



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ◀

Greetings parents!

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas Season was filled with much joy and relaxation and that 2015 promises many blessings for you and your family. It was so nice to have all the students back on Monday and get back to our school routines. I reminded our students that even though Christmas is over - there are opportunities every day to celebrate the ways in which Jesus is present in our lives, especially in the way we care for and respect each other.

As we begin the second half of our school year, we also begin our second semester and third quarter. Students taking semester courses are starting new classes at this time. Any student who needs assistance with her schedule can check in at the school office.

Speaking of schedules, the scheduling process for the 2014-15 academic year begins this week as indicated in my previous letter. This includes meetings with parents as listed in the information below under Counseling and Student Services. We are also meeting with each class during the long homerooms to review the process and course options.

Finally, this Friday we will hold our annual Silver Bells Dance sponsored by the sophomore class. The theme is New York, New York! It is a fun-filled evening for sophomores through seniors. Typically, students dress up for this dance and have been informed that anyone who is not dressed appropriately will not be admitted to the dance. Dresses should be of an appropriate length and provide adequate coverage of legs, stomach, chest, and back areas. Extremely tight dresses like tube dresses are not permitted. Students who choose to wear tights should make sure these are covered with an appropriate length tunic or dress. If you and your daughter are not sure about the choice of attire, feel free to email a picture to Assistant Principal Mrs. Grayson (graysona@ndapandas.org) and she will provide her feedback. Our dress code reinforces what is appropriate for a social function at a Catholic school and demonstrates respect for self and others. We appreciate your support of this policy.

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl





INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE ◀

In the next few issues of the Panda Press we will feature *The Technology Evolution Series, a Senior Perspective*. Written by some of our NDA seniors, this is a series of descriptions illustrating how technology has changed at Notre Dame Academy during their four years here.

The Technology Evolution Series, a Senior Perspective Week Two: Katie Kloska '15

It's interesting to reflect on my seemingly stone-age years as a Freshman. I was confused as to why I needed to enroll in an InfoTech class. I already knew how to type over 60 wpm (words per minute) and could easily navigate through web browsers such as Safari and Mozilla FireFox; I was a self-proclaimed prodigy. However, I could only use my "impeccable" skills to research and type papers at home. Our education system's individualized use of technology was polarized. Either I would be completely immersed in technology during an InfoTech class, or would be taking stacks of paper notes in my traditional lecture classes.

It's important to clarify that the traditional, lecture enriched teaching method is very useful and effective. This setup allows students to learn in a structured environment while being given the opportunities to ask questions and make inferences. However, this teaching method has been clearly enhanced as I have advanced through high school. These enhancements have been made as a result of our administration's strong advocacy for in-class technology usage. Now, with the students' corresponding iPad tablets and the teachers' new Apple TV's, traditional lecture classes can be enriched with easily accessible documents, photos, and videos. I have witnessed that classes become more enthusiastic when different medias are incorporated into the curriculum.

From my understanding of biology and human anatomy, as people are exposed to different types of media, whether it be visual, auditory, or both, the human brain must create new synapses in order to store this new information. Our student body has become well rounded in that we are able to access our curriculum through multiple different platforms. With our iPads, learning has never been more effective. Instead of practicing our skills only through attentively listening and taking notes, we are able to expand our skills through the former and participation in mixed media. For example, in my AP French IV class, Mme. Greife has integrated the use of French audio samples and news clips that are easily accessed through Notre Dame's universal learning platform, Canvas. With these clips at hand during class or at home, we are able to have constructive in-class discussions that have made my foreign language experience instructive and exciting.

It's easy to say that my years as a Freshman technology "prodigy" do not compete with the experience and knowledge I now have with technology. This ability to use technology has not only improved, it has innovated my method of learning. I am now able to visualize internally with ease and hear class topics that I would have had to "pick my brain" for as a Freshman. Now that it is 2015 and I am leaving for college soon, I can only be reminiscent and grateful for my years at the ever-limit-pushing frontier, Notre Dame Academy.



SILVERS BELLS ◀

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Silver Bells dance. All sophomores through seniors are invited to join us on Friday, January 9, 2015 for the semi formal dance. Tickets are \$12 a person (\$24 per couple) and available for purchase before and after school in NDA's foyer. All students planning to attend must purchase a ticket and complete

a Permission Slip. This is especially important for those students bringing guests. The forms must be submitted to the school's office by this Thursday at 3:00 p.m. A huge thank you to the sophomore class for coordinating this year's dance.



PTO MEETING ◀

Don't miss our next PTO meeting on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing two of PTO's favorite events: Father/Daughter Night and After Prom!



FATHER/DAUGHTER 500! ◀

"Gentlemen (and daughters too), start your engines!" Get ready to zoom around the dance floor at the 2015 Father/Daughter Dance Friday, January 23, 2015, at Receptions, 1379 Donaldson Hwy., Erlanger, KY, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a buffet dinner which will be served at 7:30 p.m. There will be music by The Mix.

Seniors: We encourage you to make your senior posters for display that night. Decorate with father/daughter pictures, and we will hang them at Receptions. Be as creative as you want!

R.S.V.P. Required: You can download the reservation form from our website [HERE](#). Turn in to front office at school. Please R.S.V.P. no later than MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015.



UNIFORM ADDITION ◀

NDA School Fleece - For those of you who have seen the new school fleece and are now wanting one, they are still available! Order forms can be found in the school office or in the Bambootique. Orders will be placed at week's end and will take approximately 10-14 days to be filled. If you have any questions, please email Aimee Dickhaus at ddickhaus@yahoo.com.



NDA LACROSSE ◀

Interested in participating in an exciting, fast-paced sport that combines skills seen in soccer, basketball, even hockey all wrapped into one? The fastest growing women's sport in the country, lacrosse, is now offered as a Varsity and Junior Varsity sport at Notre Dame Academy. An informational meeting will be held January 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria for all students and parents that would like to learn more about this up and coming sport and our plans for the spring season! Please contact head coach Jimmy Marshall (marshallj@ndapandas.org) with any questions.



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COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



IMPORTANT SCHEDULING INFORMATION FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR:

We will start the scheduling process for next year with parent meetings. The meetings will be held at **7:00 p.m.** on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 14 - Current junior meeting for students and parents. Review of the schedule and PSAT.

Wednesday, January 21 - Current sophomore meeting for students and parents. Review of the schedule, PSAT and Plan.

Thursday, February 5 - Current freshmen meeting for students and parents. Review of the scheduling process.

▶ Important dates:

January 7	Incoming freshman HSPT Results Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
January 9	Silver Bells - 8:00 p.m. (School dismisses at 11:30 a.m.)
January 13	PTO Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
January 14	Class of 2016 Scheduling Information (Parents) - 7:00 p.m.
January 19	No School (Martin Luther King)
January 21	Class of 2017 Scheduling Information (Parents) - 7:00 p.m.
January 21-22	March for Life (Washington, D.C.)
January 23	Father Daughter Dance - 7:00 p.m.
January 26-30	Catholic Schools Week
January 27	LaCrosse Informational Meeting 6:30 p.m. in cafeteria
January 28	Charity Volleyball Game at NDA
January 30	Talent Show
February 5	Class of 2018 Scheduling Information (Parents) - 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

Check out the **Community News** section of **NDA's** website for news about...

Class forming for new drivers with Streetsmartz

Are you caring for an aging parent or grandparent? St. Charles can help!

For a complete list of community news [CLICK HERE](#).

