here's to a cool big brother, bottoms up!  
Don and Dave,  
Class of 2012

Dan Euler



Jake,  
Congratulations on a great senior season. Thanks for letting me be your team physician.  
Love,  
Your Favorite Dad

Jake Oliver

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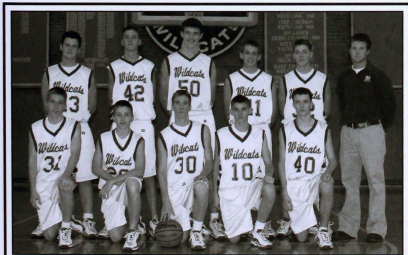
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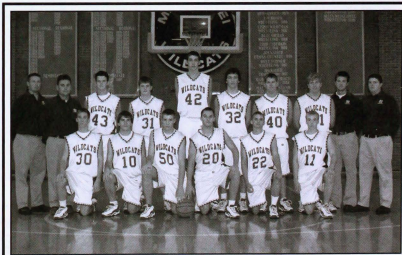
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### Boys Reserve Basketball

Row 1 - Patrick McKinney, Andy Tekoppel, Brandon Deig, Ben Dausman, Adam Wolf


Row 2- Kyle Grossman, Paul Weinzapfel, Nathan Hassler, Matt Major, Paul Kempf, Coach Justin Elpers




### Boys Varsity Basketball

Row 1 - Brandon Deig, Andy Reddington, Matt Halbig, Zach Zirkelbach, Lee Schoolfield, Craig Maier

Row 2- Coach Jason Craig, Coach John Goebel, Kyle Grossman, Kelly Muensterman, Wacey Hall, Drew Alcorn, Danny Martin, Cory Goebel, Coach Justin Elpers, Coach Kevin Moore



Katie,  
You had more fun with this simple box than all the toys around it.  
Continue to be creative and work hard to achieve the goals you set. Remember to always enjoy the simple things in life and the complicated things will come easy.  
Love ya bunches,  
Congratulations & Good Luck  
Mom, Dad, Nathan, Jason, Karen, Kendra, & Dustin  
Katie Scheller



You are just beginning your journey. . .  
Keep pedaling, Philip.  
Love, Mom & Dad

Phillip Vaughn

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## Wrestling

- Row 1 - Amber Ferrari, Christina Morrow, Marie Schiff, Brittni Herron, Jenna Denstorff, Abby Werner, Beth Cardin, Jessica Byrley, Leslie Woehler, Ashley Muensterman, Katie Zenthofer
- Row 2 - Kristina Kayser, Jill Merkel, Kristi Wilsman, Hallie Denstorff, Becky Parkinson, Rachel Raben, Mackenzie Goebel, Katie Scheller, Megan Martin, Tyler Deweese, Kirby Splittoff, Rachel Luigs, Kathy Goebel
- Row 3 - Sean Herron, Brian Bittner, Jon Tenbarge, Joe Hillenbrand, Chris Dewitt, Jake Herrmann, Joe Lehman, Andy Barchet, Matt Coughlin, Nathan Doshier, Blake Maurer
- Row 4 - Jerry Parkinson, Logan Bartek, Eric Sammet, Brian Williams, Bart Schaefer, Rhett Lawson, Raymond Goebel, Zach Goebel, Chaz Schwartz, Ben Macke, Mike Coughlin
- Row 5 - Nick Dewig, Frank Fabiano, Ben Fleming, Sean Will, Rhen Koester, Tim Weber, Jeremy Goebel, Alex Will, Josh Henderson,
- Row 6 - Kyle Clements, Scott Schmitt, Kyle Adler, Reece Lawson, Andy Seibert, Zach Miller, Joe Butler, Kenny Tenbarge, Logan Schiff
- Row 7 - Andy Matt, Mason Kempf, Alex Topper, Matt Eichhoff, Jason Wire, Andy Kercher, Chris Emmert





Hallie- I am so proud of all your accomplishments in just 18 years!! I will miss you terribly. I love you more than the whole wide world and back again.

