



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Dear Parents,

We have much to be grateful for at Notre Dame Academy! I truly appreciate the way our students and faculty are *Uniting Humankind as Reflections of God's Love* this school year. These are difficult times for everyone however, our community has embraced the challenges of COVID-19 with a spirit of strength, persistence and caring hearts. Here are just a few examples:

- Our Pandas did not let remote learning stop them from collecting canned goods to feed the hungry this winter. They were creative in their efforts for this year's CANdemonium benefitting our local St. Vincent de Paul food pantries.
- Mr. Cerimele and our Panda band members spread some holiday joy at their first ever outdoor drive-in Christmas concert. They came together Saturday in our parking lot while practicing COVID-19 mitigation strategies and it was an awesome event.
- NDA's Student Council organized some Thanksgiving fun for our students this week. Each grade level played virtual bingo and hosted a turkey decorating contest giving our students some much needed holiday fun together.
- Our Peer Ministers shared Thanksgiving Reflection videos with our community talking about how to get ready for Thanksgiving with an *attitude of gratitude*.
- Yesterday, our community came together for our traditional Thanksgiving Prayer Service to reflect of the blessings of this year.

I am extremely grateful that our students continue to be engaged in meaningful learning despite COVID-19 and our temporary transition to Remote Learning @ NDA. Many schools will experience an achievement gap this school year due to the challenges of COVID-19. We are very blessed at Notre Dame Academy to have the framework in place to keep our students on track with their learning this school year. We have led the way in educational technology for nearly a decade giving NDA a clear advantage with remote learning. Several years ago our faculty began participating in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) increasing authentic pedagogy at NDA. We also have a phenomenal group of counselors keeping us mindful of our students' mental wellness and offering students the support they need to be successful.

The high level of academic excellence we experience at Notre Dame Academy is a result of our rigorous curriculum and assessments. While we have a rigid exam policy, after much consideration, we **have made the decision not to hold midterm exams this school year due to our temporary implementation of Remote Learning @ NDA**. We believe that it is in the best interest of our students to replace our previously scheduled midterm exam days with three additional instructional days at the end of this quarter. You can read more below regarding the factors we took into account in making this decision.

On behalf of Dr. Koehl and our entire faculty and staff, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support of Catholic education. I hope you and your family have a healthy and happy break. Happy Thanksgiving!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS ◀

NDA President Dr. Laura Koehl talks about how gratitude opens our hearts to God's goodness and love in her blog post this holiday weekend. You can find Dr. Koehl's blog post [HERE](#).

NDA COVID-19 INFORMATION ◀

REMEMBER, the [NDA COVID-19 Information page](#) on the website has many important resources for parents and students:

- Pandas Return to Campus Plan
- Question Submission Link
- NDA COVID-19 Response Chart for Students and Staff
- and more!

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE ◀

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Please keep NDA updated on any COVID-19 related issues involving your family. In the event that someone in your household is being tested for COVID-19 or your daughter is exposed to or tests positive for COVID-19, please contact our school nurse, Tina Sizemore, at 859.292.1843 or sizemoret@ndapandas.org or Mrs. McLeod in the front office 859.292.1821 or mcleods@ndapandas.org.
- It is important that your daughter continues to follow COVID-19 mitigation strategies. **PLEASE DISCOURAGE YOUR DAUGHTER FROM GATHERING WITH FRIENDS DURING THIS TIME.**
- If you are planning to travel anytime throughout the holiday season, please review the Travel Advisory Information section of our COVID-19 Information webpage [HERE](#). There are specific directives from the Diocese of Covington regarding travel which are posted on our COVID-19 Information webpage and can also be found on page 13 of the Diocese of [Covington Department of Catholic Schools COVID-19 Return to School Requirements](#).

MAKE GOOD CHOICES! HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

- Symptom Screenings & Health Precautions
- Contact Tracing
- Cleaning and Sanitizing our Campus
- Hand Sanitizing
- Masks
- Social Distancing
- Safety Barriers



Together we can Make a Difference!

As of today, Wednesday, November 25, we have been informed that four of our students have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last week. As per our requirements, those students are in quarantine.

We have consulted with the Diocese of Covington about these recent cases. Since we transitioned to Plan 3 of our Pandas Return to School Plan with Remote Learning @ NDA, contact tracing within our NDA community is not necessary. We thank the families involved for reporting this information and helping to keep our school community safe.