Love Mom

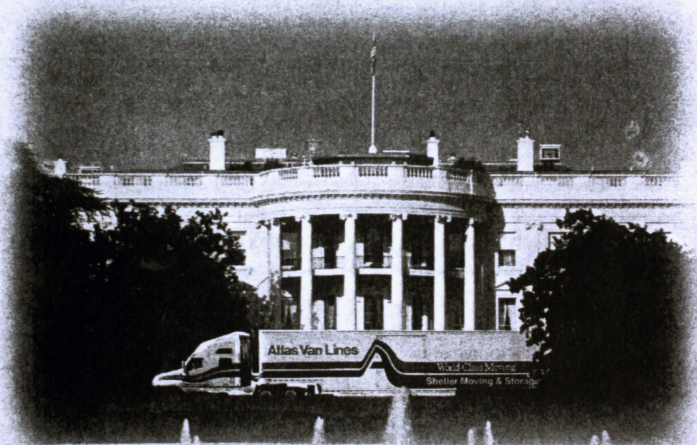
Hallie Denstorff



We Love you, Katie Bug- Great things are coming your way.  
Mom, Dad, & Roxie

Katie Frank

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We heart you Jason! We'll continue to be proud of you in your next uniform!

Love,  
Jennifer and Joshua

Jason Born



Rayne,  
Work hard, have fun, and enjoy life.

Love,  
Mom and Dad

Rayne Bitter



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Love,  
Mom, Dad, Jason, and Kevin

Brian Bittner



We wish you great happiness in college. We will miss your smiling face around the house. We are so proud of you.

All of our Love,  
Mom and Dad

Jill Merkel

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### Reserve Softball

- Row 1 - Jenna Whorl, Marie Wolf, Andrea Goebel, Hilary Masterson, Laura Lutz
- Row 2 - Lauren Niemeier, Madison Parkinson, Mallory Schenk, Elyse Kraft, Jenna Adler, Ashley Seibert
- Row 3 - Coach Gene Whorl, Hannah Boots, Emilee Petitjean, Stephanie Seibert, Kellyn Weinzapfel, Margaret Stoltz, Coach Larry Lutz



### Varsity Softball

- Row 1 - Melissa Elpers, Megan Wright, Erica Bohleber, Dana Mueller
- Row 2 - Coach Audrey Kempf, Nikolette Render, Sarah Scott, Brittney Kerchief
- Row 3 - Coach Larry Lutz, Michelle Rietman, Hannah Johnson, Hailey Kempf, Tiffany Payton, Coach Gene Whorl



Our Mighty Ninja Turtle,  
Congratulations! Continue to use your  
powers to succeed!

Love,  
Mom and Dad

Joseph Schenk



Alex,  
Time to wave goodbye and start making  
new memories. The best is yet to come. We  
love you,  
Mom, Dad, and Troy

Alex Blazier



Joseph,  
You've always been a blessing to us. We are  
very proud of you. Good luck in the future.  
We know you will succeed in whatever you  
choose to do.  
We Love You,  
Mom and Dad

Joseph Hillenbrand



Bryan,  
My how you've grown! We are very  
proud of you.  
Love,  
Mom, Charlie, Rachel, Olivia,  
Hannah, and Luke

Bryan Williams

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Class of '53



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CLASS OF 2004



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Shanna,  
We are so proud of you and all of your  
accomplishments. May you always be this  
happy.  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, and Alli

Shanna Bush



Zach,  
Keep enjoying life and always take  
some time to sit around the campfire.  
Congratulations, you've done great.  
The best is yet to come!  
Love,  
Mom, Dad, Lynnsey, Emily, Comet,  
Bruiser

Zach Zirkelbach



Rebecca,  
We love you. You have been a joy  
from day one. Good luck at Ball  
State. Follow your dreams.  
Love,  
Grandma and Grandpa Parkinson

Becky Parkinson



Rhett,  
We love you. Follow your dreams. You can be  
anything you want. Go for it.  
Love,  
Grandma and Grandpa Parkinson

Rhett Lawson



### Marching Band

Row 1 - Rachel Sweeney, Rachel Schenk, Elizabeth Kirsch, Caitlyn Nemer, Hayley Torres

Row 2 - Shanna Bush, David Learned, Ashley Sullenger, Jacob Farney, Krista Wildeman, Aaron Holm, Jeremy Hill, Christina Ward, Amber Drury, Jessie Buskavitz, Ashley Alles, Lucas Kirsch

Row 3 - Katie Reising, Derek Herrman, Kourtney Scott, Kevin, Ashley Bradford, Michael Niemeier, Hannah Johnson, Amanda Cox, Robin Fahrenbacher, Andrew Cheany, Whitney Staup, Mark Taylor, Drew Jenkins, Melissa Elpers, Ben Paciorkowski, Craig Schutz, Rachel Buskavitz, Katie Dockery, Sarah Paciorkowski, Tegan Rush, Sarah Folz, Matt Taylor



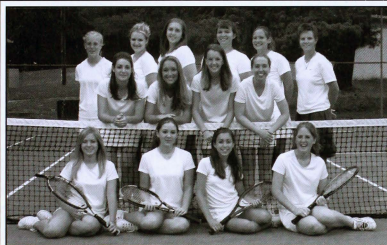
Our Dear Kristin,  
You light up a room with your beautiful smile. We are extremely proud of you and the wonderful job you've done in school! Keep the light burning brightly. We love you so much.  
Mom & Dad

Kristin Kissel



Kyle,  
Can't believe you are grown up. The best is yet to come. Make the best of the challenges that are ahead of you. We think you're great, and we love you.  
Mom Dad & Elyse

Kyle Kraft



### Girls Tennis

Row 1 - Samantha Sammet, Alyssia Lambert, Laura Hall, Hannah Wagner

Row 2 - Laura Mesker, Lauren Oliver, Kayley Will, April Scheller, Audrey Goebel, Natalie Schmit, Hannah Wannemuehler, Molly Couture, Katie Barnes, Coach Krista Lowen



### Boys Golf

Row 1 - Nicholas Frazer, Tommy Cervone, Michael Fuchs, Craig Maier, Matthew Loehrlein, Matthew Eickhoff, Jared Krieg, Coach Jeff Jewel

Row 2 - Corey Lannert, Jake Weinzapfel, Scott Modesitt, Benjamin Macke, Tegan Rush, Mitchell Eickhoff, Kevin Short.

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We are so proud of you! We love you!  
Mom Dad & Greg

Ashley Alles

Daniel,  
Steer your way to a bright  
future!  
Love, Mom & Dad

Daniel Euler

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Scott,  
 Congratulations! We are very proud of you. You have accomplished a lot. You have big plans that are going to take a lot of hard work, but we know you can do it. Your life is in front of you and it looks great.  
 Love,  
 Mom, Dad, and Mark

**Scott Modesitt**



Beckie,  
 We love you, a bushel and a peck!

**Beckie Kelley**



Becky,  
 You can be whatever you want to be. Go for it! We'll be there for you.  
 Love,  
 Mom and Dad

**Becky Parkinson**



We will forever treasure the many years we spent watching you play soccer. Now it's time for you to reach for your new "goals." We will always be praying for you.  
 Love,  
 Dad & Mom

**Nick Lannert**



The "King of Hearts"  
 Love,  
 Mom and Dad

**Phil Vaughn**



You are definitely superstars.  
 Keep smiling.