As we move forward, please keep NDA updated on any COVID-19 related issues involving your family. In the event that someone in your household is being tested for COVID-19 or your daughter is exposed to or tests positive for COVID-19, please contact our school nurse, Tina Sizemore, at 859.292.1843 or sizemoret@ndapandas.org.

STUDENT LIFE

SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT: PANDA PRIME TIME ◀

As you will see on next week's bulletin, the Remote Learning schedule has changed in two ways. Based on our experiences with remote learning for the past 9 days and following a discussion with department chairs, the schedule below will be in place when we resume classes on Monday, November 30.

Rather than having a fixed schedule for the blue and gold schedules (blue on Mondays and Thursdays, gold on Tuesdays and Thursdays with alternating schedules on Wednesdays) the blue and gold schedules will alternate each day. The change eliminates long gaps between class meetings.

In addition, the blue schedule will consist of 4 class periods and the gold schedule will have 3 class periods and PPT or homeroom depending on the day. The new schedule is shown below and creates a more balanced schedule for a large percentage of our students.

SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT

Blue Schedule

9:00	-	10:10	1st Class
10:20	-	11:30	2nd Class
11:30	-	12:00	Lunch
12:10	-	1:20	3rd Class
1:30	-	2:40	4th Class

Gold Schedule

9:00	-	10:10	5th Class
10:20	-	11:30	6th Class
11:30	-	12:00	Lunch
12:10	-	1:20	7th Class
1:30	-	2:40	PPT/HR

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history. As a school, we have had to be innovative, adaptable and creative in order to maintain the level of academic excellence to which our NDA community is accustomed. With a strong commitment to providing a holistic education, we are also charged with the responsibility of remaining cognizant of our students' mental wellness throughout this challenging time.

As you well know, we have a rigid exam policy at NDA with all students required to take mid-term exams in every subject and only seniors having the opportunity to qualify for exemption from the final exam in any course if the teacher offers exemption. **After much consideration, we have made the decision not to hold midterm exams this school year due to our temporary implementation of Remote Learning @ NDA.** We believe that it is in the best interest of our students to replace our previously scheduled exam days with three additional instructional days at the end of this quarter.

Many factors were involved in the decision not to hold midterm exams this school year including input from students, parents and faculty members. In light of this decision, some faculty members have assigned or plan to assign a cumulative second quarter assessment or project. Please note: the semester grade will reflect the average of the first and second quarters with no exam grade calculated into this average.

MIDTERM EXAM INFORMATION



CANDEMONIUM RESULTS ◀

Way to go, Pandas! This Thanksgiving season, we were able to provide 1,949 cans to St. Vincent De Paul along with \$275 to support their efforts. Final results of the canned food drive show that Seniors won the overall competition, Sophomores were second, Juniors third, and Freshmen took last place. Thanks for continuing to make a difference even while remote learning!

DEALS & STEALS!

BAMBOOTIQUE NEWS ◀

You will find all kinds of deals this weekend at NDA's online Bambootique! Shop for your Panda Black Friday through Cyber Monday and receive 15% off of your total order automatically - no code needed! Don't miss the deals at NDA's [online Bambootique!](#)

HSPT

High School Placement Test

REGISTRATION

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST (HSPT) SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020 ◀

All incoming freshman students interested in attending Notre Dame Academy must take the High School Placement Test. **As per the Diocese of Covington, this year's HSPT will take place on the original Diocesan-wide testing date: Saturday, December 12, 2020.**

Please click [HERE](#) to access the HSPT registration form. There is a testing fee of \$20.00 that must be paid at the time of test registration. The deadline for registration is Friday, December 4, 2020.

If your daughter tests at another location her results can be sent to Notre Dame Academy; however, PRIORITY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS WHO TAKE THE HSPT AT NOTRE DAME ACADEMY.

If you have any questions regarding the HSPT please contact NDA Director of Admissions Katie Caccavari at 859.292.1829 or caccavarik@ndapandas.org.



STILL THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE PRODUCTION CREW FOR THE ONE ACTS? JOIN US! ◀

Join the Crew for *Seize the Day* and get experience in film, sound, lighting, props/set, stage management, hair and make up, and more!

Please fill out [this form](#) and send it to our Technical Director, Mrs. Voto (Voto1@ndapandas.org) by December 1- no interview necessary!

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

ANNUAL ATHLETIC FUNDRAISER

If you ordered coupon books to sell for the athletic fundraiser, you should have already picked up your books. The next step is to start selling them. You can access the tally sheet and the link to upload it below. Money for the coupon books is due Friday, January 8, 2021. If you have any questions regarding the annual athletic fundraiser, please contact NDA Athletic Director, Myanna Webster websterm@ndapandas.org.