**Shane and Emily Provost**

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Abby,  
 You have always made us proud. Continue to follow your dreams . Thanks for all the great memories. Good luck at Purdue.  
 Love,  
 Mom, Dad and Andrew

Abby Schmitt

Hallie,  
 You've had a great four years, and I know your next four years will be even better! I'm going to miss you tremendously next year! You're the best sister anyone could ever ask for! I love you so much!  
 Love your sister,  
 Jenna

Hallie Denstorff



### Reserve Baseball

Row 1 - Ben Fleming, Ben Dausman, Adam Schenk, Zach Bittner, Ryan Wink, Jeremy Goldman, Ryan Gries

Row 2 - Coach Jason Craig, Greg Cardin, Will Moll, Aaron Fehrenbacher, Shad Macke, Adam Butts, Tony Klueg, Matt Johnson, John Eickhoff, Derek Gallo, Ryan Schnarre, Cody Brandenstein, Brian Schapker



### Varsity Baseball

Row 1 - Tyler Bittner, Will Moll, Dustin Slaton, Phil Loehr, Nathan Miller, Ben Dausman, Andy Reddington

Row 2 - Coach Darin Knight, Matt Major, Mike Goelz, Kyle Grossman, Joe Kelley, Matt Halbig, Jeremy Gries, Drew Alcorn, Jared Droste

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Ashley,  
We're very proud of you and hope  
your future brings you much happi-  
ness. We know it's been tough being  
the oldest. May God keep you safe  
and healthy.  
We love you very much!  
Mom, Dad, Kyle, Emily, and Troy

Ashley Adler



Brandy,  
We can't believe our baby is 18. Keep  
working hard- it will pay off. We're so  
proud of you, and we'll always love  
you.  
Mom and Dad

Brandy Sparks



### Girls Track

Row 1 - Emily Weber, Krista Wildeman, Rachel Buskavitz, Kathy Goebel, Katelyn Norman, Brittini Herron, Kristin Kissel, Jeanna Butler  
Row 2 - Kendra Scheller, Kim Spahn, Marie Schiff, Allison Mesker, Katie McKinney, Jessica Knight, Laura Schroeder, Kristen Schapker, Tina Morrow, Mary Beth Barchet  
Row 3 - Coach Charlie Eickhoff, Jenny Padavic, Ellen Weinzapfel, Aimee Fischer, Michelle Farney, Jenna Schmitt, Katie Scheller, Coach Matt Krack



### Boys Track

Row 1 - Wes Dingman, Ian Collignon, Nick Schenk, Sam Weber, Brian Kuester, Jason Born, Dan Euler, Sean Herron, Kevin Elliot  
Row 2 - Scott Koressel, Jason DeVille, Jeremy Coomes, Dustin Stolz, Daniel Langton, Micheal Fischer, Andrew Walker, Adam Lambert, Scott Schapker, Brandon Clements  
Row 3 - Dan DeVille, Ryan Matt, Matt Feller, Dave Hertel, Andy Krack, Corey Rosek, Ben Weber, Patrick McKinney, Patrick Farmer, Neil Goebel, Eric Sammet, Matt Krack

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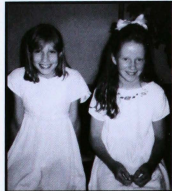


Scott,  
Throughout my life, you have always been by my side. You've been a good teammate, great friend, and an AWESOME older brother! Good Luck throughout your life even though I don't think you will need it.  
Mark  
Scott Modesitt



Megan,  
You are a "special" child, and we are blessed to be your parents. Thanks for the precious memories, gentle spirit, and kind heart. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you always as you face the challenges that God places throughout your path of life.  
May God bless you and always keep you safe. We love you and will always be here for you!  
Love, Mom, Dad, and Matthew  
Megan Martin

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Mackenzie and Tyler,  
Friends from the beginning, friends  
forever.  
Keep Smiling.  
Congratulations and best wishes.  
Mom, Dad, Bo Goebel and  
Mom, Dad, Trevor DeWeese

**Mackenzie Goebel and Tyler  
DeWeese**



Hanna,  
You have always achieved what you set  
your mind on!  
We are so proud of you!  
Good luck in all you do.  
Keep that beautiful smile.  
Love,  
Mom and Dad

**Hanna Scott**

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**J  
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Jake,  
 What a goal! We've had a blast watching you play these past four years. You came through (mostly) unscathed. Good luck as you go for the goal in college!  
 Love,  
 Zack, Becky, Melissa and Lauren  
**Jake Oliver**



Andrea,  
 You were blessed with a kind heart and we were blessed with you. Whatever you do, we believe in you. May your future have many rewards and may your dreams come true!  
 Love,  
 Mom, Dad and Ryan

**Andrea Niemeier**

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Jacob,  
I'm going to miss seeing you play soccer.  
You are a joy to watch. I wish you the  
best of luck in the future in whatever you  
decide to do.  
Love,  
Mom

Jake Oliver



Jeremy,  
We are very proud of you! Give your best  
shot at everything you do. God bless you  
and we love you!  
Love,  
Dad, Mom, Ryan and Doug

Jeremy Gries

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Rachel "Bird"

Since your day you were born, we have been blessed. It is hard to believe the school years have passed by so quickly. Every day has truly been a gift to us. We are very proud of you of the young woman you have become.

Loving you,  
Dad, Mom and Emily  
Rachel Raben



Tail-  
Congratulations. You finally made it! Now you're ready to kick back, relax and enjoy. Good luck in all that you do. I will always be here for you!  
Love,  
Kim

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# How We See Things

## Hi-Lights Yearbook

Now that all the moments are counted and recalled, it is time to wrap things up and give thanks where thanks are due. Thanks to Jon Kaufman and Michelle Spencer at Walsworth Publishing, and Patti Dewig from Dewig Photography and Lifetouch Photography. Of course the biggest thanks goes to all of the supporters of and contributors to the Hi-Lights yearbook and journalism department. Their generosity and support has made this book possible. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff members. There have been some good times, some bad times, but lots of great times.

Editor:

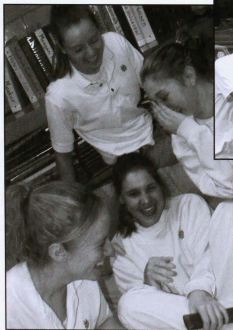
**KATIE SCHELLER**

Staff Members:

**ASHLEY ALLES, SHANNA BUSH, BRITINI HERRON, JILL MERKEL  
AND JACLYN / SUSAN MUENSTERMAN**

Advisor:

**JOHN WELLS**



600 copies of this book were printed at Walsworth Publishing's Missouri plant. The book was sold to the student body, faculty, and friends for \$40 and advertising space was sold for between \$50 and \$400, depending on the size of the display space.

The cover and endsheets were conceived and drawn by Susan Muensterman. The cover was a two-color design printed on a Lithocote 120 pt. board, gloss laminated, and name stamped with HF Bright foil lettering. The two different endsheets were printed in black and white on standard endleaf stock.

Katie Scheller and the Twins developed the book's theme at yearbook camp. The content pages were all custom designed in PageMaker 7.0 by the staff members. Several fonts were used throughout the book, including AWPC AvantGuard, AWPC Chelsea, AWPC Futura, AWPC Helvetica, and AWPC ReturnToEarth.

All stories were written by staff members and contributing writers. All photographs other than class portraits were taken by staff members and contributing photographers. Lifetouch Photography provided the portraits of underclassmen. Senior portraits were taken and provided by Dewig Photography. Dewig Photography was also responsible for group and team pictures. The Mater Dei Journalism Department received a nomination into the Walsworth Publishing Gallery of Excellence for the work done on this, the 2004 Hi-Lights yearbook. The Hi-Lights is a member of the Indiana High School Press Association, Southern Illinois School Press Association and attends USI's High School Media Day and SISPA conferences. The Hi-Lights has been nominated as a Hoosier Star in 2003 and has received five SISPA Golden Dozen in the last eight years, as well as numerous awards from photography and coverage at USI and SISPA.



Mater Dei  
Yearbook  
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