Coupon Book Fundraiser Steps

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW

GET BOOKS

- 01** Pick up and sign for your books on **MON 11/23 or TUES 11/24**

SELL BOOKS

- 02** Sell to family and friends \$25/book.

FILL OUT TALLY SHEET

- 03** [Fill out tally sheet here](#) with customer info including check and cash amounts collected

UPLOAD TALLY SHEET

- 04** [Upload here](#). MUST be an excel or google sheet.

TURN IN MONEY

- 05** Turn in your money marked with name **ON FRIDAY 1/8**

Questions? Email Myanna or Mrs. Colvin!

Sales Tips

**2 NDA COUPONS AVAILABLE
\$10 OF \$50 PURCHASE AT
BAMBOOTIQUE**

**"ASSIGNED" OUT OF UNIFORM
DAY**

**PANDA FAVORITES
REALITY TUESDAYS
BUNCHES OF BOWS
BIGGBY COFFEE
SKYLINE
BLINKERS
MACKENZIE RIVER,
SUBSTATION II
WALT'S**

**SOME COUPONS WILL NOT LIST
ALL FRANCHISE LOCATIONS
HOWEVER, SOME FRANCHISES
MAY HONOR THE COUPONS IF
YOU ASK**



STEM

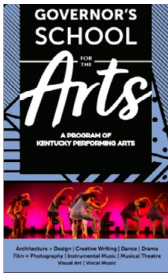
STEM CAREER EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITY WITH CARGILL, INC. ◀

Cargill Incorporated is offering a virtual three week STEM Exploration Program for young women in February 2021. The Program is open to any female that is currently enrolled in high school and may be interested in pursuing a career in the STEM field. [Here is the link to apply.](#)



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR ENTREPRENEURS (GSE) ◀

Click to [Learn more and apply to GSE](#), which will take place on the campus of Northern KY University June 6-26, 2021. Apply between Nov. 16, 2020 and January 25, 2021. Current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students can apply. GSE is hosting virtual information sessions this fall for prospective applicants and their families. Click to [REGISTER for Info Sessions](#)



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (GSA) ◀

KY Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) 2020-21

Meet Your Adjudicators (November through December)- Each Art Form has a different session. Registrations FREE but REQUIRED. See the [LIST](#) on pg. 2



VIRTUAL COUNSELING SESSION ◀

If you would like to have a virtual counseling session please reach out to one of the personal counselors. At this time we are happy to have a google meet with you before/after school, during a study hall, or during Panda Prime Time.

Mrs. Hildreth (hildrethk@ndapandas.org)

Mrs. Maggard (maggarde@ndapandas.org)



College Rep Visits

COLLEGE REP VISITS ◀

We are organizing Virtual College Visits specifically for NDA students/families. All grade levels are welcome (and parents can join if they would like).

**You need to Pre-Register for some visits (these are noted)*

**For all other visits, simply use the "Visit Link" on the night of the visit*

Gateway Community & Technical College

Monday, November 30 @ 7:00 p.m.

Visit Link: <http://docs.google.com>

Questions about College Visits: Contact Ms. Burgei @ burgeik@ndapandas.org



**FOURTH STREET
PERFORMANCE PARTNERS**
Independent Investment Consultants

Fourth Street Performance Partners, Inc is the largest independent institutional investment consulting firm in Kentucky.

Fourth Street, through a prudent process of strategic planning, implementation, and ongoing monitoring, delivers customized investment programs to regional institutional clients that enables them to further their missions. We are fiduciaries, partnering with our clients to develop long-lasting relationships based on trust and are proud that over fifty percent of our clients have been with us for over fifteen years. Fourth Street is honored to partner with local organizations who use their resources to improve their communities and the lives of those they serve. To learn more about the services Fourth Street offers, please contact Ken Dorger or Andy Dunlap at 859-491-5556 or visit www.fourthst.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS



COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

You can find a complete list of community news [CLICK HERE](#).

- Live the Love Mother Daughter Program
- Cafeteria Staff Needed
- Resources to Support Learning for parents, educators, & kids of all ages
- Help Wanted: School Cafeteria Managers and School Cafeteria Staff

▶ Important dates

November 25-27	No School: Thanksgiving Break
December 7	JR Retreat (no classes on this day)
December 8	No School - Immaculate Conception
December 9	Christmas Fun
December 12	HSPT and ACT at NDA
December 18	2nd Quarter Ends
December 21	Christmas Break Begins
January 4	In Person Classes Resume